

MILITARY

Eisenhower returns after deployment battling Houthis

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Eva Longoria mastered Castilian Spanish on 'Land of Women' series

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All-Stars make return to Arlington, the site of steamy '95 game

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Federal judge dismisses Trump's classified documents case » Page 11

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Volume 83 Edition 64 ©SS 2024 TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024

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

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas



MINH CONNORS, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE/AP

Lisa Disbrow, leader of the Patriots of Contra Costa County, waves at honking cars on a Highway 24 overpass alongside an upside-down U.S. flag and a flag displaying former President Donald Trump in Lafayette, Calif., on Sunday.

Trump urges unity, resilience

Biden asks the American people to 'cool it down' in wake of shooting

Associated Press

BUTLER, Pa. — Former President Donald Trump called for unity and resilience Sunday after an attempt on his life injected fresh uncertainty into an already tumultuous presidential campaign, while President Joe Biden implored Americans to “cool it down” in the final stretch and “resolve our differences at the ballot box.”

The opponents' statements followed an attack that shook the firmament of the American political system, causing at least a temporary detente in a heated presidential campaign ex-

RELATED

Anger, anxiety loom over GOP convention after assassination attempt

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pected to resume again in earnest amid the pageantry of the upcoming Republican National Convention.

A full day after the shooting, the gunman's

motive remained a mystery, with investigators saying they believe he acted alone before he was fatally shot by Secret Service agents.

Biden ordered an independent security review of the attack, which killed a bystander, critically wounded two others and prompted questions about how a gunman was able to open fire from a rooftop near a Pennsylvania campaign rally. The FBI was investigating the shooting as a potential act of domestic terrorism.

SEE UNITY ON PAGE 8

Army set to quickly cut old weapons, equipment

By GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. — One of the largest military bases in the U.S. is conducting a massive housecleaning of redundant and outdated military gear and hardware.

Old Humvees and field radios, older M-16 rifles, trucks and ammunition boxes, camouflage netting, generators, computers, outdated nuclear-biological-chemical protection gear, light tactical vehicles, towed trailers, and older night vision goggles are all on the list for removal at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

The plan is to pick it up and move it out to units that can still use the gear. Called Rapid Removal of Excess, or R2E, the collection of weapons, materials and equipment aims to streamline and modernize Army units.

The R2E program has already been completed for XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Stewart, Ga., Fort Liberty, N.C., and the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky. After I Corps and Lewis-McChord, the Army wants to take

SEE OLD ON PAGE 7



VINCENT LEVELEV/U.S. Army

U.S. Army units prepare equipment for the Rapid Removal of Excess Program at Fort Liberty, N.C., in October.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Hydrogen-powered commercial ferry set to run

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The world's first hydrogen-powered commercial passenger ferry will start operating on San Francisco Bay as part of plans to phase out diesel-powered vessels and reduce planet-warming carbon emissions, California officials said Friday, demonstrating the ship.

The 70-foot catamaran called the MV Sea Change will transport up to 75 passengers along the waterfront between Pier 41 and the downtown San Francisco ferry ter-

minal starting July 19, officials said. The service will be free for six months while it's being run as part of a pilot program.

"The implications for this are huge because this isn't its last stop," said Jim Wunderman, chair of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority, which runs commuter ferries across the bay. "If we can operate this successfully, there are going to be more of these vessels in our fleet and in other folks' fleets in the United States and we think in

the world."

Sea Change can travel about 300 nautical miles and operate for 16 hours before it needs to refuel. The fuel cells produce electricity by combining oxygen and hydrogen in an electrochemical reaction that emits water as a byproduct.

The technology could help clean up the shipping industry, which produces nearly 3% of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions, officials said. That's less than from cars, trucks, rail or aviation but still a lot — and it's rising.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates													
Euro costs (July 16)	\$1.06	Switzerland (Franc)	0.8942										
British pound (July 16)	\$1.27	Thailand (Baht)	36.16										
Japanese yen (July 16)	157.00	Turkey (NewLira)	33.0311										
South Korean won (July 16)	1347.00												
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.) INTEREST RATES <table><tr><td>Prime rate</td><td>8.50</td></tr><tr><td>Interest Rates Discount rate</td><td>6.00</td></tr><tr><td>Federal funds market rate</td><td>5.33</td></tr><tr><td>3-month bill</td><td>5.35</td></tr><tr><td>30-year bond</td><td>4.40</td></tr></table>		Prime rate	8.50	Interest Rates Discount rate	6.00	Federal funds market rate	5.33	3-month bill	5.35	30-year bond	4.40
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30-year bond	4.40												
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Britain (Pound)	1.2994												
Canada (Dollar)	1.3649												
China (Yuan)	7.2639												
Denmark (Krone)	6.8352												
Egypt (Pound)	47.9501												
Euro	0.9161												
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8053												
Hungary (Forint)	358.49												
Israel (Shekel)	3.6171												
Japan (Yen)	157.94												
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3056												
Norway (Krone)	10.7752												
Philippines (Peso)	58.44												
Poland (Zloty)	3.90												
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507												
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3422												
South Korea (Won)	1385.04												

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MILITARY

DOD official touts alliance with Philippines

By JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. alliance with the Philippines has risen to among America's "most vital defense partnerships in the world," thanks to a heightened challenge from China in the South China Sea, a Pentagon official said Thursday.

Ely Ratner, assistant secretary of defense for Indo-Pacific security affairs, said events involving the Philippines since 2021 have been "truly transformative and decisive," driven largely by an assertive and often aggressive China.

"We have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Manila in the midst of a changing security environment," Ratner said in Washington, D.C., at the Center for Strategic and International Studies' South China Sea Conference. A copy of

his remarks was posted on the Defense Department website.

Ratner underlined U.S. support for the Philippines as it faces coercion by China's coast guard over possession of Second Thomas Shoal, a shallow reef inside the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

"I believe that historians will record this period in the alliance as truly transformative and decisive, as emblematic of broader strategic changes across the Indo-Pacific," and the result of decisions by U.S. President Joe Biden, Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

On the Second Thomas Shoal,



Ratner

Chinese coast guard vessels regularly harass Philippine vessels attempting to resupply the BRP Sierra Madre, a grounded, rusting hulk serving as a military outpost. The Chinese have used water cannons and small boats to attack Philippine resupply efforts on the water there.

"We've continued to stand with our ally as Manila defends its lawful rights in the South China Sea," Ratner said. "All the while, the United States has acted in support of the Philippines and made clear that our alliance commitments are ironclad ... and that all nations should be able to fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows."

The Chinese claim on the shoal "has no more credibility today than it did when the Arbitral Tribunal issued its unanimous ruling

in 2016," he said. "And the kind of revisionism and coercion we've seen there from [China] is both destabilizing and dangerous."

The tribunal ruled in favor of the Philippines and found that "major elements" of China's claims in the South China Sea were invalid. China responded that the ruling was "null and void," according to the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

Ratner ticked off a list of activity and achievements in the Philippines under the Biden administration, including "historic mosts, firsts and first-ever."

The two allies held their first combined naval exercise in the South China Sea in years, he said. Last year, during the Balikatan exercise in the Philippines, the U.S. for the first time employed its

High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, capable of firing anti-ship missiles. Fifth-generation U.S. fighters visited the Philippines, also for the first time, Ratner said. U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor fighters landed at Clark Air Base in March.

"And we're poised to deliver so much more together in the future," Ratner said. That includes a request to Congress for another \$120 million to spend on nine military sites the U.S. has access to under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, "which in just one year is more than double what we've invested in EDCA infrastructure to date," he said.

The two allies are also negotiating a General Security of Military Information Agreement "that will strengthen and expand our information sharing," he said.

F-35Cs, Ospreys to replace aircraft based at Iwakuni

By JONATHAN SNYDER
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — The Navy said Monday it is replacing squadrons of F/A-18 Super Hornet fighters and C-2A Greyhound transports with next-generation stealth fighters and tiltrotors at this base south of Hiroshima.

The F-35C Lightning IIs of Strike Fighter Squadron 147 will replace the F/A-18s of Strike Fighter Squadron 115, according to a news release from U.S. Naval Forces. Likewise, CMV-22B Ospreys with Fleet Logistics Multi-Mission Squadron 30 will swap out with the Greyhounds of Fleet Logistics Squadron 30.

The upgrades in Navy fighter and transport aircraft based in Japan follow a similar move announced July 4 by the Air Force to permanently base 36 F-15EX Eagles at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, and 48 F-35A Lightning II fighters at Misawa Air Base in the north. Those aircraft replace older model F-15s at Kadena and F-16s at Misawa.

The two Navy squadrons will join Carrier Air Wing 5, which is based at MCAS Iwakuni. The Navy did not lay out a timeline for the aircraft's arrival in Japan.

The air wing is attached to Carrier Strike Group 5, which will embark aboard the carrier USS George Washington when it arrives at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, to replace the USS Ronald Reagan. The Ronald Reagan is returning to Bremerton, Wash., after nine years at Yokosuka.

The Greyhounds shuttle personnel and cargo from ship to shore but were scheduled for replacement by the Osprey, which has increased range, faster cargo loading and unloading, aerial refueling capability and other improvements, according to the Navy.

The crash in November of an Air Force Osprey in southern Japan, killing all eight aboard, delayed that move and stretched the 15 remaining Navy Greyhound's service several more months, USNI News reported in February.

The 400 Ospreys in the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force, although cleared to fly in March, are not permitted to fly their full range of missions until mid-2025, Vice Adm. Carl Chebi, who leads U.S. Naval Air Systems Command, told House lawmakers last month.

Strike Fighter Squadron 115 and its F/A-18s arrived at MCAS Iwakuni in November 2017 when the carrier air wing relocat-



AUGUST CLAWSON/U.S. Navy

A sailor handles an F-35C Lightning II from Strike Fighter Squadron 147 on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS George Washington on Dec. 5.

ed from Naval Air Facility Atsugi, south of Tokyo.

The Marine Corps has two squadrons of F-35Bs, the short-takeoff, vertical-landing version of the stealth fighter, based at MCAS Iwakuni and the Navy has another two squadrons of Super Hornets there with the carrier wing.

The F-35C variant is the Navy's first

long-range stealth fighter built to operate from an aircraft carrier.

"The F-35C is the most capable fighter in the U.S. Navy and the backbone of air superiority; it complements the carrier strike group with a dominant, multi-role, 5th generation aircraft that enhances U.S. power projection and deterrence," the Navy release states.

One of Austin's top military advisers is tapped to lead US Army Pacific

By JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

President Joe Biden has nominated a lieutenant general with a history of command in the region to become the next leader of U.S. Army Pacific.

Lt. Gen. Ronald Clark, Austin's senior military assistant, would take over at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, when Gen. Charles Flynn's tenure ends there. Flynn took command on June 4, 2021, from Gen. Paul

LaCamera, who now leads U.S. Forces Korea.

Clark, who would also pick up a fourth star, must be confirmed by the Senate.

A 1988 West Point graduate, Clark began his career in Germany as a rifle platoon and scout platoon leader for 5th Battalion, 5th



Clark

Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Division. He served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, according to his Army biography.

After the first conflict with Iraq, Clark led an infantry company with the 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

From there, Clark's resume shows a steady climb up the command ladder: battalion commander in the 101st Airborne Division in

Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom; deputy director of strategy, plans and policy in the Pentagon; deputy commanding general-support for the 82nd Airborne Division in Iraq during Operation Inherent Resolve, the fight against Islamic State; then a stint with NATO as deputy chief of staff for operations for the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps.

Then it was back to Hawaii as chief of staff for U.S. Army Pacific,

commander of the 25th ID and senior commander for U.S. Army Hawaii, followed by chief of staff for Indo-Pacific Command.

Afterward, Clark led U.S. Army Central, the Army component in Central Command, before moving to Austin's office at the Pentagon.

In the latter role, Clark was one of only a handful of aides aware of Austin's hospitalization in January before the White House was notified after three days.

MILITARY

Sailors home after ‘deployment of firsts’

Eisenhower group spent 7 months in combat zone during deployment

By CAITLYN BURCHETT
Stars and Stripes

NORFOLK, Va. — Sailors, donning white dress uniforms, crowded the bow of USS Dwight D. Eisenhower on Sunday, with chants of “USA! USA!” spread from shore to the aircraft carrier, rippling through the crew on the flight deck. Strung up across the island of the warship was a unique rectangular banner — a giant replica of the combat action ribbon that many sailors were already sporting on their chests. The Eisenhower and about 5,000 sailors returned from what senior U.S. officials are calling a “deployment of firsts” following nine months at sea, seven of which were in a combat zone.

The aging warship and components of its strike group saw the first air-to-air engagement against drones and the first combat employment of the precision-guided Joint Direct Attack Munition bombs as the carrier defended merchant ships against almost daily attacks in the Red Sea from Houthi rebels in Yemen.

The carrier’s deployment to the Middle East was scheduled for Oct. 14, though it followed an unexpected deadly attack on Israel one week before that set off a wave of tensions and hostilities throughout the region.

“On Oct. 7, everything changed,” said Capt. Christopher Hill, commanding officer of the Eisenhower. “We didn’t know yet what they were going to ask us to do, but we knew it would likely have something to do with participating in that conflict.”

The deployment for the Eisenhower strike group became a series of clashes with the Iran-backed Houthis, a group designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. in January. The U.S.-led campaign against the Houthi rebels, overshadowed by the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, has turned into the most intense running sea battle that the Navy has faced in

nearly eight decades, service leaders and experts told The Associated Press.

U.S. Central Command, which oversees military operations in the Middle East, reported almost daily instances of missiles being fired toward Navy ships for seven of the nine months that the Eisenhower was deployed to the region. The strike group defended merchant vessels and military ships traveling through the Suez Canal that were the target of attack drones and anti-ship missiles launched from Houthis.

The intense combat pace meant scheduled port calls were canceled multiple times. Sailors aboard the Eisenhower spent six months at sea before they set foot on land, visiting Greece in late April.

“But this gave us mission and purpose,” Hill said. “We were going to provide freedom of navigation, which is sort of the core mission of the United States Navy, going back to 1775.”

Aboard the Eisenhower, dozens of references to the Red Sea mission can be found.

Wall art depicting a surveillance C-2 Hawkeye plane reads: “Meanwhile in the Red Sea... multiple unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) tracking south.”

Sailors’ water bottles and jackets were adorned with “Attack of the drones” patches and stickers.

The maintenance desks of aircraft squadrons were lined with victory marks akin to those affixed to their aircraft. At the maintenance desk for the Strike Fighter Squadron 131, known as the “Wildcats,” red and blue stencils of bombs and missiles representing successful combat engagements covered the wall from the ceiling to the floor.

The references were a creative way for sailors to make the best of a



PHOTOS BY CAITLYN BURCHETT/Stars and Stripes

Sailors aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower begin to man the rails on Sunday as the aircraft carrier approaches Naval Station Norfolk, Va.

serious situation, according to Capt. Edward Pledger, commander of the strike group’s Destroyer Squadron 22.

“As our commanders have said, we had to be right every single time. The Houthis only have to be right once,” he said.

When the strike group’s advanced 3D radar system begins to track a potential weapon traveling at a Mach 3-5 speed, Pledger said, sailors can have only seconds to identify the threat. After seven months spent battling Houthi attacks, he said reacting has become instinctive for the crews of the Eisenhower carrier strike group.

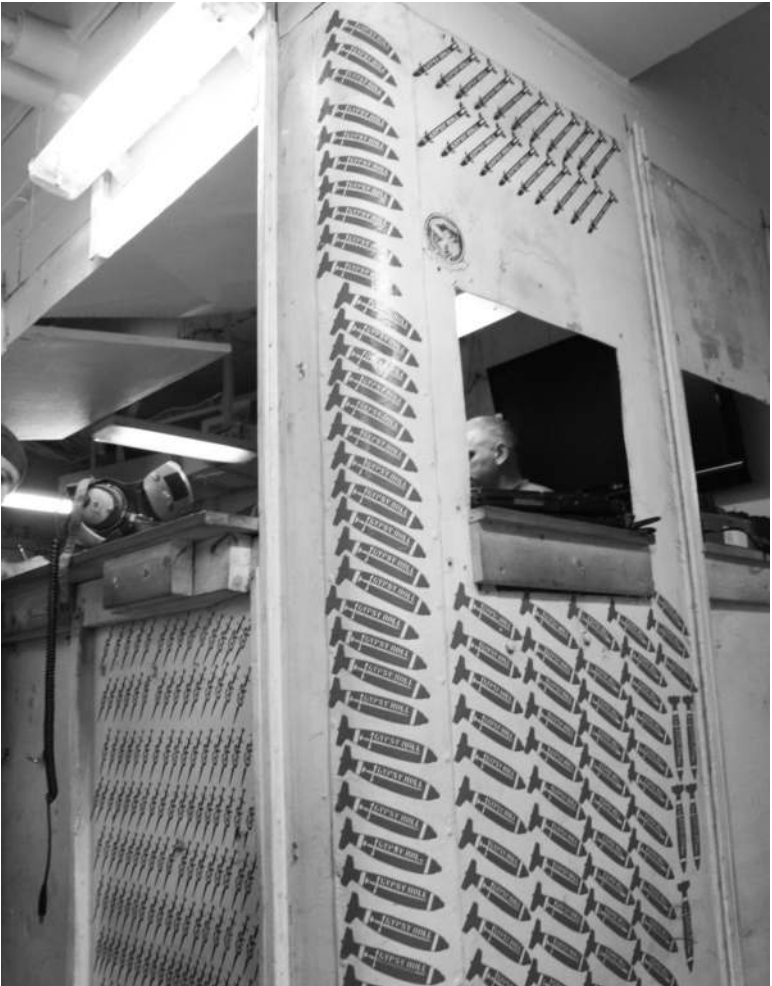
Pledger did not say how close Houthi missiles and drones were to U.S. ships at the time they were shot down, but he said crews on the destroyers could sometimes watch ships and F-18 fighter jets taking out the enemy weapons.

“We have ships and sailors that have operated in the heart of the Houthi weapon engagement zone for days and weeks and months knowing they were going to get shot at — and did get shot at. Those sailors never flinched,” he said.

The group’s air wing expended 420 air-to-surface weapons. All told, the strike group completed more than 13,800 flights totaling about 31,500 hours.

The strike group included the Eisenhower, the guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea, guided-missile destroyers USS Mason and USS Gravely of Destroyer Squadron 22. Also part of the strike group was Air Wing 3, which was comprised of nine squadrons.

The USS Theodore Roosevelt, a West Coast-based carrier, was diverted from the Pacific to relieve the Eisenhower. The USS Harry S. Truman will deploy from Naval



The maintenance desks of aircraft squadrons aboard the Eisenhower were lined with victory marks akin to those affixed to their aircraft.

Station Norfolk, Va., to the Mediterranean Sea later this year.

On Sunday, sailors toting their green seabags crossed the brow of the ship and made their way to their loved ones.

Down the pier, Callie Bell stood on her tiptoes in search of her husband. She clutched her toddler’s hand with her right hand and a sign in her left. The sign, reading “my faith did not fail,” was crumpled and frayed from hours spent carrying it around.

“Before my husband left, he promised to come back to us and we promised to be here. But with everything happening, it felt like nothing was certain,” Bell said, tears streaming down her cheeks.

Several minutes later, her husband, aviation boatswain’s mate Kei-Ard Bell, pushed his way through a sea of sailors and hugged and kissed his family for the first time in nine months.

After a long hug, the sailor said to his family, “Let’s go home.”



Aviation boatswain’s mate Kei-Ard Bell greets his wife, Callie, and their 1-year-old son Malachi.

MILITARY



U.S. soldiers and Marines attend the opening ceremony for Keris Strike at Fort Paradise, Malaysia, on June 28.

Hawaii-based soldiers test logistics on Borneo

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Hundreds of U.S. soldiers and Marines recently wrapped up training in Malaysia, an island nation that steers a neutral course between U.S. regional interests and Beijing’s maritime claims in the South China Sea.

The U.S. troops practiced their ability to operate with Malaysian and Australian forces along the western coastline of Borneo, facing the contested South China Sea. Three countries — Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei — have territory on Borneo, the world’s third-largest island.

More than 500 members of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment from the U.S. Army’s Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, arrived in Southeast Asia on June 20, unit commander Lt. Col. Joshua Suthoff said by phone Friday from Borneo.

The troops arrived on the island by air while their vehicles and gear came by sea as part of Operation Pathways, he said.

“It allowed us to stretch our logistics,” he said of the training.

On Friday, the squadron, part of the 25th Infantry Division, concluded its part in an annual, expeditionary-style campaign in Brunei and Malaysia.

“We traveled [75 miles] along the western coast of Borneo operating around the local population,” Suthoff said.

The trip allowed the Americans to hone fieldcraft and tactics in a new and larger area than their Hawaiian training grounds, he said.

In Brunei, U.S. soldiers joined Pahlawan Warrior, June 20-30. The training included a field exercise and live-fire drills with local forces, Suthoff said.

Malaysia, with a population of nearly 35 million, is divided by the South China Sea. It occupies the Malay Peninsula that flanks the Straits of Malacca, an important international waterway, and, across the South China Sea, the northern quarter of Borneo.

The nation’s leader, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, speaking Sept. 13 in Singapore, said Malaysia must remain “fiercely independent” and not be forced to choose sides between the U.S. and China, the Daily Mail reported.

Although parts of Malaysia’s ruling class have close ties to China, most Malaysians are leery of their much larger neighbor, according to Grant Newsham, a retired Marine colonel and senior researcher with the Japan Forum for Strategic Studies in Tokyo.

“And that includes the Malaysian military,” he said by email Friday.

While Malaysians acknowledge the benefit of the international order secured by the U.S., they consider the threat from a rising China as exaggerated, according to Ngeow Chow Bing, writing online in August for the Carnegie Endowment of International Peace.

Malaysia and Brunei are two of several nations with territorial claims in the South China Sea. Virtually the entire body of water is also claimed by China.

In Malaysia, the U.S. Army contingent linked up with 45 Marines as well as Australian and local troops for another drill called Keris Strike, Suthoff said. The exercise culminated Thursday with a simulated attack.

“There was a fortified objective by the beach and the Malaysian and U.S. troops and Australians did a joint attack,” he said.

Airman’s lifesaving device leads him to patent office

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

An airman’s invention aims to make a lifesaving device wearable and easily accessible in an emergency.

It also just might earn him some extra cash.

Senior Airman Isaiah Demillo, 23, stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas, applied for a patent in February for the Demillo Rigger’s tourniquet belt.

This week, the country liaison for the 82nd Training Support Squadron will head to a six-week Air Force course in Pittsburgh to refine his prototype and get the backing of medical experts before seeking wide-scale adoption.

Demillo, from Denver, Colo., joined the Air Force in 2021 and a year later found himself asking questions during a Tactical Combat Casualty Care course.

“They told us to never use a belt because it doesn’t generate the pressure needed to stop massive bleeding,” he said. “It’s because the belt was missing the spinning portion that applies pressure with the (combat application) tourniquet. So I thought to myself, ‘Add one.’”

The belt can be worn with operational camouflage pattern uniforms and is designed to be self-applied. Demillo hopes it will one day be sold in base exchanges and recommended in the very combat care course that spurred the idea.

“I couldn’t tell you where my nearest tourniquet in this building is right now,” he said. “So if somebody has it on their waist and it’s constantly on them and it’s a part of your uniform, it’s integrated into your lifestyle.”

Demillo wasn’t the first to imagine a tourniquet on a belt, but existing models used a ratchet to tighten the device, which could lead to tissue damage, he said.

He wrote up his concept and reached out to the base’s Spark Cell, which is part of a network of innovation offices at Air Force bases around the world.

The cell referred him to a patent lawyer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. He began deconstructing tourniquets and planning what his product would look like before making a computer-aided drafting file.

He contacted other units to help him 3D print and sew on the device. The initial prototype cost about \$46.

Demillo signed away a portion of his rights to proceeds from sales in exchange for the Air Force’s assistance. He can’t charge the Air Force for using the patent, but Demillo said he would receive the first \$2,000 and 15% of commercial royalties afterward.

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Ramsden, a deputy in the wing’s digital integration office, helped Demillo in the belt’s early days.

“I have full confidence that he is going to do something with this,” Ramsden said. “He is one of the most driven people that I’ve met.”



PHOTOS BY JULIE SVOBODA/U.S. Air Force

Senior Airman Isaiah Demillo, a country liaison with the 82nd Training Support Squadron, demonstrates how to use the Demillo Rigger’s tourniquet belt, on June 6 at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.



Demillo applied for a patent in February for the Demillo Rigger’s tourniquet belt. The belt can be worn with operational camouflage pattern uniforms and is designed to be self-applied.

‘Heart-rending’ fiery crash kills 2, including a US airman, in Japan

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Two people, including a U.S. airman, died and a third person was injured in a fiery car crash over the weekend near Misawa Air Base in northeastern Japan.

The 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa confirmed that an airman died as a result of the crash around 4:40 a.m. Sunday. The wing did not identify the deceased pending notification of next of kin, according to an email Monday to Stars and Stripes.

“While the investigation into the accident is still ongoing, any loss of life here at Misawa Air Base is a tragedy,” said wing spokesman Capt. LeeRoy Stark. “We are working closely with our off-base community partners to recover from this heart-rending crash.”

The car crashed into a garage at a home in Misawa city, the Too Nippo website reported Sunday. The crash started a fire that burned down the garage.

An ambulance took the car’s injured occupant to a local hospital, according to the wing.

The Misawa Police Department was investigating the cause of the accident, according to Too Nippo’s report.

“The situation is currently under investigation and more information will be provided when it becomes available,” the wing said.

MILITARY

China, Russia start joint naval drills

Associated Press

BEIJING — China and Russia’s naval forces kicked off a joint exercise at a military port in southern China on Sunday, official news agency Xinhua reported, days after NATO allies called Beijing a “decisive enabler” of the war in Ukraine.

The Chinese defense ministry said in a brief statement forces from both sides recently patrolled the western and northern Pacific Ocean and that the operation had nothing to do with international and regional situations and didn’t

target any third party.

The exercise, which began in Guangdong province on Sunday and is expected to last until mid-July, aimed to demonstrate the capabilities of the navies in addressing security threats and preserving peace and stability globally and regionally, state broadcaster CCTV reported Saturday, adding it would include anti-missile exercises, sea strikes and air defense.

Xinhua News Agency reported the Chinese and Russian naval forces carried out on-map mili-

tary simulation and tactical coordination exercises after the opening ceremony in the city of Zhanjiang.

The joint drills came on the heels of China’s latest tensions with NATO allies last week.

The sternly worded final communiqué, approved by the 32 NATO members at their summit in Washington, made clear that China is becoming a focus of the military alliance, calling Beijing a “decisive enabler” of Russia’s war against Ukraine. The European and North American mem-

bers and their partners in the Indo-Pacific increasingly see shared security concerns coming from Russia and its Asian supporters, especially China.

In response, China accused NATO of seeking security at the expense of others and told the alliance not to bring the same “chaos” to Asia. Its foreign ministry maintained that China has a fair and objective stance on the war in Ukraine.

Last week, a U.S. Coast Guard cutter on routine patrol in the Bering Sea also came across sev-

eral Chinese military ships in international waters but within the U.S. exclusive economic zone, American officials said. Its crew detected three vessels approximately 124 miles north of the Amchitka Pass in the Aleutian Islands, which mark a separation and linkage between the North Pacific and the Bering Sea.

Later, a fourth ship was spotted approximately 84 miles north of the Amukta Pass.

The U.S. side said the Chinese naval vessels operated within international rules and norms.

UK military vehicle kills teen in Bavaria near US Army range

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — A British soldier driving a military utility vehicle fatally struck a German motorcyclist on a highway between U.S. Army training areas in Bavaria, police said Friday.

The crash occurred near the town of Gebenbach at 11:50 a.m. Thursday, when the unidentified 22-year-old soldier failed to yield to a 17-year-old girl riding a motorcycle in the opposite direction, Michael Kernebeck, chief inspector for Sulzbach-Rosenberg Police Inspection, said in a statement.

The vehicle was turning left from highway B14 onto highway B299 toward Grafenwoehr, Kernebeck said. It had two occupants at the time, Oberpfalz media reported Thursday.

The teen, who was from Amberg-Sulzbach district, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The stretch of highway is located between the Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels training areas, which are administered by the U.S. 7th Army Training Command. The road was closed for more than three hours due to the crash.

An investigation is being conducted by the affected partner nations, training command spokeswoman Lacey Justinger said Friday. The command offered condolences to the girl’s family.

The crash is being investigated on the civilian side by the Amberg public prosecutor’s office, Kernebeck said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Alexander Riedel contributed to this report.



WOLFGANG STEINBACHER/Oberpfalz Medien

German police photograph a British army truck involved in a fatal accident near Grafenwoehr, Germany, on Thursday.

Officials in Japan were punished for misconduct

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan’s defense ministry announced disciplinary action on Friday against more than 200 senior officials and service members over mishandling of classified materials and other misconduct, an embarrassment that could undermine Tokyo’s efforts to work more closely with United States and other partners in the face of China’s growing threat.

The Ministry and its Self Defense Forces have been under scrutiny over allegations that members of the navy violated the sensitive information protection law, as well as other misconduct such as falsely claiming allowances for special assignments, or wrongfully claiming free meals at base cafeterias. Ministerial staff were also accused of abuses of power.

Defense Minister Minoru Kihara apologized, saying the problems “significantly damaging to the public trust” for the ministry and Japan’s defense forces. “I’m keenly aware of my responsibility.”

He blamed a lack of discipline across the organization.

Kihara said the ministry’s investigation found that classified information was mishandled on 38 destroyers and submarines, but said no sensitive information leaked outside of the military or caused any harm. People without appropriate clearances were routinely assigned to duties that involved sensitive information.

“Ensuring intelligence protection is extremely important for our cooperation with the ally and other like-minded countries, and we should never let this kind of problem happen again,” Kihara said.

Author ‘Generation Kill,’ died by suicide at 59

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Evan Wright, the author of the iconic book “Generation Kill,” which captured the danger and wild camaraderie of young Marines in combat, has died. He was 59.

Wright’s story of the early days of the Iraq War, which was turned into a 2008 HBO television series, was arguably the most popular and influential book about the war from that period.

For a generation of Marines, the story of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion’s fight on the way to Baghdad in 2003 encapsulated much of the early experience of the Global War on Terrorism.

Wright died Friday by suicide, according to the Los Angeles County medical examiner’s office. He had forged a connection

with many Marines that lasted until the end of his life.

“Your book was a significant reason why I decided to enlist,” a Marine wrote to Wright in May on X.

It was the way Wright described the motley mix of personalities from all walks who formed bonds under fire that made for “some of the best military reporting in the modern era,” the Marine told Wright.

Wright answered back: “I hope my book was accurate for you and others who tell me they enlisted because of it. ... I always hope the (book) buyer who saw my version of war, and then enlisted, didn’t feel cheated by it later on.”



Wright

Wright’s profile of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion initially ran as a series of stories in 2004 in Rolling Stone magazine, where he was a longtime contributor. The book was published the same year.

“We’re like America’s little pit bull. They beat it, starve it, mistreat it, and once in a while they let it out to attack somebody,” he wrote.

“Generation Kill” celebrated the irreverent banter and gallows humor of Marines and also took shots at the higher-ups, from an enlisted grunt’s point of view.

“The incompetent leading the unwilling to do the unnecessary,” Wright wrote.

“Generation Kill” was filled with wry observations about life in a war zone.

“Vigorous public ball scratch-

ing is common in the combat-arms side of the Marine Corps, even among high-level officers in the midst of briefings,” it said.

On military Reddit, there was an outpouring of appreciation for the author upon news of his death.

“He painted a picture different from what the recruiters and the media portrayed a Marine was: a gang of loveable losers who found a purpose in our little cult,” wrote one Marine.

Added another: “One of the few outsiders who was able to give the world an accurate depiction of our beloved Corps.”

“Generation Kill is, hands down, the most accurate depiction of what it was like to be part of the invasion,” wrote another Marine on Reddit. “The ups and downs and all the (expletive) in between.”

MILITARY

Old: Program cleans out obsolete equipment

FROM PAGE 1

the program to III Corps at Fort Cavazos, Texas.

Since the cleanup began at Lewis-McChord, 44,000 soldiers including I Corps, the 7th Division, and a collection of tenant units, including Special Forces detachments at the Pacific Northwest base, have turned in a growing cache of materials.

To date, more than 33,000 pieces of equipment worth an estimated \$418 million have been processed through the program. The final total could reach 60,000 items when the program is completed later in the summer.

Col. Jamison Smith, the support operations officer for the 593rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command at the base, said the goal is to be lighter and less encumbered while using the best equipment available.

As U.S. military strategy shifts more emphasis to the Indo-Pacific region to check China’s expansion and influence, units would be asked to fight in larger formations over longer distances than in the operations against terrorists in the Middle East and Africa.

“The end state the Army wants is more agile units, ready to answer the call when they are told to go, with the equipment they need for a “near-peer” fight that will require them to move constantly and stay more static,” Smith said.

Capt. Colin Wiener, commander of the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, said the troops appreciate getting rid of obsolete equipment.

“I’m very pleased with this — it took four pages off our property books, saved days of inventorying what we don’t use, saves time — soldiers time that can be used for training,” he said. “And it saves the Army a ton of money by not having to maintain things we don’t use anymore and getting them where they are wanted.”

Gen. Randy George, the Army chief of staff, directed the Army Materiel Command to develop a pilot program to find and reduce surplus equipment and move it to units that can put it to use.

Warrant Officer Nicolas Fajardo, the 16th CAB’s property book officer, said the program will get surplus moved up and out from where it has sat unused, in some cases, for years.

“The idea is not about getting rid of accountability,” he said. “Property does not grow legs and run away. It sits and takes away space and time.”

As the Army’s command for the increasingly crucial Indo-Pacific region, I Corps was one of the early adopters of a plan that will extend across the service. Two key actions were taken ahead of the mass turn-in to spur the work.

Commanders laid out a specific



REBECA SORIA/U.S. Army

Soldiers with the 1st Ranger Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, inspect their radios during the Rapid Removal of Excess Program at Fort Stewart, Ga., in November.

window in the spring for cataloging and removing the equipment instead of an ongoing process that could allow other priorities to delay it throughout the year.

The program also shifted the responsibility for ensuring the equipment meets Army standards from units that have the equipment and don’t want it to units that want the equipment and don’t have it.

Previously, the units with the surplus materials had to ensure the equipment met the Army standard of cleanliness and repair,

with missing parts requisitioned and restored before handing it over for transfer.

Under the R2E program, that job shifts to the receiving units. The equipment is shipped with less maintenance and sent to its next location as is. It’s up to the units that want the equipment to then do the work to make the weapons, gear, and equipment mission-capable. The receiving units are aided by the Materiel Command.

Other equipment could go to the Defense Logistics Agency for dis-

tribution, sent to overseas allies, or declared surplus and sold or donated to the public.

Lightening the bureaucratic load while eliminating equipment from before they were born is satisfying for soldiers.

“The Army is saying, let’s update everything we can, get rid of the old, and get you the new,” said Sgt. Diva Arauz, whose property book with the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade at Lewis-McChord has become noticeably lighter. “Really, some of this stuff hasn’t been used since Vietnam.”

2 suspected attacks by Yemen’s Houthi rebels strike ships in Red Sea

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Two suspected attacks by Yemen’s Houthi rebels targeted ships in the Red Sea on Monday, as a new U.S. aircraft carrier approached the region to provide security for the key international trade route that has been under assault since the Israel-Hamas war erupted nine months ago.

The captain of the first targeted ship reported being attacked by three small vessels off the coast of Al Hudaydah, Yemen, the British military’s United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said, adding that two of the vessels were crewed and another uncrewed.

The “reported unmanned small craft collided with the vessel twice and the 2 manned small craft fired at the vessel,” the UKMTO reported. “The vessel conducted self-protection measures, after 15 minutes the small craft aborted the attack.”

The captain later reported two separate waves of missile attacks, approximately 45 minutes apart, that exploded in close proximity to the vessel.

Later on Monday, in a separate incident also off the coast of Al Hudaydah, a vessel reported being attacked by a suspected uncrewed Houthi aerial vehicle, which “impacted on the port side causing some damage and light smoke,” the

UKMTO reported.

Both ships and all crew are reported safe, the UKMTO said in a warning to mariners. Names and flags of the ships were not immediately known. The Houthis did not immediately comment on either incident. However, it can take hours or even days before they acknowledge carrying out an attack.

The aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt is approaching the Middle East to replace the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, which spent months in the Red Sea to counter the Houthis.

U.S. Central Command said in a statement Sunday that its forces destroyed two uncrewed Houthi ae-

rial vehicles and an uncrewed surface vessel in the Red Sea.

The rebels have targeted more than 70 vessels by firing missiles and drones in their campaign, killing four sailors. They seized one vessel and sank two since November.

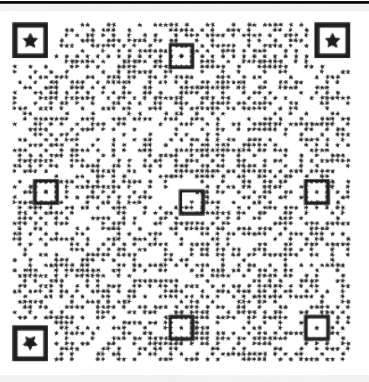
In June, the number of Houthi attacks on merchant vessels increased to levels not seen since December, according to the Joint Maritime Information Center, a coalition which is overseen by the U.S. Navy. U.S.-led airstrikes have targeted the Houthis since January, with a series of strikes on May 30 killing at least 16 people and wounding 42 others, the rebels say.

The Houthis maintain that their attacks target ships linked to Israel, the United States or Britain, as part of the rebels’ support for the militant group Hamas in its war against Israel. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the war — including some bound for Iran, which backs the Houthis.

Last week, the Houthis said they launched missiles at a U.S.-flagged container ship in the Gulf of Aden, marking what authorities acknowledged as the rebels’ longest-range attack yet on a U.S.-flagged vessel near the Arabian Sea. The JMIC identified the ship as the Maersk Sentosa.



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NATION

Motive of would-be assassin remains elusive

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The 20-year-old man who tried to assassinate former President Donald Trump first came to law enforcement’s attention at Saturday’s rally when spectators noticed him acting strangely outside the campaign event. The tip sparked a frantic search but officers were unable to find him before he managed to get on a roof, where he opened fire.

In the wake of the shooting that killed one spectator, investigators were hunting for any clues about what may have driven Thomas Matthew Crooks, of Bethel Park, Pa., to carry out the shocking attack. The FBI said they were investigating it as a potential act of domestic terrorism, but the absence of a clear ideological motive by the man shot dead by the Secret Service led conspiracy theories to flourish.

The FBI said it believes Crooks, who had bomb-making materials in the car he drove to the rally, acted alone. Investigators have found

no threatening comments on social media accounts or ideological positions that could help explain what led him to target Trump before the Secret Service rushed the presumptive Republican presidential nominee off the stage, his face smeared with blood.



Crooks Relatives of Crooks didn’t respond to numerous messages. His father, Matthew Crooks, told CNN late Saturday that he was trying to figure out “what the hell is going on” but wouldn’t speak about his son until after he talked to law enforcement. An FBI official told reporters that Crooks’ family is cooperating with investigators.

Several rallygoers reported to local officers that Crooks was acting suspiciously and pacing near the magnetometers, according to a law enforcement official who

spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation. Officers were then told Crooks was climbing a ladder, the official said. Officers searched for him but were unable to find him before he made it to the roof, the official added.

Butler County Sheriff Michael Slupe told the AP that a local officer climbed to the roof and encountered Crooks, who saw the officer and turned toward him just before the officer dropped down to safety. Slupe said the officer couldn’t have wielded his own gun under the circumstances. The officer retreated down the ladder, and Crooks quickly took a shot toward Trump, and that’s when Secret Service snipers shot him, according to two officials who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

FBI officials said Sunday that they were combing Crooks’ background and social media activities while working to get access to his

phone. The chatting app Discord, a social media platform popular with people playing online games, said Crooks appears to have had an account but used it rarely and not in the last several months. There’s no evidence he used his account to promote violence or discuss his political views, a Discord spokesperson said.

Crooks’ political leanings were not immediately clear. Records show Crooks was registered as a Republican voter in Pennsylvania, but federal campaign finance reports also show he gave \$15 to a progressive political action committee on Jan. 20, 2021, the day Biden was sworn into office.

Crooks graduated from Bethel Park High School in 2022. In a video of the school’s graduation ceremony posted online, Crooks can be seen crossing the stage to receive his diploma, appearing slight of build and wearing glasses. The school district said it will cooperate fully with investigators.

Crooks tried out for the school’s

rifle team but was turned away because he was a bad shooter, said Frederick Mach, a current captain of the team who was a few years behind Crooks at the school.

Jason Kohler, who said he attended the same high school but did not share any classes with Crooks, said Crooks was bullied at school and sat alone at lunch time. Other students mocked him for the clothes he wore, which included hunting outfits, Kohler said.

“He was bullied almost every day,” Kohler told reporters. “He was just a outcast, and you know how kids are nowadays.”

Crooks worked at a nursing home as a dietary aide, a job that generally involves food preparation. Marcie Grimm, the administrator of Bethel Park Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, said in a statement she was “shocked and saddened to learn of his involvement.”

Grimm added that Crooks had a clean background check when he was hired.

Unity: FBI has seen increasingly violent rhetoric online since rally

FROM PAGE 1

Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, said the upper part of his right ear was pierced by a bullet.

He arrived in Milwaukee on Sunday evening for the convention, set to begin Monday. He told the Washington Examiner that he had rewritten his speech for the event to focus more on national unity than on the policies of Biden.

In a post Sunday on his social media site, Trump said: “In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand United, and show our True Character as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win.”

In a prime-time national address from the Oval Office, Biden said political passions can run high but “we must never descend into violence.” The president said his party and the Republicans can compete forcefully over different policy visions — but must do it in a civil fashion.

“All of us now face a time of testing as the election approaches,” Biden said. “There is no place in America for this kind of violence — for any violence. Ever. Period. No exception. We can’t allow this violence to be normalized.”

Biden spoke for six minutes in his third address to the nation since Saturday evening’s attack.

His warning came hours after FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate said agents have seen increasingly violent rhetoric online since the attack at the Trump rally.

Since the shooting, the president and his team had been grap-



Cori Gasmen, left, and others hold a prayer vigil for former President Donald Trump at Zeidler Park in Milwaukee on Sunday.

pling with how to calibrate the political path forward after the weekend attack targeting the very person Biden is trying to defeat in November’s election.

Biden sharply condemned the attack, but indicated he plans to continue to press his campaign agenda and has “no doubt” Republicans will do the same when they open the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee on Monday.

He emphasized that said those disagreements must remain

peaceful.

“We can do this,” Biden pleaded, saying the nation was founded on a democracy that gave reason and balance a chance to prevail over brute force.

Biden also warned that political tensions were being inflamed by a balkanized media environment and exploited by American enemies.

“Here in America we need to get out of our silos, where we only listen to those with whom we agree, where misinformation is

rampant, where foreign actors fan the flames of our division to shape the outcomes consistent with their interests, not ours,” Biden said.

The rallygoer who was killed was Corey Comperatore, a former fire chief from the area, according to Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, who said Comperatore “died a hero.”

“His wife shared with me that he dove on his family to protect them,” Shapiro said. The two wounded bystanders were listed in stable condition.

The FBI identified the gunman as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pa., about 50 miles from the scene of the shooting.

The attack was the most serious attempt to kill a president or presidential candidate since President Ronald Reagan was shot in 1981. It drew new attention to concerns about political violence in a deeply polarized U.S. less than four months before the election.

Biden on Sunday ordered a security review of operations for the Republican National Convention, which is proceeding as planned. The Secret Service said it was “confident” in the security plan, and no additional changes were planned.

Trump was showing off a chart of border crossing numbers when the gunfire began after 6:10 p.m. Saturday.

As the first pop rang out, Trump said “oh,” raised his hand to his right ear and looked at it, then quickly crouched to the ground. People in the stands behind him also crouched as screams rang out.

When the firing began, “everybody went to their knees or their prone position,” said Dave McCormick, the Republican candidate for U.S. Senate in Pennsylvania, who was sitting to Trump’s right on stage.

As he saw Trump raise his fist, McCormick said, he looked over his shoulder and noticed someone had been hit in the bleachers behind the stage.

Eventually, first responders were able to carry the wounded person out, McCormick said.

MELINA MARA / The Washington Post

NATION

‘I knew I had to let them know we are okay’

Amid chaos and gunfire, Trump projected an image of defiance

By JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

NEW YORK — He was bleeding from the head after a barrage of bullets flew through his rally when Secret Service agents gave the go-ahead that it was safe to move from the stage.

But Donald Trump had something he needed to do.

“Wait, wait, wait!” the former president could be heard telling his agents, who had encircled him in a protective bubble and helped him to his feet.

Trump, his face smeared with blood, forced his right fist through a tangle of agents’ arms. He raised it high into the air before pumping his fist.

“Fight!” he mouthed to the crowd and cameras as he pumped his arm sharply three times, in a sign of undeniable defiance and assurance that he was OK. The gesture sent the crowd cheering, with many rising to their feet.

“We gotta move, we gotta move!” an agent shouted.

The moment was an extraordinary illustration of Trump’s raw political instincts and of how keenly aware he is of the images he projects. Even during unimaginable chaos, Trump stopped and delivered his message, creating iconic photographs and video that are sure to become an indelible part of history.

In an interview with the Washington Examiner, Trump said that when he looked up and saw that the crowd hadn’t left, he felt he needed to offer assurance and project strength.

“The energy coming from the people there in that moment, they just stood there, it’s hard to describe

what that felt like but I knew the world was looking, I knew that history would judge this and I knew I had to let them know we are okay,” he said.

Trump has always paid close attention to imagery, aware of his facial expressions, his clothing and camera angles during interviews.

The mug shot he took in Atlanta — in which he glared at the camera — was seared immediately into the collective memory and emblazoned on campaign T-shirts, posters and other merchandise.

During his criminal hush money trial in New York, Trump would mug for the cameras, looking stern and angry, when photographers were led in for a minute each day to document history. As soon as they left, his expression typically relaxed.

After he tested positive for the coronavirus in 2020, Trump refused to let on how sick he really was, according to a book by his former chief of staff, Mark Meadows. And after his release from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he received intense treatment, Trump staged a dramatic return to the White House, emerging from Marine One and climbing the South Portico steps.

On the balcony, he removed his mask and gave a double thumbs-up to the departing helicopter at sunset, American flags arranged behind him.

In her book “Confidence Man,” New York Times reporter Maggie Haberman wrote that Trump had considered an even more dramatic scene in which he “would be wheeled out of Walter Reed in a chair” and, once outside, “would dramatically stand up, then open his



EVAN VUCCI/AP

Former President Donald Trump gestures as he is surrounded by Secret Service agents as he leaves the stage after he was shot Saturday at a campaign rally in Butler, Pa. Trump said in a social media post Saturday night that he “knew immediately that something was wrong” when he “heard a whizzing sound, shots and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin.” He was hit in the right ear.

button-down dress shirt to reveal” another with a “Superman logo beneath it.”

Trump said in a social media post Saturday night that he “knew immediately that something was wrong” when he “heard a whizzing sound, shots and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin.”

A bullet had pierced the upper part of his right ear, Trump said later.

He crouched behind his lectern as agents rushed the stage and piled atop him.

When they gave the all-clear that the shooter was down, Trump could be heard telling his agents several times to “let me get my shoes” as

they tried to quickly usher him to safety,

While he was led across the stage, he held his arm in the air and vigorously pumped it again — so violently one agent seemed to duck to avoid being hit by his elbow — before he was helped down the steps.

The crowd erupted into chants of “USA!”

As he climbed into his SUV, he raised it high one last time before his agents closed the bulletproof door behind him.

For supporters in the crowd, Trump’s response gave them assurance that he would not back down.

Jondavid Longo, the mayor of Slippery Rock, Pa., who was sitting

in the front row when the shots began, said he jumped to shield his wife, made sure no one in his immediate vicinity had a firearm, then started yelling for others to get down.

“I was making sure everybody was OK and then I kept looking at the president, of course, because I had just seen the president get shot,” Longo said. “I saw him grab his ear. Then I saw the Secret Service pounce on top of him. I saw them bringing him up. I saw blood on the right side of his head.”

Soon after, he said, Trump “put his fist in the air. He let us know he was OK, and they escorted him away. It was just incredible.”

Friends laud bravery of former fire chief who died at rally

Associated Press

BUFFALO TOWNSHIP, Pa. — The former fire chief who was killed at a Pennsylvania rally for Donald Trump spent his final moments diving down in front of his family, protecting them from the gunfire that rang out Saturday during an assassination attempt against the former president.

Corey Comperatore’s quick decision to use his body as a shield against the bullets flying toward his wife and daughter rang true to the close friends and neighbors who loved and respected the proud 50-year-old Trump supporter, noting that the Butler County resident was a “man of conviction.”

“He’s a literal hero. He shoved his family out of the way, and he got killed for them,” said Mike More-

house, who lived next to Comperatore for the last eight years. “He’s a hero that I was happy to have as a neighbor.”

Comperatore died Saturday during the attempt to kill Trump at a rally in Butler, Pa. At least two other people were injured: David Dutch, 57, of New Kensington, Pa., and James Copenhaver, 74, of Moon Township, Pa., according to the Pennsylvania State Police.

Both were listed in stable condition as of Sunday.

As support for Comperatore’s family began to pour in from across

the country, President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden also extended their “deepest condolences.”

“He was a father. He was protecting his family from the bullets that were being fired and he lost his life, God love him,” said Biden, who added he was praying for the full recovery of the wounded.

Separately, Texas U.S. Rep. Ronny Jackson said in a statement Sunday that his nephew was injured but “thankfully his injury was not serious.”

The Secret Service said it killed the suspected shooter, who attacked from an elevated position outside the rally venue.

The former president was showing off a chart of border-crossing numbers when at least five shots

were fired. Trump was seen holding his ear and got down on the ground. Agents quickly huddled in a shield around him. When he stood, his face bloodied, he pumped his fist to cheering supporters as he was whisked off stage by Secret Service agents.

Trump later extended his condolences to Comperatore’s family.

Randy Reamer, president of the Buffalo Township volunteer fire company, called Comperatore “a stand-up guy” and “a true brother of the fire service.” He said Comperatore served as chief of the company for about three years but was also a life member, meaning he had served for more than 20 years.

“Just a great all-around guy, always willing to help someone out,” Reamer said of Comperatore. “He

definitely stood up for what he believed in, never backed down to anyone. ... He was a really good guy.”

For Morehouse, Comperatore’s death was an emotional blow — but it also has inspired political action. Morehouse says he plans on casting a ballot for the first time in his life come November and he plans on checking Trump’s name.

“As soon as I heard what happened and then learned that it was to Corey, I went upstairs as soon as I got home and I registered to vote,” Morehouse said. “This is the first time I’ve ever voted and I think it will be in his memory.”

A GoFundMe launched to support Comperatore’s family had already surpassed more than \$696,000 in donations as of Sunday.



Comperatore

NATION

Anger and anxiety could shift script at GOP convention

Trump's vision was to be focus before assassination attempt

BY STEVE PEOPLES
AND JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Donald Trump's campaign chiefs designed the convention opening this week to feature a softer and more optimistic message, focusing on themes that would help a divisive leader expand his appeal among moderate voters and people of color.

Then came a shooting that rattled the foundation of American politics.

Suddenly, the Democrats' turmoil after the debate, the GOP's potential governing agenda and even Trump's criminal convictions became secondary to fears about political violence and the country's stability. The presumptive Republican nominee and his allies will face the nation during their four-day convention in Milwaukee unquestionably united and ready to "fight," as the bloodied Trump cried out Saturday while Secret Service agents at his Pennsylvania rally rushed him to safety.

Anger and anxiety are coursing through the party, even as many top Republicans call for calm and a lowering of tensions.

Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, known for his sunny and optimistic vision of Republican politics, suggested online the attempted assassination had been "aided and abetted by the radical Left and corporate media incessantly calling Trump a threat to democracy, fascists, or worse."

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson, another likely convention speaker, offered a more somber tone during a Sunday appearance on NBC.

"We've got to turn the temperature down in this country," Johnson said. "We need leaders of all parties, on both sides, to call that out and make sure that happens so that we can go forward and maintain our free society that we all are blessed to have."

■ **There are no changes yet to the convention program.**

In an interview Sunday, Republican Party chairman Michael Whatley said the convention's programming wouldn't be changed after the shooting. The agenda, he said, will feature more than 100 speakers overwhelmingly focused on kitchen table issues and Trump's plans to lift everyday working Americans.

"We have to be able to lay out a vi-

sion for where we want to take this country," he said.

Whatley said the central message would have little to do with President Joe Biden's political struggles, Trump's grievances about the 2020 election or the ex-president's promises to exact retribution against political enemies.

"We are going to have the convention that we have been planning for the last 18 months," he said. "We are a combination of relieved and grateful that the president is going to be here and is going to accept the nomination."

Beyond voting to formally give Trump the nomination, elected delegates from across the nation will update the GOP's policy platform for the first time since 2016. The scaled-down platform proposal — just 16 pages with limited specifics on key issues, including abortion — reflects a desire by the Trump campaign to avoid giving Democrats more material on a key campaign issue.

The platform approved by a committee last week doesn't include an explicit call for a national abortion ban, two years after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and ended a federally guaranteed right to abortion.

Many anti-abortion advocates strongly opposed the Trump campaign's rewriting of the platform. But after the shooting, at least one major religious conservative said he wouldn't press to reverse the committee's decision.

"More divisiveness would not be healthy," said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council.

Perhaps most importantly, Trump is expected to use the convention to unveil his choice for vice president. Some Republicans believe the pick will take on more importance than it would have otherwise given the new threats to Trump's life.

His top three contenders are North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, all expected to speak this week.

Despite a contentious primary season, any lingering tensions appear to have been set aside.

Former rivals Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley, the former United Nations ambassador, are expected to speak at the conven-



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

Law enforcement officers stand in an aisle at the 2024 Republican National Convention inside the Fiserv Forum, on Sunday, in Milwaukee. Republican Party chairman Michael Whatley says the convention's programming won't be changed after the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally Saturday in Butler, Pa.

tion on Trump's behalf.

Veteran Republican pollster Frank Luntz said the shooting ensured the GOP is united and motivated behind Trump, a dynamic he said will be on display all week in Wisconsin.

"Every single Trump supporter will now be a Trump voter," Luntz said. "The average Trump voter is so angry at what just happened. They were angry before this, and now they're furious."

■ **People connected to Jan. 6 will be involved.**

There will be reminders of Trump's record in a speaking program that includes a handful of Republicans charged with crimes related to other political violence — the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Former White House trade adviser Peter Navarro, who's in jail on contempt of Congress charges, is expected to speak at the convention just hours after his release. He was found guilty in September after refusing to cooperate with a congressional investigation into the Capitol attack.

Nevada GOP Chair Michael McDonald, who was indicted of criminal charges related to his involvement in the scheme to present fake electors who would overturn Biden's victory over Trump, plans to present the former president with the party nomination at the convention. A judge dismissed the case against McDonald last month over a venue dispute.

Trump has repeatedly cast the people involved in efforts to overturn the 2020 election, including his many supporters who stormed the Capitol, as political prisoners.

For now, Democrats have scaled back their plans to offer a competing message during the Republican convention.

The Biden campaign over the weekend pulled down its campaign ads. Vice President Kamala Harris



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Sen. Katie Britt, R-Ala., is seen during a convention walk-through Sunday. More than 100 speakers will largely focus on kitchen table issues and Trump's plans to lift everyday working Americans.

postponed a Tuesday appearance in Florida set to focus on Trump's opposition to abortion rights. And the pro-Democratic group American Bridge is delaying the scheduled Monday release of faux trading cards designed to highlight controversial policy positions of Trump and other leading Republicans.

Biden's campaign said that, after an interview he does with NBC airs Monday, it and the Democratic National Committee "will continue drawing the contrast" with Trump over the course of the GOP convention — even though it remains unclear when ads would resume.

Publicly and privately, Democrats feared that they were losing a critical opportunity to undermine Trump's political ambitions at one of the biggest moments of the 2024 election.

"I'm very concerned that the net effect of the Republican convention will be neutralizing the core democracy critique of Trump — a felon who fomented a violent insurrection, tried to block the peaceful transfer of power, and said the Constitution may need to be terminated," Adam Green, co-founder of the

Progressive Change Campaign Committee, said Sunday. "There is a race to define the democracy critique of Trump as legitimate, and we all need to make clear now that protecting democracy is the exact opposite of political violence."

■ **There are expected to be protesters in Milwaukee.**

The convention, coming less than four months before Election Day, will take place in heavily Democratic Milwaukee, the largest city in a pivotal swing state Trump lost by less than 1 percentage point four years ago.

Even before the assassination attempt, major protests were expected, although movement will be severely restricted as part of enhanced security precautions established by the Secret Service.

Still, the risk of violent confrontation exists.

Security officials previously announced that people just outside the Secret Service perimeter would be allowed to carry guns openly or concealed as permitted by state law. Wisconsin statutes outlaw only machine guns, short-barreled shotguns and silencers.

NATION



ANNIE MULLIGAN/AP

Work continues on the roof of Gaido's restaurant in preparation for opening for diners for the first time since Hurricane Beryl landed on Galveston Island six days prior on Saturday.

Texas governor demands answers as customers remain without power

By JAMIE STENGLE
Associated Press

DALLAS — With around 270,000 homes and businesses still without power in the Houston area almost a week after Hurricane Beryl hit Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott on Sunday said he's demanding an investigation into the response of the utility that serves the area as well as answers about its preparations for upcoming storms.

"Power companies along the Gulf Coast must be prepared to deal with hurricanes, to state the obvious," Abbott said at his first news conference about Beryl since returning to the state from an economic development trip to Asia.

While CenterPoint Energy has restored power to about 2 million customers since the storm hit on July 8, the slow pace of recovery has put the utility, which provides electricity to the nation's fourth-largest city, under mounting scrutiny over whether it was sufficiently prepared for the storm that left people without air conditioning in the searing summer heat.

Abbott said he was sending a letter to the Public Utility Commission of Texas requiring it to investigate why restoration has taken so long and what must be done to fix it. In the Houston area, Beryl toppled transmission lines, uprooted trees and snapped branches that crashed into power lines.

With months of hurricane season left, Abbott said he's giving CenterPoint until the end of the month to specify what it'll be doing to reduce or eliminate power outages in the event of another storm. He said that will include the company providing detailed plans to remove vegetation that still threatens power lines.

Abbott also said that CenterPoint didn't have "an adequate number of workers pre-staged" before the storm hit.

Following Abbott's news conference, CenterPoint said its top priority was "power to the remaining impacted customers as safely and quickly as possible," adding that on Monday, the utility expects to have restored power to 90% of its customers. CenterPoint said it

was committed to working with state and local leaders and to doing a "thorough review of our response."

CenterPoint also said Sunday that it's been "investing for years" to strengthen the area's resilience to such storms.

The utility has defended its preparation for the storm and said that it has brought in about 12,000 additional workers from outside Houston. It has said it would have been unsafe to preposition those workers inside the predicted storm impact area before Beryl made landfall.

Brad Tutunjian, vice president for regulatory policy for CenterPoint Energy, said last week that the extensive damage to trees and power poles hampered the ability to restore power quickly.

A post Sunday on CenterPoint's website from its president and CEO, Jason Wells, said that over 2,100 utility poles were damaged during the storm and over 18,600 trees had to be removed from power lines, which impacted over 75% of the utility's distribution circuits.

Judge dismisses Trump classified documents case

By ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal judge presiding over the classified documents case against former President Donald Trump in Florida dismissed the prosecution on Monday, siding with defense lawyers who said the special counsel who filed the charges was illegally appointed by the Justice Department.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon, which can be appealed and may be overruled by a higher court, brings at least for now a stunning and abrupt conclusion to a criminal case that at the time it was filed was widely regarded as the most perilous of all the legal threats the Republican former president confronted.

Though the case had long been stalled, and the prospect of a trial before the November election already was an unrealistic scenario, the judge's order is a mammoth legal victory for Trump as he recovers from a weekend assassination attempt and prepares to accept the Republican nomination in Milwaukee this week.

In one of four criminal cases against Trump, he had faced dozens of felony counts accusing him of illegally hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Fla., and obstructing FBI efforts to get them back.

He had pleaded not guilty and denied wrongdoing.

Defense lawyers filed multiple challenges to the case, including a legally technical one that asserted that special counsel Jack Smith had been illegally appointed under the Constitution's Appointments Clause because he was appointed by Attorney General Merrick Garland, rather than being confirmed by Congress, and that

his office was improperly funded by the Justice Department.

"The Special Counsel's position effectively usurps that important legislative authority, transferring it to a Head of Department, and in the process threatening the structural liberty inherent in the separation of powers," Cannon wrote in a 93-page order granting a defense request to dismiss the case.

"If the political branches wish to grant the Attorney General power to appoint Special Counsel Smith to investigate and prosecute this action with the full powers of a United States Attorney, there is a valid means by which to do so," she added.

That mechanism is through congressional approval, she said.

The order is the latest example of Cannon, a Trump appointee, handling the case in ways that have benefited the ex-president.

She generated intense scrutiny during the FBI's investigation when she appointed an independent arbiter to inspect the classified documents recovered during the August 2022 search of Mar-a-Lago, a decision that was overturned months later by a unanimous federal appeals panel.

Since then, she has been slow to issue rulings — favoring Trump's strategy of securing delays — and has entertained defense arguments that experts said other judges would have dismissed without hearings. In May, she indefinitely canceled the trial date amid a series of unresolved legal issues.

Smith's team had vigorously contested the Appointments Clause argument during hearings before Cannon last month but Cannon remained unpersuaded, and she called the prosecution's claims "strained."

Menendez jury asks if unanimity required to acquit 'on a single count'

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A jury deliberating over 18 charges at the bribery trial of Sen. Bob Menendez in New York City asked the judge Monday if unanimity is required to acquit "on a single count."

The jurors sent the note after resuming discussions Monday in Manhattan federal court, following their first three hours of deliberations on Friday. The corruption trial for the New Jersey Dem-

ocrat is in its 10th week.

Their written note asked: "Does a not guilty verdict on a single count require unanimity?"

After consulting with lawyers in the case, Judge Sidney H. Stein responded: "Jury, your vote — whether guilty or not guilty — must be unanimous as to each count and to each defendant."

Menendez is charged in 16 of 18 counts in an indictment first returned last fall.

Menendez, 70, has denied charges that he engaged in a bribery scheme from 2018 to 2023 to benefit three New Jersey businessmen, including by serving as a foreign agent for the government of Egypt.

He and two businessmen who allegedly paid him bribes of gold and cash have pleaded not guilty.

As he left the courthouse on Friday, Menendez told reporters, "I have faith in God and in the jury."

Last week, lawyers spent more than 15 hours delivering closing arguments as they encouraged the jury to carefully review hundreds of exhibits and hours of testimony.

Prosecutors put a heavy emphasis in their closing arguments on nearly \$150,000 of gold bars and over \$480,000 in cash seized from the Menendez home during a 2022 FBI raid. They say the valuables were bribe proceeds, along with a Mercedes-Benz convertible found

in the couple's garage. They also insisted there were multiple ways in which Menendez seemed to serve as an agent of Egypt.

Lawyers for Menendez insisted the three-term senator never accepted bribes and actions he took to benefit the businessmen were the kinds of tasks expected of a public official.

Menendez announced weeks ago that he plans to run for reelection this year as an independent.

First Titanic trip in 14 years set in wake of Titan tragedy

By PATRICK WHITTLE
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — The company that owns the salvage rights to the Titanic is undertaking its first expedition to the ship's wreckage in years, and those involved in the mission said they have both heavy hearts and lofty goals for a trip happening a year after a submersible disaster involving another firm killed five people.

RMS Titanic Inc., a Georgia-based firm, holds the legal rights to salvage the wreck of the ship, which sank in the North Atlantic Ocean in 1912. The company's first expedition to the site since 2010 launched Friday from Providence, R.I.

The voyage arrives as the worldwide community of under-sea explorers is still reeling from the deadly implosion of an experimental submersible en route to the Titanic in June 2023. The Titan

submersible disaster killed all five people on board, including Paul-Henri Nargeolet, who was director of underwater research for RMS Titanic.

This summer's mission "means even more with the passing" of Nargeolet, known as "Mr. Titanic" by many, RMST Inc. president Jessica Sanders said.

The expedition will use modern imaging technology and remotely operated vehicles to capture detailed images of the Titanic, the wreckage site and the debris field, RMST Inc. representatives said.

"This monumental undertaking will allow us to document the Titanic in unprecedented detail and share new discoveries from the wreck site with the public, continuing the extraordinary work and passion of PH," Sanders said.

The ship headed to the site, the *Dino Chouest*, will take several days to reach the site and is slated to return around Aug. 13, said Jon

Hammond, a spokesperson for RMST Inc.

The work will allow the company to provide a comprehensive analysis of the current condition of the Titanic wreckage site and a detailed assessment of artifacts that can be safely targeted for future recovery, RMST Inc. representatives said.

Nargeolet made more than 35 dives to the Titanic in his lifetime. The implosion also killed Titan operator Stockton Rush; two members of a prominent Pakistani family, Shahzada Dawood and his 19-year-old son Suleman Dawood; and British adventurer Hamish Harding.

OceanGate, a company co-founded by Rush that owned the submersible, suspended operations a year ago. The U.S. Coast Guard convened a high-level investigation into what happened, but it has taken longer than expected and it's unclear when the



PAUL DALY, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Debris from the Titan submersible, recovered near the wreck of the Titanic, is unloaded from the ship *Horizon Arctic* at the Canadian Coast Guard pier in St. John's, Newfoundland, on June 28, 2023.

investigation will conclude.

This month's journey to the Titanic also will allow comparison to 2010 imaging, RMST Inc. representatives said. The mission also may result in discovery of new areas of the debris field, previously unknown marine life and new areas of deterioration that could provide unobstructed access to the interior of the ship, the company stated on its website.

The vessel making the trip is equipped with two remotely operated vehicles that will be used to capture the first end-to-end mapping image of the wreck field and debris site, RMST Inc. said.

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NATION

DNA leads man orphaned in Holocaust to family

Most of survivor's relatives were killed by Nazis in Poland

Associated Press

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. — Shalom Korai never knew his real name or his birthday. He was saved from the streets of a burning Warsaw neighborhood while he was a toddler during World War II, when the rest of his family was killed by Nazis in Poland.

He grew up and lived in Israel with no idea of his past. He never knew a hug from someone who shared his blood or his DNA — until Wednesday, when Korai walked off an airplane in South Carolina and into the arms of Ann Meddin Hellman. Her grandfather was the brother of Korai's grandfather, making them second cousins.

It's a story that would have been impossible without modern DNA science and without a genetic test that Korai was given by a psychologist who studies children orphaned in the Holocaust.

Hellman's ancestors came to the U.S. while Korai's family stayed behind in Poland to run a family business. They would decades later be among the 6 million Jewish men, women and children systematically killed by the Ger-

mans in World War II.

"I feel like I've given somebody a new life. He's become my child. I have to protect him and take care of him," Hellman said, although she is a few years younger than Korai, who is about 83.

She beamed and gave Korai another hug as they waited for his luggage so they could start several days of parties with dozens of other relatives at Hellman's Charleston home.

Korai, who speaks mostly Hebrew, couldn't stop smiling, even if he didn't quite understand the hubbub of camera crews and Southern hospitality swirling around him. He and Hellman spoke often since the DNA breakthrough, first in letters and later on video calls several times a week. As Hellman waited at the end of the jetway, she nervously spoke to her brother and sister. "I can't wait to get my arms around him," she said.

What is known of Korai's story started with him alone. He was on a street in a burning Jewish ghetto in Warsaw in 1943 when a policeman scooped him up and took him to a convent. Nuns baptized him

and started to raise him as a gentile with several other orphaned children.

Lena Küchler-Silberman, a Jewish woman who was part of the resistance against the Nazis, heard of the children. She saved around 100 Jewish children, sometimes taking them in as she found them abandoned or alone or sometimes negotiating or paying to take them out of non-Jewish orphanages.

Korai was taken to a Jewish boarding school in Poland, then to France and eventually to Israel in 1949. He spent 35 years working on semi-trucks. Korai had three children and eight grandchildren. And he put out of his mind that he would never know his actual birthday, the name given to him at birth, how his father and mother met or what his grandfathers did for a living.

"You can't start searching for something you know nothing about," Korai said in Hebrew to the website for MyHeritage, the company whose DNA testing helped find his relatives.

MyHeritage offered Korai and other Holocaust orphans DNA



JEFFREY COLLINS/AP

Shalom Korai poses for a picture with his extended family after he met them in person on July 10 in North Charleston, S.C.

testing in the summer of 2023. A few months later Hellman got a ping from a DNA sample she had given during her extensive research of her family tree. It was an unknown second cousin.

The name and other information was unfamiliar. On a hunch, she asked another cousin to test her DNA. It matched too. Hellman reached out to MyHeritage and requested a photo and other information. She remembers gasping when she saw Korai. He looked just like her brother.

"The picture gave it away,"

Hellman said.

The connection instantly fell into place. Hellman knew a branch of her family connected to her great uncle was killed during the Holocaust. Now she knew there was a survivor.

Hellman wasn't looking for anyone in particular when she took her DNA test, but sometimes wonderful surprises happen, said Daniel Horowitz, an expert genealogist at MyHeritage.

"All this family that he was always praying for came to him just like that," Horowitz said.



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WORLD

Hamas: Gaza cease-fire talks haven't paused

Leaders claim military commander survived weekend Israeli airstrike

Associated Press

MUWASI, Gaza Strip — Hamas said Sunday that Gaza cease-fire talks were ongoing and the group's military commander was in good health, a day after the Israeli military targeted Mohammed Deif with a massive airstrike that local health officials said killed at least 90 people, including children.

Deif's condition was still unclear after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Saturday night "there still isn't absolute certainty" he was killed. Army chief Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi told journalists Israel attacked a compound where Deif "was hiding" but added: "It's still too early to summarize the results of the attack, which Hamas is trying to hide."

Hamas representatives gave no evidence to back up their assertion about the health of a chief architect of the Oct. 7 attack that sparked the war. His killing would mark the highest profile assassination of any Hamas leader by Israel since the war began.

Deif has long topped Israel's most-wanted list and has been in hiding for years.

The Israeli military said Rafa Salama, a Hamas commander it described as one of Deif's closest associates, was killed in Saturday's strike. Salama commanded Hamas' Khan Younis brigade. Netanyahu said all of Hamas' leaders are "marked for death" and asserted that killing them would move Hamas closer to accepting a cease-fire deal.

Hamas rejected the idea that mediated cease-fire discussions had been suspended. Spokesperson Jihad Taha said "there is no doubt that the horrific massacres will impact any efforts in the negotiations" but added that "efforts and endeavors of the mediators remain ongoing."

Hamas political officials also insisted that communication channels remained functional between the leadership inside and outside Gaza after the strike in the territory's south. Witnesses said it occurred in an area that Israel had designated as safe for hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians. Israel's military would not

confirm that.

On Sunday, some survivors were angry that the attack targeting Deif occurred without warning in an area they were told was safe.

"I heard the first hit, and my son came screaming, 'Daddy, daddy,' and took cover with me," said Mahmoud Abu Yaseen, who clutched his children but then woke up in the hospital to find his son had died. The family had already been displaced five times since the war began. "Where do we go?" he asked.

A United Nations official described utter chaos at Nasser hospital where victims were taken, many treated on bloodstained floors with few supplies available.

"I witnessed some of the most horrific scenes I have seen in my nine months in Gaza," Scott Anderson said in a statement. "I saw toddlers who are double amputees, children paralyzed and unable to receive treatment and others separated from their parents." He said restrictions on humanitarian aid to Gaza hamper efforts to provide needed medical and other care.

On Sunday, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant praised the pilots who carried out the strike and said Hamas is being eroded every day, with no ability to arm itself, organize or "care for the wounded."

At least 300 people were wounded in the strike, one of the deadliest in the nine-month war sparked by Hamas' Oct. 7 assault on southern Israel that killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took more than 200 hostages.

More than 38,400 people in Gaza have been killed in Israeli ground offensives and bombardments since then, according to the territory's Health Ministry. The ministry does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count.

On Sunday, an Israeli strike in Nuseirat in central Gaza killed at least 14 people at the gate of a school used as a shelter for displaced people, according to an Associated Press journalist who visited two hospitals.

Children were among the 15 others wounded.



MICHAEL PROBST/AP

Empty rails are pictured outside the central train station in Frankfurt, Germany, on Jan. 9. The 43-mile railway stretch between Frankfurt and Mannheim will be closed for five months as the country launches an effort to get its notoriously disruption-prone network into shape.

Germany shuts busy rail route for months to improve reliability

Associated Press

BERLIN — One of the busiest railway lines in Germany, the 45-mile stretch between Frankfurt and Mannheim, closed on Monday for five months as the country launches an effort to get its notoriously disruption-prone network into shape.

State-owned railway operator Deutsche Bahn is closing the route until Dec. 14 and plans a full overhaul of the tracks, stations and other infrastructure. More than 300 trains per day use the stretch, part of a main north-south route that connects Hamburg and Cologne with Stuttgart and Basel, Switzerland, and often pick up de-

lays that have knock-on effects elsewhere on the network.

During the closure, all regional trains on the route will be replaced by buses, while long-distance services will be diverted via slower routes.

The \$1.4 billion overhaul is supposed to kick off a broader program to modernize 40 stretches of railway by 2030 and improve the reliability of a network that often fails to impress. Over the past month, it frustrated soccer fans at the German-hosted European Championship, which ended Sunday.

On Friday, Deutsche Bahn said its punctuality during the tourna-

ment was "mixed," adding that it got "the maximum out of the railway system, but the possibilities were limited by outdated and overloaded infrastructure."

Transport Minister Volker Wissing said that starting the overhaul program before the soccer tournament would have meant even more disruption.

"I took over dilapidated railway infrastructure in which not enough was invested by my predecessors for decades," Wissing, who became transport minister at the end of 2021, told Deutschlandfunk radio Monday. "We are going to invest enormous sums, historic sums in the railway."

Trader Joe's seasoning illegal in S. Korea

The Washington Post

SEOUL — In the United States, Everything but the Bagel seasoning is a favorite from Trader Joe's, known for the savory goodness it adds to foods from salmon to waffles. But in South Korea, the trendy topping is generating a different kind of buzz as fans realize it's actually contraband.

South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety has the bagel seasoning on its list of "hazardous foods purchased overseas" — and in recent weeks, some South Koreans who have had it confiscated at the airport have warned other Trader Joe's aficionados about the consequences of bringing it in.

South Korean law classifies poppy seeds — an ingredient in the seasoning — as a narcotic, meaning possession is punishable by up to five years in prison or a fine of about \$36,000.

While punishment is rare, it seems those coming to the country will have to bring anything but Ev-

erything but the Bagel.

Kang Joo-eun, 31, read about the ban on social media the night before she returned to South Korea from her honeymoon in New York. She was planning to bring the seasoning but she eventually decided against it.

To her surprise, after she landed in South Korea, Kang was pulled aside for inspection. "Agents walked around showing people a picture of Everything but the Bagel seasoning and took away the jars," she said. It turned out she had forgotten to discard nuts that were coated with the same seasoning.

Kang was asked to fill out a customs form declaring that she brought a narcotic item into the country.

"It was all around an unpleasant experience," she said.

Until now, the law in South Korea was little known, despite the authorities adding Everything but the Bagel seasoning to a list of re-

stricted foods in 2022. On social media, South Koreans recommend it as a gift from the United States. A local e-commerce platform appeared to sell Everything but the Bagel products online and at least one bagel shop in Seoul has the seasoning on display near its cash register. All of this is the result of the soaring popularity of Trader Joe's in a region where people carry the chain's totes as a fashion statement.

In this context, a crackdown on a bagel topping might sound absurd — but it reflects the broader mixed messaging around poppy seeds.

Even in the United States, where you can eat all the poppy-seed muffins you please, the seeds have sown confusion. Last year, the Department of Defense issued a warning to military personnel that eating poppy seeds can produce a positive drug test — despite military dining halls previously serving poppy-seed dressing.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Plea deal for man in assaults of girlfriend

MN ST. PAUL — A man who was accused of holding his girlfriend captive in her dorm room at a Minnesota college for three days while raping, beating and waterboarding her has reached a plea deal that calls for a sentence of up to 7 1/2 years.

Keanu Avery Labatte, 20, of Granite Falls, pleaded guilty to an amended charge of second-degree criminal sexual conduct. He admitted to choking and sexually assaulting the woman in her room at St. Catherine University in September. In return, prosecutors agreed to dismiss four other charges, the St. Paul Pioneer Press reported.

His attorney, Thomas Beito, said Labatte admitted to choking her during the assault. “He did not admit to the other kind of salacious details that were involved here, such as waterboarding, or holding her hostage or kidnapping,” Beito said. “We deny that any of that happened.”

Beito said he will ask Judge Kellie Charles for probation, “due to his age, due to the fact that he doesn’t have any prior significant criminal history.”

Disturbance investigated after 6 inmates injured

SD SPRINGFIELD— South Dakota corrections officials said they are investigating a pair of incidents at the state prison in Springfield that left six inmates injured.

Department of Corrections spokesman Michael Winder said in a statement that fighting began at the Mike Durfee State Prison, followed by another incident the next morning. The six inmates suffered non-life-threatening injuries, he said.

Winder also said some prison staff suffered minor injuries while restoring order, but there were no assaults on personnel or damage to property. He said any evidence of criminal activity would be forwarded to the Division of Criminal Investigation.

Hacking charge cut for model accused in killing

FL MIAMI— South Florida prosecutors dropped the computer hacking charge against an OnlyFans model accused of fatally stabbing her boyfriend in a Miami condo in 2022.

The charge against Courtney Clenney, 29, was dropped after a circuit judge ruled last month that the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office violated attorney-client privilege in January when investigators confiscated text messages and emails between Clenney, her parents and her attorneys, according to court records. Clenney’s parents had also been charged with hacking, and their charges were also dropped.

Clenney still faces a second-de-



SUE OGROCKI/AP

Steady sand sculpting

Professional sand sculptor Carl Jara, of Lyndhurst, Ohio, works on a sculpture at Mentor Headlands state park in Mentor, Ohio.

gree murder charge. Jail records showed she’s been held without bond since August 2022.

Defense attorney Jude Faccidomo, who represents the Clenneys in the hacking case, said the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office should recuse itself from the murder case because prosecutors obtained communications about defense strategy, which they weren’t legally allowed to see.

Fire commissioner will resign after sub found

NY NEW YORK — The first female commissioner of the Fire Department of New York said she plans to step down because it’s time to “pass the torch” after two years in the job.

Laura Kavanaugh didn’t say when she plans to resign. But she said in a statement that she plans to spend the next several months helping with the transition in leadership.

“While the decision I have made over the last month has been a hard one, I’m confident that it is time for me to pass the torch to the next leader of the finest Fire Department in the world,” she wrote.

Her appointment by Mayor Eric Adams in October 2022 was seen at the time as progress for the department, which was seeking to diversify its leadership.

As commissioner, she oversees

a department of 17,000, including firefighters and emergency medical workers.

States ask high court to review trans athletes rule

WV CHARLESTON — West Virginia and Idaho are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review rulings that blocked the enforcement of state laws prohibiting transgender athletes from competing in sports.

“If the Supreme Court takes this up, it will determine the fate of women’s sports across the entire country for many years to come,” West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey said at a briefing with reporters at the state Capitol in Charleston.

It’s unclear when the high court would decide whether to take up the cases, which were filed separately and involve transgender athletes who hoped to compete on female-designated teams at the K-12 and college level.

bill, 32-17, and sent it to Gov. Josh Shapiro.

Under the bill, the approximately 12,000 restaurants, bars, beer distributors, grocery stores and convenience stores that are already licensed to sell alcohol can get a special permit to sell the canned drinks. Under current law, only the state-owned wine and liquor stores are allowed to sell the canned drinks.

The bill restricts the sale of the drinks to before 11 p.m. and to drinks that have a lower alcohol content than 12.5%.

Abortion backers sue to remove certain language

AZ PHOENIX — Backers of a November abortion rights ballot initiative have sued a GOP-led legislative committee that seeks to include proposed language for the voter pamphlet referring to a fetus as an “unborn human being.”

Arizona for Abortion Access filed a lawsuit in Maricopa County Superior Court asking that a judge refuse to allow the language favored by a Republican-dominated legislative group for the initiative summary. The summary will appear on a pamphlet voters can use to decide how to cast their ballots.

The Arizona abortion rights group said the pamphlet summary should simply use the word “fe-

tus,” and argues that “unborn human being” is a politically charged phrase aimed at provoking opposition to the measure.

Bidder tries again with new offshore wind plan

NJ ATLANTIC CITY — A partnership that proposed an offshore wind farm in New Jersey last year but was not selected by state utility regulators to move forward with it is trying again.

Community Offshore Wind said it had submitted a bid to build a wind farm off the state’s southern coast. It would generate 1.3 gigawatts of electricity, or enough to power 500,000 homes.

Its project would be located 37 miles off Barnegat Light on Long Beach Island.

The companies involved did not say how many wind turbines would be included.

The project is a partnership between Essen, Germany-based RWE and New York-based National Grid. They previously applied to build a project in roughly the same area, but were not chosen by the state Board of Public Utilities to proceed with it.

The companies would not say how, if at all, this bid differs from the one it submitted last year.

FACES

Eva Longoria and ‘Land of Women’

Actress masters Castilian Spanish, works with Carmen Maura for Apple TV+ series

By **LESLIE AMBRIZ**
Associated Press

Eva Longoria is not one to shy away from a challenge. Charting her return to television, Longoria decided it was time to do something new: tackle a dual English-Spanish role.

“If I’m going to return to TV, I want it to be different, and I want to be challenged, and I want people to see me in a different way,” Longoria said about why she wanted to star in the Apple TV+ series “Land of Women.”

Longoria’s first bilingual television part included another challenge: interchangeably acting in English and Castilian Spanish, a dialect spoken in northern and central Spain.

“I was like, ‘I’ve never acted in Spanish. I’d like to do that,’” said Longoria. “If I’m going to go back on TV, I want it to be with something special, and so it was worth all the effort of learning Castilian Spanish.”

The Mexican American actor said she didn’t grow up speaking Spanish but is familiar with Mexican Spanish thanks to her husband and the time they’ve spent living in Mexico City. Taking on Castilian Spanish was another challenge for the actor.

“I was just like my brain hurt at

the end of the days. But it was a joy. I love exploring new characters through language or through accents,” she said.

“Land of Women” is based on Sandra Barneda’s novel “La Tierra de las Mujeres.” The television dramedy follows Longoria as Gala, an upper-class New York socialite whose entire world is turned upside down when her husband fails to repay his debt to a group of sleazy characters. To protect her mother and only daughter, Gala whisks them away on a trip to her mother’s Spanish hometown.

“Land of Women” marks her return to the television screen as a comedic series lead since her breakthrough role as Gabrielle Solis on “Desperate Housewives.”

It was on that set that Longoria told a director about her desire to direct. “I was like, ‘I think I’m going to direct.’ And he goes, ‘You’d be good at it.’”

That affirmation gave Longoria the confidence to pursue the craft and grow her skills.

“What gave me confidence was doing. You only learn by doing,” said the multihyphenate creative and businesswoman. “I’ve been directing for the past 12 years. I never stopped.”

She recently took her feature directorial debut, “Flamin’ Hot,” to the Oscars, where it was nominated for best original song with



VIANNEY LE CAER, INVISION/AP

With “Land of Women,” Eva Longoria returns to TV in a comedic series lead for the first time since “Desperate Housewives.”

songwriter Diane Warren and recording artist Becky G.

In addition to “Land of Women,” Longoria will be back on TV screens with a recurring role in the upcoming season of Hulu’s “Only Murders in the Building.”

Before embarking on “Land of Women,” Longoria knew she wanted her next project set in Spain, but she wasn’t expecting to share the screen with Spanish icon Carmen Maura.

“I was so excited when they told me Carmen Maura was going to be my mother. I was like, ‘Wahh!’ Because she’s such a legend,” Longoria said. She also said she was nervous about embarking on the challenge of acting in Spanish and doing comedy in the Spanish dialect opposite Maura.

“It was all very stressful. But then I met her,” said Longoria. “She was amazing. And she helped me along. And she is just a delight and obviously super talented. But in this character of Julia, she’s spectacular.”

The series, which also features newcomer Victoria Bazua, is now streaming on Apple TV+.

‘Despicable Me 4,’ ‘Longlegs’ have strong showings

Associated Press

Gru and the minions celebrated a second week in first place at the North American box office this weekend, while a small horror movie called “Longlegs” upset the starry \$100 million “Fly Me to the Moon.”

The supremacy of “Despicable Me 4” was hardly a surprise, as the Universal and Illumination franchise added \$44.7 million and pushed the film over \$200 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. But the big upset came further down the charts with “Longlegs” more than doubling the debut of the Scarlett Johansson and Channing Tatum romantic comedy “Fly Me to the Moon.”

“Longlegs,” an original horror about a serial killer starring Maika Monroe and Nicolas Cage, made an estimated \$22.6 million. That’s the best-ever start for indie outfit Neon (who released the Oscar-winning “Parasite”), which acquired the \$10 million film for distribution. Written and directed by Osgood Perkins, “Longlegs” also scored the best opening for an R-rated film this year.

“Fly Me to the Moon,” an Apple Original Films production, launched with only \$10 million over the weekend. It trailed holdovers “Inside Out 2,” in third with \$20.8 million; and “A Quiet Place: Day One,” in fourth place with \$11.8 million.

“Fly Me to the Moon” is about a marketing executive brought in to sell the space race to the American public, and, later, stage a fake moon landing just in case. Apple has not yet announced when it will debut on its streaming service.

Fitness guru Richard Simmons, ‘90210’ actress Doherty die

Associated Press

Richard Simmons, television’s hyperactive court jester of physical fitness who built a mini-empire in his trademark tank tops and short shorts by urging the overweight to exercise and eat better, died July 13. He turned 76 on July 12.

Simmons died at his home in Los Angeles, his publicist Tom Estey said.

Simmons, who had revealed a skin cancer diagnosis in March 2024, had lately dropped out of sight, sparking speculation about his health and well-being.

Simmons was a former 268-pound teen who became a master of many media forms, sharing his hard-won weight-loss tips as host of the Emmy-winning daytime “Richard Simmons Show” and author of best-selling books and the diet plan Deal-A-Meal. He also opened exercise studios and starred exercise videos, including the wildly successful “Sweatin’ to the Oldies” line, which became a cultural phenomenon.



Simmons in 2013

“My food plan and diet are just two words — common sense. With a dash of good humor,” he told The Associated Press in 1982. “I want to help people and make the world a healthier, happy place.”

Simmons embraced mass communication to get his message out, even as he eventually became the butt of jokes for his outfits and flamboyant flair.

Simmons’ daytime show was seen on 200 stations in America, as well as in Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Japan and South America. His first book, “Never Say Diet,” was a smash best-seller.

Throughout his career, Simmons was a reliable critic of fad diets, always emphasizing healthy eating and exercise plans. “There’ll always be some weird thing about eating four grapes before you go to bed, or drinking a special tea, or buying this little bean from El Salvador,” he told the AP in 2005 as the Atkins diet craze swept the country.

“If you watch your portions and you have a good attitude and you work out every day you’ll live longer, feel better and look terrific.”

‘90210’ star Doherty dies at 53

Shannen Doherty, the “Beverly Hills, 90210” star whose life and career were roiled by illness and tabloid stories, has died at 53.

After years with breast cancer, Doherty died July 13, according to a statement from her publicist, Leslie Sloane.

Her illness was publicly revealed in a lawsuit filed in 2015 against her former business managers, in which she alleged they mismanaged her money and allowed her health insurance to lapse. She later shared intimate details of her treatment following a single mastectomy.

In February 2020, Doherty revealed that the cancer had returned and was at Stage 4.

A native of Memphis, Tenn., Doherty moved to Los Angeles with her family at age 7 and, within a few years, became an actor.

As a child star, she worked steadily in such TV series as “Little House on the Prairie,” in which she played Jenny Wilder. She



Doherty in 2010

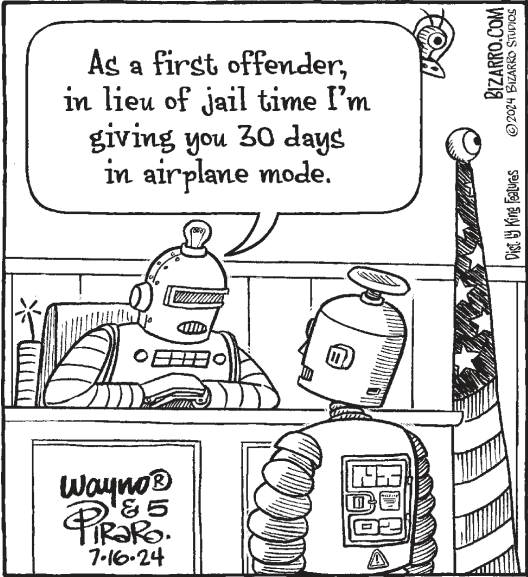
detoured as a teenager to the big screen in “Girls Just Want to Have Fun” (1985) and “Heathers.”

In 1990, the doe-eyed, dark-haired actor won her breakout role as Brenda Walsh in producer Aaron Spelling’s hit teenage melodrama set in posh Beverly Hills. She and Jason Priestley’s Brandon, Brenda’s twin brother, were fish-out-of-water Midwesterners.

But Doherty’s fame came with media scrutiny and accounts of outbursts, drinking and impulsiveness — the latter most notably after a very brief marriage to actor George Hamilton’s son, Ashley. Doherty’s second marriage, in 2002, was to Rick Salomon and was annulled within a year. In 2011, Doherty married photographer Kurt Iswarienko. She filed for divorce in April 2023.

She left “Beverly Hills, 90210” at the end of its fourth season in 1994 (the show aired until 2000), reportedly removed by Spelling because of conflicts with her co-stars and chronic lateness. Doherty reunited with Spelling when he cast her in 1998 as Prue Halliwell in “Charmed.”

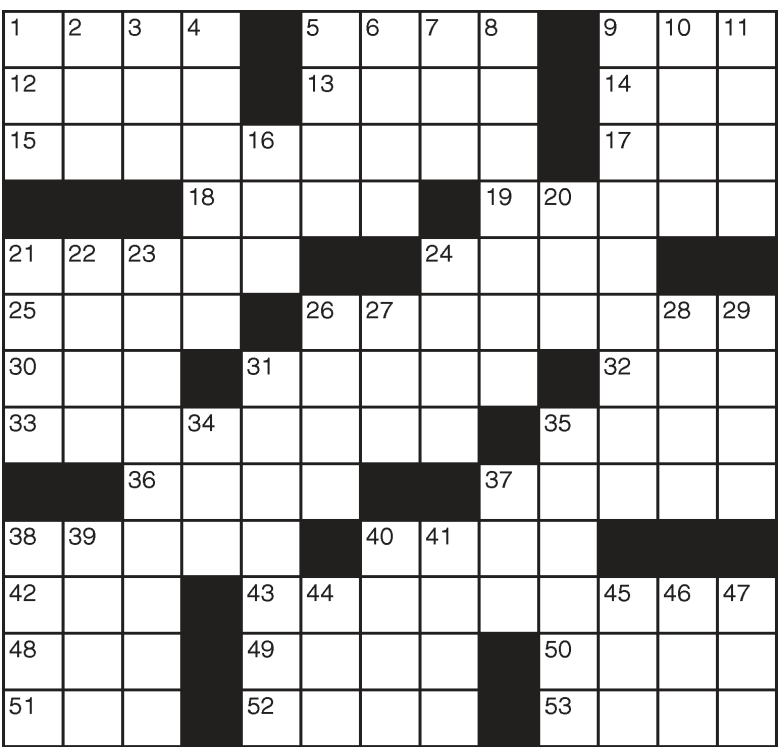
Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Military force
- 5 Weeps
- 9 Wager
- 12 Corporate symbol
- 13 Tea carrier
- 14 "Feels so good!"
- 15 Backyard attractions
- 17 Code-breaking gp.
- 18 Eternities
- 19 Memento
- 21 Cellist Casals
- 24 Belgrade resident
- 25 Historic times
- 26 Cinema fan
- 30 Scepter
- 31 Jeans brand
- 32 Keats creation
- 33 Impartial
- 35 Leave out
- 36 X-ray doses
- 37 Caravan stops
- 38 Very small
- 40 In pain
- 42 — premium
- 43 Spare tire?
- 48 Pen filler
- 49 Hybrid fruit
- 50 "Zounds!"
- 51 Vegas opener?

- 52 Pantheon members
- 53 Really pesters

DOWN

- 1 Cleric's garment
- 2 King, in Cannes
- 3 Store boss (Abbr.)
- 4 Alpine songs
- 5 Getz of jazz
- 6 Scraps fabric
- 7 "Humbug!"
- 8 Methods
- 9 Depositor's records
- 10 Lighten
- 11 Compared to
- 16 Scary cry
- 20 URL ending
- 21 Andean land
- 22 "East of Eden" son
- 23 Misfortunes
- 24 Lost traction
- 26 Own (up)
- 27 — had it!"
- 28 Actress Falco
- 29 Workout count
- 31 Colorful beetle
- 34 Author Fleming
- 35 Lustrous
- 37 Sphere
- 38 Follow
- 39 Sicilian peak
- 40 Maintained
- 41 "Topaz" author
- 44 Conceit
- 45 NYC airport
- 46 Trail the pack
- 47 Gridiron stats

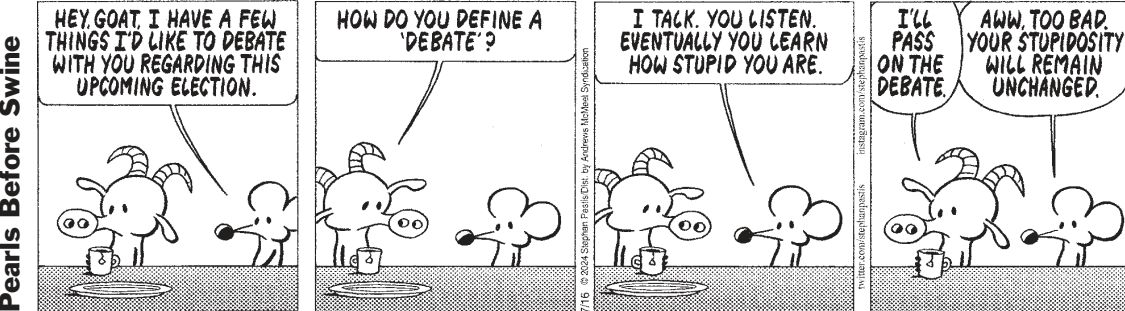
Answer to Previous Puzzle



Frazz



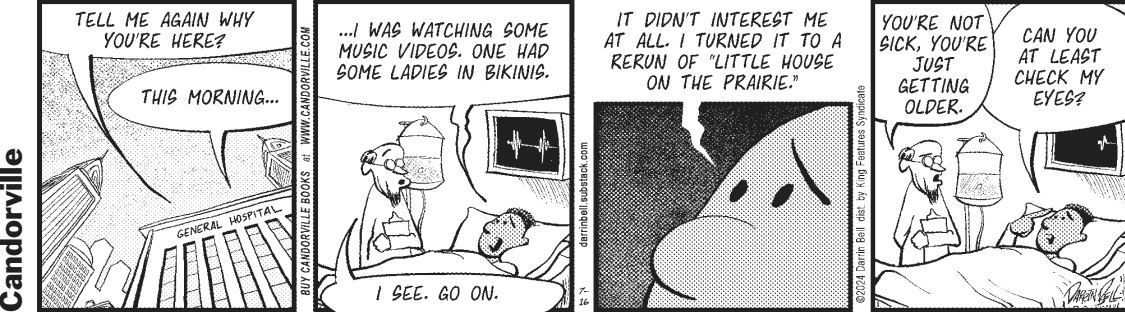
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



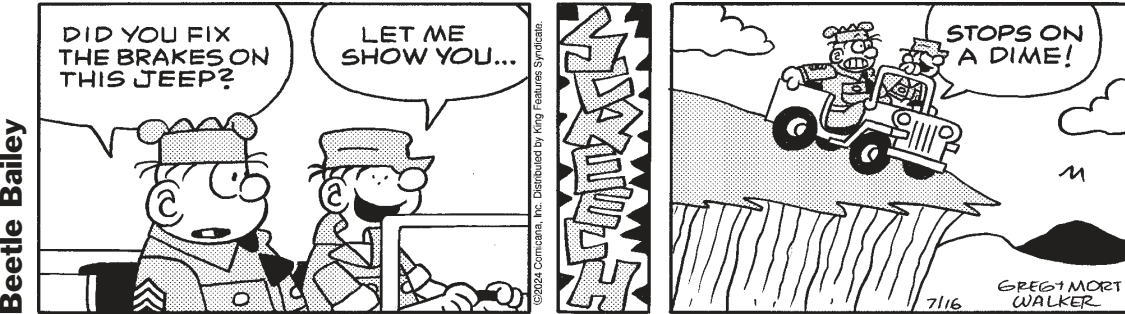
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

WTOLXR XSLIO IKVP WFSW
FSU S PZD PSKK OHZWWZLD
ZLXZDQ-IQKQTOX KZDFW
POSHU: PKVO-TSR XZUIQ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE EGGS SHOULDN'T TRADE MANY HILARIOUS JOKES, OR THEY JUST MIGHT CRACK EACH OTHER UP.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals H



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 Lt. Col. Katie R. Fidler, Europe commander
 John Rodriguez, Europe chief of staff
 Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Pacific commander

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published week-days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA, Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located. The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

OPINION

Assassination attempt has ripple effects on election

BY KAREN TUMULTY
The Washington Post

MILWAUKEE
 Given the lack of restraint that permeates political discourse these days, there might normally have been little attention paid to the words that President Joe Biden spoke last week on a private call with donors: “We’re done talking about the debate. It’s time to put Trump in a bull’s eye.” But the figurative became literal Saturday night in Butler, Pa. A would-be assassin’s bullet made a bloody mess of Donald Trump’s right ear — and, but for the grace of a fraction of an inch, it could have done worse. One rallygoer was left dead and two were critically injured. The 20-year-old shooter was killed by the Secret Service.

Instantly, the presidential contest was upended. The president’s struggling campaign had to put on hold the sharp shift it had been planning, including a massive negative ad buy for Trump’s coronation that begins here this week. It quickly scrambled to take down all of its advertising, and the president postponed a Monday trip to Austin, Texas, where he was to headline an event at the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library marking the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. Meanwhile, Republicans quickly seized their opening to reverse-engineer Biden’s central argument against Trump, which is that the former president and his far-right supporters are a menace to “the very soul of this country.” Trump’s allies rushed to the bulwarks to declare that Democrats have been ginning up violence with their rhetoric claiming Trump is a dictator-in-waiting who must be stopped at any cost.

For Biden, this is an especially paradoxical situation, given that he ran for president on a premise that he could lower the temperature of politics. He launched his successful 2020 campaign to unseat Trump with a video showing the infamous march in Charlottesville, Va. “In that moment, I knew the threat to this nation was unlike any I had ever seen in my lifetime,” Biden said in that video. Now, the media has been blanketed with the instantly iconic photos of a wounded Trump, fist raised as he is evacuated from the rally stage with an American flag fluttering against the bright blue sky behind him. Chris LaCivita, a senior Trump adviser, shared the photo on social media, adding: “Now this is some real Iwo Jima s--- right here.” This imagery will no doubt play heavily in the Republican National Convention that begins here Monday. And it harmonizes with the former president’s portrayal of himself as victimized by a “weaponized” government. After his federal indictment last summer, Trump declared at a rally: “In the end, they’re not coming after me. They’re coming after you — and I’m just standing in their way.” History suggests Trump will get a boost in the public’s regard, at least temporarily. Ronald Reagan’s popularity, which had been flagging before the attempt on his life in March 1981, shot up 11 percentage points in the days afterward. “While it is common for a president’s popularity rating to increase at a time of national crisis, the rise for Reagan appears as sharp as any yet recorded,” The Washington Post wrote at the time. Meanwhile, there could hardly be a worse moment for Biden to be compelled to redraw his strategy against Trump.

After last month’s calamitous debate performance, which deepened concerns about Biden’s frailty and advanced age, his own presidential nomination is in jeopardy from Democrats who believe he is leading the entire party to disaster in November. All indications suggest Biden has a narrowing path to reelection. A poor performance at the top of the ticket could also jeopardize the party’s chances of holding on to its Senate majority and regaining control of the House — potentially setting up a situation in which a Trump restoration puts his party in control of all the levers of power in Washington. Beyond the 2024 calculations that are taking place within both parties underlies a worrisome trend in today’s political environment. A significant and growing number of people believe that violence is justified if it achieves their political ends. In April, an NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll found that 1 in 5 U.S. adults agreed with the statement, “Americans may have to resort to violence in order to get the country back on track.” Other surveys show much the same. We saw that ends-justify-the-means sentiment play out with the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters seeking to overturn the results of the election that turned him out of office. There is much to be learned in the coming days about what, exactly, put a young man with an assault rifle on a rooftop within range of a presidential candidate. But in some sense, none of that may matter. Politics doesn’t wait for facts when narratives are already set.

Karen Tumulty is a Washington Post associate editor and columnist covering national politics.

The logic in Sweden paying grandparents to babysit

BY TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg Opinion

At first glance, the policy sounds absurd, especially to many Americans: In Sweden, grandparents are now eligible for government subsidies to babysit their grandchildren. As a proud grandparent myself, I would be willing to pay to babysit my grandkids. (I don’t have to, but I would.) It would feel wrong to accept government money for my services. And even in the Swedish context, the program seems excessive. The country has long had first-rate and well-subsidized child care facilities, which is another reason not to pay grandparents anything, and Sweden already has high levels of government spending and taxation. Is this additional benefit — and expenditure — really what it needs? But sometimes even apparently foolish ideas have compelling rationales — so compelling, in fact, that you begin to rethink whether they’re foolish at all. These are often the cases that require the hardest thinking. If you look at Sweden’s policy closely, it adheres pretty well to some basic economic principles: namely, the notion of Pareto improvements, which benefit all parties involved. Start with the fact that Swedish parents currently receive extensive paid leave upon the birth of a child, and so it can be said they are already paid to look after their children. Whether or not you agree with that policy, it is long-standing and well-established. Take it as a given. Now imagine that you are an ambitious

Swedish doctor or lawyer, climbing the career ladder, and are self-aware enough to realize you do not always have entirely the right degree of natural patience necessary for parenting. In that case, you might prefer to go back to work following the birth of your child. Under the status quo ex ante, you could not work and draw your normal salary and still get the full child care benefit, even though some child benefits are paid automatically. There is thus a potential inefficiency in the system. You may stay at home just to get the money, even when an alternate arrangement might be better for everyone. Now add grandparents to this equation. If the grandparents can be paid to take care of your child, all of a sudden the extended family as a whole doesn’t lose the money by having the parent go back to work. Instead, that money is transferred to the grandparents, so the work disincentive is diminished. And economists will tell you that the parents and grandparents can do their own settling up. If the grandparents are well-to-do, for instance, and eager to spend time with their grandkids, they might funnel some of that money back to the parents or the child, either directly or indirectly. In some cases, on net, the grandparents may not end up getting paid anything at all. In essence, you can think of this policy as a model designed to maximize gains from trade. One side effect is that, to the extent the parent who returns to work is a high earner, government tax revenue will increase. That will

help pay for the policy, partially if not entirely. The logic for this policy may hold all the more for single parents. In that case, the costs of giving up work may be even higher, since on a single income climbing the career ladder and investing in future earnings will be all the more important. Enlisting aid from grandparents may also be more necessary, given the higher burdens on a single caregiver. A defender of the policy would cite these accommodative benefits, whereas a critic might allege they encourage single parenthood too much. More broadly, fiscal conservatives might point out that the policy still costs some money upfront, while social conservatives might argue that it commodifies family relationships. The policy’s supporters, on the other hand, might note that it can help some people get back to work and also make the grandparents happier. The children might benefit too. As for myself, I am still unsure whether this new policy is a good idea, though it has stronger virtues and benefits than I first thought. But I am all the more certain of one final lesson: Framing is everything. The very same policy, described in different terms, can sound eminently reasonable or badly out of whack. Keep that in mind next time you are tempted to render a quick verdict on someone else’s idea.

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, a professor of economics at George Mason University and host of the Marginal Revolution blog. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

SCOREBOARD/OLYMPICS

DEALS

Sunday’s transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball American League

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Designated RHP Nick Anderson for assignment. Activated RHP Hunter Harvey.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Designated RHP Caleb Boushley for assignment. Placed SS Jose Miranda on the 10-day IL, retroactive to July 11. Selected the contract of SS Diego A. Castillo from St. Paul (IL).

NEW YORK YANKEES — Optioned INF Jorbit Vivas to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Sent RHPs Ross Stripling and Paul Blackburn to Las Vegas (PCL) on rehab assignments.

TEXAS RANGERS — Sent RHP Dane Dunning to Frisco (TL) on a rehab assignment.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Recalled LHP Brandon Eisert from Buffalo (IL). Optioned RHP Bowden Francis and LHP Brandon Eisert to Buffalo.

National League

CHICAGO CUBS — Optioned RHP Hunter Bigge to Iowa (IL).

COLORADO ROCKIES — Reinstated RHP Germán Márquez from the 60-day IL. Optioned LHP Josh Rogers and RHP Angel Chivilli to Albuquerque (PCL).

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Activated RHP Brent Honeywell. Optioned RHP Ricky Vasanco to Oklahoma City (PCL).

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Designated LHP Dallas Keuchel for assignment. Selected the contract of RHP Joel Kuhnel from Nashville (IL).

NEW YORK METS — Sent LHP Joey Lucchesi outright to Syracuse (IL).

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Optioned RHP Kyle Leahy to Memphis (IL).

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

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

CHARLOTTE HORNETS — Re-signed G Miles Bridges.

Women’s National Basketball Association

SEATTLE STORM — Signed G Kiana Williams to a seven-day contract.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

CAROLINA HURRICANES — Signed D Dominik Badinka to a three-year, entry-level contract. Signed D Joakim Ryan to a one-year, two-way contract.

SEATTLE KRAKEN — Signed G Kim Saari- nen to a three-year, entry-level contract.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION — Trans-ferred G Henrich Ravas to KS Cracovia.

PRO SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Cincinnati	15	5	3	48	43	29
Inter Miami CF	14	4	5	47	51	37
Columbus	12	3	6	42	45	19
New York	9	4	10	37	37	28
NYCFC	11	9	3	36	33	27
Charlotte FC	10	8	5	35	27	24
Orlando City	8	9	6	30	35	37
Toronto FC	8	13	3	27	32	44
Nashville	6	9	8	26	26	33
CF Montréal	6	9	8	26	32	46
Atlanta	6	11	6	24	31	33
D.C. United	5	11	8	23	32	48
New England	7	13	1	22	21	41
Chicago	5	11	7	22	28	40
Philadelphia	4	10	9	21	37	41

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LAFC	13	5	4	43	44	29
Real Salt Lake	12	4	7	43	48	30
LA Galaxy	12	5	7	43	44	32
Colorado	11	8	5	38	45	38
Portland	10	8	6	36	48	39
Vancouver	10	7	5	35	38	30
Seattle	9	7	7	34	32	26
Houston	8	7	7	31	30	27
Minn. United	8	9	6	30	36	38
Austin FC	8	9	6	30	25	32
FC Dallas	7	11	5	26	34	37
Sporting KC	6	13	5	23	39	49
St Louis City	4	9	10	22	31	43
San Jose	4	17	2	14	31	58

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

Wednesday’s games

New York City FC at Atlanta

Chicago at Cincinnati

Charlotte FC at Columbus

Toronto FC at Miami

CF Montréal at New York

New England at Philadelphia

Austin FC at FC Dallas

D.C. United at Minnesota

Orlando City at Nashville

Colorado at LA Galaxy

Houston at San Jose

St Louis City at Seattle

Sporting Kansas City at Vancouver

Real Salt Lake at Los Angeles FC

AUTO RACING

The Great American Getaway 400

NASCAR Cup Series

Sunday

At Pocono Raceway

Long Pond, Pa.

Lap length: 2.50 miles

(Start position in parentheses)

1. (8) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 160 laps, 40 points.

2. (4) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 160, 54.

3. (6) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 160, 43.

4. (2) William Byron, Chevrolet, 160, 47.

5. (10) Joey Logano, Ford, 160, 38.

6. (7) Tyler Reddick, Toyota, 160, 40.

7. (14) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 160, 41.

8. (3) Martin Truex Jr, Toyota, 160, 39.

9. (11) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 160, 43.

10. (29) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 160, 27.

11. (18) Chris Buescher, Ford, 160, 26.

12. (13) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 160, 30.

13. (12) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 160, 29.

14. (23) Erik Jones, Toyota, 160, 30.

15. (28) Chase Briscoe, Ford, 160, 22.

16. (16) Daniel Suárez, Chevrolet, 160, 21.

17. (15) Carson Hocevar, Chevrolet, 160, 20.

18. (20) Austin Cindric, Ford, 160, 19.

19. (30) Corey LaJoie, Chevrolet, 160, 18.

20. (5) Josh Berry, Ford, 160, 17.

21. (26) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 160, 16.

22. (34) Justin Haley, Ford, 160, 15.

23. (17) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 160, 14.

24. (21) Michael McDowell, Ford, 158, 13.

25. (27) Daniel Hemric, Chevrolet, suspension, 153, 12.

26. (35) Cody Ware, Ford, overheating, 134, 11.

27. (1) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, engine, 132, 10.

28. (32) John H. Nemechek, Toyota, accident, 126, 9.

29. (9) Zane Smith, Chevrolet, accident, 126, 8.

30. (36) Ryan Preece, Ford, accident, 121, 7.

31. (22) Harrison Burton, Ford, accident, 121, 6.

32. (24) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, accident, 120, 5.

33. (31) Ricky Stenhouse Jr, Chevrolet, accident, 120, 4.

34. (33) Todd Gilliland, Ford, accident, 115, 3.

35. (37) JJ Yeley, Chevrolet, fuel pump, 112, 0.

36. (19) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, accident, 53, 1.

37. (25) Noah Gragson, Ford, accident, 13, 1.

Race statistics

Average speed of race winner: 123.723 mph.

Time of race: 3 hours, 13 minutes, 59 seconds.

Margin of victory: 1.312 seconds.

Caution flags: 8 for 34 laps.

Lead changes: 8 among 8 drivers.

Lap leaders: T.Gibbs 0-17; M.Truex 18-31; J.Logano 32-34; B.Keselowski 35-54; T.Gibbs 55-58; J.Berry 59-66; D.Hamlin 67-97; C.Buescher 98-116; R.Blaney 117-160.

Leaders summary (driver, times led, laps led): R.Blaney, 1 time for 44 laps; D.Hamlin, 1 time for 31 laps; T.Gibbs, 2 times for 21 laps; B.Keselowski, 1 time for 20 laps; C.Buescher, 1 time for 19 laps; M.Truex, 1 time for 14 laps; J.Berry, 1 time for 8 laps; J.Logano, 1 time for 3 laps.

Wins: K.Larson, 3; D.Hamlin, 3; W.Byron, 3; C.Bell, 3; R.Blaney, 2; C.Elliott, 1; T.Reddick, 1; B.Keselowski, 1; A.Bowman, 1; J.Lo-gano, 1; D.Suárez, 1; A.Cindric, 1.

Top 16 in points: 1. C.Elliott, 703; 2. K.Lar-

son, 700; 3. T.Reddick, 688; 4. D.Hamlin, 683; 5. W.Byron, 646; 6. M.Truex, 640; 7. R.Bla-ney, 627; 8. C.Bell, 616; 9. B.Keselowski, 599; 10. A.Bowman, 596; 11. T.Gibbs, 570; 12. C.Buescher, 547; 13. R.Chastain, 530; 14. J.Logano, 522; 15. B.Wallace, 503; 16. C.Bris-coe, 455.

Hy-Vee IndyCar Race 2

Sunday

At Iowa Speedway

Newton, Iowa

Lap length: 0.894 miles

(Start position in parentheses)

1. (22) Will Power, Dallara-Chevrolet, 250 laps, Running.

2. (2) Alex Palou, Dallara-Honda, 250, Running.

3. (1) Scott McLaughlin, Dallara-Chevro-let, 250, Running.

4. (3) Scott Dixon, Dallara-Honda, 250, Running.

5. (4) Colton Herta, Dallara-Honda, 250, Running.

6. (7) Pato O’Ward, Dallara-Chevrolet, 250, Running.

7. (14) Josef Newgarden, Dallara-Chev-rolet, 250, Running.

8. (8) Graham Rahal, Dallara-Honda, 250, Running.

9. (15) Rinus VeeKay, Dallara-Chevrolet, 250, Running.

10. (16) Romain Grosjean, Dallara-Chev-rolet, 250, Running.

11. (19) Santino Ferrucci, Dallara-Chev-rolet, 250, Running.

12. (13) Linus Lundqvist, Dallara-Honda, 250, Running.

13. (9) David Malukas, Dallara-Chevro-let, 250, Running.

14. (11) Nolan Siegal, Dallara-Honda, 250, Running.

15. (6) Alexander Rossi, Dallara-Chevro-let, 249, Did not finish.

16. (12) Kyle Kirkwood, Dallara-Honda, 249, Did not finish.

17. (18) Christian Lundgaard, Dallara-Honda, 249, Running.

18. (23) Kyffin Simpson, Dallara-Honda, 249, Running.

19. (25) Marcus Armstrong, Dallara-Hon-da, 249, Running.

20. (17) Pietro Fittipaldi, Dallara-Honda, 249, Running.

21. (20) Sting Ray Robb, Dallara-Chevro-let, 248, Did not finish.

22. (26) Ed Carpenter, Dallara-Chevrolet, 248, Did not finish.

23. (21) Marcus Ericsson, Dallara-Honda, 248, Running.

24. (24) Katherine Legge, Dallara-Honda, 248, Running.

25. (10) Agustín Canapino, Dallara-Chev-rolet, 221, Did not finish.

26. (5) Felix Rosenqvist, Dallara-Honda, 184, Did not finish.

27. (27) Conor Daly, Dallara-Chevrolet, 140, Did not finish.

Race statistics

Average speed of race winner: 154.768 mph.

Time of race: 01:26:38.7472.

Margin of victory: 0.3915 seconds.

Cautions: 2 for 12 laps.

Lead changes: 6 among 4 drivers.

Lap leaders: McLaughlin 1-94, Palou 95-100, Power 101-106, Palou 107-203, Power 204-205, Lundqvist 206-208, Power 209.

Points: Palou 379, Power 344, O’Ward 327, Dixon 322, McLaughlin 314, Herta 300, Kirkwood 274, Rossi 265, Newgarden 247, Ferrucci 221.



MATTHIAS SCHRADER/AP

Zhang Yufei of China poses with the gold medal she won in the 200-meter butterfly at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

World swimming promises Chinese to be tested more

BY GRAHAM DUNBAR

Associated Press

GENEVA — Chinese swimmers going to the Paris Olympics are under- going increased drug testing of at least eight times this year before the Games, World Aquatics said Monday.

The Chinese swim team in Paris is set to have 11 athletes who tested positive for a banned heart medica- tion in 2021, six months before the Tokyo Olympics. They avoided be- ing suspended.

In Tokyo, the swimmers won three gold medals, including Zhang Yufe in the women’s 200-meter butterfly, and Wang Shunin the men’s 200 medley.

A Chinese state-backed investi- gation in June 2021 blamed mass contamination by food in a hotel kitchen, though without evidence to prove it. The case was not public- ly revealed until reporting three months ago by the New York Times and German broadcaster ARD.

The World Anti-Doping Agency has been widely criticized — and targeted by a United States federal investigation — for accepting the explanation in 2021 when travel to China was not possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. A WADA- appointed prosecutor in Switzer- land last week cleared the Mon- treal-based agency of bias toward China in a report that had a limited remit.

Swimming’s governing body al- so appointed a panel to study how it handled the case three years ago, including following WADA at the time by not challenging the Chinese claim at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

The panel’s 11-page report with recommendations was published Monday, 12 days before swim events start in Paris at La Defense Arena. It detailed a promise of more anti-doping tests for some countries ahead of the Olympics and especially China.

World Aquatics said “a certain number of athletes from specific nations will be tested four times” since the start of the year by the Lausanne-based International Testing Agency, which runs anti- doping programs for many Olym- pic sports.

Chinese athletes competing in Paris “will be tested by the ITA no less than eight times during this same period,” the world swim body said. Those samples would ideally not be collected by the Chinese anti- doping agency and also not be test- ed by laboratories in China.

World Aquatics is set to publish those test results before the Olym- pics opening ceremony.

“What is extremely clear, and what cannot be taken for granted, is that the trust of the aquatics com- munity is vital to the continued suc- cess of World Aquatics as an inter- national federation,” the governing body said.

The five-member report team appointed by World Aquatics was chaired by former Spanish sports minister Miguel Cardenal, who was previously a member of the management board at CAS.

“The committee has not identi- fied any irregularities, misman- agement or cover-up” by World Aquatics, said the Cardenal panel.

To rebuild trust with athletes and coaches, the panel recommended World Aquatics routinely publish details of who is provisionally sus- pended for potential breaches of anti-doping rules. It also wants de- tails published of how often athletes were tested, and by who, in the six months before events like an Olym- pics or world championships.

SOCCER

Argentina wins Copa title after injured Messi exits

Goal in extra time ends match delayed by crowd control issues

By Alanis Thames
Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Lionel Messi pumped his arms. The trophy bounced up and down in his grasp. Tears of frustration from an hour or so earlier had turned to laughs and hugs for the two-time Copa America champion and World Cup winner.

Messi was forced to watch much of the second half and extra time because of a leg injury. Still, Argentina won its second straight Copa America championship, beating Colombia 1-0 Sunday night on Lautaro Martínez's 112th-minute goal.

"Leo is the greatest player in history," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said through an interpreter. "He never wants to leave the pitch. He has a swollen ankle and wants to keep playing. I prefer those players. He wants to play not because he is egotistical or selfish. He wants to keep playing because he doesn't want to leave his teammates. ... He was born to be on the pitch."

Messi appeared to sustain a non-contact injury while running and falling in the 64th minute. The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner covered his face with his hands as he sat on the bench and sobbed.

Martínez later ran to that bench to hug his 37-year-old captain after the goal that propelled Argentina to its record 16th Copa title.

Appearing to be limping after the final whistle sounded well past midnight, Messi beckoned for his senior teammates to lift the trophy with him: 36-year-old Nicolás Ot-



Lionel Messi celebrates with the trophy after Argentina beat Colombia in the Copa America final in Miami Gardens, Fla., on Sunday.

tamendi and Ángel Di María, who is retiring from the national team. As white confetti cascaded, the trio hugged.

"The truth is, it's hard to describe," Di María said. "It was written like that. I told the guys last night at dinner that I dreamt it. That's why I said it was my last Copa America. I dreamt we made it to the final and we won it so I could go out this way."

"I'll be always grateful to this generation who gave me everything, helped me win what I always wanted and today, I am leaving like this," Di María said. "It could not be better."

In a match that started 1 hour,

22 minutes late because of crowd trouble at Hard Rock Stadium, Argentina won its third straight major title following the 2021 Copa America and 2022 World Cup and matched Spain, which won the 2008 and 2012 European Championships around the 2010 World Cup.

Argentina also stopped Colombia's 28-game unbeaten streak dating to a 1-0 loss to Albiceleste in a February 2022 World Cup qualifier, also on a Martínez goal.

Martínez entered in the 97th minute Sunday and scored from Giovani Lo Celso's perfect pass after Leandro Paredes stripped the ball from a Colombian with a slid-



Fans wait to enter the stadium prior to the Copa America final. Some fans without tickets breached security gates, forcing officials to lock down entrances. The match started more than an hour late.

ing tackle near the center stripe. Paredes exchanged passes with Martínez, then threaded the ball to Lo Celso, who one-timed a through ball as Martínez sprinted past defender Carlos Cuesta.

Martínez ran onto the ball, took a touch that sent him into the penalty area and struck a right-foot shot through the upraised arms of sliding goalkeeper Camilo Vargas for his 29th international goal, his tournament-high fifth.

Colombia coach Néstor Lorenzo said many Colombia players finished with severe cramping. Temperatures were in the upper 80s with humidity around 73%.

"It is not easy to play a final. It's not easy for anyone," Lorenzo said through an interpreter. "They played six matches in 21 days and started feeling the results. They all left feeling cramps, some of them in both legs."

Making his 39th and possibly last Copa America appearance, Messi had one goal in the tournament. He went down in the 36th minute after his left ankle was caught by Santiago Arias, but walked back onto the field three minutes later.

Messi looked to the bench as soon as he fell to the field in the second half, appearing to know his tournament was over. He took off

his right boot as he walked off and slammed it in frustration, and his ankle appeared to swell. With his right foot bare, he stood by the bench and raised his arms while teammates ran onto the field when Martínez scored.

The start was delayed from 8 p.m. EDT to 9:22 p.m. because of crowd control issues outside the stadium, including troves of fans breaching security gates at a venue to be used for the 2026 World Cup.

Video showed fans climbing fences and railings to get inside the championship match, with officials unable to keep track of who had purchased tickets and who didn't.

Hard Rock Stadium released a statement after the game, saying the venue "takes pride in hosting world-class events year-round in a safe and successful manner."

"We understand there are disappointed ticket holders who were not able to enter the stadium after the perimeter was closed," the statement said, "and we will work in partnership with CONMEBOL to address those individual concerns. Ultimately, there is nothing more important than the health and safety of all guests and staff, and that will always remain our priority."

Spain wins Euro, hands England another painful loss

By Steve Douglas
Associated Press

BERLIN — Spain is the king of European soccer for a record fourth time. For England, it's another agonizing near-miss in the team's decades-long tale of underachievement.

Completing a tournament the team dominated from start to finish, Spain beat England 2-1 in the European Championship final Sunday with Mikel Oyarzabal the unlikely match-winner in the 86th minute.

Oyarzabal, a backup striker who came on as a substitute for captain Alvaro Morata, slid in to poke home a left-wing cross by Marc Cucurella, just when the game at Berlin's Olympiastadion seemed destined for extra time.

England is still without a major title in the men's game since winning the 1966 World Cup, and its players watched on forlornly as Morata raised aloft the silver trophy to backdrop of confetti and fireworks.

Add 2024 to the titles won by Spain in 1964,



Mikel Oyarzabal, right, celebrates with Nico Williams and Lamine Yamal, left, after scoring Spain's winning goal.

2008 and 2012.

"Here we are, champions of Europe," said Nico Williams, whose opening goal for Spain in the 47th minute was canceled out by England substitute Cole Palmer in the 73rd. "We are thrilled and hope this can keep going and we can go for the (2026) World Cup."

Lamine Yamal, the prodigy who turned 17 on Saturday and is the youngest player to have appeared at a European Championship, set up Williams' goal with an inside run before passing across the face of the area. The two wingers have become the poster boys of an exciting, multicultural team that reflects Spain's changing demographics.

Yamal's mother is from Equatorial Guinea and his father is from Morocco, while the 22-year-old Williams has Ghanaian parents who made the long journey to Europe looking for a better life.

"I believe there is a historical change, we are really grateful," said Williams, the player of the match with his darting runs and his second goal of Euro 2024.

"My parents have suffered a lot to get here. They are the ones who have suffered the most and they have instilled this sort of respect and loyalty in me," he said. "I'm really happy because we are making history."

Unlike his brother Inaki, who is a Ghana

international, Nico chose to play for Spain and will now be regarded as a national hero.

Spain is back as a major player in senior soccer after winning both the Women's World Cup — also against England — and the men's UEFA Nations League in 2023.

"I said before the tournament, nobody can hang with us," Williams said.

Spain won all seven games at this European Championship — an unprecedented feat — and broke the record for goals scored in a single tournament, with 15.

There were joyous scenes after the final whistle, with defender Dani Carvajal piled on by jubilant teammates after slumping to the ground. Spain coach Luis de la Fuente was thrown into the air by his players. Both Cucurella and Yamal led Spain's players in jumping over the advertising boards to reach the red-and-yellow-clad Spanish fans in the stadium's east end.

"This is the best (birthday) gift I could have asked for," Yamal said. "It is a dream come true."

AUTO RACING

Blaney keeps surging with win at Pocono

BY DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

LOND POND, Pa. — Ryan Blaney still feels like the “silly, quiet kid” he was at 23 when he blazed past Kevin Harvick and Kyle Busch over the final 10 laps in 2017 at Pocono Raceway to win a NASCAR Cup race for the first time.

At times, not much in life has changed for Blaney.

“I still drink a lot of beer,” Blaney said, before waiting a beat, “probably more.”

Blaney chuckled at the thought, but the reality is, at the track he’s long outgrown the mold of a rising NASCAR star. At 30, he’s a certified one as a NASCAR champion and serves as a bit of an elder statesman, promoting the sport this week coast-to-coast from the ESPYS to the “Today” show.

“I’ve just been fortunate to be on a cool journey,” Blaney said.

His celebrity profile may have mushroomed, but the only journey that really matters in NASCAR is the one to victory lane. Blaney led the final 44 laps and won Sunday at Pocono, the site of his first career NASCAR Cup Series win and his second victory in the last five races this season.

“I feel like the last two months, we’ve been spectacular,” Blaney said.

So has Team Penske. On any track. In any series.

Blaney made it a weekend sweep for Team Penske — Scott McLaughlin and Will Power won IndyCar races at Iowa Speedway for the 87-year-old Roger Penske.

“Penske sweep!” Blaney belted out.

The 2023 NASCAR champion, Blaney won the inaugural Cup race last month at Iowa Speedway and added two more top 10 finishes headed into Pocono. The Team Penske driver’s summer success in the No. 12 Ford has stamped him a legitimate threat to win a second straight championship.

“I definitely think we’re in a better spot at this time than where we were last year,” Blaney said. “I feel like our speed’s better.



DERIK HAMILTON/AP

Ryan Blaney celebrates in the victory lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series race at Pocono Raceway on Sunday. It was his second victory in the past five races.

Our execution’s great.”

Blaney was dialed in on the 2.5-mile track and was never seriously challenged over the final 10 laps by runner-up Denny Hamlin and Alex Bowman. Hamlin holds the Pocono record with seven career wins; Bowman won last week’s Chicago Street Race.

Bowman and Hamlin were fast. Just not fast enough to catch Blaney in front of another packed house at Pocono.

Hamlin, last year’s winner, was in hot pursuit over the final six laps, but the three-time Daytona 500 champion could never nip at Blaney’s Ford.

“Never lose a race, just always run out of time, right? That’s just part of it,” Hamlin said.

No win, of course, in NASCAR is ever

guaranteed, and there were some flashbacks to the cruel finish when Blaney ran out of fuel in early June while coming to the white flag at World Wide Technology Raceway.

“I was definitely more nervous today,” crew chief Jonathan Hassler said. “You lose one on the last lap, and you certainly get an appreciation for, it’s not over till you take the checkered.”

Team Penske teammate Austin Cindric won that race in Illinois, and fellow Penske driver Joey Logano won four races later at Nashville Superspeedway. Throw in Blaney’s two wins and Penske drivers have won four of the last seven Cup races.

The 30-year-old Blaney, son of NASCAR driver Dave Blaney and grandson of dirt

track star Lou Blaney, now has 12 career Cup wins dating back to the first one when he took the checkered flag for the Wood Brothers in 2017 at Pocono.

“I feel like you approach it a little bit differently seven years later,” Blaney said.

One example? Blaney stayed in victory lane and signed autographs for fans that mobbed the trophy presentation.

Blaney already knows the importance of getting hot late in the season. Blaney turned up his performance last season in the No. 12 Ford in the playoffs. Over the final six weeks, Blaney racked up two wins, two runner-ups and didn’t finish lower than 12th.

Blaney’s first career title was the fourth Cup championship for Team Penske and 44th overall for the storied organization.

“I couldn’t find myself at another place,” Blaney said. “They just work really hard and put their heads down and figure out how to be better. It’s cool to drive for a company like that.”

Early endings

Ross Chastain was knocked out of the race after just 53 laps, putting a serious dent in his playoff push. Chastain saw his points lead for the final spot cut from 53 points to 27 points over Bubba Wallace.

There are five races left before the 16-driver playoff field is set. There are four spots open with the 12 race winners securing an automatic berth.

Busch was turned by Corey LaJoie and ignited a late wreck that kept him from gaining the points he needed to try to creep back into the playoff race. Busch remained winless this season. He has won a Cup race every year since 2005.

Noah Gragson snagged a ride this week with Front Row Motorsports for 2025. At Pocono, Gragson was the first driver out, with issues only 13 laps into the race in the No. 10 Ford for Stewart-Haas Racing. There were 13 drivers who did not finish the race.

Power holds off Palou ahead of 4-car crash on last lap

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
Associated Press

NEWTON, Iowa — It was Will Power’s turn Sunday for Team Penske success at Iowa Speedway.

Power broke through at the 0.875-mile oval, gaining his first IndyCar Series win at Iowa in the race that ended with a four-car, last-lap crash.

Power had already crossed the finish line when Sting Ray Robb’s car flipped after clipping the car of Alexander Rossi coming out of the second turn. The car slid on its top down the backstretch while Rossi’s car collided with the cars of Kyle Kirkwood and Ed Carpenter, with Carpenter’s car ending up on top of Kirkwood’s.

Robb flashed a thumbs-up sign as he was taken on a stretcher to an ambulance. He was then flown to Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines for further evaluation, although IndyCar Series officials said he was in good condition.

Power held off second-place driver Alex Palou by 0.3915 seconds. Scott McLaughlin, who won Saturday’s race in the doubleheader, finished third.

Power, who led 50 laps of the 250-lap race, has always been fast at the 0.875-mile oval — he has won seven poles here in his career — but had only five podium finishes in 18 starts. He finished 18th in Saturday’s race after starting fourth.

“Stoked to tick that box,” Power said. “I’ve won a lot of races at a lot of tracks. When you tick a box at a track you haven’t won on, it feels pretty good.”

But this was a weekend when Penske drivers reached milestones at a track where the team has had so much success. McLaughlin picked up his first career oval win on Saturday, and then Power got his victory on a track that underwent partial repaving in the spring that limited the amount of passing room.

“It’s funny, because I’ve been trying to win this for so long,” Power said. “I think I finished second a few times before the repave, trying really hard to win. I didn’t really think I’d win today. You know how life goes, it just happens like that.”

It was Power’s 43rd career IndyCar win, his first on an oval since winning at Pocono in 2019.

It was the ninth Penske win in IndyCar races at the track and the third victory for the team at the track this season — Ryan Blaney won the NASCAR Cup Series race in June.

Power, who started 22nd on Sunday, was able to move to second place on the first round of pit stops, then took the lead on lap 209 after his second pit stop three laps earlier that was almost nine-tenths of a second faster than Palou’s.

“My plan from the beginning was to sit back and save a lot of fuel, just get the best possible



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Alex Palou leads Will Power during Sunday’s IndyCar race at Iowa Speedway in Newton, Iowa. Power won the race.

number (of laps) using the speed, lifting,” Power said. “I felt like we had a better car than Alex. ... Amazing stops as usual by my

guys. They’re the best in pit lane. Don’t have to take my word for it. Just look at the times every time. I’m lucky with that.”

ROUNDUP

Orioles beat Yankees to avoid sweep

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Cedric Mullins hit a two-run double in the ninth inning to give Baltimore a 6-5 victory over the New York Yankees on Sunday, and the Orioles remained in first place after taking advantage of two defensive misplays at the end.

Anthony Volpe’s error kept Baltimore’s two-out rally going. Then Mullins hit a liner that appeared routine, but left fielder Alex Verdugo started in at first and couldn’t recover well enough to prevent the ball from going over his head.

“I think he just misjudged it,” Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. “Broke hard in, not wanting to get beat in front of him, and obviously it carried enough.”

Ben Rice hit a three-run homer in the top of the ninth off Craig Kimbrel (6-2) to put the Yankees up 5-3, but New York’s closer couldn’t hold a lead either. Clay Holmes (1-4) allowed the Orioles to load the bases with two out. Then Ryan Mountcastle’s grounder should have ended it, but Volpe’s error made it 5-4 and kept the bases loaded.

Mullins, who came on as a pinch-runner the previous inning, delivered the big hit that snapped Baltimore’s five-game winning streak and enabled the Orioles to take a one-game lead over the Yankees in the AL East into the All-Star break.

“You can’t lead off an inning with two walks and make kind of a missed pitch,” Kimbrel said. “The boys battled, and we were able to put something special together there at the end. That was fun to watch.”

Rays 2, Guardians 0: Ryan Pepiot allowed two hits in six scoreless innings, Jose Siri and Brandon Lowe homered, and host Tampa Bay beat struggling AL Central-leading Cleveland.

Despite losing 11 of 18, the Guardians (58-37) have the AL’s best record at the All-Star break for the first time since 1999. Cleveland was outscored 6-4 in dropping two of three to the Rays.

Red Sox 5, Royals 4: Rafael Devers hit a two-run homer that broke a seat deep in right field at Fenway Park, Dominic Smith also had a two-run shot and host Boston beat Kansas City to take the series.

First-time All-Star Jarren Duran had four hits for the Red Sox, who improved to a majors’ best 15-1 on Sundays. Boston enters the All-Star break surprisingly 4½ games out of first in the AL East after finishing in the basement three of the last four years.

Athletics 18, Phillies 3: Visiting Oakland hit eight home runs estimated at a combined 3,340 feet in a rout of first-place Philadelphia. Lawrence Butler hit three homers



Nick Wass/AP

The Baltimore Orioles’ Cedric Mullins, front left, celebrates with Anthony Santander after Mullins hit a two-run walk-off double to beat the New York Yankees 6-5 on Sunday in Baltimore.

and Brent Rooker and Seth Brown had two each.

Trea Turner homered for the Phillies. Despite losing the series, Philadelphia ended the first half with the most wins in baseball and in first place ahead of the Braves by 8½ games in the NL East. The Phillies were trying to extend their club record of 62 victories before the All-Star Game and match the 1973 and ’74 Dodgers for the most NL wins before the break.

Rangers 4, Astros 2: Josh Smith homered twice with four RBIs to lead visiting Texas to a win over Houston.

Smith had a two-run shot in the first and added another one with two outs in the eighth to push the lead to 4-1. It’s the first multi-homer game of the 26-year-old’s career.

Rockies 8, Mets 5: Michael Toglia became the first Colorado switch-hitter to homer three times in a game, leading the visiting Rockies to a victory over New York.

Ezequiel Tovar homered twice and red-hot Brennan Doyle homered again as Colorado hit a season-high six home runs to finish the three-game series with 10.

Cubs 8, Cardinals 3: Pete Crow-Armstrong and Christopher Morel each homered twice to lead visiting Chicago to a victory over St. Louis.

Tomas Nido and Ian Happ also homered for the Cubs, who split the four-game set against their NL Central rivals.

Marlins 3, Reds 2: Xavier Edwards’ RBI single in the eighth inning gave visiting Miami a victory over Cincinnati.

Edwards’ two-out hit drove in

Jake Burger for the Marlins, who salvaged the series finale.

Tigers 4, Dodgers 3: Yohan Ramirez had two consecutive errors in the ninth inning, paving the way for host Detroit to beat Los Angeles for its second straight comeback win over the NL West leaders.

Wenceel Pérez had a sacrifice bunt to advance runners in the final at-bat and Ramirez made a wide throw to third, allowing Justyn-Henry Malloy to score the second run of the inning for the victory. The right-hander failed to field Ryan Vilade’s sacrifice bunt in the previous at-bat, advancing Malloy to second.

Pirates 9, White Sox 4: Joey Bart and Bryan Reynolds homered, Ke’Bryan Hayes had three hits and visiting Pittsburgh won its fourth straight game, beating Chicago.

Nick Gonzales tripled and drove in two runs for the Pirates, who have won six of seven and reached .500 for the first time since April 27.

Brewers 9, Nationals 3: Willy Adames had a homer and four RBIs, Garrett Mitchell homered for the first time in more than a year and host Milwaukee avoided a series sweep with a victory over Washington.

Colin Rea (9-3) allowed two runs on five hits in 5½ innings after coming on for opener Rob Zastryzny. Rea struck out seven and walked one.

Giants 3, Twins 2: Mike Yastrzemski tripled and scored in the bottom of the ninth when the relay throw skipped past Minnesota third baseman Diego Castillo, giv-

ing host San Francisco a win.

San Francisco’s walk-off victory came on a day when reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell had his best showing of the season. Snell retired the first 18 batters he faced in order before Margot laced a 2-2 fastball into left field to break up the bid for perfection. He finished with eight strikeouts and didn’t walk anyone for the first time this year.

Braves 6, Padres 3: Travis d’Arnaud had two home runs and four RBIs, Chris Sale pitched five solid innings for his major league-leading 13th win and visiting Atlanta beat San Diego.

Atlanta has won six of its last nine games and took two of three from San Diego, which ended the first half losing by losing six of its last seven. The Braves finished the first half 53-42 and in second place in the NL East, 8½ games behind the Philadelphia Phillies.

Blue Jays 8, Diamondbacks 7: Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a go-ahead solo homer, Kevin Kiermaier added a grand slam and visiting Toronto recovered from blowing a seven-run lead to beat Arizona.

Guerrero’s homer in the seventh came off reliever Kevin Ginkel (6-2), who had his scoreless streak of 10⅓ innings snapped. The Blue Jays avoided a sweep after dropping the first two games of the series.

Angels 3, Mariners 2: Jo Adell hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning and Carson Fulmer threw four hitless innings to lead host Los Angeles to a win over Seattle.

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	58	38	.604	—
New York	58	40	.592	1
Boston	53	42	.558	4½
Tampa Bay	48	48	.500	10
Toronto	44	52	.458	14
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	58	37	.611	—
Minnesota	54	42	.563	4½
Kansas City	52	45	.536	7
Detroit	47	50	.485	12
Chicago	27	71	.276	32½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	52	46	.531	—
Houston	50	46	.521	1
Texas	46	50	.479	5
Los Angeles	41	55	.427	10
Oakland	37	61	.378	15
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	62	34	.646	—
Atlanta	53	42	.558	8½
New York	49	46	.516	12½
Washington	44	53	.454	18½
Miami	33	63	.344	29
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	55	42	.567	—
St. Louis	50	46	.521	4½
Pittsburgh	48	48	.500	6½
Cincinnati	47	50	.485	8
Chicago	47	51	.480	8½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	56	41	.577	—
San Diego	50	49	.505	7
Arizona	49	48	.505	7
San Francisco	47	50	.485	9
Colorado	34	63	.351	22
Sunday's games				
Baltimore 6, N.Y. Yankees 5				
Tampa Bay 2, Cleveland 0				
Oakland 18, Philadelphia 3				
Boston 5, Kansas City 4				
Detroit 4, L.A. Dodgers 3				
Texas 4, Houston 2				
Pittsburgh 9, Chicago White Sox 4				
San Francisco 3, Minnesota 2				
L.A. Angels 3, Seattle 2				
Toronto 8, Arizona 7				
Miami 3, Cincinnati 2				
Chicago Cubs 8, St. Louis 3				
Colorado 8, N.Y. Mets 5				
Milwaukee 9, Washington 3				
Atlanta 6, San Diego 3				
Monday's games				
No games scheduled				
Tuesday's game				
2024 All-Star Game: National League (Skenes 0-0) vs. American League (TBD) at Arlington, Texas				

Calendar

Aug. 18 — Little League Classic: New York Yankees vs. Detroit Tigers at Williamsport, Pa.
Sept. 29 — Final day of regular season

This day in baseball

July 16

1897 — Chicago’s Cap Anson becomes the first major leaguer to reach 3,000 hits when he singled off Baltimore’s George Blackburn.

1902 — John McGraw is named manager of the New York Giants, a post he would hold for 30 years.

1909 — Ed Summers of the Detroit Tigers allows only seven hits and pitched all 18 innings of a 0-0 tie with the Washington Senators, the longest scoreless game in AL history.

1941 — Joe DiMaggio extends his hitting streak to 56 games with a 3-for-4 day in what would be the final game of his streak, a record that still stands.

1970 — The Cincinnati Reds beat the Pirates 3-2 before 48,846 people in the first game at Pittsburgh’s Three Rivers Stadium.

2006 — Chipper Jones hits a two-run homer in Atlanta’s 10-5 win at San Diego to give him an extra-base hit in 14 straight games, tying a 79-year-old major league record set by Pittsburgh’s Paul Waner in 1927.

2009 — Philadelphia Phillies slugger Ryan Howard becomes the fastest player in major league history to reach 200 career home runs, breaking the record previously held by Hall of Famer Ralph Kiner. Howard reached 200 homers in his 658th game, hitting his 23rd of the season in the sixth inning of a 4-0 win over Florida. Kiner hit No. 200 in his 706th game.

MLB

Guardians draft Bazzana No. 1 overall

Second baseman is first Australian player to be selected in first round

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Travis Bazzana feels like he represents an entire country, not just a college.

Cleveland selected the Australian second baseman Sunday night with the No. 1 pick in Major League Baseball's amateur draft, and three players from Wake Forest were picked in the top 10.

A former cricket, rugby and soccer player who came to the United States to play baseball for Oregon State, the 21-year-old hit .407 with 28 homers and 66 RBIs this season. He became the first Australian and first second baseman taken No. 1.

"An opportunity to make an impact on a lot of baseball players and a lot of people back home in Australia, and hopefully change the narrative for baseball there," Bazzana said.

Bazzana hit .360 over three seasons at Oregon State with 45 homers, 165 RBIs, 180 walks and 66 steals.

Cleveland president of baseball operations Chris Antonetti said the team made its decision Sunday.

"He recognizes pitches exceedingly well," Antonetti said. "He knows the strike zone, makes good swing decisions, when he does choose to swing makes elite-level contact. And I think what's really grown in Travis' game over the past year or so is the ability to add impact and drive the ball."

Bazzana watched the draft from

Oregon State in the rooms where he had been recruited, joined by his parents, brothers and aunts along with coaches and mentors.

"There's people that have flown all the way from Australia, which is not cheap, nor is it an easy flight," he said.

He was inspired by Ryan Rowland-Smith and Trent Oeltjen, Australians who had reached MLB.

"They really helped me believe and see this path and get an opportunity at Oregon State, and kind of helped me set no limits on myself," he said.

Baseball's No. 1 selection this year has a slot value of \$10,570,600 under the bonus pools system that began in 2012. Cleveland had the top pick for the first time since the draft began in 1965.

Just 10 high school players were among the 30 first-round picks.

Wake Forest right-hander Chase Burns went second to Cincinnati, while Demon Deacons first baseman Nick Kurtz was the fourth pick for Oakland and third baseman/outfielder Seaver King 10th for Washington. They became the eighth trio of teammates selected in the first round, the first among the top 10 since Rice right-handers Philip Humber, Jeff Niemann and Wade Townsend in 2004.

Burns, 21, was 10-1 with a 2.70 ERA and 191 strikeouts and 30 walks over 100 innings in 16 starts. The Reds took Demon Deacons right-hander Rhett Lowder with the sev-



Oregon State second baseman Travis Bazzana makes a play during an NCAA regional game. He was picked with No. 1 overall pick, the first for Cleveland since the draft began in 1965.

enth overall selection last year.

Kurtz hit .306 with 22 homers, 57 RBIs and 78 walks, and King batted .308 with 16 homers and 64 RBIs.

Colorado used the third pick on Georgia third baseman Charlie Condon, who started college as a walk-on. Projected first by some, the 6-foot-6 Condon led the NCAA this year with a .433 average and 37 homers. The 21-year-old homered in eight straight games from April 26 to May 9, one shy of the NCAA record, and won the Golden Spikes Award as the top amateur baseball player.

Arkansas left-hander Hagen

Smith, who had Tommy John surgery as a 16-year-old in 2019, was picked fifth by the Chicago White Sox. He went 9-2 with a 2.04 ERA in 16 starts, striking out 161 in 84 innings.

Kansas City went next and took Jac Caglianone, a two-way player from Florida. A first baseman and left-handed pitcher, he hit .419 with 35 homers and 72 RBIs for the Gators this year while going 5-2 with a 4.76 ERA in 16 starts, striking out 83 and walking 50 in 73⅓ innings.

West Virginia infielder JJ Wetherholt went seventh to St. Louis. The

21-year-old hit .331 with eight homers and 30 RBIs in 36 games, missing 24 games between Feb. 19 and April 5 because of a hamstring injury. He won the Division I batting title as a sophomore in 2023, hitting .449 with 16 homers and 60 RBIs and 36 stolen bases.

Tennessee second baseman Christian Moore was taken eighth by the Los Angeles Angels.

Konnor Griffin was the first high school player picked, taken ninth by Pittsburgh. The 18-year-old is a shortstop and outfielder from Jackson Prep in Mississippi.

Heat: Much has changed in Arlington since last All-Star Game

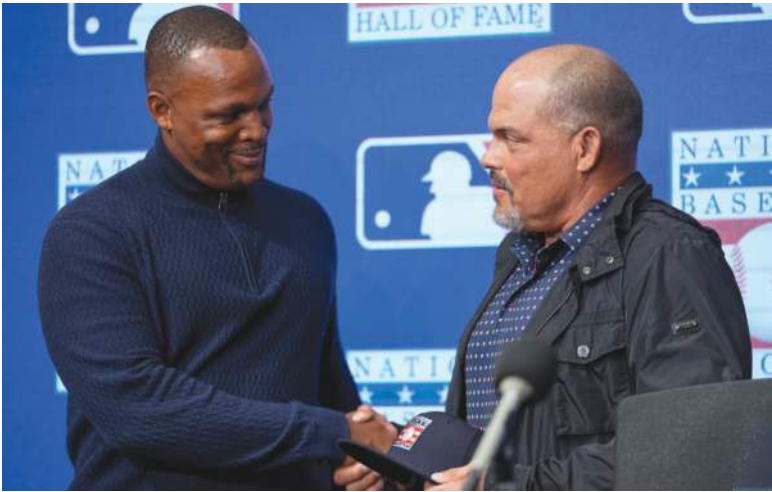
FROM PAGE 24

Conine's pinch-hit homer in 1995 landed in the left-center field stands, which have been replaced by permanent seating that extends well past the outfield wall toward the former infield.

MLB is utilizing the old ballpark this week as part of the All-Star Village, including a wiffle ball field situated near where the infield once was and by a nearby domed tent shading the world's largest baseball. Jerseys and other memorabilia from former Rangers players are on display in their old clubhouse.

Headed to the Hall

Rodríguez was one of six future Hall of Famers in the AL starting lineup in 1995, along with first baseman and Home Run Derby champion Frank Thomas, shortstop Cal Ripken Jr., third baseman Wade Boggs, right fielder Kirby Puckett and designated hitter Edgar Martinez. Roberto Alomar entered as a pinch-runner and



Hall of Famers Adrián Beltré, left, and Iván Rodríguez, both with the Texas Rangers, are among the ambassadors for the All-Star Game.

played second base.

Joining catcher Piazza and second baseman Biggio in the NL lineup were first baseman Fred McGriff, shortstop Barry Larkin and right fielder Tony Gwynn.

Three future Hall of Famers selected for that game didn't play be-

cause of injuries: shortstop Ozzie Smith, pitcher Greg Maddux and center fielder Ken Griffey Jr.

Bring on the Texas heat

The game-time temperature for the 1995 game was 96 degrees, and more than 100 people were treated

at first-aid stations inside the ballpark for heat-related problems such as dehydration and headaches.

It was even hotter during workouts and the Home Run Derby the previous afternoon. That was before the derby was the prime-time showcase it is now.

"My first recollection is how hot it was," said Showalter, then the manager of the New York Yankees, who had the AL's best record when the 1994 season ended prematurely Aug. 11 after players went on strike. He was later the Rangers manager from 2003-06. "That was a great facility, except it didn't have a roof on it. There was nothing wrong with that ballpark."

Before interleague play

Aside from the World Series, the All-Star Game was the only time AL and NL players competed against each other until interleague games began in 1997. The first regular-season interleague game was at Texas, two years after

the All-Star Game — a 4-3 win by Barry Bonds and the San Francisco Giants on June 12.

NFL, other 'new' neighbors

Globe Life Park is next to Texas Live!, a \$250 million dining, entertainment and hospitality complex that opened in 2019, the kind of development that had been envisioned a quarter-century earlier when building the former ballpark. The current stadium is also adjacent to two luxury hotels, one that opened earlier this year in conjunction with a new Arlington Convention Center.

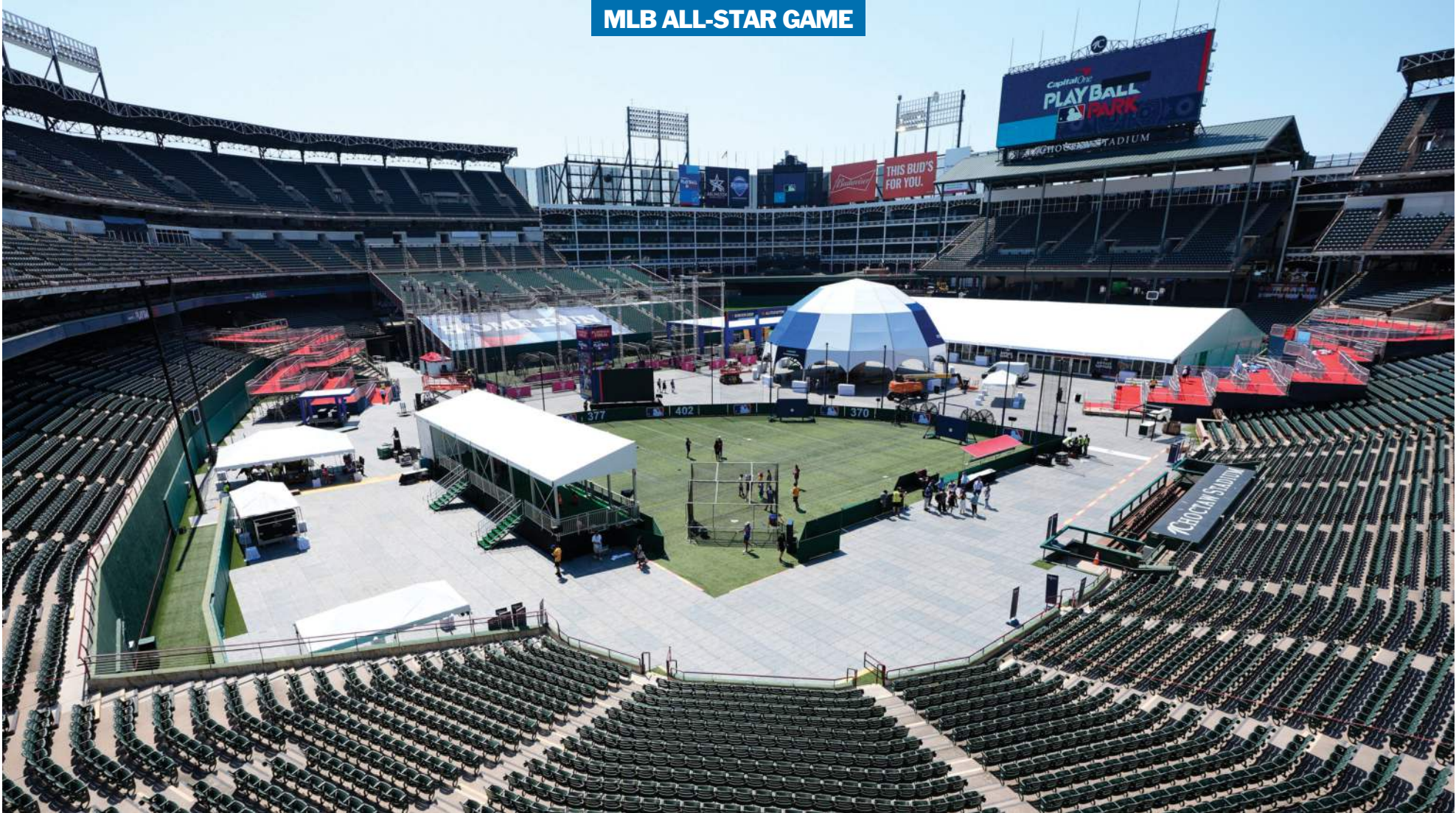
The NFL's Dallas Cowboys play nearby at AT&T Stadium, which opened in 2009 and was designed by HKS. That is the same company that designed Globe Life Field, where the neutral-site World Series between the Los Angeles Dodgers and Tampa Bay was played at the end of the pandemic-impacted 2020 season before the Rangers won their first championship last fall.

SPORTS



Sweet 16

Argentina overcomes Messi injury to win
Copa America again » Soccer, Page 20



PHOTOS BY LM OTERO, ABOVE, AND ERIC GAY, BELOW/AP

Above: The All-Star Village is set up inside Chockley Stadium ahead of the MLB All-Star Game in Arlington, Texas, on Thursday. Below: Tiffany Layton, left, and Gregory Taylor protect themselves from the heat before the All-Star Game at the Ballpark in Arlington in Arlington, Texas, on July 11, 1995.

Heat is back on

All-Stars back in Texas, where many future Hall of Famers gathered in 1995 after strike

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Major League Baseball was still stinging from a strike that had wiped out the World Series the previous season when the 1995 All-Star Game was played in the stifling Texas heat at the Rangers' new ballpark.

Buck Showalter certainly remembers how hot it was when he managed the American League squad then. He also knows how important that game was for baseball.

"I think the All-Star Game was a reminder that we're back to normalcy, so to speak, and that you could trust our game again," Sho-

walter recalled.

There were 15 future Hall of Fame players on the rosters, with Rangers catcher Iván "Pudge" Rodríguez among 11 of them who started the game. He got an extended ovation during pregame introductions, then sent the sellout crowd of 50,920 into a frenzy when he threw out leadoff hitter Lenny Dykstra trying to steal second base in the top of the first inning.

"I did what I do best during the game," Rodríguez said.

Pudge is now one of the ambassadors for another Midsummer Classic in Arlington. This one will be played across the street in Globe Life Field, a stadium with a

retractable roof that has already hosted two World Series since opening in 2020.

The heat is still here, but the roof will be closed for the game Tuesday night, as well as for the workout and Home Run Derby the day before. The forecast calls for temperatures in the upper 90s, and maybe even pushing 100 degrees — similar to the sweltering conditions for the All-Star festivities there nearly three decades ago.

"It was like sitting on a griddle," former Rangers president Tom Schieffer recalled.

The National League won the game 3-2 with all three of its hits being solo home runs. Craig Biggio



and Mike Piazza both went deep with two outs, the latter off Rangers lefty Kenny Rogers in the seventh inning, before game MVP Jeff Conine's game-deciding homer in the eighth.

The ballpark in Arlington

That old stadium, with a different name, still stands and looks much the same from the outside. But it can no longer host an MLB game.

After the Rangers played their final game there in 2019, the play-

ing surface was reconfigured primarily for football, including artificial turf throughout and the removal of the visitors dugout and about a dozen rows of seats on what was the third-base side. The NFL's Dallas Renegades and local high school teams play football in the stadium that is also the home of a Major League Rugby team and a reserve team for FC Dallas of Major League Soccer.

SEE HEAT ON PAGE 23

Blaney back in winning form at Pocono » Auto racing, Page 21

