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STARS AND STRIPES

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DUNCAN COPLEY

Staff Sgt. Duncan Copley, right, and another airman hold an American flag at the airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, during the evacuation of civilians from the country last year. Copley dealt with a bomb threat during one of his flights.

Still recovering from past

A year after US exit, Taliban rout evokes raw emotions for vets, refugees

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

It's been a year since the Taliban swept into Kabul, and the images of terrified Afghans fleeing their homeland have largely faded from the memories of Americans who viewed the evacuation passively from afar.

But for many of the Americans who tried to help, sometimes without success, and the Afghans who braved the crowds and checkpoints for a chance at freedom, the last two weeks of August 2021 remain indelibly seared into their consciousness.

Stars and Stripes spoke to some

of them over the past year, and here are their stories:

The refugees

"I'll never be able to forget those moments," said Laily Ghawsi, the wife of an Afghan interpreter and U.S. citizen who was stranded in Afghanistan when the country fell.

She recalled searching for a path through the thousands of people surrounding the airport in Kabul as Taliban fighters shot seemingly endless rounds into the sky.

The Taliban had signed a deal

SEE RECOVERING ON PAGE 4



HEKMAT GHAWSI

Laily and Hekmat Ghawsi hold their son, Jasoor, in Las Vegas in August.

Experts say China likely to continue Taiwan tests

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

Numerous Chinese military vessels and aircraft were spotted near Taiwan over the weekend, even after Beijing announced the end to a weeklong series of drills around the self-governed island.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said Sunday on its Twitter account that the 10 fighter jets that crossed the midpoint of the Taiwan Strait were among 22 Chinese military aircraft and six naval ships detected in the area around Taiwan by 5 p.m., The Associated Press reported.

Six Chinese warships and 21 aircraft were active Thursday in the Taiwan Strait and waters around the island, with 11 aircraft flying past the unofficial median line, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said in a tweet that day.

The increased activity likely represents the "new normal," according to Lyle Goldstein, director of Asia Engagement at the Washington, D.C.-based Defense Priorities think tank.

"These deployments help familiarize [Chinese military] personnel with the island's geography and defensive capabilities," he said in a Thursday email to Stars and Stripes. "Of course, they also have high intimidation value, as well."

China on Wednesday concluded a series of drills that began on Aug. 4 and included missile launches and live fire by land and naval forces. They were a response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan on Aug. 3.

The drills effectively surrounded Taiwan and had a "serious impact" on international trade and regional security, Taiwanese For-

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

High oil prices help Saudi Aramco earn \$88B

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Saudi energy company Aramco said Sunday its profits jumped 90% in the second quarter compared to the same time last year, helping its half-year earnings reach nearly \$88 billion. The increase is a boon for the kingdom and the crown prince's spending power as people around the world pay higher gas prices at the pump while energy companies rake in top earnings.

Aramco's net profits were

helped by strong second-quarter earnings ending in June that hit \$48.4 billion — a figure higher than all of the first six months of 2021, when profits reached just \$47 billion. It sets a new quarterly earnings record for Aramco since it first floated around 5% of the company on the Saudi stock market in late 2019.

Its earnings for just this past quarter are roughly what Aramco's full-year profits were in 2020, when demand for oil crashed during pandemic lockdowns. Its half-

year earnings of \$87.9 billion put Aramco on track to far surpass the full-year earnings of 2019, prior to the pandemic, when profits hit \$88 billion.

The company credited the jump to higher crude oil prices and volumes sold, as well as higher refining margins. Saudi Arabia's vast oil reserves are among the cheapest to produce in the world.

Aramco's finances are crucial to the kingdom's stability; when its margins are high, Saudi Arabia's economic growth reflects that.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		South Korea (Won)	
Euro costs (Aug. 15)	\$1.00	Switzerland (Franc)	0.9417
Dollar buys (Aug. 15)	0.9471	Thailand (Baht)	35.26
British pound (Aug. 15)	\$1.19	Turkey (NewLira)	17.9372
Japanese yen (Aug. 15)	132.00		
South Korean won (Aug. 15)	1271.00		
Commercial rates		(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.)	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	INTEREST RATES	
Britain (Pound)	1.2141	Prime rate	5.50
Canada (Dollar)	1.2775	Interest Rates Discount rate	3.00
China (Yuan)	6.7428	Federal funds market rate	2.32
Denmark (Krone)	7.2459	3-month bill	2.58
Egypt (Pound)	19.1507	30-year bond	3.11
Euro	0.9740		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8369		
Hungary (Forint)	382.04		
Israel (Shekel)	3.2387		
Japan (Yen)	133.49		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3067		
Norway (Krone)	9.5663		
Philippines (Peso)	55.69		
Poland (Zloty)	4.54		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7551		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3711		

WEATHER OUTLOOK



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

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MILITARY



MARKUS RAUCHENBERGER/U.S. Army

U.S. soldiers assigned to V Corps team carry a mannequin to a secure area during the U.S. Army Europe and Africa Best Squad competition at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, on Tuesday.

Victory Corps team named champs in first Best Squad competition

By MICHAEL SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — The squad from “Victory Corps” lived up to its name last week, crowned as champions of the U.S. Army Europe and Africa’s first Best Squad competition held on the Grafenwoehr Training Area.

Iron Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment was one of eight teams from across the U.S. Army Europe and Africa’s subordinate commands that underwent the grueling six-day event. Spending 72 hours out in a simulated real world operational environment, squads completed patrolling, live firing and medical scenarios.

“We started planning for this event about a year ago after the completion of the Best Warrior competition,” said Master Sgt. Jacob Hurt, lead planner of the competition. “The fighting force of the Army is at the squad level. Instead of recognizing individual excellence, we want to recognize squad level excellence.”

Teams covered more than 35 miles over the course of the com-

petition, which replaces the annual Best Warrior event.

“There is no one thing you can be good at to win this thing, so you have to be a PT stud, you have to know your patrols, a master of your weapon all while being privy to your medical tasks,” said Staff Sgt. William Powell, squad leader of 7th Army Training Command squad.

Members of each squad were tested individually on physical fitness, land navigational skills, weapons maintenance and weapon firing capabilities.

During patrol missions, squads were evaluated on tasks that would be encountered during real world environments, such as directing mortar support and reinforcing friendly positions.

The live-fire mission was designed to test a squad’s ability to perform and adapt to changing scenarios with different types of weapons from machine guns to pistols. The medical and evacuation mission pushed squads to perform medical care under pressure from enemy forces.

Hurt said that in order to prepare squads for the U.S. Army level competition, events focused on maneuverability and combat scenarios. Teams featured a variety of different jobs from infantryman to a chaplain’s assistant.

“It’s been more mentally challenging than anything; at some point when you are doing all these different things, you can know all your stuff and still hit a wall. That’s when you have to keep pushing through,” said Spc. Garret Headen of the V Corps squad.

Throughout the competition, squads were responsible for carrying all the necessary equipment with them and calling in resupplies for food and water. After ending each mission, squads slept in the field at various patrol bases, reporting enemy activity and observing their surroundings.

The squad now has time to prepare for the Department of the Army level competition next month at Fort Bragg, N.C.

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Complaints of mold in USAF barracks in S. Korea gain push

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Complaints of mold growing inside buildings at Kunsan Air Base in South Korea have caught the attention of a Missouri congressman.

Photos shared Wednesday on the Air Force amn/nco/snco Facebook group purported to show water spots, leaky ceilings and black mold growing in buildings on the air base about 115 miles south of Seoul.

The Facebook group is popular with airmen who anonymously submit messages about life in the military, including complaints and memes. It has more than 93,000 followers.

Information posted with the photos indicate some Kunsan dormitory occupants had no hot water or working air conditioners for several weeks.

“There are hundreds of people on this base and in this building that are suffering from the same situation,” said a post on Monday.

A representative for Rep. Billy Long, a Republican from Springfield, Mo., said Long’s office has been in touch with service members from Kunsan. The congressman’s director of constituent services, Lisa Taylor, told Stars and Stripes by phone on Friday that Long plans to request an inquiry into the complaints.

A post in the Facebook group Monday shows a flyer for a “Bake and Raffle” event in which residents of dorm No. 535 could win a new air-conditioning unit.

“Temperatures in the rooms

can reach over 90 F even with a fan running,” the post said. “Now they post these flyers all over the building as a solution.”

A spokeswoman for the 8th Fighter Wing said the flyer was posted by a “private organization, not sponsored or in coordination” with the wing.

“The health, safety and quality of life of our Wolfpack Airmen is one of 8th Fighter Wing’s highest priorities,” Capt. K. Paige Hankerson said in an email to Stars and Stripes on Friday. “We are aware of the concerns regarding mold/mildew in Kunsan facilities currently circulating social media, and as we continue to fight an uphill battle against a very moist climate, we remain committed to ensuring our airmen are equipped with the proper tools to prevent and mitigate the presence of mold/mildew.”

The fighter wing was distributing dehumidifiers to every airman’s room and briefing them on ways to prevent mold and mildew, Hankerson said.

Kunsan is on the western coast of South Korea. The Korean Peninsula is in the middle of monsoon season, with torrential rains and high humidity that lasts for days.

Heavy rain and flooding in South Korea killed at least 12 people earlier in the week. Seoul received its heaviest rainfall in 80 years with about 5.5 inches of water an hour on Monday, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration.

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Ex-Harrier pilot takes command of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing on Okinawa

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA, Okinawa — A former Harrier pilot with a Harvard credential took charge Friday of the Marine Corps’ only aircraft wing outside the United States.

Maj. Gen. Eric Austin assumed command of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing from Maj. Gen. Brian Cavanaugh during a flight-line ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Austin comes to wing headquarters on Okinawa with the risk of conflict with China and North Korea at a 50-year high.

“I couldn’t have picked a better

person to come behind me,” Cavanaugh said as he addressed his replacement shortly after handing over the unit colors. “I think you’ll make this wing more lethal and that’s exactly what’s needed out here.”

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing is the aviation element of the III Marine Expeditionary Force and consists of approximately 7,000 Marines and sailors in three aircraft groups at Marine Corps Air Stations Futenma and Iwakuni in Japan and Kaneohe Bay in Hawaii. The wing includes an array of aircraft from F/A-18 and F-35B fighters to MV-22 Osprey tiltrotors and AH-1Z Viper attack helicopters.

The wing provides offensive air

support, anti-air support, aerial reconnaissance and electronic countermeasures.

Austin attended the Defense Department’s Kubasaki High School at Camp Foster, where the wing headquarters are located, while his father served as a Marine officer on the island.

Austin most recently served as director of combat development and integration at Marine Corps headquarters in Quantico, Va., his official biography states. Earlier in his career, he was the wing’s assistant chief of staff for operations.

He earned a bachelor’s in aeronautical engineering at the U.S. Naval Academy in 1991 and finished flight school in 1994. He flew

the AV-8B Harrier, the vertical or short takeoff and landing “jump jet” being phased out as the F-35B Lightning II assumes that role.

Austin has commanded attack squadrons and aircraft groups and deployed multiple times to Kuwait and Iraq.

Cavanaugh is bound for Hampton Roads, Va., to take over Marine Corps Forces Command and is already approved by Congress for promotion to lieutenant general, wing spokesman 1st Lt. Jude Hydrick said prior to Friday’s ceremony.

At the flight-line ceremony beneath an unrelenting sun, III MEF commander Lt. Gen. James Bierman said he was sorry to see Cava-

naugh go after only a little more than a year on the job.

“Everything that this [Marine aircraft wing] does comes back to his quiet, steady leadership, his vision and his kindness,” Bierman said.

Austin said he was eager to learn about the wing’s current posture and directed the crowd’s attention to the Marines in formation before him.

“The world’s a dangerous place and we need men and women of courage and character to defend our freedoms, and you’re looking at them right there,” he said.

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AFGHANISTAN

Recovering: Trauma of escaping has stuck with refugees

FROM PAGE 1

with the United States in 2020 that traded an American withdrawal for vague promises of peace talks and counterterrorism guarantees.

After that deal, province after province fell to a Taliban offensive. The Afghan forces the U.S. had spent two decades training melted away.

President Ashraf Ghani fled Kabul on Aug. 15, sparking an exodus of people affiliated with the U.S. and its allies. Thousands overran Kabul's airport seeking a flight out.

Ghaws, 22, navigated the chaos via the phone in her hand. That phone was her lifeline to her husband, Hekmat, on the other side of the world in Las Vegas as he tried to direct her to someone inside the airport who could snatch her from the crowd and bring her to safety.

Hekmat feared that his wife would be targeted or harassed because of his previous work as an interpreter for U.S. troops.

The 32-year-old had received a Special Immigrant Visa to come to the U.S. in 2014. He started work as an Uber driver in Las Vegas and married his wife in Kabul in 2020 with hopes of bringing her to the U.S.

During the evacuation, he reconnected with the American soldiers with whom he had worked in a bid to reunite with his wife.

On Aug. 19, 2021, Laily led a small group of women, all wives of interpreters, into the crowd at the airport. She recalled tear gas wafting through the air and difficulty breathing. Some people passed out or were trampled underneath the masses. She feared for her life.

She and the other interpreters' wives could not find a way into the airport that day.

Hekmat recalled a mixture of feelings: bravado, filling him with the desire to fly there and rescue her, like James Bond; helplessness at not knowing whether he could get her out of the crowd; and fear that he was sending her to the wrong gate, into greater danger.

To Hekmat and others trying to guide people into the airport, there seemed to be a chaotic lottery in which some with adequate paperwork were turned away, while others with no documentation or connection to the U.S. got in.

On Aug. 24, Laily and the other wives finally reached the inside of the airport, just a few days before U.S. troops left the country.

But as the military aircraft took off from Kabul, Laily realized that leaving Afghanistan was closing a chapter of her life and beginning another one in an unknown land. She wondered whether she would ever see her family again, and she felt guilt about leaving them behind.

"That was the quiet moment for me," she said. "That was the mo-



PHOTOS BY MEGAN HARPER

Senior Master Sgt. Megan Harper, right, and another airman pose for a photo during Operation Allies Refuge, the airlift to evacuate Afghans in August 2021.

ment that I broke into tears, and I cried almost the whole flight."

The troops

American service members who had direct involvement in the evacuation said they are still affected by those events a year later.

Marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen rushed to Afghanistan and bases in the Middle East during the final phase of the war. Together, they evacuated more than 120,000 people.

They were suddenly thrust into an unprecedented, risky and sometimes overwhelming new mission.

"You see humanity at its best and a little bit of humanity at its worst," recalled Col. Amy Rivera, who was the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing's director of staff during the evacuation at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar.

Many of those lucky enough to be plucked from the crowds at Kabul airport were brought to U.S. bases in the Middle East like Al Udeid. They were held at these bases until cleared to go to other military installations to continue their visa processing.

The airmen at Al Udeid rehearsed for an evacuation on Aug. 4, said Senior Master Sgt. Megan Harper, operations superintendent of the 379th Security Forces Squadron during the evac.

But that preparation was for the U.S. Embassy staff, an estimated 2,500 people. It did not anticipate the 60,000 or so people arriving from the seemingly endless chain of aircraft coming from Kabul, she said.

"We got overwhelmed so quickly," Harper said in a recent inter-

view.

Conditions became "deplorable," she recalled. Supplies began running out. Tensions rose in the sweltering heat. Evacuees fought over baby formula and cots. At one point, 6,000 or so evacuees crowded a hangar meant for airplanes or 2,500 people at most, Harper said.

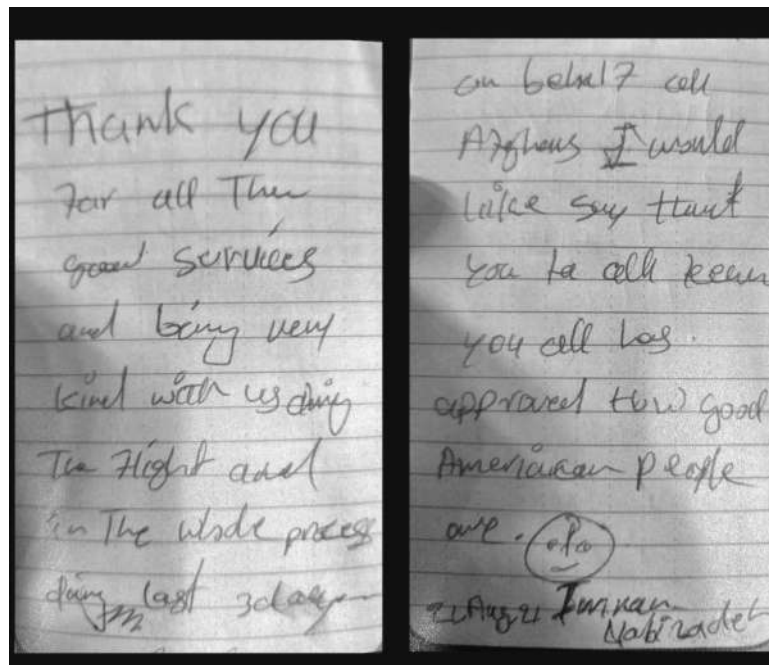
Harper said she could recognize, in part, the desperation of those whose lives had been upended. But on another level, she could not understand what would motivate someone to push an old man off a cot and onto the floor in a skirmish for sleeping space.

Humanitarian missions expose troops to not just the shock of seeing innocent people dying or suffering, but also to the trauma of seeing "the worst in people, when everyone is desperate," said Amy Williams, chief clinical officer at the New York-based Headstrong Project, which provides mental health treatment to veterans.

One day, an airman showed Harper what appeared to be a key to someone's house. She said she told the airman that none of the evacuees was likely returning to Afghanistan soon enough for that key to matter. And yet, she said, she could not throw the key away. That felt wrong.

"The reality of what was to come for the evacuees really hit me at that specific moment," Harper said. "They had to leave so quickly, with what they could carry."

On Aug. 16, a plane that was feared to have been hijacked approached Al Udeid for landing, Harper said. Two men at the Kabul airport had brandished guns to force themselves onto a military



Harper kept a letter written by an Afghan child who passed through Qatar's Al Udeid Air Base during the evacuation.

plane, Harper said.

Security forces rushed to surround the plane, Reach 871, on the runway. Then the rear door of the plane dropped. The airmen learned the two men had given up their weapons to the crew and were now more panicked than hostile.

The focus became the welfare of the hundreds of people onboard the overloaded aircraft and taking them off the plane before the intense heat in Qatar caused them to pass out.

"When you drop that door and the first person who comes off is a 5-year-old little girl, now your mentality has to shift," said Harper, who still keeps a letter from an Afghan girl thanking the airmen for their hospitality.

Another airman, Staff Sgt. Duncan Copley faced a similar dilemma in Kabul on the day he heard through his headset that there may be a bomb on his plane.

The bomb threat came on Copley's final flight out of Kabul, as the plane sat on the runway. The crew was on edge, Copley recalled in a recent interview.

Just two days before, a suicide bomber hidden among the crowd at Abbey Gate at the Kabul airport killed 13 service members as well as 170 civilians.

The crew was told everyone needed to leave the plane so Marines could check the passengers and their bags for explosives. But some passengers didn't want to get off.

The 23-year-old loadmaster recalled thinking they may have been afraid they wouldn't be allowed back on. But he also wondered if perhaps they could be the threat everyone was looking for.

The Marines searched everyone, including the passengers who originally did not want to get off. They did not find a bomb, but they could not be 100% sure one wasn't hidden somewhere.

The hardest decision, Copley recalled, was whether to take off, to trust that someone hadn't missed something, to risk the plane and the lives of those on board by flying.

"Saving all of these people was worth risking it, getting them out of there," Copley recalled.

The weight of the risks he and the crew took didn't register with him until weeks later, he said.

The veterans

For many veterans and service members, the year since the last U.S. soldier in Afghanistan, Maj. Gen. Chris Donahue, ascended into the sky on a C-17 prompted reflection on whether their efforts had any meaning.

"The withdrawal of American troops out of Afghanistan really forced military personnel and veterans to examine their service, especially as it connected to Afghanistan," Laura Falk, a former Air Force chaplain's assistant, said in a recent interview.

Falk, a licensed mental health counselor, started a virtual support group on Zoom last fall for the veterans, troops and other volunteers involved in the evacuation.

She found that many veterans felt angry and ashamed after witnessing the messy withdrawal and the Afghan military's sudden collapse. Many felt gutted by the thought that some people who worked with them had been left behind.

"It was very traumatic for many folks, both active-duty and veterans," Falk said. "A lot of individuals, especially veterans, were left asking 'What did it all mean? What did our service mean? Why did we sacrifice so much for it to end like this?'"

Some who volunteered during the evacuation said their memories of what they accomplished on

SEE RECOVERING ON PAGE 5

AFGHANISTAN

Recovering: Memories of withdrawal still strong for vets a year later**FROM PAGE 4**

deployments were rewritten into failures to protect allies.

Air Force veteran Christy Barry said the part of her “that used to be a patriotic American has died” after she couldn’t evacuate an Afghan general with whom she had worked.

Those who continue to care about Afghanistan grew alienated from a public that quickly lost interest, several veterans said.

“People are just assuming that we got short memories, we’re just going to forget about it,” said Stephanie Hall, an Air Force chief warrant officer who trained Afghan pilots. “The veterans aren’t going to forget about it.”

Safi Rauf, a Navy corpsman who had become a U.S. citizen after immigrating from Afghanistan as a teen, continued to help get people out even after the last American soldier left.

He and his brother were detained by the Taliban after flying to Afghanistan last winter. A monthslong campaign by the administration of President Joe Biden led to their release after 105 days, the State Department said in April.

After re-emerging from prison, Rauf was struck by how little had improved. Mass hunger had worsened. The Taliban’s promise to allow girls to go to secondary school was rescinded in March. People affiliated with the U.S. still sought refuge abroad.

But the biggest change he saw was that most Americans had stopped caring.

“As much as I was happy to be out of captivity, I was very disappointed,” Rauf said. “The problem has only gotten worse, but the interest from the government and from the public has dwindled to nothing.”

Like other veterans who have spoken to Stars and Stripes over the years, Rauf lamented the loss of two decades of progress in human rights and democracy in the country.

But others said whatever good the U.S. claimed it was trying to do in Afghanistan, the American military and the Afghan government it backed killed thousands of people, often creating more enemies with those deaths.

The evacuation last year included a botched drone strike that killed an aid worker in Kabul who U.S. military officials falsely believed was a terrorist.

“We were fighting a war on terror with more terror,” said Lisa Ling, a former Air Force technical sergeant on drone surveillance systems who traveled to Afghanistan as a civilian. “We didn’t have the cultural competency to be actually helpful.”

Only 22% of Americans believe the Afghan War made the U.S. safer, although more people than not said they approved of the way the



SAFI RAUF

Safi Rauf, left, and his brother Anis Khalil sit under an Islamic Emirate flag in a photo shared after their release from captivity from the Taliban.



STEPHANIE HALL

Stephanie Hall, an Air Force chief warrant officer, plays with Mollie, a dog from her Afghanistan deployment she brought to the U.S. in 2021.

military handled itself, according to a survey released Aug. 10 by the U.K. research group More in Common.

Several veterans said they still believe the withdrawal of American forces was the right choice, even if they disagreed with the execution of it.

Adam Weinstein, a Marine vet-

eran who deployed to the country in 2012, staunchly supported full withdrawal from Afghanistan. And last fall, the U.S. did as he had advocated in his position as a research fellow at the Washington, D.C.-based Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft.

But he experienced mixed feelings over the past year, said Wein-

stein. He still believes withdrawal was the right choice because in his view, the war had been lost long ago and staying would have required another surge of troops.

But he wishes more thought had been given for those who had supported the U.S. and were caught on the losing side.

“I think many government officials and analysts got many things about the war in Afghanistan wrong,” Weinstein said. “The ultimate victims were Afghans.”

A new home

Afghan evacuees who made it to the U.S. over the past year found themselves adjusting to a world that was alien to them.

People who had grown up in large extended families were now severed indefinitely from their relatives. Soldiers who were told they were on the front lines of the war on terrorism now work at laundromats.

“The most difficult part of my life has been and is that my strength is fighting in Afghanistan against global terrorism, and I am not able to help,” said Abdul Mateen Sulaimankhail, a former Afghan army commander who is now unemployed after evacuating

to Georgia.

For Laily Ghawsi, the past year had both bitterness and sweetness.

She gained a new home in the U.S. with her husband, but she also lost family members in her previous home. On the same day she reunited with her husband, Sept. 10, 2021, her father died. A month later, her grandmother died as well.

Her husband said he sees her crying from time to time about the loved ones she left behind.

About a week after Laily arrived in Las Vegas, Hekmat took her to the Kolob Reservoir, near Zion National Park in Utah. The two walked along trails.

In previous messages while Laily was still in Afghanistan, the two had imagined a life together in Hekmat’s adopted country.

Hekmat said he always talked to his wife about his love of nature. But Laily never understood the appeal of being alone in the mountains, he said.

That day in Utah, Laily began to understand her husband’s love of nature, as well as what it meant to be in America, the couple said.

Laily recalled how she always had to be on the lookout in Afghanistan for potential danger. And then she recalled her fear as she fought through the crowds at the airport in Kabul and the confinement she felt while waiting for visa processing at U.S. bases in Kuwait and during her stay at Fort McCoy, Wis., one of the bases that processed Afghan refugees brought to the U.S.

“Fort McCoy, they had all these fences,” she said. “They blocked the nature. But over there, by Kolob Reservoir, the trees and greenery, the water and everything, it was just open nature, and beautiful.”

Hekmat said he recalled his wife telling him that “no one bothers anyone here.”

He is still trying to help people in Afghanistan. Despite struggles to stay afloat financially in the U.S., he runs a charity to send money back home.

If he were in the shoes of one of those interpreters on the other end of his cellphone, he would want someone to try to help, he said.

Laily said she wishes her husband would put down his phone more often. The couple have a son, Jasoor, born on her birthday, July 7. She said she thinks constantly of their son’s future, and she hopes her remaining family in Afghanistan can see him one day.

“I will always remember these events, traumatic events, sadness and sorrows in my life,” she said. “But I want to make sure that that doesn’t get in the way of today and tomorrow.”

MILITARY

More US lawmakers visit Taiwan days after Pelosi trip

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — A delegation of American lawmakers arrived in Taiwan on Sunday, just 12 days after a visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that prompted China to launch days of threatening military drills around the self-governing island that Beijing says must come under its control.

The five-member delegation, led by Democratic Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts, will meet President Tsai Ing-wen and other officials, as well as members of the private sector, to discuss shared interests including reducing tensions in the Taiwan Strait and investments in semiconductors.

China responded to Pelosi's Aug. 2 visit by sending missiles, warships and warplanes into the seas and skies around Taiwan for several days afterward.

The Chinese government objects to Taiwan having any official contact with foreign governments, particularly with a high-ranking congressional leader like Pelosi.

A Taiwanese broadcaster showed video of a U.S. government plane landing about 7 p.m. Sunday at Songshan Airport in Taipei, the Taiwanese capital. Four members of the delegation were on the plane.

Markey met with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol earlier Sunday in South Korea before arriving in Taiwan on a separate flight at Taoyuan International Airport, which also serves Taipei. Markey, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations East Asia, Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Subcommittee, and members of the delegation will reaffirm the United States' support for Taiwan.

The other members of the delegation are Republican Rep. Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen, a delegate from American Samoa, and Democratic House members John Garamendi and Alan Lowenthal from California and Don Beyer from Virginia.



Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs

From left, U.S. Democratic Reps. Alan Lowenthal and John Garamendi from California, Taiwan official Donald Yu-Tien Hsu, Reps. Don Beyer, D-Va., and Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen, R-American Samoa, pose for a photo after arriving on a U.S. government plane at Songshan airport in Taipei, Taiwan, on Sunday.

Chinese warplanes have continued crossing the midpoint of the Taiwan Strait on a daily basis even after the conclusion of the military exercises last Wednesday, with at least 10 doing so on Sunday, Taiwan's Defense Ministry said.

The 10 fighter jets were among 22 Chinese military aircraft and six naval ships detected in the area around Taiwan by 5 p.m. on Sunday, the ministry said on its Twitter account.

A senior White House official on Asia policy said late last week that China had used Pelosi's visit as a pretext to launch an intensified pressure campaign against Taiwan, jeopardizing peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and in the broader region.

"China has overreacted, and its actions continue to be provocative, destabilizing, and unprecedented," Kurt Campbell, a deputy assistant to President Joe Biden, said on a call with reporters.

"It has sought to disregard the centerline between the P.R.C. and Taiwan, which has been respected by both sides for more than 60

years as a stabilizing feature," he said, using the acronym for the country's full name, the People's Republic of China.

China accuses the U.S. of encouraging independence forces in Taiwan through its sale of military equipment to the island and engaging with its officials.

The U.S. says it does not support independence for Taiwan but that its differences with China should be resolved by peaceful means.

China's ruling Communist Party has long said that it favors Taiwan joining China peacefully but that it will not rule out force if necessary.

The two split in 1949 during a civil war in which the Communists took control of China and the losing Nationalists retreated to the island of Taiwan.

Campbell, speaking on Friday, said the U.S. would send warships and planes through the Taiwan Strait in the next few weeks and is developing a roadmap for trade talks with Taiwan that he said the U.S. intends to announce in the coming days.



JAPAN MARITIME SELF-DEFENSE FORCE

A sailor navigates the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyer JS Kirisame during an exercise with the U.S. Navy near the Solomon Islands on Aug. 8.

Navy takes part in goodwill exercise near Solomon Islands

BY ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. Navy warship recently took part in a goodwill exercise with the Solomon Islands' maritime police and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, the first such operation between Tokyo and the Oceania nation.

The littoral combat ship USS Oakland, the Japanese destroyer JS Kirisame and the Solomon Islands patrol boat Taro practiced tactical maneuvering near the Solomons on Aug. 8, according to a news release the next day from Japan's Ministry of Defense.

The maneuvers were then followed by a separate exercise in the area by the Oakland and Kirisame.

The U.S. 3rd Fleet acknowledged Stars and Stripes' request for additional details on Thursday but did not respond by Friday evening.

The exercises were a part of a two-day effort to build closer ties with the Solomon Islands, according to the defense ministry.

The Pacific archipelago in April signed a five-year security agreement with Beijing, raising concern in the United States and Australia that China might establish a military base there.

Australian and U.S. diplomats headed to the Solomons to mend the breach and by June Solomon Island Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare had pledged that his

country would never host a Chinese installation.

Relations between the U.S. and the Solomon Islands remain relatively cold, however.

On Sunday, Sogavare skipped a memorial service commemorating 80 years since the World War II Battle of Guadalcanal, a service attended by several dignitaries, including U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, whose father died fighting in the Solomon Islands.

Local media described Sogavare's absence as a snub, Reuters reported Tuesday.

Sherman on Tuesday concluded a trip to five Pacific nations, including the Solomon Islands, and told reporters in New Zealand that the U.S. is "doubling down on our investment here in the Pacific." The Associated Press reported Wednesday.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced in February that the U.S. would open an embassy in the Solomon Island's capital, Honiara, to "deepen cooperation with Pacific Island partners," according to the State Department.

The U.S. closed its embassy in Honiara in 1993 and moved all diplomatic functions to the U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

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Tests: Drills said to have 'serious impact' on international trade

FROM PAGE 1

Foreign Minister Joseph Wu said Tuesday. He also speculated that the exercises could be a pretext for an invasion.

The same day the exercises concluded, 10 Chinese warships and 36 aircraft were operating in the region, Taiwan's defense ministry said. Of those, 17 aircraft flew east of the median line.

Prior to Pelosi's visit, Beijing routinely sent aircraft into Taiwan's air defense identification zone on a near daily basis, according to daily updates by the defense ministry. The presence of warships in those incursions, however, was relatively rare. Taiwan has remained functionally separate from China since 1949, but Beijing regards the island as a breakaway

province that must be reunited politically with the mainland, by force if necessary.

The conclusion of China's exercises represents a temporary abatement, but the long-term outlook remains grim, Goldstein said.

China reaffirmed that it would not "renounce the use of force" in its efforts to bring Taiwan back into its fold, according to a white pa-

per released Wednesday by the Taiwan Affairs Office in Beijing. It stated that while China will exert its "utmost efforts to achieve peaceful reunification," it reserves the ability to take "all necessary measures" in achieving its goal. The threat of force shouldn't be taken lightly, according to Goldstein.

"I have been concerned for

many years that Beijing is deadly serious about enforcing its claims to Taiwan," he said. "I find it plausible that China will assume a more and more aggressive posture against Taiwan, commensurate with its rapidly growing military power."

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EUROPE

Ship carrying grain for Ethiopia leaves Ukraine

BY DEREK GATOPOULOS
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — A United Nations-chartered ship loaded with 23,000 metric tons of Ukrainian grain destined for Ethiopia set sail Sunday from a Black Sea port, the first shipment of its kind in a program to assist countries facing famine.

The Liberia-flagged Brave Commander departed from the Ukrainian port of Yuzhne, east of Odesa, according to regional governor Maksym Marchenko. It plans to sail to Djibouti, where the grain will be unloaded and transferred to Ethiopia under the World Food Program initiative.

Ukraine and Russia reached a deal with Turkey on July 22 to restart Black Sea grain deliveries, addressing the major export disruption that has occurred since Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

Ethiopia is one of five countries that the UN considers at risk of starvation.

“The capacity is there. The grain is there. The demand is there across the world and in particular, these countries,” WFP Ukraine coordinator Denise Brown told The Associated Press. “So if the stars are aligned, we are very, very hopeful that all the actors around this agreement will come together on what is really an issue

for humanity. So today was very positive.”

On the front line, Russian forces on Sunday fired rockets on the Mykolaiv region in southern Ukraine, killing at least one person. That region is just north of the Russian-occupied city of Kherson, which Ukrainian forces have vowed to retake. The Ukrainian emergency service said one person was killed in shelling early Sunday settlement of Bereznehuva in Mykolaiv. A Russian diplomat, meanwhile, called on Ukraine to offer security assurances so that international inspectors could visit a nuclear power station that has come under fire.



ANDRIY ANDRIYENKO/AP

Local residents, many of whom fled the war, gather to hand out donated items such as medicines, clothes, and personal belongings to their relatives on the territories occupied by Russia, in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, on Sunday.

STARS at Sea

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NATION

Warrant: FBI finds sensitive papers

'Top secret' records taken from Trump's Florida estate

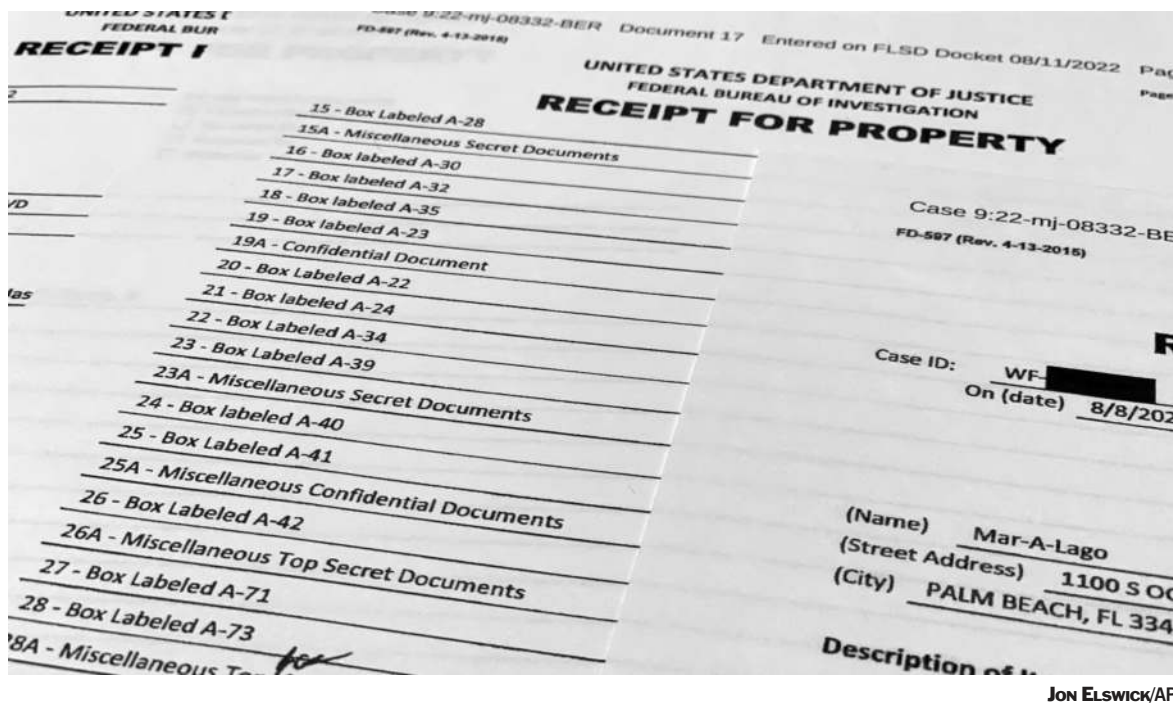
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FBI recovered “top secret” and even more sensitive documents from former President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, according to court papers released Friday after a federal judge unsealed the warrant that authorized the sudden, unprecedented search last week.

A property receipt unsealed by the court shows FBI agents took 11 sets of classified records from the estate during a search last Monday.

The seized records include some marked not only top secret but also “sensitive compartmented information,” a special category meant to protect the nation’s most important secrets that if revealed publicly could cause “exceptionally grave” damage to U.S. interests. The court records did not provide specific details about information the documents might contain.

The warrant says federal agents were investigating potential violations of three different federal laws, including one that governs gathering, transmitting or losing defense information under the Espionage Act. The other statutes address the concealment, mutilation or removal of records and the destruction, alteration or falsification of records in federal investiga-



JON ELSWICK/AP

The receipt for property that was seized during the execution of a search warrant by the FBI at former President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Fla., is photographed Friday.

tions.

The property receipt also shows federal agents collected other potential presidential records, including the order pardoning Trump ally Roger Stone, a “leath-erbound box of documents,” and information about the “President of France.” A binder of photos, a handwritten note, “miscellaneous secret documents” and “miscellaneous confidential documents” were also seized in the search.

Trump’s attorney, Christina Bobb, who was present at Mar-a-Lago when the agents conducted the search, signed two property receipts — one that was two pages long and another that is a single page. In a statement earlier Friday, Trump claimed that the documents seized by agents were “all declassified,” and argued that he would have turned them over if the Justice Department had asked.

While incumbent presidents generally have the power to declassify information, that authority lapses as soon as they leave office and it was not clear if the documents in question have ever been declassified. And even an incumbent’s powers to declassify may be limited regarding secrets dealing with nuclear weapons programs, covert operations and operatives,

and some data shared with allies.

Trump kept possession of the documents despite multiple requests from agencies, including the National Archives, to turn over presidential records in accordance with federal law.

The Mar-a-Lago search warrant served last Monday was part of an ongoing Justice Department investigation into the discovery of classified White House records recovered from Trump’s home earlier this year.

The Archives had asked the department to investigate after saying 15 boxes of records it retrieved from the estate included classified records.

It remains unclear whether the Justice Department moved forward with the warrant simply as a means to retrieve the records or as part of a wider criminal investigation or attempt to prosecute the former president.

Multiple federal laws govern the handling of classified information, with both criminal and civil penalties, as well as presidential records.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart, the same judge who signed off on the search warrant, unsealed the warrant and property receipt Friday at the request of the

Justice Department after Attorney General Merrick Garland declared there was “substantial public interest in this matter,” and Trump said he backed the warrant’s “immediate” release. The Justice Department told the judge Friday afternoon that Trump’s lawyers did not object to the proposal to make it public.

In messages posted on his Truth Social platform, Trump wrote, “Not only will I not oppose the release of documents ... I am going a step further by ENCOURAGING the immediate release of those documents.”

The Justice Department’s request was striking because such warrants traditionally remain sealed during a pending investigation. But the department appeared to recognize that its silence since the search had created a vacuum for bitter verbal attacks by Trump and his allies, and felt that the public was entitled to the FBI’s side about what prompted last Monday’s action at the former president’s home.

“The public’s clear and powerful interest in understanding what occurred under these circumstances weighs heavily in favor of unsealing,” said a motion filed in federal court in Florida on Thursday.

House calls for damage review after box seizures

By JACQUELINE ALEMANY
The Washington Post

The House Democrats’ top investigators on Saturday asked the director of national intelligence to conduct a review and damage assessment of the boxes of highly classified information seized by the FBI last week from former President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago estate.

The letter was sent to National Intelligence Director Avril Haines by House Oversight Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., and House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., and cites the search warrant cataloging the classified documents of various levels of sensitivity found at Mar-a-Lago.

“Former President Trump’s conduct has potentially put our national security at grave risk,” the two wrote, asking also for a classified briefing on the assessment as soon as possible.

The two also voiced concern that the FBI is looking in part at highly classified documents related to nuclear weapons, as first reported by The Washington Post.

“If this report is true, it is hard to overstate the national security danger that could emanate from the reckless decision to remove and retain this material,” the letter states.

On Monday, the FBI executed a court-authorized search warrant at Trump’s Florida home and removed around 20 boxes of documents, including “various classified TS/SCI documents,” according to a written inventory.

Schiff and Maloney write that in accordance with Intelligence Community directives issued by the DNI, a damage assessment is necessary “to evaluate actual or potential damage to national security resulting from the unauthorized disclosure or compromise of classified national intelligence.”

Agent: Rushdie off ventilator, talking

Associated Press

MAYVILLE, N.Y. — “The Satanic Verses” author Salman Rushdie was taken off a ventilator and able to talk Saturday, a day after he was stabbed as he prepared to give a lecture in upstate New York.

Rushdie remained hospitalized with serious injuries, but fellow author Aatish Taseer tweeted in the evening that he was “off the ventilator and talking (and joking).” Rushdie’s agent, Andrew Wylie, confirmed that information without offering further details.

Earlier in the day, the man accused of attacking him Friday at

the Chautauqua Institution, a nonprofit education and retreat center, pleaded not guilty to attempted murder and assault charges in what a prosecutor called a “pre-planned” crime.

An attorney for Hadi Matar entered the plea on his behalf during an arraignment in western New York. The suspect appeared in court wearing a black and white jumpsuit and a white face mask, with his hands cuffed in front of him.

A judge ordered him held without bail after District Attorney Jason Schmidt told her Matar, 24,

took steps to purposely put himself in position to harm Rushdie, getting an advance pass to the event where the author was speaking and arriving a day early bearing a fake ID.

Public defender Nathaniel Barone complained that authorities had taken too long to get Matar in front of a judge while leaving him “hooked up to a bench at the state police barracks.”

Rushdie, 75, suffered a damaged liver and severed nerves in an arm and an eye, Wylie said Friday evening. He was likely to lose the injured eye.

Police: Man rams US Capitol barrier, then kills himself

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A man drove his car into a barricade near the U.S. Capitol early Sunday and then began firing gunshots in the air before fatally shooting himself, police said.

The incident happened just before 4 a.m. at a vehicle barricade set at East Capitol Street NE and 2nd Street SE in Washington.

It comes at a time when law enforcement authorities across the country are facing an increasing number of threats and federal officials have warned about the potential of vio-

lent attacks on government buildings in the days since the FBI’s search of former President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

Authorities said the man crashed into the barricade and that as he was getting out of the car, the vehicle became engulfed in flames. The man then opened fire, firing several shots into the air as police approached.

Capitol Police said the man shot himself as the officers neared. He was later pronounced dead.

NATION

1 dead in Pa. crash at fire victims fundraiser

Associated Press

BERWICK, Pa. — One person was killed and another 17 people injured when a vehicle struck a crowd gathered at a Pennsylvania bar for a fundraiser for victims of a house fire that killed 10 earlier this month, authorities said. The

suspect then killed a woman in a separate incident, police said.

The crash occurred outside the Intoxicology Department bar in Berwick at about 6:15 p.m. Saturday. In a release, Pennsylvania State Police identified the driver as 24-year-old Adrian Oswaldo Sura Reyes.

He was arraigned early Sunday morning on two counts of criminal homicide.

He was taken into custody after authorities received a call about an assault in nearby Nescopeck. Responding troopers found a woman dead.

The identities of the deceased

weren't immediately released.

The bar was holding a fundraiser for those touched by an Aug. 5 blaze that killed seven adults and three children in Nescopeck, the station reported.

The circumstances surrounding Saturday evening's crash were not immediately clear, in-

cluding whether there was any connection to the fire or the fundraising effort.

The first funerals for victims of the fire were held Friday, and more were scheduled for Sunday and Monday. Authorities have said the fire's cause remains under investigation.

Physician Green wins Hawaii Dem primary for governor

By Audrey McAvooy

Associated Press

HONOLULU — For their 16th wedding anniversary, Democrats in Hawaii gifted Josh Green and his wife, Jaime, a comfortable margin of victory in the gubernatorial primary Saturday.

Green, the state's current lieutenant governor, handily defeated former first lady Vicky Cayetano and Kaiali'i Kahele, who decided to seek the governor's office instead of a second term in the U.S. House.

Green, with lei of yellow and purple flowers and green leaves piled high up to his neck, alternated between throwing fists in the air and giving the shaka sign to a boisterous crowd of supporters at his victory party.

"On to November, we will win the governorship and lead Hawaii forward," he said to the cheering crowd.

He will face former two-term Republican Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona in the general election, who defeated mixed martial arts championship fighter B.J. Penn in his party's primary.

In an interview with Hawaii News Now, Aiona said his supporters "trusted my ability to lead the state, and I'm truly, truly appreciative and grateful for that."

Green has served as second-in-command for the past four years to Hawaii Gov. David Ige, who has already served two terms and isn't eligible to run for reelection.

The winner of the Democratic primary is favored to win the general election in the liberal state.

Many voters said Hawaii's high



JAMM AQUINO, HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER/AP

Hawaii Democratic gubernatorial candidate Josh Green speaks at his campaign headquarters Saturday in Honolulu. Green, currently lieutenant governor, will face former Republican Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona in the fall.

housing costs were a top issue for them. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the median price of a single-family home topped \$1 million in Honolulu, Maui and Kauai counties.

To address the housing shortage, Green said he would issue an executive order to eliminate red tape and streamline construction approvals and enforce existing laws to shut down illegal vacation rentals.

Aiona said he would eliminate the state Land Use Commission,

which he blamed for slowing housing development.

Green was a state senator and representative before serving as lieutenant governor. He was a doctor in rural areas on the Big Island before entering politics. He has continued working part time as a physician while in the state Legislature and as lieutenant governor.

Green developed a following during the COVID-19 pandemic for his explanations of infection rates and trends and hospital treatment capacity.

The state's largest unions endorsed his candidacy in the primary, including the Hawaii Government Employees Association and the Hawaii State Teachers Association.

The race got heated when Kahele and Cayetano questioned income Green received while lieutenant governor from a limited liability company called Green Health International LLC. Green, who has continued in his emergency room doctor side job while lieutenant governor, said the money

was for work he performed as a physician.

Kahele drew attention this year for his own side job as a Hawaiian Airlines pilot and his heavy use of proxy voting in Congress. Like everyone who has voted by proxy, he submitted a required letter attesting he was "unable to physically" vote at the Capitol. He cited "the ongoing public health emergency."

Kahele's decision to run for governor opened up his congressional seat representing rural Oahu and the Neighbor Islands.

Former state Sen. Jill Tokuda beat state Rep. Patrick Pihana Branco for the Democratic nomination for that seat, Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District.

Among Republicans, former U.S. Air Force intelligence analyst and businessman Joe Akana defeated business owner Joseph Webster.

In the 1st Congressional District, incumbent U.S. Rep. Ed Case beat attorney and political newcomer Sergio Alcubilla in the Democratic primary. Case in the general election will face former U.S. Navy SEAL Conrad Kress, who defeated two other candidates to win the Republican primary.

In the U.S. Senate race, sitting U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz defeated Democratic primary challenger Steve Tataii, a conflict resolution consultant. Tataii made an unsuccessful bid for Congress in 2016.

In the Republican primary for U.S. Senate, state Rep. Bob McDermott beat five other candidates.

R. Kelly accuser to give key testimony on trial-fixing charge

Associated Press

CHICAGO — R. Kelly's federal trial in Chicago that starts Monday is in many ways a do-over of his 2008 state child pornography trial, at which jurors acquitted the singer on charges that he produced a video of himself when he was around 30 having sex with a girl no older than 14.

There's one big difference: This time, prosecutors have said, she will testify.

Kelly, 55, goes into Chicago federal court already sentenced by a

New York federal judge to a 30-year prison term for a 2021 conviction on charges he parlayed his fame to sexually abuse other young fans.

Among the most serious charges the Grammy Award winner faces at his federal trial is conspiracy to obstruct justice by rigging the 2008 trial, including by paying off and threatening the girl to ensure she did not testify.

Testimony by the woman, now in her 30s and referred to in filings only as "Minor 1," will be pivotal. The charges against Kelly also include

four counts of the enticement of minors for sex — one count each for four other accusers. All are also slated to testify.

Even just one or two convictions in Chicago could add decades to Kelly's New York sentence, which he is appealing. With the New York sentence alone, Kelly will be around 80 before qualifying for early release.

Prosecutors at the federal trial plan to play the same VHS tape that was "Exhibit No. 1" at the 2008 trial. While it was the only video in evi-

dence 14 years ago, at least three other videos will be entered into evidence at the federal trial.

Prosecutors have said Kelly shot the video of Minor 1 in a log cabin-themed room at his North Side Chicago home between 1998 and 2000 when she was as young as 13. In it, the girl is heard calling the man "daddy." Federal prosecutors have said she and Kelly had sex hundreds of times over the years in his homes, recording studios and tour buses.

Before the 2008 trial, Kelly car-

ried a duffel bag full of sex tapes everywhere he went for years, but some tapes later went missing, according to court filings. In the 2000s, bootleg copies of some videos appeared on street corners across the United States.

Two Kelly associates, Derrel McDavid and Milton Brown, are co-defendants in Chicago. McDavid is accused of helping Kelly fix the 2008 trial, while Brown is charged with receiving child pornography. Like Kelly, they have also denied any wrongdoing.

WORLD

Mystery deepens of what killed fish in European river

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Laboratory tests following a mass die-off of fish in the Oder River detected high levels of salinity but no mercury poisoning its waters, Poland's environment minister said Saturday as the mystery continued as to what killed tons of fish in Central Europe.

Anna Moskwa, the minister of climate and environment, said analyses of river samples taken in both Poland and Germany revealed elevated salt levels. Comprehensive toxicology studies are still underway in Poland, she said.

She said Poland's state veterinary authority tested seven species of the dead fish and ruled out mercury as the cause of the die-off, but was still waiting for results of other substances. She said test results from Germany had also not shown a high presence of mercury.

The Oder River runs from the Czech Republic to the border between Poland and Germany be-

fore flowing into the Baltic Sea. Some German media had suggested the river may have been poisoned with mercury.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said Friday that "huge amounts of chemical waste" were probably dumped intentionally into his country's second-longest river, causing environmental damage so severe it would take years for the waterway to recover.

On Saturday, Morawiecki vowed to do everything possible to limit the environmental devastation. Poland's interior minister said a reward of \$220,000 would be paid to anyone who helps track down those responsible for polluting the river.

Authorities in the northeastern German state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania warned people not to fish or use water from the Szczecin lagoon, as the river's contaminated water was expected to reach the estuary area on Sat-



PATRICK PLEUL, DPA/AP

Volunteers recover dead fish from the water of the German-Polish border river Oder in Lebus, eastern Germany, on Saturday.

urday evening.

"The extent of the fish die-off is shocking. This is a blow to the Oder as a waterway of great ecological value, from which it will presumably not recover for a long time," said Alex Vogel, the environment minister for Germany's Brandenburg state, along which the river runs.

The head of Polish waters, Poland's national water management authority, said Thursday that 10 tons of dead fish had been

removed from the river. Hundreds of volunteers were working to help collect dead fish along the German side.

German laboratories said they detected "atypical" levels of "salts" that could be linked to the die-off, but wouldn't fully explain them on their own.

Morawiecki acknowledged that some Polish officials were "sluggish" in reacting after huge numbers of dead fish were seen floating and washing ashore, and said

two of them were dismissed.

"For me, however, the most important thing is to deal with this ecological disaster as soon as possible, because nature is our common heritage," Morawiecki said.

His comments were echoed by Schwedt Mayor Annkathrin Hoppe, whose German town is located next to the Lower Oder Valley National Park. She called the contamination of the river "an environmental catastrophe of unprecedented scale" for the region.

Fire at Coptic church in Cairo kills at least 41, hurts 14

Associated Press

CAIRO — A fire ripped through a packed Coptic Orthodox church during morning services in Egypt's capital on Sunday, quickly filling it with thick black smoke and killing 41 worshippers, including at least 10 children. Fourteen people were injured.

Several trapped congregants jumped from upper floors of the Martyr Abu Sefein church to try to escape the intense flames, witnesses said. "Suffocation, suffocation, all of them dead," said a distraught witness, who only gave a partial name,

Abu Bishop.

The cause of the blaze at the church in the working-class neighborhood of Imbaba was not immediately known. An initial investigation pointed to an electrical short-circuit, according to a police statement.

Footage from the scene circulated online showed burned furniture, including wooden tables and chairs. Firefighters were seen putting out the blaze while others carried victims to ambulances. Weeping families waited outside for word on relatives still inside the church and at

nearby hospitals where the victims were taken.

Witnesses said there were many children inside the four-story building when the fire broke out.

"There are children, we didn't know how to get to them," said Abu Bishop. "And we don't know whose son this is, or whose daughter that is. Is this possible?"

A hospital document obtained by The Associated Press said the Imbaba public hospital received 20 bodies, including 10 children. Three were siblings, twins aged 5 and a 3-year-old, it said. The church bishop,

Abdul Masih Bakhit, was also among those at the hospital morgue.

Twenty-one bodies were taken to other hospitals.

The country's health minister blamed the smoke and a stampede as people attempted to flee the fire for causing the fatalities.

Witness Emad Hanna said the church includes two places used as a day care for children, and that a church worker managed to get some children out.

Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Church and the country's health ministry reported the casualty toll.

President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi spoke by phone with the Coptic Christian Pope Tawadros II to offer his condolences, the president's office said.

The Interior Ministry said it received a report of the fire at 9 a.m. local time, and first responders found that the blaze had broken out in an air conditioner on the building's second floor.

Later on Sunday, emergency services said they managed to put out the blaze and the prime minister and other senior government officials arrived to inspect the site.

Italy's Lake Garda shrinks to near-historic low amid drought

Associated Press

SIRMIONE Italy — Italy's worst drought in decades has reduced Lake Garda, the country's largest lake, to near its lowest level ever recorded, exposing swaths of previously underwater rocks and warming the water to temperatures that approach the average in the Caribbean Sea.

Tourists flocking to the popular northern lake Friday for the start of Italy's key long summer weekend found a vastly different landscape than in past years. An expansive stretch of bleached rock extended far from the normal shore-

line, ringing the southern Sirmione Peninsula with a yellow halo between the green hues of the water and the trees on the shore.

"We came last year, we liked it, and we came back this year," tourist Beatrice Masi said as she sat on the rocks. "We found the landscape had changed a lot. We were a bit shocked when we arrived because we had our usual walk around, and the water wasn't there."

Northern Italy hasn't seen significant rainfall for months, and snowfall this year was down 70%, drying up important rivers like the

Po, which flows across Italy's agricultural and industrial heartland. Many European countries, including Spain, Germany, Portugal, France, the Netherlands and Britain, are enduring droughts this summer that have hurt farmers and shippers and prompted authorities to restrict water use.

The parched condition of the Po, Italy's longest river, has already caused billions of euros in losses to farmers who normally rely on it to irrigate fields and rice paddies.

To compensate, authorities allowed more water from Lake Garda to flow out to local rivers —

2,472 cubic feet of water per second. But in late July, they reduced the amount to protect the lake and the financially important tourism tied to it.

With 1,589 cubic feet of water per second being diverted to rivers, the lake on Friday was 12.6 inches above the water table, near the record lows in 2003 and 2007.

Garda Mayor Davide Bedinelli said he had to protect both farmers and the tourist industry. He insisted the summer tourist season was going better than expected, despite cancellations, mostly from German tourists, during Italy's lat-

est heat wave in late July.

"Drought is a fact that we have to deal with this year, but the tourist season is in no danger," Bedinelli wrote in a July 20 Facebook post.

He confirmed the lake was losing 0.78 inches of water a day.

The lake's temperature, meanwhile, has been above average for August, according to seatemperature.org. On Friday, the Garda's water was nearly 78 degrees Fahrenheit, several degrees warmer than the average August temperature of 71.6 F and nearing the Caribbean Sea's average of around 80 F.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Snake researcher dies from rattlesnake bite

VA FALLS CHURCH — A respected snake researcher who had been making significant discoveries about the species since childhood has died after being bitten by a timber rattler.

William H. “Marty” Martin died after being bitten the day before by a captive snake on the property at his home in Harpers Ferry, W.Va., according to his wife, Renee Martin.

Martin, who was 80 years old, continued to make arduous mountain hikes to document and count snake populations in remote sites, said Joe Villari, who manages the Bull Run Mountains Preserve in northern Virginia and would accompany Martin on his outings there.

As a boy, Martin found a population of timber rattlers in the Bull Run Mountains that was previously unknown, and convinced a herpetologist to come out and verify the find.

Museum to return illegally exported art to Italy

CA LOS ANGELES — The J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles is returning ancient sculptures and other works of art that were illegally exported from Italy, the museum announced.

The Getty will return a nearly life-size group of Greek terra-cotta sculptures known as “Orpheus and the Sirens,” believed to date from the fourth century B.C., according to the museum.

The sculpture group was purchased by J. Paul Getty in 1976 shortly before his death and had been on display for decades.

However, the museum now believes they were illegally excavated and taken out of Italy, based on evidence uncovered by the Manhattan district attorney’s office, the Getty said in a statement.

Chiropractor charged with selling fentanyl

MS GULFPORT — A Mississippi chiropractor accused of selling fentanyl and being in possession of drug paraphernalia was taken into custody after an undercover investigation.

Joseph “Joey” Andrew Rogers, 53, of Long Beach, faces charges including possession of meth, tampering with evidence and sale of a controlled substance. The fentanyl charges came from “previous undercover operations,” Harrison County Sheriff Troy Peterson said in a news release.

Authorities executed search warrants at the home and office of Rogers, the Sun Herald reported. When authorities arrived at Rogers’ house to serve the warrant, he fled and discarded a substance suspected to be fentanyl in the toi-



GREG EANS, THE MESSENGER-INQUIRER/AP

Rolling along

Austin Kirby uses an electric unicycle, Saturday, in Owensboro, Ky, to maneuver around the city’s riverfront while participating in Pokemon Go Community Day. “It gets me around faster,” Kirby said.

let.

Rogers was apprehended and arrested. Investigators found meth and paraphernalia used for ingesting heroin and fentanyl in his home, Peterson said.

Zoo sees first gorilla birth in almost 20 years

NM ALBUQUERQUE — The Albuquerque BioPark Zoo is celebrating the first birth of a gorilla in nearly 20 years.

Zoo officials said a baby western lowland gorilla was born to mother Samantha and father Kojo.

Bob Lee, the zoo’s associate director, said the zoo does not yet know the new baby’s gender because the mother is keeping it very close. As a result, the zoo has temporarily shuttered the ape walk area so mother and baby can bond with some privacy.

The zoo’s total number of western lowland gorillas is now up to eight. The last time a gorilla was born here was in 2004.

Officials warn of massive oil spill along the bay

LA HOUMA — People should stay away from an oil spill in the Terrebonne Bay and Lake Pelto area, the Louisiana Department of Health said.

Its advisory also warned against fishing in, entering or driving ves-

THE CENSUS

21K The approximate number of fish that died of possible chlorine exposure at a University of California, Davis research and care facility in California. The university is investigating a “catastrophic failure” at the UC Davis Center for Aquatic Biology and Aquaculture, according to a statement. Officials didn’t say what kind of fish were killed. “We know that many researchers, regulatory agencies, Native American tribes and other partners trust us to care for their aquatic species,” the university statement read. “We will work hard to earn that trust by conducting a thorough review of our facilities, holding ourselves accountable for what happened, and taking steps to prevent it from happening ever again.”

sels through areas with visible slicks or sheens.

“If you see or smell oil, leave the area right away,” it stated.

Nearly 14,000 gallons of crude oil spilled from a tank, after a platform collapsed at Hilcorp’s Cailou Island facility in Terrebonne Bay, the Coast Guard reported.

The agency said nobody was hurt and it has not received any reports of affected wildlife. The cause of the collapse is being investigated.

Bank robber grabs cop’s gun, fires during scuffle

NE OMAHA — Omaha police said a man who tried to rob a bank got into a scuffle with an off-duty police officer on the way out and fired one round after grabbing the officer’s gun, but no one was hurt.

Police said the incident was reported when the off-duty officer radioed for help from the First Na-

tional Bank branch near 50th Street and Ames Avenue where he was working.

Before the encounter with the officer, the man went into the bank and handed an employee a note indicating there was a bomb in the building, but the man didn’t get any cash before he left. During the struggle with the officer the man grabbed the gun and fired, but the officer was able to take the gun back before the man fled.

The 41-year-old man was found a few blocks away after he had broken into a home. He was arrested with the help of a police dog.

Hospital to refuse some patients due to capacity

WA SEATTLE — Harborview Medical Center in Seattle will temporarily stop accepting less acute patients and will divert them to other health

care systems as capacity challenges worsen, according to the hospital’s CEO.

“All hospital systems (are) very much over capacity with very high census numbers, particularly because of an inability to discharge patients into post-acute care settings,” Harborview CEO Sommer Kleweno Walley said in a media briefing. “This morning ... Harborview reached an unprecedented census level.”

The hospital is caring for some 560 inpatients, more than 130% of its licensed capacity of 413 patients. About 100 are patients who no longer need hospitalization and are waiting to be discharged to a long-term care facility, like an adult family home, Kleweno Walley said.

Sheriff indicted on tampering, misconduct

KY FRANKFORT — A western Kentucky sheriff has been indicted on charges of official misconduct and tampering with a witness, Attorney General Daniel Cameron said.

A grand jury handed down the two-count indictment against Webster County Sheriff Donald Jones, 57, of Sebree, Cameron said in a statement.

Details on what led to the charges weren’t released.

PACIFIC

Tropical Storm Meari hammers Japan with heavy rainfall

Associated Press

TOKYO—Tropical Storm Meari unleashed heavy rains on Japan's main Honshu island as it headed northward Saturday toward the capital, Tokyo, according to Japanese weather officials.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said that Meari made landfall in Shizuoka prefecture southwest of Tokyo in the afternoon, bringing sudden heavy rains and blasting winds to a widespread area and prompting warnings about mudslides and flooding.

More than 72,000 people in the area's main city of Shizuoka were told to evacuate due to possible landslides.

Meari, packing sustained winds of up to 45 mph, passed over Shizuoka and was traveling at a speed of about 12 mph. The storm was expected to continue northward before veering eastward, swinging over the Pacific Ocean by early Sunday.

The Tokyo area was hammered by periodic downpours starting in the late morning. Warnings on high waves in coastal areas were issued for Tokyo, Kanagawa prefecture southwest of Tokyo, and other nearby areas.

The authorities warned against going near rivers and other waters, as the levels may rise suddenly. Rainfall was expected to worsen in Tokyo and areas north

of Tokyo in the evening, they said. Warnings of flooding, strong winds and heavy rainfall were issued for the Tokyo area.

Japanese media reports showed video of rivers rising perilously, almost reaching bridge decks, as rain splashed down on homes and people scurried in the streets, clinging to their umbrellas.

Japan is in the middle of the Bon summer holidays and vacationers are traveling in droves, though some have had to cancel or change plans. The Rock in Japan Festival 2022, which began a week ago in Chiba prefecture east of Tokyo, canceled the event for Saturday, the final day of the outdoor festival.

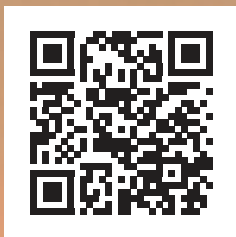


AP

People encounter a strong wind brought by Tropical Storm Meari, in Japan's Shizuoka prefecture on Saturday. Thousands of people in the city of Shizuoka were told to evacuate due to possible landslides.

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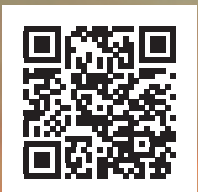


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WORLD

3 lion cubs born at Gaza zoo

Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Three-day-old lion cubs were on display Saturday in a cardboard box at a Gaza City zoo, a rare joyous sight for children and adults alike, just days after Israeli aircraft pounded the territory and Gaza militants fired hundreds of rockets at Israel.

Veterinarian Mahmoud al-Sultan said each cub weighed about 700 grams. He said he felt lucky the birth was successful despite the deafening sound of constant explosions during three days of fighting. The cubs' mother had

suffered miscarriages in the past, said al-Sultan.

Loud noise "causes stress to the wild animals, especially the lions, whose roars get higher, and they keep moving in a circular way inside the cage," he said.

The cubs were born on Friday, several hours apart, and five days after an Egyptian-brokered cease-fire halted the fighting between Israel and Islamic Jihad militants.

Shocks from war aren't the only threat to animals. Gaza is impoverished, with double-digit unemployment, largely as a result of a border blockade Egypt and Israel

imposed after Hamas militants took control of the territory 15 years ago.

International animal welfare groups carried out several evacuations to move frail lions and tigers to sanctuaries in Jordan and Africa.

On Saturday, visitors flocked to the small Nama zoo on the outskirts of Gaza City, with children allowed to pet the newborns. Nama is operated by a private charity, putting it in a slightly better position than the small number of private zoos that often struggle to provide for the animals.



FATIMA SHBAIR/AP

Three newborn lion cubs are displayed at Nama zoo in Gaza City, on Saturday.

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Don't blast Trump for pleading the Fifth

BY STEPHEN L. CARTER

Bloomberg Opinion

Donald Trump has taken lots of public flak for invoking his Fifth Amendment right not to answer questions during his recent deposition by New York prosecutors looking into his finances. To the extent that critics have pointed to the former president's hypocrisy, they're entirely on the mark. But to the extent that they're suggesting that Trump must have something to hide because he refused to answer questions, they're following in a long-standing yet unsavory American tradition — one that Sen. Joseph McCarthy would readily recognize.

Although lawyers routinely advise their clients not to say a word to prosecutors, we tend to look askance at those who, in the parlance, "take the Fifth." But one needn't be a Trump fan — I'm certainly not — to understand that invoking the right to remain silent isn't evidence of guilt; it's a vital part of the relationship between the citizen and the state.

Nevertheless, although the historical origin of the privilege itself remains contested, it's fair to say that long before the phrase "take the Fifth" existed, a witness's silence was taken by the public as evidence of wrongdoing.

Back in the 1820s, when the New York legislature held hearings on whether certain banks had engaged in wrongdoing, a witness who refused to discuss his involvement in crafting a particular document was arrested and carted off to Albany's city jail. During a 1911 probe of the role of Texas breweries in battling local prohibition laws, newspapers decried the refusal of several witnesses to say under oath whether they took bribes. The investigators announced plans "to force answers."

An unsigned 1922 article in the University of Pennsylvania Law Review captured the view of many critics in coldly rejecting the notion

that the right to avoid self-incrimination possessed any value: "The privilege which exempts the accused from being compelled to give evidence is extremely undesirable at this time in that it unquestionably shields crime and offers protection for the guilty criminal."

But it was the Communist witch-hunts that followed World War II that firmly fixed in the popular mind the notion that asserting one's privilege against self-incrimination was the pusillanimous act of the guilty. In 1948, for example, the House Un-American Activities Committee warned that invoking the Fifth Amendment was part of the "new and clever conspiratorial tactics" used by Communists to "conceal their espionage activities and their disloyal purposes." Leading members of the bar pronounced similar views. A prominent California lawyer argued that a witness could not use the Fifth Amendment in response to being asked if he was a Communist, because being a member of the Party was not a crime: "[H]e cannot use the Fifth Amendment to save himself from a personal ordeal, no matter how trying or repulsive, unless the answer to the question would actually tend to incriminate him." So if the worst that might happen was that the witness would, say, become unemployable, the privilege did not apply.

The actual phrase "taking the Fifth" and its equivalents date to that era. Although its earliest usage seems to have been by witnesses who tired of repeating "I invoke," the term quickly became derisive. In April 1954, for instance, McCarthy complained in an interview that many people "who have backgrounds of Communist activities" would refuse to testify before congressional committees. "If they act like those in the past," McCarthy lamented, they "will even take the Fifth Amendment."

The frustration of congressional investigators often led to sharp exchanges, as later that same year, when a publicist named Alexander

Sherman was asked by HUAC about his work on behalf of the Hollywood 10. Sherman responded: "I'm afraid I must take the Fifth Amendment on that" — to which Harold Velde, the committee's chair, shot back: "You are afraid to take the Fifth Amendment?"

Those who relied on the privilege then were often persecuted. They could face loss of employment and financial ruin. Happily, a few civil libertarians raised their voices in protest. The most prominent was Erwin Griswold, the dean of Harvard Law School, who published a series of articles to educate the public about the virtues of the Fifth Amendment.

The privilege against self-incrimination, he argued in one essay, is a part of the "right to be left alone," designed "to tip the scale in favor of the individual against the weight of the state." In another article, Griswold criticized Congress for calling witnesses they knew planned to give no testimony: "[A] legislative investigation is improper when its sole or basic purpose is to 'expose' people or to develop evidence for use in criminal prosecutions."

To be sure, the arguments of the McCarthy Era over the right to remain silent largely revolved around legislative overreach. But the same lesson applies when questions are being put by prosecutors: A refusal to testify shouldn't be considered evidence that the witness did anything wrong, a rule that the Supreme Court in 1965 formalized for criminal trials. The rest of us should adhere to the same principle.

Again, none of this is pleading for Trump. My fear, rather, is that whenever we deride invocation of Fifth Amendment rights, we risk trampling on a vital pillar of our democracy.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Stephen L. Carter is a professor of law at Yale University and author of "Invisible: The Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster." This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

Japan could send a message by amending constitution

BY TYLER MICHALS

Special to the Chicago Tribune

In May of 2017, I was in Kyoto, Japan, sitting on the patio of a Starbucks while scrolling through news headlines on my phone. The top story that day was that North Korea had test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile, which had landed in the Sea of Japan. Yet, everyone around me was carrying on with their day, seemingly unbothered.

It's the sort of danger that the Japanese have come to live with. Japan occupies one of the most precarious geographical positions anywhere in the world. Its closest neighbors include Russia, North Korea and China. Earlier this year, North Korea resumed test-firing of ICBMs off Japan's coast. More recently, using House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan as a springboard, China has been acting more belligerently than usual. Following Pelosi's trip, China fired several missiles that landed in waters that fall within Japan's exclusive economic zone. Given the tumult in Europe and Asia, respectively, America's military might risks being spread too thin. Our allies will need to shoulder more of the burden in defending democracy abroad.

To that end, Japan's postwar constitution, in place since 1947, poses a hindrance. Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution states, in part, "The Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes." To that end, Article 9 continues:

"Land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be sustained." Drafted by American legal scholars after World War II, with the enthusiastic support of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the provision sought to extinguish Japanese militarism for all time.

The pacifist constitution was idealistic but shortsighted — the product of nearly a century of tensions between the U.S. and Japan from 1853 to 1945. Between Commodore Matthew Perry's demand that Japan open its ports to foreigners, American annexation of the Hawaiian Islands, exploitation of Japanese nationals in California and the Pacific theater of World War II, a future alliance between the United States and Japan would have been difficult to imagine. Nevertheless, Japan now stands as one of America's foremost allies.

For decades Japan has grappled with what to do about its constitution. Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was assassinated last month, was a staunch proponent of amending Article 9 to give the Japanese military a sound constitutional footing. In the elections taking place in the immediate aftermath of Abe's death, his Liberal Democratic Party won a sweeping victory. But exit polls indicate that just 3.2% of LDP voters did so on the basis of revising the constitution. Polls further indicate that just 36% of Japanese support revising the constitution, while 38% are opposed.

To be sure, Japan's constitutional provision barring it from maintaining a military has long been honored more in the breach than the ob-

servance. Notwithstanding the command of Article 9, Japan retains one of the largest militaries in the world. To keep it "constitutional," the Japanese military is humbly referred to as the Japanese Self-Defense Force. Still, Japan spends only about 1% of its gross domestic product on defense, which is a pittance relative to what current circumstances demand. Amending Article 9's pacifist provisions should allow for more spending on national defense and further strategic cooperation among Japan, South Korea and the U.S.

American backing of a revision to Article 9 would be provocative, but a powerful Japan is the best hedge against an aggressive China. It would send a strong signal to Beijing about the costs of provoking a war in the Pacific. What's more, it would send a message to the nations of Asia that, however zealous China may be in its efforts to assert dominance, the democracies of the region are willing and able to defend liberty in an equal and opposite measure.

As we just observed the 77th anniversary of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it's worth contemplating the horrors of war and particularly the damage that can be wrought by nuclear weaponry. Today, in downtown Hiroshima, there remains a ruined building — the only structure remaining from the area in which a nuclear bomb went off so many years ago. It still stands as a somber reminder amid a now-bustling, modern city.

Tyler Michals is a practicing attorney in Chicago.

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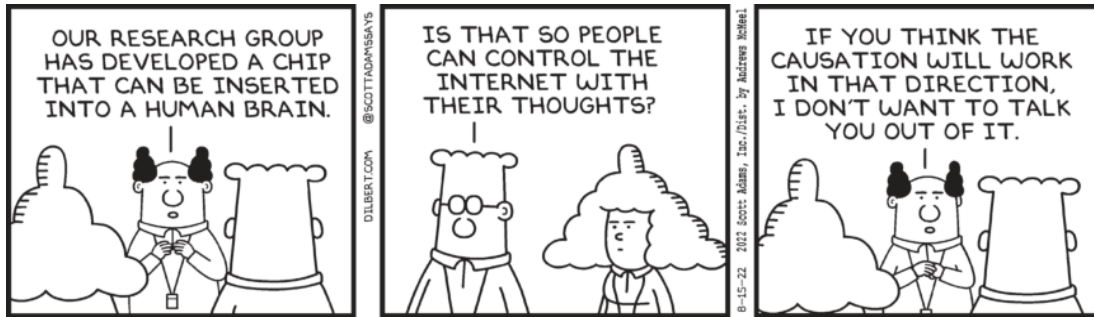


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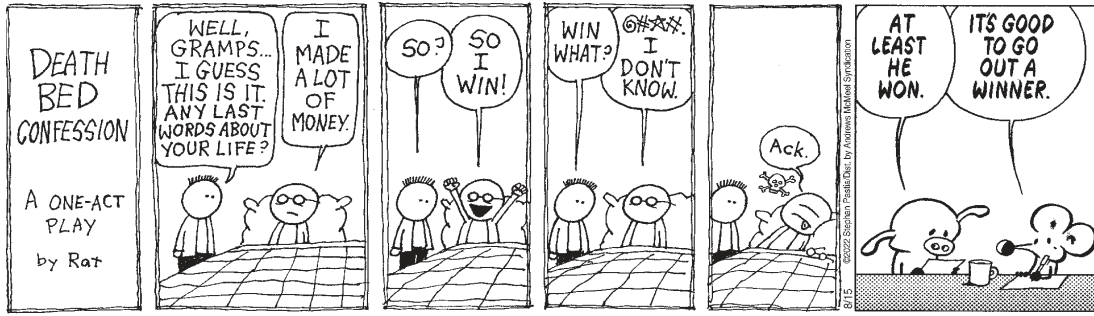
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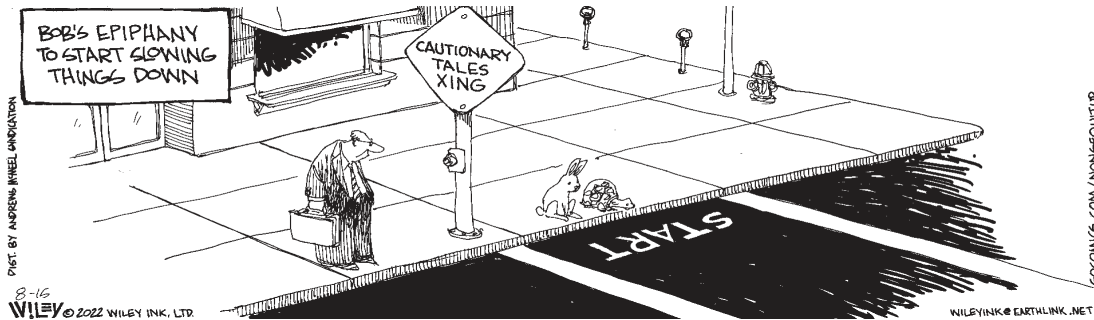
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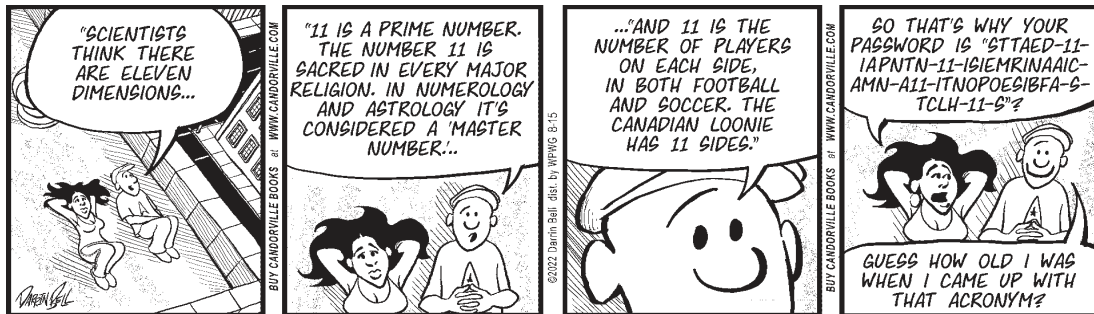
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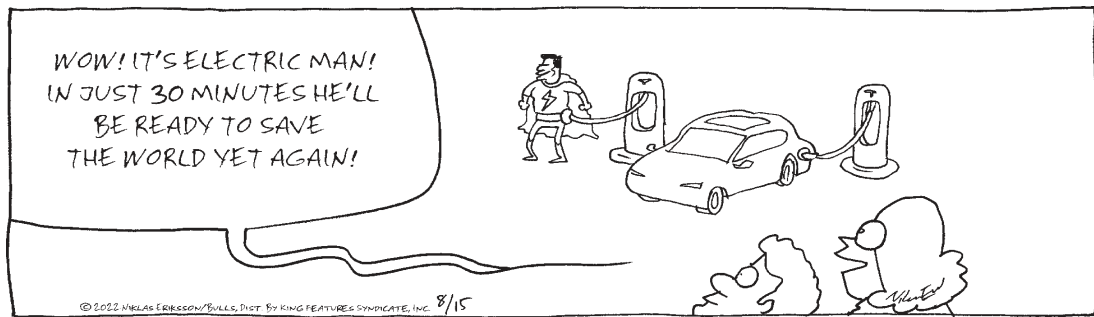
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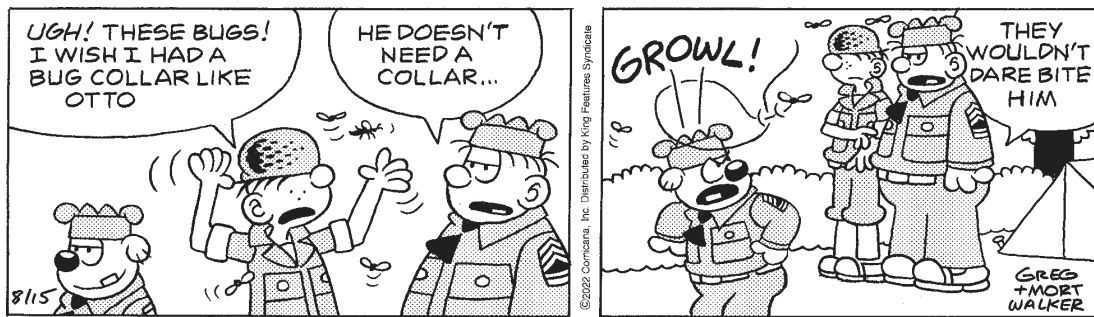
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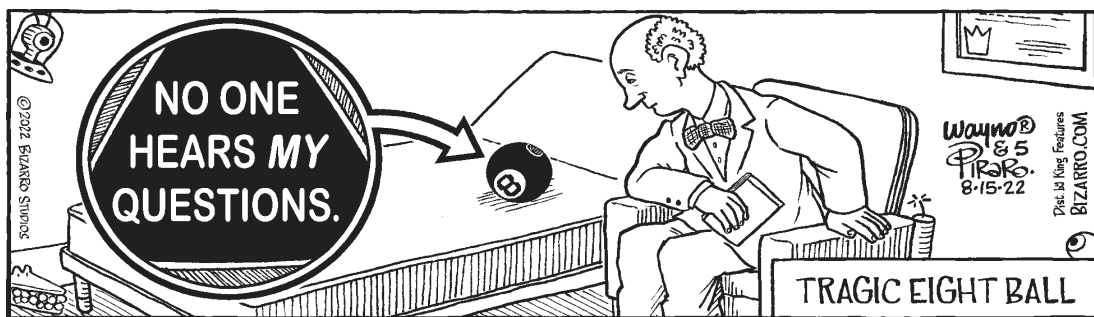
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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ACROSS

- 1 Water, in Mexico
- 5 Sprite
- 8 Pedestal
- 12 Like holiday decorations
- 14 Ogled
- 15 D.C. veteran
- 16 Ms. Moore
- 17 Pentagon gp.
- 18 Mild cheese
- 20 Singer Mann
- 23 "— Las Vegas"
- 24 Not that
- 25 Verbal attack
- 28 Yr. parts
- 29 Some latte sizes
- 30 Cut the lawn
- 32 Italian corn-meal recipe
- 34 Race finish
- 35 Rapsclallions
- 36 Word list, for short
- 37 Goldberg on "The View"
- 40 — Lingus
- 41 Honker
- 42 Refines
- 47 Duel tool
- 48 Investigates
- 49 Holler
- 50 "Mayday!"
- 51 Taxpayer IDs

DOWN

- 1 Venomous viper
- 2 Earth (Pref.)
- 3 "Friendly skies" co.
- 4 Stage comments
- 5 Oklahoma city
- 6 Fond du —
- 7 Fleet of ships
- 8 Pandemonium
- 9 Pro votes
- 10 Big rig
- 11 Tend texts
- 13 Oklahoma tribe
- 19 Currier's partner
- 20 \$ dispenser
- 21 Denny's rival
- 22 Japanese soup
- 23 Battery measures
- 25 Primitive flutes
- 26 Apple desktop
- 27 Club in a Manilow song
- 29 Office part-timer
- 31 Charlotte's creation
- 33 Toy train maker
- 34 Sculpted trunks
- 36 Bridal cover
- 37 Curds' partner
- 38 Great expectation
- 39 Hurler Hershiser
- 40 Swiss peaks
- 43 Tic-tac-toe loser
- 44 Storefront sign abbr.
- 45 Poetic dusk
- 46 Hot wok sound

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	A	P	S		W	R	A	P		N	H	L
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FACES

Composing his Hollywood finale

John Williams, 90, says 'Indiana Jones 5' likely the last film he will write score for

BY JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

After more than six decades of making bicycles soar, sending panicked swimmers to the shore and other spellbinding close encounters, John Williams is putting the final notes on what may be his last film score.

"At the moment I'm working on 'Indiana Jones 5,' which Harrison Ford — who's quite a bit younger than I am — I think has announced will be his last film," Williams says. "So, I thought: If Harrison can do it, then perhaps I can, also."

Ford, for the record, hasn't said that publicly. And Williams, who turned 90 in February, isn't absolutely certain he's ready to, either.

"I don't want to be seen as categorically eliminating any activity," Williams says with a chuckle, speaking by phone from his home in Los Angeles. "I can't play tennis, but I like to be able to believe that maybe one day I will."

Right now, though, there are other ways Williams wants to be spending his time. A "Star Wars" film demands six months of work, which he notes, "at this point in life is a long commitment to me." Instead, Williams is devoting himself to composing concert music, including a piano concerto he's writing for Emanuel Ax.

This spring, Williams and cellist Yo-Yo Ma released the album "A Gathering of Friends," recorded with the New York Philharmonic, Pablo Sáinz-Villegas and Jessica Zhou. It's a radiant collection of cello concertos and new arrangements from the scores of "Schindler's List," "Lincoln" and "Munich," including the sublime "A Prayer for Peace."

Turning 90 — an event that the Kennedy Center and Tanglewood are celebrating this summer with birthday concerts — has caused Williams to reflect on his accomplishments, his remaining ambitions and what a lifetime of music has meant to him.

"It's given me the ability to breathe, the ability to live and understand that there's more to corporal life," Williams says. "Without being religious, which I'm not especially, there is a spiritual life, an artistic life, a realm that's

above the mundanities of everyday realities. Music can raise one's thinking to the level of poetry. We can reflect on how necessary music has been for humanity. I always like to speculate that music is older than language, that we were probably beating drums and blowing on reeds before we could speak. So it's an essential part of our humanity.

"It's given me my life."

And, in turn, Williams has provided the soundtrack to the lives of countless others through more than 100 film scores, among them "Star Wars," "Jurassic Park," "Jaws," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," "E.T.," "Indiana Jones," "Superman," "Schindler's List" and the first three "Harry Potter" films.

It's an amount of accomplishment that's hard to quantify. Five Oscars and 52 Academy Award nominations, a number bested only by Walt Disney, is one measurement. But even that hardly hints at

the cultural power of his music. A billion people might be able to instantly hum Williams' two-note ostinato from "Jaws" or "The Imperial March" from "Star Wars."

"I'm told that the music is played all over the world. What could be more rewarding than that?" says Williams. "But I have to say it seems unreal. I can only see what's in front of me at the piano right at this moment, and do my best with that."

All those indelible, perfectly constructed themes, he believes, are the product less of divine inspiration than daily hard work. Williams does most of his work sitting for hours at a time at his Steinway, composing in pencil.

"It's like cutting a stone at your desk," he says. "My younger colleagues are much faster than I am because they have electronic equipment and computers and synthesizers and so on."

When Williams began (his first feature film score was 1958's "Daddy-O"), the cinematic tradition of grand, orchestral scores was beginning to lose out to pop soundtracks. Now, many are gravitating toward synthesized music for film. Increasingly, Williams has the aura of a venerated old master who bridges distant eras of film and music.



LUCASFILM LTD./AP

John Williams, a five-time Oscar-winner, is devoting himself to composing concert music after he finishes his latest film score.



AP

Williams, left, and director Steven Spielberg pose together in 2016 at a tribute to Williams in Los Angeles. Spielberg calls Williams "the single most significant contributor to my success as a filmmaker."

"Recording with the New York Philharmonic, the whole orchestra to a person were awestruck by this gentleman at now 90 who hears everything, is unfailingly kind, gentle, polite. People just wanted to play for him," says Ma. "They were floored by the musicianship of this man."

This late chapter in Williams' career is in some ways a chance to place his mammoth legacy not just in connection with cinema but among the classical legends. Williams, who led the Boston Pops from 1980 to 1993, has conducted the Berlin, Vienna and New York philharmonics, among others. In the world's elite orchestras, Williams' compositions have passed into canon.

Williams' enduring partnership with Steven Spielberg has, of course, helped the composer's odds. Spielberg, who first sought

out a lunch with Williams in 1972 after being captivated by his score to "The Reivers," has called him "the single most significant contributor to my success as a filmmaker."

"Without John Williams, bikes don't really fly," Spielberg said when the AFI honored Williams in 2016.

They remain irrevocably linked. Their offices on the Universal lot are just steps from one another.

Along with "Indiana Jones," Williams recently scored Spielberg's upcoming semi-autobiographical drama about growing up in Arizona, "The Fabelmans." The two movies make it 30 films together for Spielberg and Williams.

"It's been 50 years now. Maybe we're starting on the next 50," says Williams with a laugh.

Megan Thee Stallion releases new album

In a surprise move, the Grammy-winning rapper Megan Thee Stallion released her second album, "Traumazine," Aug. 12.

The 27-year-old artist from Houston shared the album's cover art, as well as an 18-song track listing, which includes her single "Sweetest Pie" with Dua Lipa. Other big-name collaborators on the album include Future, Latto and Jhene Aiko.

The release comes less than two years after Megan debuted her first album, "Good News," which spawned hits such as "Savage," "Body" and "Goods in the Hood."

The rapper, whose real name is Megan Pete, won three Grammys in 2021, including best new artist and best rap song and best rap performance for her chart-topping "Savage" remix featuring Beyonce.

Jon Batiste leaves Colbert's 'The Late Show'

Jon Batiste, his career soaring after winning multiple Grammys this year, is leaving his perch as bandleader of "The Late Show" after a seven-year run backing up host Stephen Colbert.

"We've been so lucky to have a front row seat to Jon's incredible talent for the past seven years," Colbert said Aug. 11. "But we're happy for you, Jon, and I can't wait to have you back on as guest with your next hit record."

Batiste won five Grammys this year.

Louis Cato, who has served as interim bandleader this summer, will take over on a permanent basis when the show returns for its eighth season. He has been with the show since its launch.

Jennifer Hudson to launch new talk show

Jennifer Hudson is launching a daytime talk show.

The Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony Award-winning superstar's "The Jennifer Hudson Show" will kick off in national syndication on Sept. 12 — which also happens to be her birthday.

The Los Angeles-based series plans to feature celebrity interviews, topical stories, community heroes, viral sensations and music.

Steve Martin says he will retire after 'Murders'

You might not see Steve Martin popping up on your screen for much longer.

The Emmy-winning comedy star, 76, told The Hollywood Reporter in a new interview that once Hulu's "Only Murders in the Building" concludes, he intends on retiring.

"When this television show is done, I'm not going to seek others. I'm not going to seek other movies. I don't want to do cameos. This is, weirdly, it," Martin said.

From wire reports

SCOREBOARD

SOCCER

MLS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	13	3	9	48	45	19
CF Montréal	13	8	4	43	43	41
NYCFC	12	6	6	42	45	27
New York	10	8	7	37	38	31
Columbus	8	6	10	34	32	27
Orlando City	9	10	6	33	28	36
Inter Miami CF	9	10	6	33	32	41
New England	8	7	9	33	36	34
Cincinnati	8	8	9	33	42	45
Chicago	8	11	6	30	28	34
Charlotte FC	9	14	2	29	30	39
Toronto FC	8	12	5	29	37	43
Atlanta	7	9	8	29	33	36
D.C. United	6	14	4	22	28	48

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LAFC	17	4	3	54	53	24
Austin FC	14	5	6	48	54	34
FC Dallas	10	7	9	39	38	28
Minnesota	10	9	5	35	38	34
Real Salt Lake	9	8	7	34	31	33
LA Galaxy	10	11	3	33	37	34
Nashville	8	8	9	33	33	34
Portland	7	7	12	33	42	40
Seattle	10	12	2	32	31	29
Colorado	8	9	7	31	35	37
Vancouver	8	11	6	30	29	44
Houston	7	14	4	25	31	42
San Jose	5	11	9	24	40	53
Sporting KC	6	15	5	23	26	48

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

Saturday's games

Orlando City 1, New York 0
 Atlanta 2, Cincinnati 2, tie
 New England 1, D.C. United 0
 Philadelphia 4, Chicago 1
 Toronto FC 3, Portland 1
 Miami 3, New York City FC 2
 Austin FC 4, Sporting Kansas City 3
 Columbus 1, Colorado 1, tie
 FC Dallas 4, San Jose 1
 CF Montréal 3, Houston 2
 LA Galaxy 5, Vancouver 2
 Los Angeles FC 5, Charlotte FC 0

Sunday's games

Minnesota at Nashville
 Real Salt Lake at Seattle

Tuesday's game

D.C. United at Los Angeles FC

Wednesday's games

New York at Atlanta
 New England at Toronto FC
 Charlotte FC at New York City FC
 Philadelphia at FC Dallas
 Colorado at Vancouver

Friday's game

Seattle at LA Galaxy

Saturday, Aug. 20

Cincinnati at New York
 Philadelphia at D.C. United
 New England at CF Montréal
 Toronto FC at Miami
 Austin FC at Minnesota
 Houston at Colorado
 Vancouver at Real Salt Lake
 Los Angeles FC at San Jose

Sunday, Aug. 21

Atlanta at Columbus
 New York City FC at Chicago
 Orlando City at Charlotte FC
 Portland at Sporting Kansas City
 FC Dallas at Nashville

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Portland	7	1	7	28	36	15
Kansas City	7	4	4	25	20	20
San Diego	7	5	4	25	21	14
Houston	7	4	4	25	26	17
Chicago	6	3	5	23	22	17
OL Reign	5	4	6	21	16	14
Orlando	4	5	6	18	17	30
Angel City	5	5	3	18	14	16
Louisville	2	6	8	14	16	22
Gotham FC	4	8	0	12	9	24
Washington	1	6	9	12	16	21
North Carolina	2	6	4	10	23	26

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

Saturday's games

Kansas City 4, North Carolina 3
 Orlando 1, San Diego 0

Sunday's games

Gotham FC at OL Reign
 Chicago at Angel City

Wednesday's game

Gotham FC at Houston

Friday's game

Angel City at Kansas City

Saturday, Aug. 20

Orlando at Gotham FC
 Chicago at North Carolina
 Houston at San Diego

Wednesday, Aug. 24

Portland at North Carolina

DEALS

Saturday's transactions

BASEBALL Major League Baseball American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Recalled LHP D.L. Hall from Norfolk (IL). Optioned LHP Nick Vespi to Norfolk.

BOSTON RED SOX — Selected the contract of RHP Jeurys Familia from Worcester (IL). Optioned RHP Kaleb Ort to Worcester. Transferred LHP Chris Sale from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Reinstated RHP Lance McCullers from the 60-day IL. Optioned RHP Seth Martinez to Sugar Land (IL). Transferred OF Michael Brantley from the 10-day IL to the 60-day IL.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Recalled RHP Carlos Hernandez from Omaha (IL). Placed RHP Joel Payamps on the family medical emergency list.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Recalled LHP Zach Logue from Las Vegas (PCL). Optioned LHP Sam Selman to Las Vegas.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Reinstated OF Taylor Trammel from the 10-day IL and optioned him to Tacoma (PCL).

National League

ATLANTA BRAVES — Recalled LHP Kyle Muller and RHP Ian Anderson from Gwinnett (IL). Optioned RHP Jay Jackson to Gwinnett.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Placed RHP Alex Colome on the 15-day IL, retroactive to Aug. 12. Recalled RHP Justin Lawrence from Albuquerque (PCL).

MIAMI MARLINS — Selected the contract of RHP A.J. Ladwig from Pensacola (SL) and appointed him the 27th man for a doubleheader. Reinstated RHP Tommy Nance from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Jeff Brigham to Jacksonville (IL).

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Placed RHP Trevor Gott on the 15-day IL, retroactive to Aug. 11. Recalled RHP Peter Strzelecki from Nashville (IL). Reinstated RHP Justin Topa from the 60-day IL and optioned him to Nashville.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

BALTIMORE RAVENS — Signed LB Trent Harris. Waived DB Denzel Williams and WR Devon Williams.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Placed DE Wyatt Hubert on the reserve/retired list.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed CB Deante Burton and TE David Wells. Waived DB Terrel Bonds and WR Brandon Lewis.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

COLORADO RAPIDS — Recalled M Cole Bassett from his loan with Feyenoord Rotterdam and loaned him to fellow Dutch side Fortuna Sittard for the remainder of the 2022-23 Eredivisie season; Feyenoord will retain their option to purchase Bassett from the Rapids at the end of the loan.

National Women's Soccer League

NJ/NY Gotham FC — Announced Hue Menzies will serve as interim head coach.

TENNIS

National Bank Open

Saturday At Uniprix Stadium & Aviva Centre Montreal

Purse: \$5,926,545
 Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
 Men's Singles
 Semifinals

Hubert Hurkacz (8), Poland, def. Casper Ruud (4), Norway, 5-7, 6-3, 6-2.
 Pablo Carreno Busta, Spain, def. Daniel Evans, Britain, 7-5, 6-7 (7), 6-2.

Men's Doubles Semifinals

Wesley Koolhof, Netherlands, and Neal Skupski (3), Britain, def. Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies, Germany, 3-6, 6-2, 10-8.
 Daniel Evans, Britain, and John Peers, Australia, def. Jan Zielinski and Hubert Hurkacz, Poland, 7-5, 4-6, 10-4.

National Bank Open

Saturday At Aviva Centre Stadium Toronto

Purse: \$2,527,250
 Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
 Women's Singles
 Semifinals

Simona Halep (15), Romania, def. Jessica Pegula (7), United States, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.
 Beatriz Haddad Maia, Brazil, def. Karolina Pliskova (14), Czech Republic, 6-4, 7-6 (7).

Women's Doubles Semifinals

Jessica Pegula and Coco Gauff (3), United States, def. Sania Mirza, India, and Madison Keys, United States, 7-5, 7-5.
 Nicole Melichar-Martinez, United States, and Ellen Perez, Australia, def. Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada, and Giuliana Olmos (2), Mexico, 7-6 (5), 6-3.

Thoreau Tennis

Saturday At The Thoreau Club Concord, Mass.

Purse: \$115,000
 Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
 Women's Singles
 Semifinals

CoCo Vandeweghe, United States, def. Wang Qiang, China, 6-4, 6-3.
 Bernarda Pera (2), United States, def. Katrina Scott, United States, 6-4, 6-2.

Women's Doubles Semifinals

CoCo Vandeweghe, United States, and Varvara Flink, Russia, def. Fernanda Contreras Gomez, Mexico, and Mirjam Bjorklund, Sweden, 6-3, 6-2.

AUTO RACING

Worldwide Express 250

NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series Saturday At Richmond Raceway Richmond, Va.

Lap length: 0.75 miles
 (Start position in parentheses)

- (2) Chandler Smith, Toyota, 250 laps, 58 points.
- (7) John H. Nemechek, Toyota, 250, 53.
- (1) Ty Majeski, Toyota, 250, 51.
- (5) Grant Enfinger, Chevrolet, 250, 47.
- (16) Corey Heim, Toyota, 250, 38.
- (24) Taylor Gray, Ford, 250, 37.
- (15) Matt Crafton, Toyota, 250, 37.
- (9) Christian Eckes, Toyota, 250, 31.
- (6) Zane Smith, Ford, 250, 30.
- (12) Carson Hocevar, Chevrolet, 250, 27.
- (3) Stewart Friesen, Toyota, 250, 37.
- (18) Derek Kraus, Chevrolet, 250, 25.
- (11) Tyler Ankrum, Toyota, 250, 30.
- (8) Chase Purdy, Toyota, 250, 23.
- (1) Chastain, Chevrolet, 249, 22.
- (19) Tanner Gray, Ford, 248, 21.
- (10) Matt DiBenedetto, Chevrolet, 248, 20.
- (14) Ben Rhodes, Toyota, 248, 19.
- (4) Layne Riggs, Toyota, 248, 21.
- (17) Jake Garcia, Chevrolet, 248, 17.
- (21) Kaden Honeycutt, Toyota, 247, 16.
- (26) Kaz Grala, Chevrolet, 247, 15.
- (25) Jack Wood, Chevrolet, 247, 14.
- (27) Lawless Alan, Chevrolet, 247, 13.
- (28) Rajah Caruth, Chevrolet, 247, 12.
- (20) Hailey Deegan, Ford, 247, 11.
- (13) Austin Wayne Self, Chevrolet, 247, 10.
- (22) Colby Howard, Chevrolet, 246, 9.
- (30) Joey Gase, Chevrolet, 246, 0.
- (33) Chad Chastain, Chevrolet, 246, 7.
- (36) Timmy Hill, Toyota, 245, 6.
- (32) Spencer Boyd, Chevrolet, 244, 5.
- (35) Mason Maggio, Chevrolet, 242, 4.
- (23) Blaine Perkins, Chevrolet, 224, 3.
- (29) Dean Thompson, Chevrolet, 223, 2.
- (34) Nick Leitz, Toyota, accident, 209, 1.

Race Statistics

Average Speed of Race Winner: 96.206 mph.

Time of Race: 1 hour, 56 minutes, 56 seconds.

Margin of Victory: 2.790 seconds.

Caution Flags: 3 for 25 laps.

Lead Changes: 4 among 3 drivers.

Lap Leaders: T.Majeski 0; C.Smith 1; T.Majeski 2-74; J.Nemechek 75; C.Smith 76-250

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led): C.Smith, 2 times for 176 laps; T.Majeski, 1 time for 73 laps; J.Nemechek, 1 time for 1 lap.

Wins: Z.Smith, 3; C.Smith, 2; C.Heim, 2; B.Rhodes, 1; G.Enfinger, 1; S.Friesen, 1; J.Nemechek, 1; R.Preece, 1; P.Kligerman, 1.
Top 16 in Points: 1. Z.Smith, 2079; 2. B.Rhodes, 2065; 3. G.Enfinger, 2057; 4. S.Friesen, 2057; 5. C.Smith, 2053; 6. J.Nemechek, 2053; 7. T.Majeski, 2048; 8. C.Hocevar, 2036; 9. C.Eckes, 2029; 10. M.Crafton, 2029; 11. D.Kraus, 436; 12. T.Ankrum, 418; 13. M.DiBenedetto, 386; 14. T.Gray, 367; 15. C.Purdy, 334; 16. C.Heim, 297.

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Chicago	25	10	.714	—
x-Connecticut	24	11	.686	1
x-Washington	21	14	.600	4
New York	15	20	.429	10
Atlanta	14	21	.400	11
Indiana	5	30	.143	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Las Vegas	25	10	.714	—
x-Seattle	22	13	.629	3
x-Dallas	17	18	.486	8
Phoenix	15	20	.429	10
Minnesota	14	21	.400	11
Los Angeles	13	22	.371	12

x-clinched playoff spot

Saturday's games

No games scheduled.

Sunday's games

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

Monday's games

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's games

No games scheduled.

AP SPORTLIGHT

Aug. 15

1995 — Monica Seles returns to the WTA Tour after a 28-month absence following her 1993 stabbing with a 6-0, 6-3 win over Kimberly Po at the Canadian Open.

1999 — Tiger Woods makes a par save on the 17th hole and holds on to win the PGA

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL preseason

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	1	0	0	1.000	27	24
Miami	1	0	0	1.000	26	24
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000	24	21
New England	0	1	0	.000	21	23

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	1	0	0	1.000	17	13
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	24	27
Tennessee	0	1	0	.000	10	23
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	24	51

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	1	0	0	1.000	23	10
Cleveland	1	0	0	1.000	24	13
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	32	25
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	23	36

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	1	0	0	1.000	17	7
Las Vegas	1	0	0	1.000	27	11
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	14	19
L.A. Chargers	0	1	0	.000	22	29

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

MLB

ROUNDUP

Mets, deGrom shut down Phils in NL showdown

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jacob deGrom struck out 10 in six dominant innings and Edwin Díaz earned his 200th career save, helping the New York Mets beat the Philadelphia Phillies 1-0 on Saturday night.

Pete Alonso hit an early RBI single as the NL East leaders improved to 31-9 following a loss and 10-4 in the season series with the Phillies. Alonso leads the NL with 97 RBIs.

Díaz issued two walks in the ninth, and Philadelphia had runners on second and third when Nick Castellanos struck out swinging for the final out. It was Díaz's 27th save of the season.

The All-Star closer became the sixth active pitcher to reach 200 saves.

"It's awesome," deGrom said. "He's done a great job and you're comfortable any time he's in the game."

The Mets posted their MLB-best 15th shutout. It was their first 1-0 win over the Phillies since R.A. Dickey tossed a one-hitter exactly 12 years ago at Citi Field.

"The star of the show was our pitching staff," Alonso said.

DeGrom (2-0) allowed two hits and walked none in his third start after spending the first part of the season on the injured list. He has yielded six hits, struck out 28 and issued one walk in 16⅓ innings so far this year.

"You don't really know what to expect coming back, but last time out I was able to look at a couple of things where I felt I was getting off mechanically and try to make those adjustments while I was going through a pretty slow process of coming back," deGrom said. "That seems to have paid off a little bit."

Dodgers 13, Royals 3: Max Muncy had a homer and four RBIs, Mookie Betts hit his team-leading 26th home run and visiting Los Angeles extended its winning streak to 12 games with a win over Kansas City.

Muncy went 4-for-5, including his 14th homer of the season, a two-run shot to right field in the fourth inning. Betts led off the game with a homer as part of a five-run first inning. A season-high six Dodgers homered, including Joey Gallo, Cody Bellinger, Will Smith and Gavin Lux.

Andrew Heaney allowed two runs with five strikeouts in three

innings. Los Angeles relievers Caleb Ferguson, Chris Martin, Phil Bickford (2-1) and Reyes Moronta held Kansas City to a run.

Yankees 3, Red Sox 2: Isiah Kiner-Falefa drove in the go-ahead run with a safety squeeze in the ninth inning and hit his first career homer with New York, sending the AL East-leading team past host Boston for its second win in 10 games.

Andrew Benintendi sparked the Yankees' winning rally with a one-out double off the center-field wall against John Schreiber (3-2). Jose Trevino reached on an infield hit before Kiner-Falefa laid down a perfect bunt toward first base on the next pitch, with Benintendi scoring on a headfirst slide.

Blue Jays 2, Guardians 1: Teoscar Hernández hit a tiebreaking home run in the seventh inning, Matt Chapman also connected and host Toronto ended Cleveland's six-game winning streak.

Hernández and Chapman connected off Guardians starter Triston McKenzie, who has lost three of his past four decisions.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. extended his career-best hitting streak to 22 games with a double in the first as the Blue Jays snapped a three-game losing streak.

Nationals 4, Padres 3: San Diego and new slugger Juan Soto repeatedly failed to come through in the clutch against his former club, and last-place host Washington beat the wild-card-chasing Padres when the go-ahead run scored thanks to an overruled call on a play at the plate.

San Diego built a 3-0 lead as Manny Machado and Trent Grisham hit solo homers. But Yu Darvish (10-6) gave away that edge on back-to-back deep balls by Yadiel Hernandez and Joey Meneses.

With Luis García on in relief, Victor Robles smacked a single to right and César Hernández (three hits, stolen base) raced home.

Soto's throw reached home just as Hernández did — and the immediate on-field ruling was that the runner was out. But the Nationals challenged, saying catcher Austin Nola blocked the plate, and the appeal succeeded, meaning the run counted and Washington snapped the 3-all tie.

Rays 8, Orioles 2: All-Star Shane Bieber stopped a two-start losing streak, working six sol-



JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

Mets relief pitcher Edwin Díaz reacts after striking out the Philadelphia Phillies' Nick Castellanos to close out a shutout victory on Saturday in New York.

id innings as host Tampa Bay moved in front of Baltimore in the AL wild-card race.

McClanahan (11-5) gave up two runs, seven hits and three walks, and had five strikeouts. Jose Siri had three hits and scored three runs, including on Taylor Walls' two-run homer in the eighth.

Astros 8, Athletics 0: Lance McCullers Jr. pitched six shutout innings in his season debut, Alex Bregman homered and Trey Mancini had three hits as host Houston blanked Oakland.

McCullers, an All-Star in 2017, allowed two hits, struck out five and walked four, tossing 47 of his 81 pitches for strikes. The 28-year-old McCullers (1-0) pitched for the first time in 305 days for the Astros, last going for the team in Game 4 of the 2021 AL Divisional Series.

Cubs 7, Reds 2: Ian Happ, Willson Contreras and Franmil Reyes homered, powering visiting Chicago to its third straight win.

Happ hit an RBI single in the fifth inning and a three-run shot in the seventh, continuing his long run of success at Cincinnati. The All-Star outfielder has 16 career homers at Great American Ball Park.

White Sox 6, Tigers 4: Andrew Vaughn hit a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning for the second consecutive night, AJ Pollock homered in the eighth and host Chicago handed Detroit its sixth straight loss.

Vaughn had three hits for the White Sox, who moved within 2½ games of AL Central leader Cleveland.

Rangers 7, Mariners 4: Corey Seager matched a career high with

his 26th homer and rookie Bubba Thompson drove in a run with a sacrifice squeeze bunt as host Texas snapped a nine-game losing streak to Seattle.

The Rangers trailed 3-0 before a four-run outburst in the fourth inning that was capped by Thompson's bunt pushed to the right side as Charlie Culberson crossed home plate.

Eugenio Suárez homered and had a sac fly for the Mariners, who dropped a half-game behind Toronto for the American League's top wild card.

Angels 5, Twins 3 (11): Shohei Ohtani hit a homer in the eighth inning to get the Angels' offense started, and Taylor Ward hit a game-ending two-run blast to right-center in the 11th inning as host Los Angeles rallied to beat Minnesota.

Carlos Correa hit a home and Luis Arraez had three hits for the Twins, who blew a three-run lead in the eighth inning and remained 1½ games behind the Cleveland Guardians in the AL Central.

Diamondbacks 6, Rockies 0: Zac Gallen pitched two-hit ball for seven innings, Emmanuel Rivera went deep twice for his first career multihomer game, and visiting Arizona beat Colorado.

Gallen (8-2) struck out six and extended his shutout streak to 14 innings in his past two starts. He retired 13 of his last 14 batters.

Giants 2, Pirates 0: Logan Webb struck out nine in eight sparkling innings, and host San Francisco beat Pittsburgh.

LaMonte Wade Jr. hit a solo homer, helping the Giants to their fifth win in seven games.

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	72	42	.632	—
Toronto	61	51	.545	10
Tampa Bay	59	53	.527	12
Baltimore	59	54	.522	12½
Boston	56	59	.487	16½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	60	53	.531	—
Minnesota	58	54	.518	1½
Chicago	58	56	.509	2½
Kansas City	47	68	.409	14
Detroit	43	72	.374	18

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	74	41	.643	—
Seattle	62	53	.539	12
Texas	50	63	.442	23
Los Angeles	50	64	.439	23½
Oakland	41	73	.360	32½

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	74	40	.649	—
Atlanta	69	46	.600	5½
Philadelphia	63	50	.558	10½
Miami	50	64	.439	24
Washington	38	77	.330	36½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	62	51	.549	—
Milwaukee	61	51	.545	½
Chicago	47	65	.420	14½
Pittsburgh	45	69	.395	17½
Cincinnati	44	68	.393	17½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	79	33	.705	—
San Diego	64	52	.552	17
San Francisco	56	57	.496	23½
Arizona	52	61	.460	27½
Colorado	51	65	.440	30

- Saturday's games**
- Toronto 2, Cleveland 1
 - Tampa Bay 8, Baltimore 2
 - Chicago White Sox 6, Detroit 4
 - Houston 8, Oakland 0
 - L.A. Dodgers 13, Kansas City 3
 - N.Y. Yankees 3, Boston 2
 - Texas 7, Seattle 4
 - L.A. Angels 5, Minnesota 3, 11 innings
 - Atlanta 5, Miami 2, 1st game
 - Atlanta 6, Miami 2, 2nd game
 - N.Y. Mets 1, Philadelphia 0
 - Chicago Cubs 7, Cincinnati 2
 - Milwaukee 3, St. Louis 2, 10 innings
 - Washington 4, San Diego 3
 - Arizona 6, Colorado 0
 - San Francisco 2, Pittsburgh 0

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

- Monday's games**
- Detroit (Hutchison 1-6) at Cleveland (Civale 2-5)
 - Detroit (Garcia 0-0) at Cleveland (TBD)
 - Tampa Bay (TBD) at N.Y. Yankees (Cole 9-4)
 - Baltimore (Bradish 1-4) at Toronto (Kikuchi 4-6)
 - Kansas City (Bubic 2-6) at Minnesota (Ryan 8-5)
 - Oakland (Kaprielian 3-6) at Texas (Otto 4-8)
 - Houston (Urquidy 11-4) at Chicago White Sox (Cueto 4-5)
 - Seattle (Castillo 5-4) at L.A. Angels (Ohtani 10-7)
 - Philadelphia (Syndergaard 6-8) at Cincinnati (Minor 1-9)
 - San Diego (Musgrove 8-5) at Miami (Alcantara 10-5)
 - Chicago Cubs (Stroman 3-5) at Washington (Gray 7-8)
 - N.Y. Mets (Carrasco 13-4) at Atlanta (Strider 6-4)
 - L.A. Dodgers (Urias 12-6) at Milwaukee (Peralta 4-2)
 - Arizona (Bumgarner 6-11) at San Francisco (Cobb 3-6)

MLB



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

The Brewers' Hunter Renfroe, right, celebrates alongside Cardinals third baseman Nolan Arenado after hitting an RBI triple during the 10th inning on Saturday in St. Louis.

Wainwright goes 9, but Brewers win it in 10th

BY WARREN MAYES
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Hunter Renfroe tripled home the go-ahead run in the 10th inning, and the St. Louis Cardinals wasted a magnificent start by Adam Wainwright, falling 3-2 to the Milwaukee Brewers on Saturday night.

Milwaukee moved within a half-game of NL Central-leading St. Louis, ending the Cardinals' nine-game home winning streak.

Wainwright took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and ended up finishing nine, allowing one run on three hits with eight strikeouts in his 109-pitch outing.

"I had good stuff," Wainwright said. "A good plan. I really wanted to throw a no-hitter tonight. I really did. I felt like I was going to, you know, from the first inning on. I thought tonight was going to be the night. That's a tough team over there. A bunch of hitters from one through nine that can hit a homer and that's what happened."

St. Louis handed its 40-year-old ace a 1-0 lead in the seventh inning on Nolan Gorman's line-drive double to left-center against Milwaukee starter Corbin Burnes. Paul Goldschmidt, who led off the inning with a single, scored from first as the ball eluded center fielder Tyrone Taylor.

But Wainwright allowed Luis Urias a one-out, first-pitch homer to center in the eighth, and Devin Williams (4-2) retired the side in order in the ninth.

"That was an enormous play (by Urias) to get us back to even," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "It was just a tough night. Wainwright's off-speed stuff was really on point. It felt tough to score. Just one swing of the bat tied it up and gave us fresh life."

In the 10th, Renfroe led off with a triple to right against Giovanni Gallegos (2-5), scoring automatic runner Andrew McCutchen.

"My mindset was to see the ball up," Renfroe said. "I was looking for something out

over the plate. Got a fastball out over. It was a little high, honestly."

Renfroe later scored on Kolten Wong's sacrifice fly.

Matt Bush allowed Dylan Carlson's sacrifice fly in the 10th but struck out the next two batters for his third save. It was his second save with Milwaukee, which dealt closer Josh Hader to the Padres and acquired Bush from Texas at the trade deadline.

"It's a position I've been put in and we've had close games," Bush said. "The manager has confidence to put me in there. I haven't been used to pitching in these tough, tight games. It's huge for me to get my feet wet in a place like St. Louis. It's a bit nerve-wracking."

Burnes, last year's NL Cy Young Award winner, allowed four hits with six strikeouts in seven innings. He worked seven scoreless innings in each of his previous starts against the Cardinals this season.

"As far as being efficient, it was pretty good," Burnes said. "It just happens three of best games this year have been against these guys. It's a good time to have good games against them."

McCutchen broke up Wainwright's no-hit bid with a two-out single in the seventh. He has 25 hits against Wainwright, the most of any current player.

The Brewers finished with four hits.

Wainwright worked nine innings for the second time this season without winning either game. He went the distance in a 2-0 loss to Philadelphia on July 8.

"That was a really nice job to go nine," St. Louis manager Oliver Marmol said. "He got every leadoff man out every inning. That's as efficient as you can be."

Wainwright's previous start was his worst of the season. He yielded six runs while throwing 111 pitches over four-plus innings against the New York Yankees last Sunday.

Acuña, Olson power Braves to sweep of DH against Marlins

Atlanta wins fifth straight after dropping four of five in key series with Mets

Associated Press

MIAMI — Ronald Acuña homered on the first pitch of the game, Matt Olson hit his 24th homer and the Atlanta Braves beat the Miami Marlins 6-2 to sweep their doubleheader Saturday.

Rookie Vaughn Grissom also went deep for the surging Braves, who won their fifth straight after losing four of five to the NL East-leading New York Mets.

"They can turn the page from the rough weekend," Atlanta manager Brian Snitker said. "These guys are playing for today."

Acuña was removed after his fourth at-bat in the seventh as a precaution to rest his surgically repaired right knee. The All-Star outfielder, who played in the first game, tore his ACL on the same field last July. The injury forced him to miss the remainder of the regular season and the Braves' World Series championship run.

"I feel I've been playing with soreness for about a week now," Acuña said through a translator. "It comes and goes and I'm playing through it. At this moment, I feel good."

In the first game, Chadwick Thompson doubled twice, singled and drove in three runs to lead Atlanta to a 5-2 win.

Acuña's shot over the wall in center was his 26th career leadoff homer. He also has 10 career blasts on the first pitch, four against Miami.

Braves starter Ian Anderson, who was optioned to Triple-A Gwinnett Aug. 7 only to return temporarily as the 27th man for the doubleheader, scattered two runs in six innings. Anderson (10-6) gave up five hits, walked one and struck out four.

Although he reached double-digit victories in a season for the first time in his career, Anderson has struggled with command, prompting the demotion to the minors.

"Kudos to all of the guys in this locker room, I feel I've had a ton of run support these last few games," Anderson said of the double-digit milestone. "That always helps, but it's definitely an accomplishment."

The Marlins have lost 12 of 13 at home and scored 23 runs total through their first 12 games in August. They also have been held to three runs or less in their last 14 games, the longest stretch in the major leagues since the Chicago Cubs had a similar drought for 15 games in Sept. 1979.

Grissom made it 3-0 with a two-run shot in the fifth. The 21-year-old Grissom hit Marlins reliever A.J. Ladwig's first pitch over the wall in left-center for his second homer since being promoted from Double-A Mississippi on Monday.

Miami narrowed the deficit on Joey Wendle's RBI single in the fifth, but Atlanta re-



WILFREDO LEE/AP

The Braves' Ronald Acuña Jr. celebrates as he rounds the bases after hitting a home run to lead off the second game of a doubleheader against the Marlins on Saturday. Acuña homered in both games.

sponded with Olson's solo blast in the sixth. Olson has homered in the first three games of the series.

"I'm not going up there and squaring it up every single time," Olson said. "There are still some pretty poor at-bats mixed in. Nothing out of the ordinary, trying to be a little bit more grounded."

Jesús Aguilar's leadoff homer in the bottom half got the Marlins within 4-2 before Olson hit a two-run single in the seventh.

The Marlins loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth after Kirby Yates walked JJ Bleday and Jacob Stallings. Raisel Iglesias relieved and got the second out before walking Peyton Burdick. Pinch-hitter Garrett Cooper lined out to center for Iglesias' 17th save and first with the Braves.

Tommy Nance pitched the first three innings of the planned bullpen game for Miami. Reinstated from the injured list before the second game, Nance (0-1) allowed one run, two hits, walked one and struck out six.

Olson homered, while Acuña and Robbie Grossman each had two hits in the first game.

Braves starter Kyle Muller scattered two runs and three hits in five innings. Recalled from Gwinnett earlier Saturday, Muller (1-1) walked one and struck out five. Immediately after Muller's outing, the Braves returned the left-hander to Gwinnett.

Chadwick Tromp's two-run double with the bases loaded capped a three-run fourth and put Atlanta ahead 3-0. Tromp experienced cramping in his left quad as he reached second, prompting immediate attention from Braves training personnel, but he remained in the game.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/NFL

Hawkeyes look for consistency on offense

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Iowa's defense was a big reason the Hawkeyes won 10 games and the Big Ten West last season.

The inconsistency of the offense played a big part in Iowa's four losses, including a 42-3 defeat to Michigan in the Big Ten championship game and the 20-17 loss to Kentucky in the Citrus Bowl.

The Hawkeyes know they have to be better with the ball this season.



Ferentz

"I think it's just consistency, doing the little things right," Iowa wide receiver Arland Bruce IV said Friday at media day. "I think I left a lot of stuff on the field last year, and I think a lot of other players think that way about themselves. It's about the details. It's just the little things."

The Hawkeyes finished 99th nationally in scoring offense at 23.4 points per game. They were 101st in rushing offense (123.6 yards per game), 109th in passing offense (180.1) and 121st in total offense (303.7).

"I'd say we have to improve in pretty much every measurable area, because I thought we were subpar in every measurable area on of-



PHELAN M. EBENHACK/AP

Iowa quarterback Spencer Petras completed just 57.3% of his passes last season and is battling with Alex Padilla for the starting position this season.

fense last year," said quarterback Spencer Petras, who had his own struggles last season and is battling with Alex Padilla for the starting job in fall camp. "We need to be better in third downs, red zone, first half, second half. All of the above, we have to be better."

"No one was happy from last

year's performance and what we did last season," said offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz, the son of head coach Kirk Ferentz. "That's not the expectation, and what we are trying to do. Every year you go back and look at what you were doing and dissect it. Figure out what's good, what's bad, what we need to

improve, what we need to focus on, and what we need to move on. At the end of the day, we want to be effective and efficient. There is always plenty of room for improvement on both running and throwing the football."

Iowa's offense will have new personnel in several areas. Running

backs Gavin Williams and Leshon Williams will combine to replace Tyler Goodson, who rushed for 1,151 yards before entering the NFL draft early. Bruce and fellow sophomore Keagan Johnson will take the wide receiver spots vacated by Charlie Jones and Tyrone Tracy Jr., after both transferred to Purdue. Logan Jones moves from the defensive line to center to replace All-American Tyler Linderbaum, and Kirk Ferentz said putting together the rest of the offensive line is still "a moving target."

Petras completed just 57.3% of his passes last season, and he spent the offseason attending the Manning Passing Academy to work on the mental part of his game.

"If you go up there trying to hit a home run, you're probably going to strike out, and as a young guy, especially, you want nothing more than to go out there and throw five touchdowns a game and have every play be perfect," Petras said. "As you mature and get more experienced, you learn that's not the way to play."

"All he's got to do is play, just relax and play," Kirk Ferentz said. "He may press at times and try a little too hard at times, and that's a good thing, but it can work against you, too. But from my vantage point just watching tape last year, I think the biggest thing is we have to help him a little bit more and support him."

Journeyman: Johnson says he hopes to play until he's 40

FROM PAGE 24

"Being able to throw the ball, put that jersey on, that's a blessing. I'm just enjoying every minute of every moment."

His arm and his experience have opened many doors. He signed a total of seven times with San Francisco (including practice squad), three times with the New York Jets and twice each with Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Houston, New York Giants and Baltimore. He's also signed contracts with the Bucs, Cleveland, Buffalo, the Raiders, Washington, Detroit and now Denver, which he penned in March.

That's a lot of teammates — and playbooks — over a career where he's played in 37 games for 14 teams and started nine times. For his career, he has 13 TD passes, 16 interceptions and 2,270 passing yards.

He's just enjoying the ride — as whirlwind as it may be (he's had tenures with teams that lasted only a handful of days).

"I'm not really in the business of proving people wrong anymore," said Johnson, who was drafted out of the University of San Diego, an FCS program.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Josh Johnson, right, is competing with Brett Rypien, left, for the backup QBspot behind Broncos starter Russell Wilson, center.

The Super-Bowl-winning signal-callers he's worked beside include Eli Manning with the Giants, Joe Flacco when they were teammates with the Jets last season and these days, Wilson.

He received some advice a while back that's proven to be extremely applicable.

"Control what you can control and understand that no matter who you are, the nature of this

business is looking to replace you unless you don't allow it," said Johnson, who is competing with Brett Rypien for the No. 2 spot. "I'm grateful for the journey itself."

His top statistical season was 2009 with Tampa Bay, when he played in six games (four starts) and threw for 685 yards along with his first career TD pass — an 8-yard strike to Antonio Bryant.

14

NFL teams Josh Johnson has played for while starting nine times and playing in 37 games.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Last December, he was on the practice squad with the Jets when he was signed to the active roster by Baltimore. The Ravens needed another QB with Lamar Jackson recovering from an ankle injury. Just 11 days later, Johnson found himself starting after Tyler Huntley went on the COVID-19 list. Johnson threw for 304 yards and two TDs in a 41-21 loss at Cincinnati.

His experience played a role in first-year Broncos coach Nathaniel Hackett bringing him in.

"I think he's as old as me," cracked Hackett, who is 42. "He's seen so much so he can go into the game at any time and play."

Johnson is enjoying his time with Wilson, whom the Broncos traded for during the offseason in the hopes of ending a six-year playoff drought.

"He sets the pace and we all fol-

low," Johnson said of Wilson, who led Seattle to a Super Bowl win over the Broncos following the 2013 season. "It's been nothing but great energy every day."

Johnson's football excursions have also included suiting up for the L.A. Wildcats of the XFL, where he led the league in passer rating (106.3).

To stay grounded through all the uncertainty of football, Johnson has kept his base of operations in his hometown of Oakland, Calif. He has three kids.

"My trials and tribulations are not my family's," said Johnson, who started a foundation with his cousin, longtime NFL running back Marshawn Lynch, that focuses on empowering youth in addition to helping launch a gaming league. "They have to endure with me because I'm going through ups and downs, but for them I try to provide as much consistency as possible."

Another number: 40. That's how old Johnson would like to be when he steps away from the field (if not longer).

"Because playing quarterback," Johnson said, "is very high on my list of things I love to do."

NFL



CHARLES KRUPA / AP

New York Giants offensive tackle Devery Hamilton (62), running back Antonio Williams (21) and quarterback Davis Webb (12) celebrate a touchdown by Williams against the New England Patriots in a 23-21 Giants preseason win Thursday in Foxborough, Mass.

Giants' run game steps up in opening preseason win

By TOM CANAVAN
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — If there has been a takeaway from the first two weeks of the New York Giants' training camp, it's been the signs Saquon Barkley is once again close to finding his top form.

The ACL injury is almost two years removed and the No. 2 pick overall in the 2018 draft is running with conviction, confidence and power.

The running game has shown depth and it has a new improved line to run behind.

New York ran for 177 yards on 33 carries in its 23-21 preseason win over the Patriots on Thursday night in Brian Daboll's debut as head coach. That's a 5.4-yard average.

Barkley only played the opening series, but he had four carries for 13 yards and caught an 8-yard pass on third down to keep alive a drive that resulted in the first of three Graham Gano field goals.

First-year pro Antonio Williams led the team with nine carries for 61 yards, with a long of 19. Second-year pro Gary Brightwell had seven carries for 40 yards and rookie free agent Jashaun Corbin of Florida State had six carries for 23 yards and five catches for 28.

Matt Breida, the six-year veteran who is supposed to be Barkley's backup, didn't play.

"It's a competitive room," Daboll said Friday. "They're tough, doing a good job with the system. You know, they're a very supportive group. Even though it's a competitive group, they run downhill with power, break tackles."

The one negative was Brightwell missed a block in pass protection and quarterback Daniel Jones was hit around the knees while stepping forward to make a pass. He was not hurt.

Barkley, who didn't play in the preseason last year, said he felt good.

"I think our offensive line did a great job," said Barkley, who rushed for 593 yards in his post ACL season. "We were able to move the ball."

Overall, the offense gained 418 yards and ran 81



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

New York Giants quarterback Daniel Jones hands off to running back Saquon Barkley. In his only series, Barkley had four carries for 13 yards and caught an 8-yard pass for a first down.

plays with new offensive coordinator Mike Kafka running the show. Daboll has not said who will call the plays once the regular season starts.

There were negatives, too.

Cornerback Aaron Robinson, who was given the job on the left side after James Bradberry was released in a salary cap move, was beaten on consecutive deep throws in the first half. Daboll didn't seem concerned but the depth at the position is thin with rookie Cor'Dale Flott sustaining a groin injury in the game.

The offensive line also was banged up. Left guard Shane Lemieux injured a toe early and was later seen in the sideline in a walking boot. Backup tackle Jamil Douglas sustained an ankle injury in the second half.

Daboll had no update on any of the injuries on Friday.

Receiver Kadarius Toney, who missed seven games last season, was left in New Jersey for the preseason opener after tweaking a knee or leg in practice on Tuesday.

Brissett moves into Watson's starting spot

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Jacoby Brissett has jumped ahead of Deshaun Watson on Cleveland's depth chart. Maybe for a while.

Browns coach Kevin Stefanski said Brissett will take the majority of snaps with Cleveland's first-team offense starting Sunday, a move necessitated by Watson's pending suspension for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy for sexual misconduct allegations.

Watson, who made his debut with the Browns by starting Friday's exhibition win over Jacksonville, has been the No. 1 quarterback throughout training camp.

But he's going to miss at least the first six regular-season games — and potentially more — so the team needs to get Brissett ready for the Sept. 11 opener at Carolina.

"That has been the plan really from the beginning is just to at some point let Jacoby get the majority of them, still work Deshaun, still work Josh Dobbs and still work Josh Rosen," Stefanski said, referring to Cleveland's four QBs during a Zoom call with reporters.

Watson's situation remains in flux.

His six-game suspension handed down by independent arbiter Sue L. Robinson was appealed by the NFL and is being decided by Peter C. Harvey, a former New Jersey Attorney General appointed by Commissioner Roger Goodell.

Harvey's ruling could come at any time and there's still the possibility Watson and the league could agree to a settlement.

On Thursday, a person familiar with Watson's defense told the AP the three-time Pro Bowler would accept an eight-game suspension and \$5 million fine. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case.



DAVID DERMER/AP

Cleveland Browns quarterback Jacoby Brissett will get the majority of first-team snaps in practice this week, coach Kevin Stefanski said.

Brissett was signed in March by Cleveland, which viewed him as a perfect plug-in while Watson is sidelined. The 29-year-old Brissett has made 37 career starts and been thrown into unique situations, including in 2019 when he became Indianapolis' starter following Andrew Luck's stunning retirement.

The Browns didn't play Brissett against the Jaguars to avoid the risk of an injury and to get Watson back into the flow of a game. Now, it's time for Brissett to get more time with Cleveland's starters.

Stefanski has been pleased with the team's plan to this point.

"Jacoby has gotten a lot of reps to date. I go back to the nine-week off-season program and the weeks we have been together, he has gotten a ton of reps with the ones and with the twos," he said. "Even the way we structure our routes versus air and individual period, he has gotten a lot of reps with the quote-unquote ones and the twos."

"He will keep on that same process and making sure he is running the show when he is in there. He does a nice job in the quarterback meeting room with those guys, so I just think this is also the natural progression for him moving forward."



DAVID RICHARD/AP

Browns quarterbacks, from left, Josh Rosen, Deshaun Watson and Jacoby Brissett look on during training camp in Berea, Ohio.

SPORTS



Running on all cylinders
Giants rush for 177 yards in preseason win over Patriots » **NFL, Page 23**



PHOTOS BY DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Denver Broncos quarterback Josh Johnson (11), above and below, is attempting to earn the backup spot behind Broncos starter Russell Wilson. Johnson, playing for his 14th team, threw for 172 yards and two touchdowns on 16-for-23 passing in a 17-7 preseason defeat of the Dallas Cowboys on Saturday in Denver.

Journeyman Johnson

Off-traveled backup QB shines in Broncos preseason win

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

DENVER

The new Denver Broncos quarterback who wowed the crowd at Empower Field wasn't Russell Wilson but journeyman Josh Johnson.

Johnson, who's 36 years old and playing for his 14th NFL team, threw a pair of first-half touchdown passes and the Broncos beat the penalty-prone Dallas Cowboys 17-7 on a starless and rainy Saturday night.

"I'm just enjoying the ride, honestly," Johnson said. "... I like to say for us backups, the preseason is the season."

Johnson was signed in the offseason to com-

pete with Brett Rypien for the job backing up Wilson, who sat this one out along with Cowboys QB Dak Prescott.

Rypien was 8 of 18 for 113 yards, including a 42-yard strike to Jalen Virgil from his own 1. Both Johnson and Rypien drew praise from new Broncos coach Nathaniel Hackett, who won his NFL head coaching debut, albeit in a preseason game that won't really count.

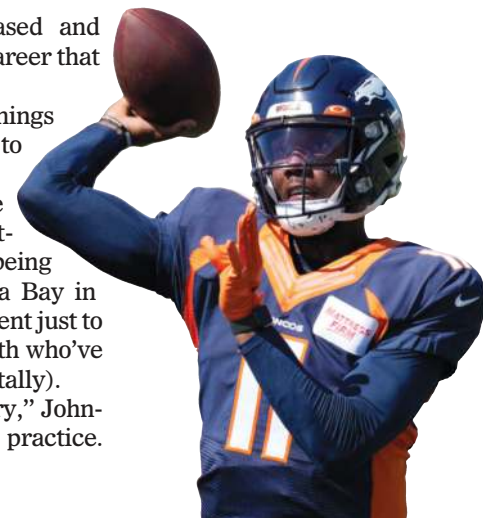
Johnson overcame a slow start to throw for 172 yards and two touchdowns on 16-of-23 passing. He hit Seth Williams from a yard out and added a 24-yarder to Kendall Hinton. Williams' grab followed a 40-yard reception by rookie Brandon Johnson, son of former Colorado Rockies catcher Charles Johnson.

Johnson has been signed, released and signed again so often over his NFL career that he's lost count.

For the record: 27 signings/re-signings to go with 17 releases/cuts, according to his lengthy transaction page.

He can't instantly recall all the quarterbacks he's backed up, competed against or beaten out since being picked in the fifth round by Tampa Bay in 2008. He had to think for a long moment just to name the ones he's crossed paths with who've won Super Bowl titles (three, by his tally).

"If I'm leaving out somebody, sorry," Johnson said with a laugh after a recent practice. **SEE JOURNEYMAN ON PAGE 22**



Mets edge Phillies in NL East showdown » Page 20

