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'Exceptional' onslaught



UKRAINIAN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS MINISTRY/AP

Firefighters put out a fire caused by fragments of a Russian rocket after it was shot down by an air defense system during a Russian rocket attack in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Tuesday.

Russia launches intense air attack on Kyiv; Ukraine downs barrage of hypersonic missiles

By SAMYA KULLAB
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian air defenses, bolstered by sophisticated Western-supplied systems, thwarted an intense Russian air attack on Kyiv early Tuesday, shooting down all 18 missiles aimed at the capital, of-

ficials said.

The bombardment included six Russian "Kinzhal" aero-ballistic hypersonic missiles — the most fired in a single attack in the war so far — according to air force spokesman Yuriy Ihnat.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has re-

peatedly touted the "Kinzhals" as a key strategic competitive advantage of Russia, difficult to detect and intercept because of their hypersonic speed and other characteristics. If confirmed, Ukraine's ability to shoot down all six fired on Tuesday appeared to mark another blow to his war ef-

forts and shows the increasing effectiveness of Kyiv's air defenses.

Ihnat said Russia fired the "Kinzhals" from MiG-31K warplanes, along with nine cruise missiles from ships in the Black Sea

SEE ONSLAUGHT ON PAGE 5

Navy details failures behind drinking water contamination on two carriers

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

A cascade of errors and lapses in judgment along with poor communication resulted in contaminated drinking water aboard two aircraft carriers last fall that sickened at least 11 sailors on one of the ships, Navy investigators have found.

In separate reports released Monday, the Navy pointed the finger at bilge water as the source of jet fuel contamination on USS Nimitz and bacteria found aboard USS Abraham Lincoln on Sept. 16 and Sept. 21 of last year, respectively.

Bilge water may contain chemi-

cals, oil, sewage leaks, seawater, sludge and other runoff that collects in the lower areas of a ship.

In the case of Nimitz, liquid contaminated with JP-5 fuel leaked into a potable water tank through a failed gasket, according to a report dated Oct. 26, 2022.

The ship moored at Naval Air

Station North Island in San Diego for just over two weeks, while its potable water system was flushed with a million gallons of clean water.

At least 11 sailors reported skin rashes, headaches and diarrhea, symptoms that may have resulted from ingesting jet fuel.

All 11 sailors were cleared for duty by Oct. 5, the Navy said in a statement Monday.

Aboard Lincoln, corrosion caused a hole in a potable tank's vent piping, which allowed bilge water to seep in, investigators said

SEE FAILURES ON PAGE 3

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Haddock, staple Atlantic fish in New England, dips

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — A staple seafood species caught by East Coast fishers for centuries is experiencing overfishing, and regulators have cut catch quotas by more than 80% to prevent the fish's population from collapse.

Haddock are one of the most popular Atlantic fish, and a favorite for fish and chips and other New England seafood dishes.

But fewer haddock will be caught in New England this year after regulators cut fishing quotas.

A recent scientific assessment found that the Gulf of Maine haddock stock declined unexpectedly, and that meant the catch quotas for the fish were unsustainably high, federal fishing managers said.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration added the Gulf of Maine haddock stock to its overfishing list last month. The New England Fishery Management Council, a regulatory board, has lowered catch limits of the fish in an attempt to halt the overfish-

ing, said agency spokesperson Alison Ferreira.

However, numerous fishers said the assessment doesn't match what they're seeing on the water, where haddock appear to them to be plentiful. And the warning from the federal government arrives as more New England fishers rely on haddock than in previous decades because of the collapse of other seafood species, such as Atlantic cod.

The fishery management council mandated an 84% reduction.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates			
Euro costs (May 17)	\$1.06	Switzerland (Franc)	0.8954
British pound (May 17)	\$1.22	Thailand (Baht)	33.97
Japanese yen (May 17)	133.00	Turkey (NewLira)	19.7143
South Korean won (May 17)	1301.00		
Commercial rates			
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770		
Britain (Pound)	1.2517		
Canada (Dollar)	1.3430		
China (Yuan)	6.9739		
Denmark (Krone)	6.8462		
Egypt (Pound)	30.9004		
Euro	0.9195		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8377		
Hungary (Forint)	339.21		
Israel (Shekel)	3.6620		
Japan (Yen)	136.28		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3070		
Norway (Krone)	10.6732		
Philippines (Peso)	56.11		
Poland (Zloty)	4.13		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7499		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3378		
South Korea (Won)	1341.38		

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	8.25
Interest Rates Discount rate	5.75
Federal funds market rate	5.08
3-month bill	5.21
30-year bond	3.85

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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MILITARY

DOD accused of slow toxic cleanup at bases

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon's efforts to clean up contamination of toxic PFAS — so-called forever chemicals — at hundreds of military bases nationwide is moving too slowly and could linger for 50 years without an influx of funds, environmental advocates said Monday.

The Defense Department has failed to keep pace with the rising costs of PFAS cleanup at its current and former bases, where chemicals — mostly from foam used for decades to fight fires — have leached into groundwater, the Environmental Working Group said in a new report.

The estimated cost to mitigate PFAS contamination across the Defense Department has grown by billions of dollars in recent years, but the department's annual budget requests to address contamination have not kept pace, the group said.

"We're calling the escalating backlog a ticking time bomb because based on current trajectories, DOD's cleanup challenge will become increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to overcome without substantial increases in funding," said Jared Hayes, a senior policy analyst at EWG, a nonprofit group based in Washington that specializes in research and advocacy in agricultural subsidies, toxic chemicals, drinking water pollutants and corporate accountability. "Current cleanup funding cannot possibly catch up to rising cleanup obligations."



CHRISTIAN AYERS/U.S. Marine Corps

Navy contractors use a sonic drill to install a monitoring well to gather soil and water samples to be tested for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., in August 2020.

tions."

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, are known as forever chemicals because they build up in human bodies and never break down in the environment. The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states human health effects are uncertain, but some research has linked the chemicals to increased risks for cancer, reproductive and immune system harm, among other diseases.

The Pentagon in March requested about \$1.5 billion in funding for contamination cleanup at its cur-

rent and former bases, some \$700 million less for those efforts than Congress provided the Defense Department for fiscal 2023. The EWG on Monday recommended lawmakers give the Pentagon \$2.75 billion for contamination cleanup in fiscal 2024, which starts Oct. 1.

John Reeder, the EWG's vice president for federal affairs, blasted the budget request, saying the problem will continue to get worse without immediate intervention. He said even as the Pentagon sought fewer funds for clean up next year, its own estimates for long term cleanup costs grew by billions of dollars

in recent years.

"The costs are going up because DOD waited too long to look into the PFAS contamination, which they knew was there decades ago," Reeder told reporters Monday. "As that contamination is confirmed, and they start to engineer solutions, the costs are going to escalate extraordinarily quickly in the next few years."

"This crisis is getting bigger. It's not getting better."

Pentagon officials did not immediately respond Monday to questions about EWG's report.

The Pentagon has said it will cost

at least \$31 billion to address PFAS at known contamination sites. Officials have confirmed PFAS contamination at 397 current or former DOD locations, including at least one in all 50 states. More than 300 additional locations are suspected of PFAS contamination, according to EWG.

The longer it takes to address the contamination, the more costly clean up fees will be, Reeder said.

"Not only do [people face] prolonged potential exposure if these cleanups are delayed, but PFAS spreads, and so you have a larger area that might become contaminated," he said. "Then you might have additional systems that are impacted, water supplies are impacted. So time is definitely not on our side. It needs to be dealt with urgently."

Reeder said the EWG hears almost constantly from military and veteran families concerned about PFAS exposures and who question how seriously the military is working to address the issue.

"We've heard over and over that, you know, 'We are military families. We've always seen that military installation is the lifeblood of our community, and this issue has turned us into adversaries' [of the military]," he said. "They don't want to be adversaries. So that issue of trusting the military, I think, is a serious issue, and we urge DOD to consider that."

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US fighter jets intercept Russian aircraft near Alaska

By MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. fighter jets intercepted six Russian aircraft last week operating in international airspace near Alaska, military officials announced Monday.

F-16 and F-22 fighter jets on Thursday intercepted Russian aircraft that included TU-95 bombers, IL-78 tankers and SU-35

fighter jets, according to officials with the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD. The Russian planes remained in international airspace and did not enter U.S. or Canadian territory.

The flights occurred during several large-scale U.S. military training exercises that are ongoing in Alaska.

NORAD described the incident as "routine," saying this happens six or seven times a year in the Alaska Air Defense Identification Zone, a stretch of mostly international airspace some 200 nautical miles off the Alaskan coast.

"This Russian activity in the North American ADIZ occurs regularly and is not seen as a threat," NORAD said in a statement. "NO-

RAD tracks and positively identifies all military aircraft that enter the ADIZ, routinely monitors aircraft movements and, as necessary, escorts them from the ADIZ."

The U.S. aircraft involved in the incident also included KC-135 Stratotankers and E-3 AWACS, according to the statement.

Thursday's intercept was at least the third one in 2023. The previous

incidents happened on consecutive days in February. Military officials at the time said the Russian planes were in no way related to incidents in which U.S. fighter jets shot down a Chinese surveillance balloon or multiple unidentified objects over U.S. and Canadian airspace.

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Failures: Navy reports indicate personnel ignored warning signs on drinking water

FROM PAGE 1

in a report dated Nov. 10, 2022.

E. coli was found in three of the ship's potable water tanks, but no related illnesses were confirmed, Stars and Stripes reported in October.

The detailed reports released by the Navy months after their completion also show that personnel aboard both ships failed to effectively communicate concerns, ignored warning signs and didn't follow procedures to ensure drinking water was safe.

For example, contamination of Nimitz's water system came after

crew members used a potable water pump to flush a tank that hadn't been in service since at least 2020.

Investigators said the ship's plan, which included emptying as many as six other tanks, didn't ensure the pipes were properly flushed, effective and clean, according to the report.

But investigators pointed out that while Navy manuals showed how to address bacterial contamination, foul taste and murky water, they didn't say what to do about correcting jet fuel or chemical contamination.

The Nimitz report also revealed

that a previous crew didn't formally document that the tank in question was contaminated with seawater and, as it turned out, jet fuel, sometime between June 2020 and March 2021.

Although an informal tracking sheet indicated the tank was out of service due to seawater infiltration, the follow-on crew "did not know or consider the possibility that the tank might contain contaminants other than seawater," investigators said.

Aboard Lincoln, investigators found the tank's vent piping wasn't being monitored closely enough.

That report also found four missed opportunities by sailors to identify and address drinking water contamination before it spread throughout the ship.

For example, on Sept. 17, crew members noticed an unexplained change in a water tank level but took no action.

Five potable water tanks on the ship tested positive for bacteria in early 2022, "a deviation that was allowed to normalize," the report states.

"As no other (aircraft carrier) has had a potable water tank test positive for bacteria in the past two

years, this should have been a warning sign," the report stated.

Both reports included recommendations for each ship.

Nimitz received 13 of them, including one that ship leaders work with Navy officials to assess and update how they manage their drinking water supply.

The Lincoln report listed 18 recommendations, including completion of a critique to fully understand the scope of the inactions led to the contamination.

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PACIFIC

Protester with possible bomb arrested on Okinawa

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japanese police this week arrested a protester opposed to the U.S. military presence on the island with a suspected pipe bomb outside the U.S. Consulate.

The same protester, Akino Miyagi, 44, of Higashi village, reportedly attempted to take a rifle from a U.S. Marine whose squad wandered into the village from the Jungle Warfare Training Center at Camp Gonsalves in December.

Okinawa prefectural police took Miyagi

into custody at 10:22 a.m. Monday, a police spokesman told Stars and Stripes by phone Tuesday. Police said Miyagi brandished a metal pipe and threatened to throw it.

She was wearing a T-shirt that read, “A present to America, made with gunpowder from U.S. military waste in the World Heritage site in Yanbaru,” Japanese public broadcaster NHK reported Tuesday.

No one was hurt in the incident, according to Beatrice Camp, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Consulate General Naha.

“We are grateful to the police for their quick response,” she said in an email Tuesday.

Miyagi, a writer and self-described “butterfly scientist,” was still in custody Tuesday and could face a charge of obstructing police in performance of their public duties, the police spokesman said.

The case was expected to be sent to prosecutors on Tuesday.

A bomb squad seized and analyzed the pipe, which was hollow and filled with unused bullets collected from former U.S. training areas, Okinawa Times reported Tuesday.

The device did not contain a detonator, according to NHK.

An attorney for Miyagi said the device

was a flare she collected from a former U.S. training area in the northern part of the island, Okinawa Times said.

Miyagi has denied the obstruction charge, the police spokesman said. If convicted, she faces up to three years in prison and \$3,700 in fines, according to the Japanese penal code.

Some government officials in Japan speak to the media on condition of anonymity as a requirement of their employment.

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DAVID CHOI/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers carry out a change-of-command ceremony for the 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Tuesday.

New 2nd Infantry leader takes reins, praises South Korea alliance

BY DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — The former director of Army Aviation, taking command of the service's only combined division on Tuesday, described the United States' relationship with South Korea as the “greatest alliance in the world.”

Maj. Gen. William Taylor made the comment after taking charge of the 2nd Infantry Division from Maj. Gen. David Lesperance on Robertson Field in front of the division's headquarters at Camp Humphreys.

Taylor, speaking to roughly 300 people, said “serving in Korea as a part of the greatest alliance in the world is truly an amazing opportunity. We have a real mission that brings us all together with a common purpose for good.”

The 12,100-strong 2nd ID is the Army's only division that combines U.S. units with those of another nation, in this case South Korea. Lesperance, who had led 2nd ID since May 18, 2021, will become

director of operations for U.S. Forces Korea, the Combined Forces Command and United Nations Command at Humphreys.



Taylor

“Each of you are key members of the combined division team, sharing the camaraderie that makes us warriors,” he said.

In March, Lesperance oversaw 2nd ID's largest joint field exercise in six years. Warrior Shield included 1,200 U.S. and South Korean soldiers from six locations on the peninsula.

U.S. and South Korean military officials described Warrior Shield and similar joint exercises as defensive measures against North Korea, which has fired 12 ballistic missiles so far this year.

Under Lesperance, 2nd ID last

year began replacing its rotational armored brigade combat teams with Stryker teams.

The division's efforts set “a standard for how units should prepare for and be ready for combat” and allow the U.S. military to develop “bilateral response options to deter” North Korea, Lesperance said in his speech.

“To all the warriors, I want you to always remember your personal efforts contribute directly to the stability and prosperity here in [South Korea],” he said.

Taylor most recently was the director of Army Aviation under the Army's deputy chief of staff in Washington, D.C. He was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1990 and graduated from Brigham Young University a year later, according to his Army biography.

About 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea, the majority of them at Humphreys, roughly 40 miles south of Seoul.

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Marine pleads guilty to negligent driving in crash

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A Marine on Okinawa faces up to 20 months in prison after pleading guilty to driving recklessly prior to a crash that killed a Japanese pedestrian last year.

Cpl. Joshua David Siegel, 21, of Camp Foster, entered his plea Thursday in Naha District Court to a charge of negligent driving resulting in injury or death for the May 8 crash on Route 58 in Chatan, the Okinawa Times reported Saturday. Prosecutors alleged Siegel was traveling upwards of 55 mph on the main thoroughfare in slick conditions when his car jumped the curb and struck Katsuya Ishikawa, 61, of Ginowan, the paper reported. Siegel is scheduled to be sentenced Monday.

A spokeswoman from Naha District Court declined to confirm details of the proceedings when reached by phone Tuesday.

Siegel was southbound in his white, four-door sedan at approximately 7:30 a.m. when he lost control and first struck Ishikawa, and then a pedestrian guard rail that runs between the sidewalk and Foster's perimeter fence, Okinawa police said at the time. The Wyoming native was reportedly driving about 20 mph over the

speed limit at the time of the crash.

Ishikawa was pronounced dead at a central Okinawa hospital around 11:30 a.m., police said. Siegel suffered an injured right foot.

The Marine was not on duty at the time, nor had he been drinking, according to police. He was not arrested but was later called in for questioning and then summoned to court.

At Thursday's hearing, prosecutors called the crime particularly egregious and requested jail time, according to the Okinawa Times. Attorneys for Siegel argued that he was remorseful and requested a suspended sentence.

Siegel is an aviation intelligence specialist with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1 at Foster, Marine Corps Installations Pacific spokeswoman 1st Lt. Ashleigh Fairrow said in an email Tuesday. He was not taken into custody prior to trial but was restricted to base until Oct. 18 and ordered not to operate a personally owned vehicle.

“The Marine Corps takes these incidents seriously, and we would like to offer our condolences to those that are still affected,” Fairrow said.

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FRANK ANDREWS/Stars and Stripes

Fence damage from a fatal collision is seen outside Camp Foster, Okinawa, on May 10, 2022.

EUROPE

General: Russia forces 'eroded' on ground

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. European Command's Gen. Christopher Cavoli said Russia's total military force has sustained less damage during the war in Ukraine than its battlefield failures might suggest, and that some of its capabilities remain untouched since last year's invasion.



Cavoli

Cavoli, speaking Sunday during a security conference in Estonia, said Russian air power, sea power and cyberwarfare units have continued mostly intact in the time since Moscow's full-scale attack in February 2022.

"It's very easy to look and to think that the Russian military has collapsed or is in dire trouble, but in fact, it's been uneven," Cavoli said during the Lennart Meri Conference in Tallinn.

During more than a year of fighting, Russia's army has been hard hit. The U.S. estimates that Russian casualties have been as high as 100,000 killed or injured in just the last several months of the war alone. Yet Moscow has been able to replenish its ground force ranks, Cavoli said.

"The ground forces are greatly eroded. They have run into big problems ... On the other hand,



Russian Defense Ministry

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, right, shown in an undated photo released by the Russian Defense Ministry on April 3 visits Russian troops deployed in occupied Ukrainian territory.

they've also ingested a lot of people," Cavoli said. "And you know, the Russian army, the ground force, today is bigger than it was at the beginning of this conflict."

Meanwhile, Russia's air force has lost less than 100 fighters and bombers, with about 1,000 such aircraft remaining, he said.

"The navy has lost almost nothing, cyber has lost nothing, space lost nothing," Cavoli said. "So really, when we talk about the Russian military, we have to study it

across all domains. And we have to be ready to deal with the Russian military into the future in all domains."

Cavoli's comments come as the U.S. and its allies in Europe prepare for a NATO summit this summer that will focus on how the alliance's defense plans for the Continent need to be enhanced to deal with the threat posed by Russia.

Still, there is an ongoing debate about whether Russia's military failures in Ukraine are an indica-

tion that the country poses less of a threat to the alliance than previously thought. At the outset of the war, many security analysts expected a quick victory for Moscow. But Ukraine's effectiveness on the battlefield and an influx of Western arms turned the tables on the larger Russian force.

A bipartisan group of senators in March called on the Pentagon to update its requirements for confronting Russia in Europe, citing Moscow's failures in Ukraine as

the reason.

"Maintaining outdated plans and assumptions represents a potential threat not only to our objectives in Europe, but also to our allocation of resources in dealing with our security interests elsewhere in the world," the lawmakers wrote.

The senators, which included Army veteran Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., and Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said Russia casualties in the range of 200,000 troops overall and the large-scale loss of Russian battle tanks and other fighting vehicles suggest the Russian military has been significantly degraded.

"Russia's military is not the same as it was in 2021, and shows no signs of returning to its pre-invasion state in the near term. Our European warfighting requirements should reflect this new reality," the senators wrote.

Cavoli, however, said Russia maintains a wide range of military firepower that demands allies stay on guard.

"How long will it take (Russia) to rebuild? The question is, how long will it take to rebuild to do what? They're capable of doing things today," Cavoli said. "I think there's not going to be a light switch that goes on or off now. We need to know we need to be prepared."

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Onslaught: Successful Ukraine response may be another blow to Russia

FROM PAGE 1

and three S-400 cruise missiles launched from the ground.

Loud explosions boomed over Kyiv in the nighttime attack aimed at overwhelming Ukraine's air defenses. Kyiv's mayor reported three people were wounded.

The barrage came as European leaders sought new ways to punish Russia for the war and a Chinese envoy sought traction for Beijing's peace proposal, which so far appears to have made little impression on the warring sides. It also came as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy returned home from a whirlwind European tour to seek more military aid.

The overnight attack on Kyiv was "exceptional in its density — the maximum number of attacking missiles in the shortest period of time," said Serhii Popko, the head of the Kyiv military administration.

Valentyna Myronets, a 64-year-old Kyiv resident, said she felt "pain, fear, nervousness, restlessness" amid the assaults. "God, we are waiting for victory and when all this is over," she said.

U.K. Ambassador Melinda Simmons tweeted that the barrage was "pretty intense."

"Bangs and shaking walls are not an easy night," she wrote.

It was the eighth time this month that Russian air raids had targeted the capital, a clear escalation after weeks of lull and ahead of a much-anticipated Ukrainian counteroffensive using newly supplied advanced Western weapons.

After the first onslaught, Russia also launched Iranian-made Shahed attack drones and conducted aerial reconnaissance, Ihnat said.

Sophisticated Western air defense systems, including American-made Patriot missiles, have helped spare Kyiv from the kind of destruction witnessed along the main front line in the country's east and south. While most of the ground fighting is stalemated along that front line, both sides are targeting other territory with long-range weapons.

Associated Press reporters saw a metal fragment that landed inside the Kyiv zoo labeled Lockheed Martin and Boeing, two of the companies involved in manu-

facturing the Patriot missile system.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said a "Kinzhal" destroyed a Patriot missile battery in Kyiv but he didn't provide evidence, and the statement couldn't be independently verified. Ihnat, the Ukrainian air force spokesman, refused to comment on the claim.

The bolstered air defenses have deterred Russian aircraft from going deep into Ukraine and helped shape the course of the war, military experts say.

In Iceland, European leaders are taking part in a rare summit of the 46-nation Council of Europe, the continent's main human rights body, to discuss how to manage claims for compensation from Russia's damage to Ukraine.

Meanwhile, a Chinese envoy is preparing to visit Ukraine and Russia as Beijing advocates a peace plan it released in February. Li Hui, a former ambassador to Moscow, also will visit Poland, France and Germany, according to the Chinese foreign ministry.

Ukraine has cautiously welcomed China's proposal while

saying it would wait to see what specific actions China takes. Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government says it is neutral and wants to mediate in the war, but it has given Moscow political support, and a breakthrough appears unlikely more than 14 months after Russia's full-scale invasion.

In Russian-occupied southern Ukraine, about 300 miles from Kyiv, Russian officials have begun training for a planned evacuation from the shut-down Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant of 3,100 staff and their families, a representative of Energoatom, Ukraine's state nuclear company, said Tuesday. The plant, Europe's largest, employed around 11,000 staff before the war, some 6,000 of whom remain at the site and in the surrounding town of Enerhodar.

More Russian military units have been arriving at the site and are mining it, the representative told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity due to security concerns. Russian troops have barred remaining workers from communicating with each other or leaving, to prevent information from leaking out on Russian posi-

tions and military equipment, Energoatom said on Telegram.

In other developments:

■ Ukrainian forces have recaptured around 7.7 square miles of territory north and south of Bakhmut since last week, but Russian troops continue their grinding advance within the city, Ukraine's deputy defense minister said Tuesday. "Heavy battles continue with differing results," Hanna Malyar said on Telegram. The Russian-installed head of the partially occupied Donetsk region, Denis Pushilin, told Russian state TV that Russian forces near Bakhmut have reinforced their flanks in the face of Ukrainian successes.

■ In Ukraine's latest corruption scandal, which saw the head of the Supreme Court detained for alleged bribery on Monday, the chief of Ukraine's National Anti-Corruption Bureau, Semen Kryvonos, said Tuesday the main suspect in the case was mining magnate Kostiantyn Zhevago.

Zhevago was arrested in the French Alps in January on suspicion of embezzling tens of millions of dollars. Kyiv has requested his extradition.

NATION

Heads of failed banks questioned on risk, exec pay

By **KEN SWEET**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Executives from two large U.S. banks that failed dramatically in March appeared in front of the Senate Banking Committee on Tuesday to respond to questions about why their banks went under and what regulators could have done to avoid the calamities.

Along with questions about how these banks failed, senators used the hearing to also address executive pay and whether senior executives in the U.S. are being rewarded more for short-term gains — like rising stock prices — than for ensuring their companies' long-term health.

Executives at Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank were paid millions of dollars over their tenures up until their banks failed, the bulk of the compensation coming in the form of company stock. That stock is now largely worthless but the CEOs still pocketed millions from the planned sales of their shares before the banks' collapse.

Sen. Sherrod Brown, the Democratic chair of the Senate Banking Committee, took aim at executive compensation to open the hearing.

"You were paying out bonuses until literally hours before regulators seized your assets. To people in Ohio and around the country, this feels sickeningly familiar," Brown said. "To most Americans, a lack of Wall Street accountability tracks with their entire experience with

our economy. Workers face consequences; executives ride off into the sunset."

Silicon Valley Bank's former CEO Greg Becker received compensation valued at roughly \$9.9 million in 2022, and also sold stock in the company only a few weeks before it failed. Joseph DePaolo, CEO of Signature Bank, also sold stock in the company in the years leading up to its collapse.

DePaolo did not appear in front of the Senate on Tuesday due to health concerns; instead Scott Shay, Signature's co-founder and former chairman, and Eric Howell, the bank's president, agreed to testify.

Becker used his testimony and answers to senators' questions to say that Silicon Valley Bank was a victim of a confluence of factors, including a social media-driven bank run. His arguments seemed to make little headway with politicians on both sides of the aisle, who focused their questions on failures by the bank's management to understand how rising interest rates could negatively impact their balance sheet.

"You say you took risk management seriously. I find it hard to believe that comment," said Sen. Tim Scott, the ranking Republican on the committee.

Sen. John Kennedy, R-Louisiana, called the bank's interest rate management "bone deep, to the marrow, stupid."

The anger over CEO pay echoes that of roughly 15 years ago, when



JACQUELYN MARTIN / AP

Gregory Becker, former CEO of Silicon Valley Bank, arrives to testify to a Senate hearing examining the failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank, on Tuesday, on Capitol Hill.

the 2008 financial crisis led to taxpayer-funded bailouts of major banks. The CEOs and high-level bankers still received millions in pay and bonuses, most notably at nearly failed insurance conglomerate American International Group.

"The recent bank failures prove yet again that banker compensation is at the core of causing banks to take too much risk, act irresponsibly if not recklessly, and blow themselves up," said Dennis Kelleher, co-founder of Better Markets, which was founded after the Great Recession focused on financial industry reform.

Clawing back CEO pay has gained bipartisan attention despite the fierce divisions between the two political parties.

Four senators — two Democrats and two Republicans — have introduced legislation that would give the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

authority to claw back any pay made to executives in the five years leading up to a bank's failure.

The bill is sponsored by Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.; Josh Hawley, R-Mo.; Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev.; and Mike Braun, R-Ind. The White House, while not endorsing the specific bill, has called on Congress to pass laws to reform how bank CEOs are paid in the event of a failure.

Warren asked both Becker and Shay if they planned to return any of the compensation they received over the past few years to help cover some of the estimated \$22.5 billion their banks' failures cost the FDIC. Shay said he did not. Becker did not directly answer the question, and Warren responded she would "take that as a 'no.'"

Executives at big companies also tend to get most of their pay each year in company stock. That means

CEOs and other insiders have much to gain if the company's stock rises. And shareholders typically like it this way. The thought is that by tying a CEO's compensation to the stock price, it better aligns their interests with shareholders.

But the executives also have a lot to gain if they can sell their stock before the share price takes a steep dive. Since 2000, the Securities and Exchange Commission has given CEOs and other corporate insiders a way to defend themselves against charges that they bought or sold stock using information unavailable to others, an illegal practice known as insider trading. The method, known as the 10b5-1 rule, lets insiders enter into written plans to buy and sell stock in the future. The goal was to let insiders make trades, but not when they have their hands on material information not available to the public.

ChatGPT's chief testifies before Congress amid concerns about AI risks

By **MATT O'BRIEN**
Associated Press

The head of the artificial intelligence company that makes ChatGPT told Congress on Tuesday that government intervention "will be critical to mitigate the risks of increasingly powerful" AI systems.

"As this technology advances, we understand that people are anxious about how it could change the way we live. We are too," OpenAI CEO Sam Altman testified at a Senate hearing Tuesday.

His San Francisco-based startup rocketed to public attention after it released ChatGPT late last year. ChatGPT is a free chatbot tool that answers questions with convincingly human-like responses.

What started out as a panic among educators about ChatGPT's use to cheat on home-

work assignments has expanded to broader concerns about the ability of the latest crop of "generative AI" tools to mislead people, spread falsehoods, violate copyright protections and upend some jobs.

And while there's no immediate sign that Congress will craft sweeping new AI rules, as European lawmakers are doing, the societal concerns brought Altman and other tech CEOs to the White House earlier this month and have led U.S. agencies to promise to crack down on harmful AI products that break existing civil rights and consumer protection laws.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, the Connecticut Democrat who chairs

the Senate Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on privacy, technology and the law, opened the hearing with a recorded speech that sounded like the senator, but was actually a voice clone trained on Blumenthal's floor speeches and reciting a speech written by ChatGPT after he asked the chatbot, "How I would open this hearing?"

The result was impressive, said Blumenthal, but he added, "What if I had asked it, and what if it had provided, an endorsement of Ukrainian surrendering or (Russian President) Vladimir Putin's leadership?"

Blumenthal said AI companies ought to be required to test their systems and disclose known risks before releasing them.

Founded in 2015, OpenAI is also known for other AI products including the image-maker DALL-

E. Microsoft has invested billions of dollars into the startup and has integrated its technology into its own products, including its search engine Bing.

Altman is also planning to embark on a worldwide tour this month to national capitals and major cities across six continents to talk about the technology with policymakers and the public.

Also testifying will be IBM's chief privacy and trust officer, Christina Montgomery, and Gary Marcus, a professor emeritus at New York University who was among a group of AI experts who called on OpenAI and other tech firms to pause their development of more powerful AI models for six months to give society more time to consider the risks. The letter was a response to the March release of OpenAI's latest model, GPT-4, described as more power-

ful than ChatGPT.

"Artificial intelligence will be transformative in ways we can't even imagine, with implications for Americans' elections, jobs, and security," said the panel's ranking Republican, Sen. Josh Hawley, of Missouri. "This hearing marks a critical first step towards understanding what Congress should do."

Altman and other tech industry leaders have said they welcome some form of AI oversight but have cautioned against what they see as overly heavy-handed rules. In a copy of her prepared remarks, IBM's Montgomery asks Congress to take a "precision regulation" approach.

"This means establishing rules to govern the deployment of AI in specific use-cases, not regulating the technology itself," Montgomery said.



Altman

NATION

DeSantis curtails college diversity programs

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Monday signed a bill that blocks public colleges from using federal or state funding on diversity programs, addressing a concern of conservatives ahead of the Republican governor's expected presidential candidacy.

The law, which DeSantis proposed earlier this year, comes as Republicans across the country target programs on diversity, equity and inclusion in higher education.

The signing builds on the governor's larger push to shape Florida's education system through regulating how schools deal with subjects such as race and gender, with DeSantis arguing that he is challenging inappropriate liberal ideology in the classroom.

DeSantis, who is expected to announce his presidential run in the coming weeks, has focused heavily on divisive cultural is-

ssues as he moves to win over the conservative voters who typically decide Republican primary elections.

Diversity, equity and inclusion offices in higher education often spearhead services tailored to students of various races, genders, sexual orientations, cultures and abilities. Some college administrators also consider so-called DEI factors when admitting students, providing scholarships or deciding which faculty to hire and promote.

The law blocks public universities from diverting state or federal funds toward programs or campus activities that advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion or promote political or social activism.

"In reality what this concept of DEI has been is to attempt to impose orthodoxy on the university," DeSantis said at a bill signing ceremony in Sarasota. "This has basically been used as a veneer to impose an ideological agenda, and that is wrong."

The measure also bars curriculums that teach "identity politics" or "theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities." The provision is aimed at curtailing education about critical race theory, a way of thinking about U.S. history through the lens of racism.

In a signal of DeSantis' reach on education, he chose to sign the bill at New College of Florida, a small, traditionally-progressive school that became nationally known this year after the governor appointed a group of conservatives to its board of trustees. Among the DeSantis appointees' first moves was to eliminate the New College's diversity, equity and inclusion office.

The takeover has led to pushback among students at New College, long known for its progressive thought and creative course of-

ferings that don't use traditional grades.

On Monday, a small group of protesters gathered outside the signing ceremony. DeSantis, as well as most of the speakers at the event, ridiculed them.

"You know, I saw some of the protesters out there. I was a little disappointed. I was hoping for more," DeSantis said with a smile as his supporters clapped.

Sen. Shevrin Jones, a Democrat, issued a statement after the signing that said the law continues DeSantis' "overreach" into education.

"Education ought to be about teaching kids how to think through issues, not what to think about issues," Jones said. "The exposure to wide-ranging experiences and fresh perspectives encourages understanding and creativity. By restricting what students can learn, the state is actively suppressing students' academic and intellectual freedom."

Administration to invest \$11B in rural renewable energy

By DREW COSTLEY
Associated Press

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a nearly \$11 billion investment on Tuesday to help bring affordable clean energy to rural communities throughout the country.

Rural electric cooperatives, renewable energy companies and electric utilities will be able to apply for funding through two programs, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said during a media briefing on Monday.

Vilsack said it was the largest single federal investment in rural electrification since President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Act in 1936 as part of the New Deal.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the Rural Utility Service to work collaboratively with our great partners, the Rural Electric cooperatives, in order to advance a clean energy future for rural America," Vilsack said. "So this is an exciting and an historic day, and it continues an ongoing effort to ensure that rural America is a full participant in this clean energy economy."

The Empowering Rural America program will make \$9.7 billion available for rural electric cooperatives to create renewable energy, zero-emission and carbon capture systems.

The Powering Affordable Clean Energy



JESSIE WARDARSKI/AP

Corn is planted with a view of a wind turbine last month, in Lake Benton, Minn. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a nearly \$11 billion investment on Tuesday to help bring affordable clean energy to rural communities throughout the country.

program will make \$1 billion available in partially-forgivable loans for renewable energy companies and electric utilities to help finance renewable energy projects such as large-scale solar, wind and geothermal projects.

The Department of Agriculture said in a news release that the goal of this program is to

provide affordable clean energy to vulnerable, disadvantaged and Indigenous communities. But there is tension between building a clean energy infrastructure for all and mining the materials needed for that infrastructure.

For example, conservationists and Indigenous communities in Nevada have sued to

block the opening of the largest mine planned in the U.S. for extraction of lithium used in electric vehicle batteries.

When asked about tribal concerns about mineral extraction at Monday's briefing, Vilsack said there would be a "significant tribal consultation" for mining projects on land his agency controls. But when pressed about what would happen if an Indigenous community said no to a mining project, he declined to answer the question, calling it hypothetical.

Rural electric cooperatives can apply for grants, loans and loan modifications through the Empowering Rural America program between July 31 and Aug. 31. The application period for the Powering Affordable Clean Energy program is June 30-Sept. 29.

Experts told The Associated Press that these programs could have a significant impact for rural America. "The ERA Program has the potential to help rural electric co-ops and municipal co-ops move the needle toward a cleaner, less carbon-intensive electricity mix," said Felix Mormann, a professor of law at Texas A&M University who specializes in energy law and policy.

Funding for the new programs comes from the Inflation Reduction Act, which has generated hundreds of billions of dollars for renewable energy transition and environmental cleanup.

Allies launching super PAC to back Pence's expected 2024 candidacy

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Allies of former Vice President Mike Pence are launching a new super PAC to support his expected candidacy for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination.

"Committed to America," the Pence-sanctioned group, publicly launches Tuesday, according to people familiar with the project, who spoke on condition of anonymity to share details of the planning and strategy.

"The country's at real crossroads and the Republican Party needs a strong conservative candidate who can win," said Scott Reed, the longtime GOP consultant, who will co-chair the group. "Pence has the experience, the unparalleled character, communication skills



Pence

and the conservative credentials to win both the nomination and a general election."

The launch is the latest sign that Pence is moving ahead with his expected bid for the GOP nomination—a move that would put him in direct contention with his former boss, former President Donald Trump. Pence has said he will announce his plans "well before late June" and aides have been discussing potential launch dates for a campaign as early as May, but more likely in June. In the meantime, Pence has kept a busy schedule of visits to

early-voting states, policy speeches and media interviews as he gears up for a run.

The new group will be co-chaired by Reed, who previously served as political director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and managed Bob Dole's 1996 presidential campaign. Joining him will be former Texas Rep. Jeb Hensarling, who developed a close friendship with Pence when they served in the House and is a former chair of the House Republican Conference.

Serving as executive director will be Bobby Saporow, who managed Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp's winning 2022 reelection campaign. Kemp defeated his Trump-endorsed challenger, former Sen. David Perdue, by more than

50 points. Mike Ricci, who previously served as communications director to former Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, will oversee communications.

Pence faces an uphill battle to the nomination with much of the attention and fundraising focused so far on Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is planning his own entry into the race in the coming weeks. The field also includes former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, tech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy and former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson. South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott has formed a presidential exploratory committee and is expected to formally launch his campaign next week.

NATION

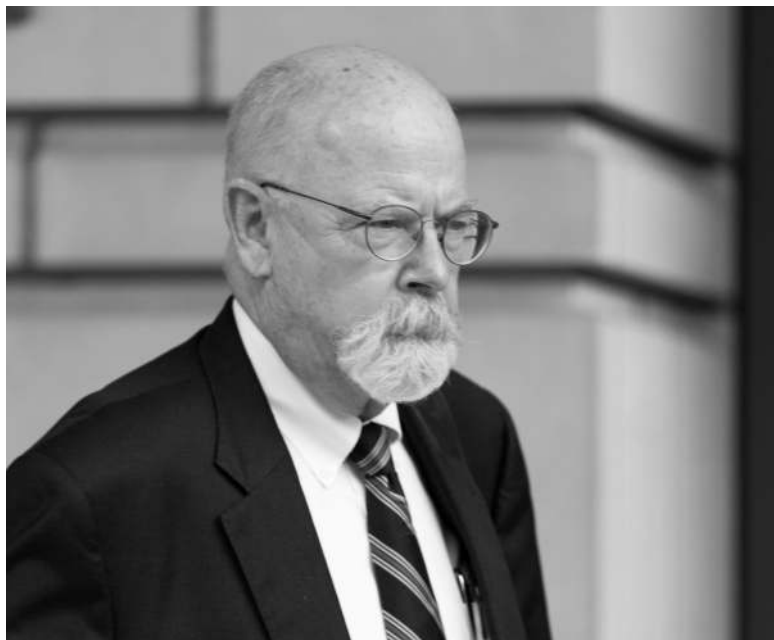
Report: FBI rushed into Trump-Russia inquiry

By ERIC TUCKER
AND LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A special prosecutor found that the FBI rushed into its investigation of ties between Russia and Donald Trump's 2016 campaign and relied too much on raw and unconfirmed intelligence as he concluded a four-year probe that fell far short of the former president's prediction that the "crime of the century" would be uncovered.

The report Monday from special counsel John Durham represents the long-awaited culmination of an investigation that Trump and allies had claimed would expose massive wrongdoing by law enforcement and intelligence officials. Instead, Durham's investigation delivered underwhelming results, with prosecutors securing a guilty plea from a little-known FBI employee but losing the only two criminal cases they took to trial.

The roughly 300-page report catalogs what Durham says were a series of missteps by the FBI and Justice Department as investigators undertook a politically explosive probe in the heat of the 2016 election into whether the Trump campaign was colluding with Rus-



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Special counsel John Durham, appointed by former Attorney General William Barr to investigate potential government wrongdoing in the Trump-Russia probe, release his report Monday.

sia to tip the outcome. It criticized the FBI for opening a full-fledged investigation based on "raw, unanalyzed and uncorroborated intelligence," saying the speed at which it did so was a departure from the norm. And it said investigators repeatedly relied on "confirmation bias," ignoring or ratio-

nalizing away evidence that undercut their premise of a Trump-Russia conspiracy as they pushed the probe forward.

"Based on the review of Crossfire Hurricane and related intelligence activities, we conclude that the Department and the FBI failed to uphold their important mission

of strict fidelity to the law in connection with certain events and activities described in this report," the document states.

The impact of Durham's report, though harshly critical of the FBI, is likely blunted by Durham's spotty prosecution record and by the fact that many of the episodes it cites were already examined in depth by the Justice Department's inspector general. The FBI has also long since announced dozens of corrective actions. The bureau outlined those changes in a letter to Durham on Monday, including steps meant to ensure the accuracy of secretive surveillance applications to eavesdrop on suspected terrorists and spies.

"Had those reforms been in place in 2016, the missteps identified in the report could have been prevented. This report reinforces the importance of ensuring the FBI continues to do its work with the rigor, objectivity, and professionalism the American people deserve and rightly expect," the FBI said in a statement. It also stressed that the report focused on the FBI's prior leadership, before current Director Christopher Wray took the job in 2017.

Still, Durham's findings are likely to amplify scrutiny of the

FBI at a time when Trump is again seeking the White House as well as offer fresh fodder for congressional Republicans who have launched their own investigation into the purported "weaponization" of the FBI and Justice Department. After the report was released, Republican House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan said he had invited Durham to testify next week.

Trump, on his Truth Social platform, claimed anew that the report showed the "crime of the century" and referred to the Russia investigation as a "Democrat Hoax."

Durham, the former U.S. Attorney in Connecticut, was appointed in 2019 by Trump's attorney general, William Barr, soon after special counsel Robert Mueller had completed his investigation into whether the 2016 Trump campaign had colluded with Russia to tilt the outcome of the election in his favor.

The Mueller investigation resulted in roughly three dozen criminal charges, including convictions of a half-dozen Trump associates, and determined that Russia intervened on the Trump campaign's behalf and that the campaign welcomed the help.

Woman claims in lawsuit that sex was 'requirement' to work for Rudy Giuliani

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A woman who says she worked as an off-the-books employee for Rudy Giuliani during his stint as Donald Trump's personal lawyer alleges in court papers that the former New York City mayor coerced her into sex and owes her nearly \$2 million in unpaid wages.

Noelle Dunphy said in the lawsuit that she was Giuliani's business development director and public relations consultant from 2019 to 2021.

She initially made her allegations public in January, but she detailed her claims further in a 70-page legal complaint filed Monday in New York.

Giuliani "vehemently" denied the allegations through a spokesperson. His lawyer had also previously denied that Dunphy ever worked for Giuliani.

"Mayor Giuliani's lifetime of public service speaks for itself, and he will pursue all available remedies and counterclaims," said Giuliani's communications adviser, Ted Goodman.

The new court filing portrays Giuliani, 78, as a hard-drinking, Viagra-popping womanizer who made satisfying his sexual de-

mands "an absolute requirement of her employment." She is seeking at least \$10 million.

Dunphy claimed in the lawsuit to have made numerous audio recordings of Giuliani, including some in which she says he can be heard making sexual comments, demanding sex and making sexist, racist, and antisemitic remarks.

Dunphy's legal team declined a request from The Associated Press to share those recordings, saying they were part of the litigation.

Included in the complaint are screenshots of suggestive text messages purportedly from Giuliani.

The lawsuit claims Giuliani hired Dunphy in January 2019 and promised to pay her \$1 million per year for her consulting work.

But he told her that he had to defer paying her until he settled his divorce from his third wife, Judith, according to the lawsuit.

Almost immediately, according to the complaint, Giuliani started making sexual advances, including kissing her in the back of an SUV on her first day and demanding that she take care of him sexually, sometimes while he was on the phone with high-profile



MARY ALTAFFER/AP

Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani speaks during a news conference on June 7, 2022, in New York.

friends and clients.

Often, Dunphy alleges, Giuliani would demand she work in a bikini or in American flag-themed shorts he bought for her, and he urged her to strip naked for him during video meetings.

Giuliani reached a divorce settlement in December 2019, but Dunphy said all she got from Giuliani were a few cash payments totaling \$12,000 to cover living expenses.

He still owes her \$1,988,000, she said.

Dunphy also contended that Giuliani had reneged on a promise to represent her, for free, in a protracted legal fight involving claims of domestic violence.

Ga. prosecutor fights Trump moves in probe

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Georgia prosecutor who's investigating whether Donald Trump and his allies broke any laws as they tried to overturn his 2020 election loss in the state fought back Monday against the former president's attempt to remove her from the case and exclude certain evidence.

Trump's Georgia legal team in March asked the court to toss out the report of a special grand jury that had been seated in the case and to prevent prosecutors from using any evidence or testimony stemming from the panel's investigation.

They also asked that Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis and her office be barred from continuing to investigate or prosecute the case.

Willis responded in a filing Monday that Trump's motion is "procedurally flawed" and advances "arguments that lack merit."

For more than two years now, Willis has been investigating the actions Trump and others took in the wake of the 2020 election.

She took the unusual step last year of asking for a special grand jury to aid the investigation.

The special grand jury was seat-

ed last May and dissolved in January after hearing from 75 witnesses and submitting a report with recommendations for Willis. Though most of that report remains under wraps, the panel's foreperson has said that the special grand jury recommended charging multiple people.

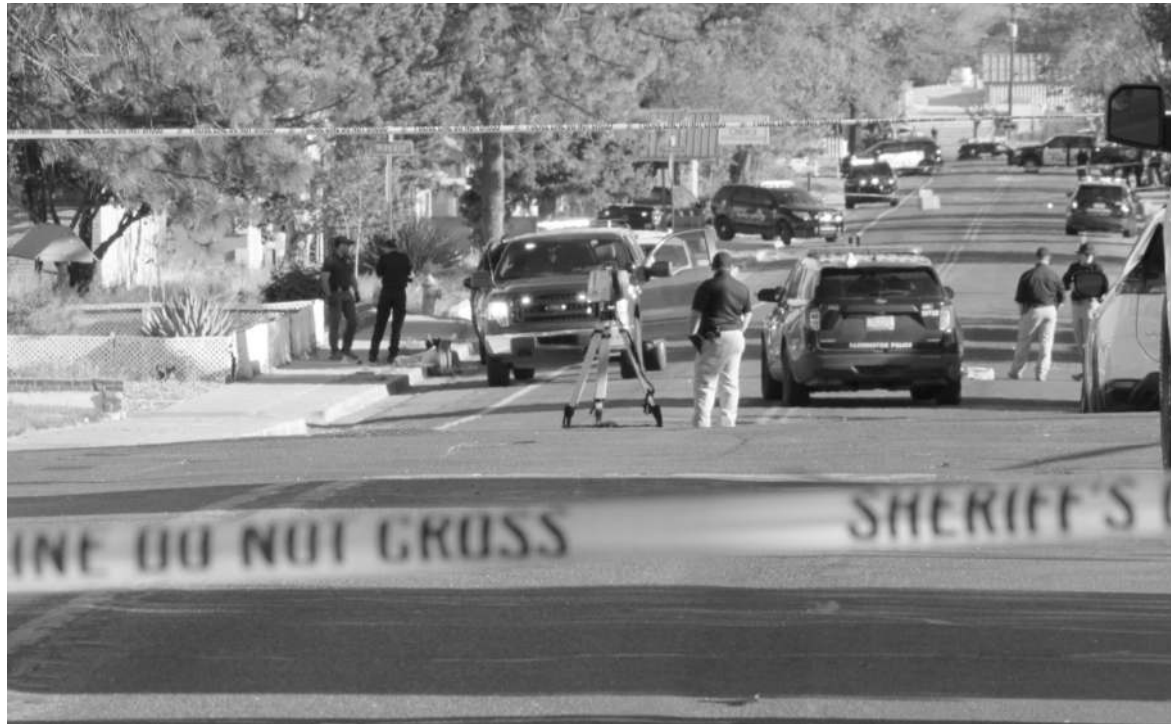
Trump lawyers argued that the special grand jury "involved a constant lack of clarity as to the law, inconsistent applications of basic constitutional protections for individuals being brought before it, and a prosecutor's office that was found to have an actual conflict, yet continued to pursue the investigation."

They asked that their claims be heard by a judge other than Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney, who oversaw the special grand jury.

In her motion Monday, Willis asked that McBurney retain supervision and urged those motions be dismissed or denied without holding a hearing.

A coalition of news organizations, including The Associated Press, also filed a motion Monday objecting to Trump's request that the special grand jury report be "quashed and expunged from the record."

NATION



SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN/AP

Investigators work along a residential street following a deadly shooting Monday, in Farmington, N.M.

NM gunman who killed 3, injured 6 shot randomly at cars and houses

Associated Press

FARMINGTON, N.M. — An 18-year-old man armed with at least three guns roamed through a northwestern New Mexico community firing randomly at cars and houses, killing three people and injuring six others including two police officers before he was killed, authorities said.

The shootings occurred around 11 a.m. Monday in Farmington, a city of about 50,000 people near the Four Corners — where New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado meet — that is a supply line and bedroom community to the region's oil and natural gas industry.

Officers responding to reports of shots being fired encountered the attacker within minutes and killed him with at least one shot, Farmington Police Chief Steve Hebbe said in a video released Monday night. He said the gunman fired at least three weapons, including an "AR-style rifle."

The shooting was "honestly one of the most horrific and difficult days that Farmington has ever had as a community," he said.

The identities of the gunman

and the victims weren't immediately released.

Investigators were still struggling to determine a motive for the attack, including talking to the shooter's family.

"But at this point it appears to be purely random, that there was no schools, no churches and no individuals targeted," Hebbe said. "During the course of the event, the suspect roamed throughout the neighborhood up to a quarter of a mile. At least six houses and three cars were shot in the course of the event, as the suspect randomly fired at whatever entered his head to shoot at."

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said in a statement that she was praying for the families of the victims and that it "serves as yet another reminder of how gun violence destroys lives in our state and our country every single day."

Mayor Nate Duckett said in a statement that the shooting "has left us reeling in anguish and disbelief."

At Hills Church, just a few miles away from the attack scene, dozens of people gathered around a tall metal cross as the sun set Mon-

day to pray. Some wrapped their arms around each other as they listened. The mayor and law enforcement officers were among those in the crowd.

Lead pastor Matt Mizell talked about living in a "dark and broken world" but told the crowd that there was still hope and asked God to provide them strength.

Officers began receiving reports of gunshots at about 10:57 a.m. The first officer arrived at 11:02 a.m. and three minutes later the gunman had been killed, Hebbe said.

At first officers thought there might be a second suspect and schools were locked down "because we didn't know where any other suspects could be," the chief said. However, it now appears that the 18-year-old acted alone, he said.

One Farmington officer was shot and taken to the hospital, where he was treated and released, while a state police officer also was shot and drove himself to the hospital where he remained and is doing well, Hebbe said. That officer was reported to be in stable condition.

Wash. lawmakers don't want drug decriminalization

By ED KOMENDA
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Washington lawmakers are considering a major new drug policy in a special session that begins Tuesday, a day after reaching a compromise that Democratic and Republican leaders say strikes a balance between public order and compassion for those with substance abuse issues.

The bipartisan agreement would avoid making the state the second in the U.S. to decriminalize the possession of controlled substances. Gov. Jay Inslee called lawmakers back to the Washington Statehouse for a special session after they failed to pass one before adjourning late last month.

Under a tentative deal, intentional possession or public use of small amounts of illegal drugs would be a gross misdemeanor, punishable by up to six months in jail for the first two offenses and up to a year after that.

But police and prosecutors would be encouraged to divert cases for treatment or other services, and the measure provides millions of additional dollars for diversion programs and to provide short-term housing for people with substance use disorders.

A temporary, 2-year-old law that makes intentional drug possession illegal is due to expire July 1. So unless the compromise passes, drug possession — even of fentanyl and other dangerous opiates — will become decriminalized under state law. The only other state that's tried decriminalizing drug possession is neighboring Oregon, where the experiment is off to a rocky start.

Lawmakers on both sides said the agreement strikes a balance between compassion and accountability for those struggling with substance abuse disorder. Rep. Roger Goodman, D-Kirkland,



TED S. WARREN/AP

Steph Gaspar, a volunteer with an addiction and homeless advocacy group, cleans up needles used for drug injection found at a homeless encampment in 2017 in Everett, Wash.

called it "a fair compromise that addresses urgent concerns about public disorder but follows evidence-based practices in helping people in need."

Both Goodman and Republican Rep. Peter Abbarno, of Centralia, said much work will remain even if the compromise is approved, because even with additional funding, the state doesn't yet have the treatment or diversion program capacity it needs to deal with the addiction crisis.

"The state of Washington is a decade behind in having treatment providers and having adequate bed space and treatment facilities," Abbarno said. "Even when we pass this policy, we're still not going to see an immediate drop in crime or substance abuse, because we don't have the workforce development and infrastructure to deal with the off-ramps that this bill creates."

Groups want info shared on Texas mall gunman's motives

Associated Press

DALLAS — Members of several Texas groups representing people of color on Monday demanded that authorities quickly acknowledge whether they believe the neo-Nazi who killed eight people at a Dallas-area mall over a week ago was racially motivated in choosing his victims.

More than a week after the May 6 attack at the Allen Premium Outlets, authorities haven't re-

leased a motive for the attack, and a Texas Department of Public Safety official has said it appeared that 33-year-old Mauricio Garcia targeted the location rather than a specific group of people.

But Lily Trieu, interim executive director of Asian Texans for Justice, said at a news conference that many community members who contacted her felt that assessment was "outrageous."

The victims — who include

three members of a Korean American family and an engineer from India — represented a cross-section of the increasingly diverse Dallas suburbs.

"You can't separate location from the people who live there, and what Allen is known for, as being diverse, as being an area where there is a large Asian American and South Asian American population," said Stephanie Drenka, co-founder and execu-

tive director of the Dallas Asian American Historical Society.

She said that the Department of Public Safety official's statement "shows a fundamental lack of understanding of how systemic racism works and how it is embedded in every system and every place."

"The targeted location does not exclude the possibility of a hate crime," Drenka said. "Allen and its adjacent cities of Plano, Frisco

and Carrollton are home to one of the largest Asian American populations outside of the coasts."

Authorities have acknowledged the authenticity of a social media account on which the gunman, who had no criminal record, displayed a fascination with white supremacy while offering chilling hints of his research and planning. He described mass shootings as sport and posted photos showing his large Nazi tattoos.

NATION

Influencer accused of posing as soldier

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

A prominent Instagram influencer from Ghana has been accused of posing as a U.S. soldier as part of a scheme to bilk elderly Americans out of \$2 million, the Justice Department said.

Mona Faiz Montrage, 30, is charged with six felony counts related to fraud, money laundering, and the receiving and selling of stolen money, federal prosecutors said Monday.

She pleaded not guilty to all counts in a New York federal court Monday.

One of several schemes involving Montrage and her conspirators tricked people into believing they were sending money to a lover who was an officer in Afghan-

istan, a recently unsealed indictment said.

Montrage, an Accra, Ghana-based social media influencer with 4.2 million followers on Instagram, arrived in America last Friday, a statement from prosecutors in the southern district of New York said Monday.

She had been extradited from the United Kingdom, where she had been arrested in November, the statement said.

"As alleged, Mona Faiz Montrage was a member of a criminal conspiracy that specifically targeted older Americans through romance scams," U.S. attorney Damian Williams said.

From 2013 to 2019, members of the group assumed false identities to build faux-romantic relation-

ships with victims, before asking them to send money, the unsealed indictment said.

Victims were told that they needed to send money to help a U.S. Army officer retrieve funds from Afghanistan, to help transport gold to America from overseas and to provide payments to resolve an FBI investigation, the indictment said.

Montrage at one point sent a victim a tribal marriage certificate purporting to show that they had been married in Ghana, the indictment said. It was part of correspondence that led to approximately 82 wire transfers totaling about \$89,000 that the victim hoped would help with costs at Montrage's family's farm, the doc-

ument said.

Sometimes, the elderly victims received money from the schemes, court documents said. It was part of a system to launder the money by sending gains from other scams into a victim's bank account, which would then lead to a request to send that money elsewhere.

Money from the schemes flowed into Montrage's bank accounts in New York, including into accounts with the same name as her clothing company, the indictment said.

Montrage faces charges with a maximum sentence of 35 years in prison.

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INSTAGRAM

Ghanaian influencer Mona Faiz Montrage presented a glamorous lifestyle to millions of followers online.

More firms help with fertility, but still out of reach for many

By TOM MURPHY
Associated Press

Jessica Tincopa may leave the photography business she spent 14 years building for one reason: to find coverage for fertility treatment.

After six miscarriages, Tincopa and her husband started saving for in vitro fertilization, which can cost well over \$20,000. But the pandemic wiped out their savings, and they can't find coverage for IVF on their state's health insurance marketplace. So, the California couple is saving again, and asking politicians to help expand access.

"No one should ever have to go through this," Tincopa said.

Infertility, or the inability to get pregnant after a year or more of trying, is a common problem. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that it affects nearly one in five married girls or women between the ages of 15 and 49.

Yet coverage of fertility treatments can be hard to find in many corners of health insurance even as it grows briskly with big employers who see it as a must-have benefit to keep workers.

It's a divide researchers say is leading to haves and have-nots for treatments, which can involve a range of prescription drugs and procedures like artificial insemination or IVF, where an embryo is created by mixing eggs and sperm in a lab dish.

"It is still primarily for people who can afford to pay quite a bit out of pocket," said Usha Ranji, associate director of women's health policy at KFF, a nonprofit that studies health care issues.

Clouding this picture are insurer concerns about cost as well as questions about how much fertility coverage should be empha-



JAE C. HONG/AP

Jessica Tincopa and her husband, Rob Tran, are saving money for in vitro fertilization, and at the same time pushing politicians to expand health insurance coverage to include the treatments.

sized or mandated versus helping people find other ways to build families, such as adoption.

"If you're going to offer one, there should be a corollary and maybe even more significant benefits for adoption," medical ethicist Dr. Philip Rosoff said.

A total of 54% of the biggest U.S. employers — those with 20,000 workers or more — covered IVF in 2022, according to the benefits consultant Mercer. That's up from 36% in 2015. Walmart started offering coverage last fall and banking giant JPMorgan began this year.

Many businesses that offer the coverage extend it beyond those with an infertility diagnosis, making it accessible to LGBTQ+ couples and single women, according to Mercer.

The benefits consultant also said there's big growth among employers with 500 or more workers, as 43% offered IVF coverage last year. But coverage gets spotty with smaller employers.

Lauderhill (Florida) Fire Rescue Lt. Ame Mason estimates she and her husband have spent close to \$100,000 of their own money on fertility treatments over the past few years, including several unsuccessful IVF attempts. Mason and her husband both work for the same department.

Her brother-in-law also has a fertility issue. He works for a bigger fire department in nearby Palm Beach County and got coverage. Mason said that the couple has a son.

"It's pretty wild. You could work a county away and have cov-

erage," Mason said. "There's nothing regulating it ... both government jobs."

Twenty-one states have laws mandating coverage of fertility treatments or fertility preservation, which some patients need before cancer treatments, according to the nonprofit patient advocacy organization Resolve. Of those states, 14 require IVF coverage.

But most of these requirements don't apply to individual insurance plans or coverage sold through small employers.

"People tell us that their biggest barrier to family building is lack of insurance coverage," Resolve CEO Barbara Collura said, adding that some insurers don't view the care as medically necessary.

The state and federally funded Medicaid program for people with

low incomes limits coverage of fertility issues largely to diagnosis in several states, according to KFF, which says Black and Hispanic women are disproportionately affected. States also can exclude fertility drugs from prescription coverage.

"By not covering this for poor folks, we're saying we don't want you to reproduce," said medical ethicist Lisa Campo-Engelstein of the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. She noted Medicaid programs do cover birth control and sterilization procedures like vasectomies.

In California, Tincopa says she has talked to both state and federal legislators about creating some sort of option for people to purchase individual insurance with the coverage.

The state Senate is weighing a bill that would require coverage of fertility treatments, including IVF, for large employers. But the California Association of Health Plans opposes it, just as it opposed similar bills in recent years, because of how much it might cost.

Spokeswoman Mary Ellen Grant noted independent analysis has shown that bills like this could increase premiums by as much as \$1 billion in the state. She also said it would create a coverage gap because it wouldn't apply to the state's Medicaid enrollees.

"This is not about the treatment itself," she said. "It's strictly based on the increased costs for our members. It would impact everybody regardless of whether they received the benefit."

But large fertility cost estimates often overstate how many people will use the benefit, said Sean Tipton, of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. He also said most people with fertility problems don't need IVF.

NATION

Transformation of lonely nation

Has the notion of the 'American way' promoted isolation across history?

By TED ANTHONY

Associated Press

NEW YORK — At the end of “The Searchers,” one of John Wayne’s most renowned Westerns, a kidnapped girl has been rescued and a family reunited. As the closing music swells, Wayne’s character looks around at his kin — people who have other people to lean on — and then walks off toward the dusty West Texas horizon, lonesome and alone.

It’s a classic example of a fundamental American tall tale — that of a nation built on notions of individualism, a male-dominated story filled with loners and “rugged individualists” who suck it up, do what needs to be done, ride off into the sunset and like it that way. In reality, loneliness in America can be deadly. This month, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy declared it an American epidemic, saying that it takes as deadly a toll as smoking upon the population of the United States. “Millions of people in America are struggling in the shadows,” he said, “and that’s not right.”

He cited some potent forces: the gradual withering of long-standing institutions, decreased engagement with churches, the fraying bonds of extended families. When you add recent stressors — the rise of social media and virtual life, post-9/11 polarization and the way COVID-19 interrupted existence — the challenge becomes even more stark. People are lonely the world over. But as far back as the early 19th century, when the word “loneliness” began to be used in its current context in American life, some were already asking the question: Do the contours of American society — that emphasis on individualism, that spreading out with impunity over a vast, sometimes out-sized landscape — encourage isolation and alienation?

Or is that, like other chunks of the American story, a premise built on myths?

A matter of perception

Alexis de Tocqueville, watching the country as an outsider while writing “Democracy in America” in the mid-1800s, wondered whether, “as social conditions become more equal,” Americans and people like them would be inclined to reject the trappings of deep community that had pervaded Old World aristocracies for centuries.

“They acquire the habit of always considering themselves as standing alone, and they are apt to imagine that their whole destiny is in their own hands,” he wrote. “Thus not only does democracy make every man forget his ancestors, but it ... throws him back forever upon himself alone, and threatens in the end to confine him entirely within the solitude of his own heart.”

This has been a recurring thread in how Americans perceive themselves. In the age before democracy, for better and for worse, “People weren’t lonely. They were tied up in a web of connections. And in many countries that’s more true than it was in the United States,” says Colin Woodard, director of the Nationhood Lab at the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy.



MARK LENNIHAN/AP

A man crosses the street in a nearly empty Times Square, devoid of the usual weekday morning crowds, in 2020 in New York.

“Millions of people in America are struggling in the shadows and that’s not right.”

Vivek Murthy
U.S. Surgeon General

“There’s this idea that going out into those vast spaces and connecting with the wilderness and escaping the past was precisely what made us Americans,” Woodard says.

Yet many frontier myths skip over how important community has been in the settling and growth of the nation. Some of the biggest stories of cooperation — the rise of municipal organizations and trade unions, the New Deal programs that helped drag many Americans out of the Depression in the 1930s, war efforts from the Civil War to World War II — sometimes get lost in the fervor for character-driven stories of individualism.

Those omissions continue. Fueled in part by pandemic distrust, a latter-day strain of individual-over-community sentiment often paired with invocations of liberty and freedom occupies a significant chunk of the national conversation these days — to the point where advocacy about community thinking is sometimes met with accusations of socialism.

Let’s not consign Americans to be the heirs of a built-in loneliness gene, though. A new generation is insisting that mental health be part of the national conversation, and many voices — among them women and people of color — are increasingly offering new alternatives to the old myths.

What’s more, the very place where the discussion about loneliness is being held today — in the office of the surgeon general, a presidential appointee — suggests that other paths are possible.

The art of loneliness

The ways Americans perceive themselves as solitary (whether or not it’s true) can be seen in their art.

One of the nation’s early art movements, the mid-19th-century Hudson River School, made people tiny parts of outsized landscapes, implying both that the land dwarfed humans and that they were being summoned to tame it. From that, you can draw a line straight to Hollywood and director John Ford’s Westerns, which used vast landscapes to isolate and motivate humans for the purposes of telling big stories. Same with music, where both the blues and the “high lonesome sound” helped shape later genres.

In the suburbs, Betty Friedan’s groundbreaking “The Feminine Mystique” helped give voice to a generation of lonely women. In the city, Edward Hopper’s work — like the iconic “Nighthawks” — channeled urban loneliness.

Today, loneliness plays out on streaming TV all the time in the forms of shows like “Severance,” “Shrinking,” “Beef” and, most prominently, the earnest “Ted Lasso,” a show about an American in Britain who — despite being known and celebrated by many — is consistently and obviously lonely. In March, the show’s creator and star, Jason Sudeikis, appeared with his cast at the White House to talk about the issue that the show is, in its final season, more about than ever: mental health. “We all know someone who has, or have been that someone ourselves actually, that’s struggled, that’s felt isolated, that’s felt anxious, that has felt alone,” Sudeikis said.

Solitude and isolation do not automatic-

ly equal loneliness. But they all live in the same part of town. During the pandemic, Murthy’s report found, people tightened their groups of friends and cut time spent with them. According to the report, Americans spent 20 minutes a day with friends in 2020 — down from an hour daily two decades ago. Granted, that was during peak COVID. The trend, though, is clear — particularly among young people ages 15 to 24.

Perhaps many Americans are alone in a crowd, awash in a sea of voices both physical and virtual yet by themselves much of the time, seeking community but suspicious of it. Some of the modernizing forces that stitched the United States together in the first place — commerce, communication, roads — are, in their current forms, part of what isolates people today. There’s a lot of space between the general store and Amazon deliveries to your door, between mailing a letter and navigating virtual worlds, between roads that connect towns and freeways that overrun them.

And if Americans can figure out more about what connects and what alienates, some answers to the loneliness epidemic might reveal themselves.

“We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately,” Benjamin Franklin, not incidentally the country’s first postmaster general, said under very different circumstances. Or perhaps it’s put better by the American poet Amanda Gorman, one of the country’s most insightful young voices. This is from her poem “The Miracle of Morning,” written in 2020 during the early part of the pandemic.

“While we might feel small, separate, and all alone, our people have never been more closely tethered.

Because the question isn’t if we can weather this unknown,

but how we will weather this unknown together.”

NATION

Lengthy boycott bars 3 senators from reelection

By **ANDREW SELSKY**
Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. — Two Republicans and an Independent taking part in a boycott that has stalled hundreds of bills in the Oregon Senate, including measures on abortion and gender-affirming care, were disqualified Monday from reelection under a new constitutional amendment aimed at stopping such walkouts.

The GOP-led walkout of the Democrat-dominated Senate has stretched to 10 days, though some participating lawmakers have rotated in and out since the boycott began May 3. Each of the three affected senators accumulated 10 unexcused absences, making them ineligible to serve in the Legislature for the period after their terms expire under a ballot measure voters passed overwhelmingly last year.

“The majority of Senate Republicans continue to walk off the job that the voters elected them to do, in which our Constitution compels them to attend,” Senate President Rob Wagner said from the Senate podium. He added in an email: “Three senators have now unnecessarily disqualified themselves from a subsequent term in the Legislature.”

Sen. Tim Knopp, the Senate Republican Leader, said Monday that during weekend negotiations to end the boycott, he had told Democratic leaders that the Republicans would end their boycott “to pass substantially bipartisan budgets and bills that are lawful

and constitutional.”

Wagner earlier said the sweeping abortion rights-gender affirming care measure was not negotiable. Republicans want it off the table.

Knopp said all 12 Republican senators took part in the boycott on Monday “in solidarity” with the three senators facing disqualification. He blasted Democrats for pursuing an “extreme” agenda.

“Let it be abundantly clear: this is just the beginning of the fight,” Knopp said in a statement.

The three boycotting senators who reached the 10-day limits for automatic disqualification are Republicans Dennis Linthicum and Daniel Bonham and Independent Brian Boquist, a former Republican.

Ballot Measure 113 was passed by almost 70% of voters last November as a method to end walkouts that have plagued the Legislature for several years. It is now written into the state Constitution.

The Constitution now says missing 10 or more floor sessions “shall be deemed disorderly behavior and shall disqualify the member from holding office as a senator or representative for the term following the election after the member’s current term is completed.”

But left unclear is whether they can run for office as candidates.

The test will perhaps come when the window for filing as candidates in the 2024 election opens in September.

Driver tries trading places with his dog to avoid DUI

New York Daily News

A DUI suspect in Colorado tried unsuccessfully to pin the rap on his dog, according to police in eastern Colorado.

Cops in Springfield, Colo., wrote on Facebook that the attempted switcheroo happened around 11:30 p.m. Saturday when officers pulled over a vehicle driving 52 mph in a 30 mph zone.

“The driver attempted to switch places with his dog who was in the passenger seat, as the SPD officer approached and watched the entire process,” law enforcement officials said Sunday. “The male party then exited the passenger

side of the vehicle and claimed he was not driving.”

When police asked the suspect if he’d consumed alcohol, he ran away, abandoning both vehicle and pooch. He was caught about 60 feet from where the incident began.

Charges against the unidentified driver, who allegedly had outstanding warrants, include suspicion of DUI and resisting arrest.

“The dog was given to an acquaintance of the driver to take care of while the party was in jail,” police said. “The dog does not face any charges and was let go with just a warning.”



PHOTOS BY JAN-MICHAEL STUMP, TRAVERSE CITY (MICH.) RECORD-EAGLE/AP

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Biologist Steve Griffith prepares to fire a tranquilizer dart into a black bear in a tree outside of a home, Sunday, in Traverse City, Mich.

Bear in tree holds Michigan city in suspense on Mother’s Day

Associated Press

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — A city in northern Michigan has a new Mother’s Day memory: A 350-pound bear was in a tree for hours, watched by dozens of people, before it fell asleep and dropped onto mattresses below.

“It’s like the best block party ever,” Annette Andersen said.

The drama in Traverse City began when wildlife experts responded to a morning call about a bear in a leafy tree. They fired at least four tranquilizer darts into his butt. The bear snoozed on a thick limb before finally dropping to the ground by early afternoon Sunday.

Ashlea Walter hauled mattresses from her house to soften the fall, the Traverse City Record-Eagle reported.

Spectators sitting on lawns or in chairs held their phones up to take pictures and video.

“They’re a tough animal,” said Steve Griffith, a state wildlife biologist.



Onlookers watch as representatives from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, DNR Conservation Officers, Traverse City Mich., Police, Traverse City Fire and Traverse City Light and Power work to remove a black bear from a tree outside a Fifth Street home.

“Obviously they are in trees all the time, and they do have accidents in the wild. ... They can take a pretty good fall.”

The bear was transferred on a tarp to a cylindrical bear trap after

his vital signs and airway were checked.

Next stop: a long drive and release in a wooded area, “probably 50-60 miles at minimum,” Griffith said.

Ky. teacher suspended after allegedly allowing student to wear KKK outfit

Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader

LEXINGTON, Ky. — A Pulaski middle school teacher was suspended after allegedly giving a student permission to wear a Ku Klux Klan costume as part of a history assignment, Pulaski County Superintendent Patrick Richardson confirmed.

“First and foremost, I am extremely disappointed and embarrassed by this incident,” Richardson told the Herald-Leader Monday night. “I would hope our

school and community realize that this does not represent the character of our students and staff at Southern Middle School or our district as a whole.”

He said the teacher has been suspended pending an investigation and the situation will be reported to the Kentucky Educational Professional Standards Board. Richardson did not provide the teacher’s name.

The student reportedly dressed as Nathan Bedford Forrest, a Con-

federate Army general and the first Grand Wizard of the KKK, Richardson said.

In addition, Richardson said, there is a video circulating with a teacher’s contact information on it. This teacher was not involved in the incident, he said.

“She is completely innocent in this matter and deserves to be treated as such. I am deeply apologetic for this situation and I am taking immediate steps to address the matter,” he said.

WORLD

Russian Duma votes to scrap Cold War armed forces deal

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The lower house of Russia's parliament on Tuesday voted unanimously to formally pull out of a key Cold War-era security deal, more than eight years after Moscow halted its participation.

The vote in the State Duma came less than a week after President Vladimir Putin introduced a draft bill on May 10 "denouncing" the Treaty of Conventional Armed

Forces in Europe, which aimed to prevent Cold War rivals from massing forces at or near mutual borders. The deal was signed in November 1990, but not fully ratified until two years later.

The Federation Council, Russia's Kremlin-controlled upper chamber that generally rubber-stamps legislation that the Duma has approved, is scheduled to consider Russia's pullout from the treaty next Wednesday.

Moscow first announced its intention to completely withdraw from the agreement in early 2015. Since last February, Moscow's war in Ukraine, which it has referred to as a "special military operation," has seen hundreds of thousands of Russian troops pour into the country, which shares a border with NATO members Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary.

On Tuesday, Putin's designated

envoy told the State Duma that NATO countries had "made it impossible" for Russia to remain in the treaty by allowing for the alliance's expansion into Central and Eastern Europe.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov also described the treaty as "contrary to Russia's security interests" in an interview published Monday in *Parliament-skaya Gazeta*, a weekly published by the State Duma.

Ryabkov's remarks were echoed by key deputies during the parliamentary session Tuesday. State Duma speaker Leonid Slutsky charged that the treaty had "long existed only on paper," while Andrey Kartapolov, the chairman of Russia's parliamentary committee, said it had been rendered obsolete by NATO's placing of military infrastructure in Central and Eastern European member states.

Skeletons found in Pompeii ruins reveal deaths by earthquake, not just eruption

Associated Press

MILAN — The discovery of two skeletons buried beneath a collapsed wall in the Pompeii archaeological site point to deaths by powerful earthquakes that accompanied the devastating eruption of Mount Vesuvius in the first century, experts said Tuesday, in addition to the victims of volcanic ash and gas.

The two skeletons believed to be

men at least 55 years old were found in the Casti Amanti, or House of Chaste Lovers, beneath a wall that collapsed before the area was covered in volcanic material. The area was likely undergoing reconstruction work at the time of the eruption in A.D. 79, following an earthquake a few days earlier.

"In recent years, we have realized there were violent, powerful seismic events that were happen-

ing at the time of the eruption," said Gabriel Zuchtriegel, director of the Pompeii Archaeological Park.

New archaeological techniques and methodology "allow us to understand better the inferno that in two days completely destroyed the city of Pompeii, killing many inhabitants," he added, making it possible to determine the dynamic of deaths down to the final seconds.



POMPEII ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK/AP

Two skeletons are seen Tuesday that archaeologists believe were men who died when a wall collapsed on them during the earthquakes that accompanied the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in the first century.

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WORLD

S. Korea, Japan will use G-7 to improve ties

Associated Press

TOKYO — Amid the high-level efforts to deal with a raft of global emergencies, this weekend's Group of 7 summit of rich democracies will also see an unusual diplomatic reconciliation as the leaders of Japan and South Korea look to continue mending ties that have been marked for years by animosity and bickering.

At first glance the two neighbors

would seem to be natural partners. They are powerful, advanced democracies and staunch U.S. allies in a region beset with autocratic threats. The continuing fallout, however, from centuries of complicated, acrimonious history, culminating in the brutal 1910-45 Japanese colonization of the Korean Peninsula, has resulted in more wariness than friendship.

A big part of the sudden recent

shift in tone is a shared focus on China's growing aggressiveness, the threat of North Korea's fast-improving arsenal of nuclear-capable missiles — and deep worry about how Russia's war in Ukraine is influencing both issues. Some diplomatic nudging by Washington, which provides military protection for both its allies and wants them to more strongly counter China's rising global influence, has also helped.

Tokyo and Seoul “understand that their survival, both nationally and politically, depends on subordinating themselves to the U.S. President Joe Biden administration's global and regional priorities,” according to Daniel Sneider, an East Asia lecturer at Stanford University.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's invitation for South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to be

a guest at the G-7 talks in Hiroshima is only the most recent sign of these reset ties. It follows back-to-back summits by the leaders, which hadn't happened in years. Japan also agreed to South Korea's request to send an experts' team later this month to visit the destroyed Fukushima nuclear power plant to view preparation for a planned release into the ocean of treated but still slightly radioactive wastewater.

South Korean court orders agency to compensate adoptee

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A South Korean court on Tuesday ordered the country's biggest adoption agency to pay \$74,700 in damages to a 48-year-old man for mishandling his adoption as a child to the United States, where he faced legal troubles after surviving an abusive childhood before being deported in 2016.

However, the Seoul Central District Court dismissed Adam Crapser's accusations against the South Korean government, which he saw as responsible for creating an aggressive, profit-driven adoption industry that carelessly removed thousands of children from their families during a child export frenzy in the 1970s and '80s.

The civil case, tried for over four years, was the first in which a South Korean adoptee sued the country's government and a domestic adoption agency over fraudulent paperwork and screening failures.

Holt Children's Service, which handled Crapser's adoption to American parents in 1979, and South Korea's Justice Ministry, which represents the government in lawsuits, did not immediately comment.

In reading out the verdict,

Judge Park Jun-min did not elaborate on why the court refused to hold the government accountable. Crapser's lawyers said they will review the full version of the ruling, which the court didn't immediately release, before deciding whether to appeal.

“We want to express our very serious regret,” said Kim Soojung, one of Crapser's lawyers.

“The (government) knew that children procured for adoptions were not being (properly) protected, that their human rights were being violated — they should have done something about it, but they didn't. ... It seems that the court simply saw the government as a monitoring institution, and not as an actor that directly committed illegal acts.”

Crapser, who left South Korea last year and currently lives in Mexico, did not attend the ruling.

It remains to be seen whether Crapser's case inspires more lawsuits by adoptees, who are becoming more vocal with their criticism of past South Korean corruption in adoption practices, which caused a huge but unknown number of wrongful family separations and stymied thousands from reconnecting with their roots.

Tuesday's verdict came



AHN YOUNG-JOON/AP

A South Korean court ordered the country's largest adoption agency to pay \$74,700 in damages to adoptee Adam Crapser for mishandling his adoption as a child to the United States.

months after hundreds of Korean adoptees from Europe and North America asked South Korea's Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate their adoption circumstances. They say their status and identities were laundered to facilitate marred adoptions.

The commission has opened investigations of dozens of those applications and may take more cases in the coming months, as it proceeds with the most far-reaching inquiry into South Korea's foreign adoptions yet.

The commission's potential findings could allow more adoptees to launch legal actions

against agencies or the government, which would otherwise be difficult because South Korean civil courts put the burden of proof entirely on plaintiffs, who often lack information and resources.

Crapser, who was named Shin Seong-hyeok by his South Korean mother, had sought \$149,000 in damages from South Korea's government and Holt. His lawsuit, filed in 2019, accuses the defendants of manipulating his paperwork, employing poor background checks that failed to weed out his abusive adopters, and not following up on whether he obtained U.S. citizenship.

While describing Crapser's plight as unfortunate, the government and Holt denied any legal wrongdoing, saying his adoption went according to procedure and it was the responsibility of his American adopters — not theirs — to ensure that he obtained U.S. citizenship.

Crapser's lawyers have claimed that his case exposes how South Korea failed to protect its most vulnerable citizens from an adoption industry that sent thousands of children abroad every year to meet Western demands during its heyday, and how often those adoptions amounted to “child selling.”



JENS MEYER/AP

Visitors stand in the Jewel Room during the reopening of the Green Vault Museum in Dresden, Germany, in May 2020.

Germany: Five sentenced to prison for jewelry heist

Associated Press

BERLIN — A German court on Tuesday convicted five men over the theft of 18th-century jewels worth more than 100 million euros from a Dresden museum in 2019.

They were sentenced to prison sentences of between four years and four months and six years and three months, German news agency dpa reported. One defendant was acquitted.

The Dresden state court ruled that the five men — aged 24 to 29 — were responsible for the break-in at the eastern German city's

Green Vault Museum on Nov. 25, 2019, and the theft of 21 pieces of jewelry containing more than 4,300 diamonds, with a total insured value of at least \$129 million. Officials said at the time that the items taken included a large diamond brooch and a diamond epaulette.

They were convicted of particularly aggravated arson in combination with dangerous bodily injury, theft with weapons, damage to property and intentional arson.

The men laid a fire just before the break-in to cut the power supply to street lights outside

the museum, and also set fire to a car in a nearby garage before fleeing to Berlin. They were caught several months later in raids in Berlin.

In January, there was a plea bargain between the defense, prosecution and court after most of the stolen jewels were returned.

The plea bargain had been agreed to by four defendants, who subsequently admitted their involvement in the crime through their lawyers. The fifth defendant also confessed, but only to the procurement of objects such as the axes used to make holes in the museum display case, dpa reported.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Officer shoots, wounds sword-wielding man

MA OXFORD — A Massachusetts police officer shot and wounded a man who was moving toward the officer armed with a sword, authorities said.

The man was shot in Oxford and was treated at a hospital, the Worcester district attorney's office said in a statement. It didn't provide the man's condition, say whether he faces charges or say what led to the encounter.

The officer, who wasn't hurt, was placed on paid administrative leave per department protocol when an officer shoots someone, said the district attorney's office, which didn't disclose the names of the officer or the suspect.

State and local police are investigating the shooting.

Pilot escapes small plane crash unharmed

WY ALBANY — The pilot escaped unharmed from a small single-engine plane crash in Albany County, Wyoming Highway Patrol Troopers said.

Troopers were called to the site of the crash about 2:40 p.m. at milepost 324 on Interstate 80, the highway patrol said in a statement.

The pilot, who was only identified by the highway patrol as a woman, was the only person in the plane.

The aircraft was flying from British Columbia to Florida, the highway patrol said.

The Federal Aviation Administration will investigate the crash, the highway patrol said.

State bill outlining school pronoun policies advances

LA BATON ROUGE — As the culture war over pronouns plays out in statehouses across the country, Republican lawmakers in the Louisiana House chamber advanced a bill to the Senate that would require teachers to use a student's name and pronouns that align with their sex assigned at birth.

Republican Rep. Raymond Crews authored and pitched the bill as a "parental rights" piece of legislation, noting that a student can receive parental permission to use pronouns that do not correlate with their sex assigned at birth. However, teachers can reject the parent's choice if it is contrary to the educator's "religious or moral convictions."

Democrats and some independents called the bill "discriminatory" to the LGBTQ+ community, fearing that it will cause increased harm to an already vulnerable group and arguing that conservative lawmakers are prioritizing religious beliefs over the wants and needs of a parent and transgender children.

"This is not a parental rights



CARLA TORRES/AP

Celebrating Japanese culture

Dancers perform at the Japan Parade on Saturday in New York. The parade is in its second year, and planners intended to promote friendship between the U.S. and Japan by sharing traditional and modern Japanese culture with attendees, and featured martial arts groups, dance teams and taiko drums.

bill, unless the parents believe the same thing as Rep. Crews," state Rep. Joseph Marino III, an independent who voted against the bill, said. "It's an anti-transgender bill. It's a 'We don't like seeing people that are different' (bill)."

Teacher threatened kids who drew swastikas

WI GRAFTON — A Jewish middle school teacher in Wisconsin was arrested for making terrorist threats toward students who drew swastikas on a paper in his classroom, police said.

The Grafton Police Department, north of Milwaukee, has not identified the seventh grade teacher they said told the students that he had 17 guns in his basement and that he wasn't afraid to use them.

The John Long Middle School teacher, who police said is Jewish, was angered by the drawings and

also threatened to send his daughter to students' homes with a baseball bat, WTMJ-TV reported.

"At first he kind of just acted normal, he just put it on his desk like, 'I'm going to tell the office about this,'" seventh grader Ethan Poulos told the television station. "But then he picked up the piece of paper and went on a ramble about how that's bad and that's a disgrace to his people. He started mentioning the N-word and how that was worse than writing the N-word on the wall."

3 killed when truck firing at other vehicle crashes

NC SHELBY — Three people have died in a truck which fired at someone in a different vehicle in South Carolina and then crashed into a North Carolina house while trying to get away from law enforcement, authorities said.

The chase started in Blacksburg, S.C., and ended with the

pickup, which had turned off its headlights, slamming into a house in Shelby, N.C., causing significant damage, investigators in both states said.

Three people in the truck between the ages of 15 and 20 died, while three others in the vehicle survived the crash, Shelby police told news outlets.

No one in the vehicle that was shot at was injured, Cleveland County, N.C., Sheriff Alan Norman said in a statement.

Striking teachers, school district reach agreement

CA OAKLAND — Students in the Oakland Unified School District returned to full classroom instruction Tuesday after the district and striking teachers announced a tentative deal that includes a reparations task force for Black students and more say from parents and teachers in school decisions.

Monday's announcement ends a strike that had kept 34,000 students out of school for more than a week. The last day of school for the district east of San Francisco is May 25.

The union representing 3,000 educators, counselors and other workers walked out May 4 in a bid for traditional demands such as higher salaries. But bargainers with the Oakland Education Association also pushed for "common good" changes, such as reparations and resources for students who are homeless.

At a news conference Monday, Oakland schools Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell described the compensation package as historic. Teachers and other union members will receive a 10% raise and a \$5,000 one-time stipend for full-time employees, she said.

State Senate set to pass paid family, medical leave

MN ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Senate was poised to approve a plan to entitle workers across the state to paid leave when they're sick or caring for relatives who are ill.

While Senate Democrats hold only a one-seat majority, paid family and medical leave has been a priority of the party for several years, and a series of preliminary votes showed they were all firmly on board. The proposal passed the House last week on a 68-64 vote, and Democratic Gov. Tim Walz is expected to sign the final version.

The legislation would create an insurance-like system to allow workers to collect up to 12 weeks of partial wages when they take medical leave, including for pregnancy, and up to 12 weeks to take care of family members, starting in 2025. Replacement wages would range from 55% to 90%, averaging 66%. The benefits would be funded by a 0.7% payroll tax. Employers could charge half that expense to employees. Companies offering more generous benefits than the state requires could opt out.

School bus maker workers vote in favor of union

GA FORT VALLEY — Workers in Georgia at one of the nation's largest school bus manufacturers have voted to unionize.

Employees at Blue Bird Corp. chose to be represented by the United Steelworkers union by a vote of 697-435, according to the National Labor Relations Board.

The vote took place at Blue Bird's two factories and warehouse in Fort Valley. Blue Bird and the union have five business days to file objections.

Blue Bird workers have said they're seeking higher pay, more regular schedules, and better vacation and sick time benefits from the publicly held company.

STARS AND STRIPES

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Ernie Gates

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Calculating the astonishing economic costs of COVID

By JAKUB HLÁVKA AND ADAM ROSE
Los Angeles Times

The economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States will reach \$14 trillion by the end of this year, our team of economists, public policy researchers and other experts estimates. That makes it by far the costliest disaster the country has suffered this century.

Putting a price tag on all the pain, suffering and upheaval people here and around the world have experienced from the pandemic is of course hard to do. More than 1.1 million Americans have died of COVID, and many more have been hospitalized or lost loved ones.

We used data from the first 2½ years of the pandemic to forecast total economic losses from the pandemic over four years, from January 2020 through December 2023.

Our team used economic modeling to approximate the revenue lost because of mandatory business closures at the beginning of the pandemic. We also used modeling to assess the economic consequences of the many changes in personal behavior that continued long after lockdown orders were lifted, such as the tendency to voluntarily avoid restaurants, theaters and other crowded places.

The greatest losses stemmed from workplace absences and lost sales. The latter were due primarily to closed stores, reduced air travel and limited public gatherings. At the height of the pandemic, in the second quarter of 2020, our survey found that air travel fell by nearly 60%, indoor dining by 65% and in-store shopping by 43%.

The three sectors that lost the most over the

first 30 months of the pandemic were air travel, dining, and health and social services, which contracted by 57.5%, 26.5% and 29.2%, respectively.

These losses were offset to a degree by surges in online purchases, a series of large government stimulus and relief packages, and an unprecedented expansion of the number of Americans working from home, many of whom were able to keep doing jobs that might otherwise have been cut.

From 2020 through 2023, the net economic output of the United States is expected to amount to about \$103 trillion. If not for the pandemic, that figure would have been about \$117 trillion, according to our analysis — nearly 14% higher in inflation-adjusted 2020 dollars.

We also estimated what the cost of the pandemic would have been if fewer or more people had died of COVID because of more or less successful public health strategies over the first 2½ years of the pandemic.

Direct health care expenses during that period, driven mostly by hospitalization, were about \$214 billion. In the best-case scenario we analyzed, in which 65,000 Americans would have died from January 2020 through June 2022, health care costs would have been about a tenth of that figure, \$20 billion. In the worst-case scenario we analyzed, assuming about 2 million died during that period, health-related expenses would have been \$365 billion.

While we found that most economic losses from the pandemic were not because of direct health care expenditures, these scenarios show how widely those losses could have var-

ied depending on the nation's response.

This underscores the need for better preparation for similar or even worse pandemics in the future. Economic losses could be reduced by more careful assessments of the need for mandatory closures, better communication about risk to reduce unnecessary avoidance of public spaces, and more targeted and better administered fiscal stimulus.

The COVID-19 pandemic's economic consequences for the United States are unprecedented by most measures. The estimated toll on the nation's gross domestic product is twice that of the Great Recession, 20 times that of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and at least 40 times that of any other disaster to befall the country in the 21st century.

Although the federal government has now lifted the COVID emergency declaration, the pandemic continues to affect the U.S. economy. The labor force participation rate, for example, has only recently neared pre-pandemic levels.

Our analysis was limited to the pandemic's standard economic effects. We didn't estimate a vast array of indirect costs, such as lost years of work because of premature deaths and long COVID, physical and mental health effects on the population, and the learning loss experienced by students. All of that suggests costs even greater than the astounding loss we documented.

Jakub Hlávka is an assistant research professor of health policy and management at USC's Price School of Public Policy and a fellow at the USC Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics and the Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Threats and Emergencies (CREATE). Adam Rose is a research professor at the Price School and director emeritus of CREATE. This article was produced in partnership with the Conversation.

Why is the US losing its edge? Look around campus.

By SETH BODNAR

Special to The Washington Post

If you're attending a college graduation ceremony this month, you might notice something about the students on campus: there aren't as many as there used to be. Some 2.5 million fewer Americans are enrolled in college than in 2011, and the decline is accelerating. The college-going rate of high school graduates has dropped from 70% in 2016 to 62% in 2022, and if this trend continues, a group of young Americans will — for the first time in our history — enter the workforce with less education than the one before.

As a university president, I worry not simply for the financial health of the institution I serve. Rather, my fears are for our country's long-term economic competitiveness as we experience a widespread devaluing of education and the erosion of the educational advantage that we've held in global affairs for the past 70 years. This is the most serious long-term national security challenge facing our country.

When I was commissioned as an Army officer 22 years ago, I entered a U.S. military that possessed vast technological superiority over our adversaries. Our military power was — and still is — predicated on a strong education system and a fast-moving private-sector economy that can out-innovate any competitors.

As The Economist recently noted, in 1990, the United States accounted for 40% of the Group of Seven's gross domestic product; today it's 58%. Incomes continue to rise; American firms own more patents than Germany and China combined. But constant innovation requires education, and the steady increase in college-going rates from about 60% in 1990 to

nearly 70% by 2010 played a vital role in this 30-year run.

Yet, some prominent business leaders (despite many of them having degrees themselves, often from highly selective universities) are vocally discouraging young people from attending college, arguing that you don't need a degree to be a successful entrepreneur or that success is simply a matter of "out hustling" your competition. At the same time, some political leaders are choosing to cast college campuses not as a driver of national power but as the favorite target in the country's culture wars. A recent Wall Street Journal-NORC poll of more than 1,000 Americans found confidence in the value of a college education is dropping, with 56% believing the time and money spent are not worth the degree earned.

But those viewpoints overlook higher education's vital role as an engine of social mobility and economic growth. Though some individuals certainly can be successful without college, the average impact of a college degree on a person's lifetime earnings is well over \$1 million — and growing. And the benefits of education accrue not just to the individual but also to the broader economy. One recent study estimated that every additional year of schooling for a country's adult population resulted in per capita GDP growth of 9-10%.

Yes, higher education can be easy to criticize. I cringe when I hear students share plans to attend colleges that charge \$50,000 or even \$65,000 per year in tuition. While most public universities charge a fraction of this, the eye-popping prices at some institutions reinforce the perception that college is an overpriced, risky venture.

Universities also need to retire the unhelpful debate over what's more important: a broad education or specific skills.

The reality is that though our students absolutely need a broad base of knowledge to navigate the complexity of today's world, they also need the tangible skills to be job ready on graduation day. Doing both requires universities to work more closely with employers to adapt programs to meet emerging needs, while at the same time making educational programs more accessible to people at all stages of their career.

But the answer to these flaws is not to write off higher education. Instead, we as a country must rally around higher education in all forms — two-year, four-year and short-term vocational training — as an institution that needs to adapt and change but also remains indispensable for our long-term security.

When I led soldiers in the Army, I did so knowing that we possessed not just air superiority but also night-vision, sensing and communications capabilities that far outpaced our adversaries. Much of the battlefield technology the United States depended on in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere over the past two decades was the product of foundational research at American universities as well as the knowledge workers these universities produced.

Our competitors are certainly not advising their youth, "Don't get an education." They're playing a long game, and they're playing to win.

Seth Bodnar is the president of the University of Montana and served in Iraq from 2003-04 and 2008-09. He also served in the southern Philippines in 2007.

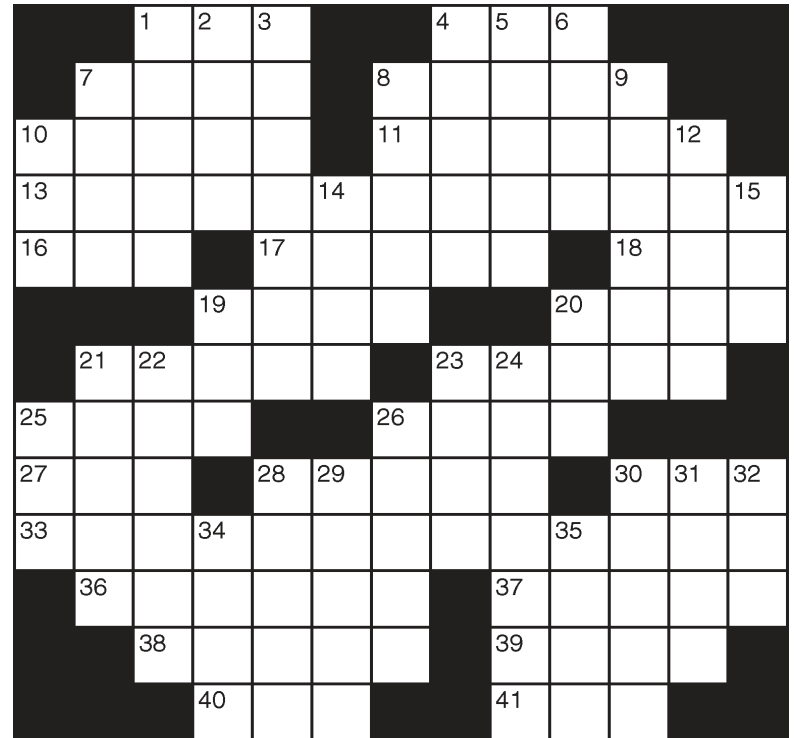
Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

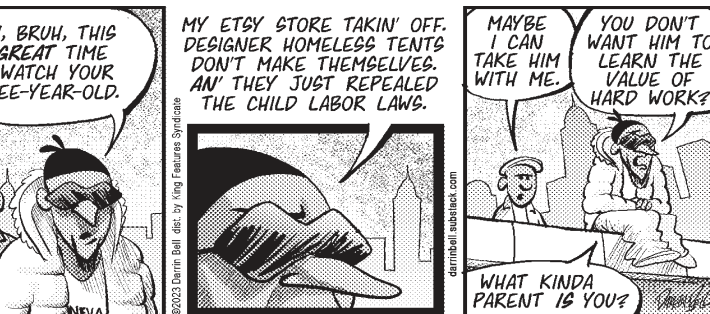
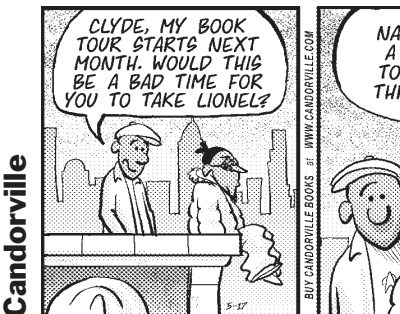
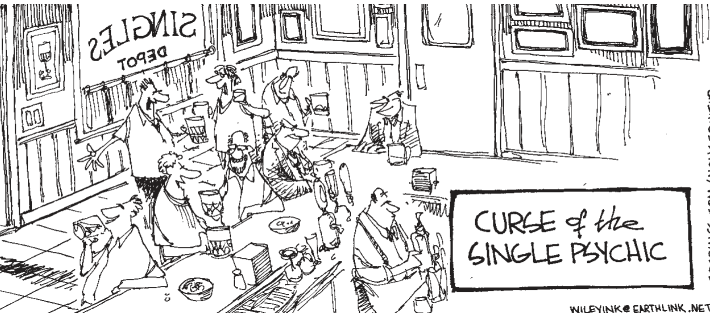
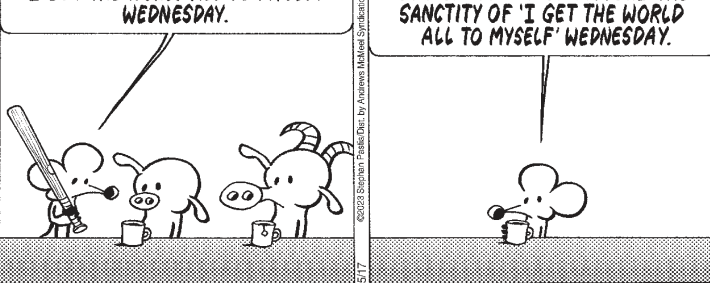
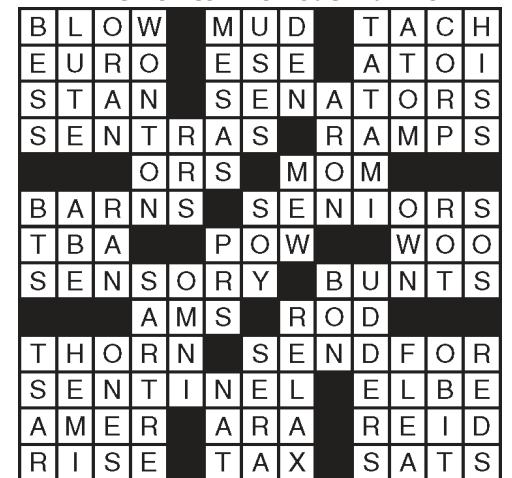


ACROSS

- 1 Mafia boss
- 4 Kingston Trio hit
- 7 Dorothy's dog
- 8 Monte — landscape painter
- 11 Kevin of "Shark Tank"
- 13 Loki portrayer in "Thor"
- 16 Rds.
- 17 Canada natives
- 18 Scrape (out)
- 19 Peruse
- 20 "— the picture!"
- 21 Tic
- 23 Competitor
- 25 Farm unit
- 26 Armed conflicts
- 27 Goat's plaint
- 28 Pedro's pal
- 30 Jurist Fortas
- 33 "Breaking Bad" actor
- 36 Like does and mares
- 37 Wanted poster info
- 38 "Caddyshack" director

- 19 Singer Carly — Jepsen
- 20 Hosp. hookups
- 21 Muffler
- 22 Orison
- 23 Sitar music
- 24 Early tool-making period
- 25 Embassy VIP lines
- 26 Electrical
- 28 "What's in —?"
- 29 Roman 1152
- 30 Cockeyed
- 31 Fluffy scarves
- 32 USN rank
- 34 Human rights lawyer Clooney
- 35 Bridge coup

Answer to Previous Puzzle



5-17

CRYPTOQUIP

TZSH F GSVTAAV AG BSVFG
 ZFQ LGATH IA FH FUFMRHLYX
 YFGLS QMRS, XAC BACYV QFX
 MI'Q IGSS-USHVACQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CERTAIN CONCEPT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO CONVEY IN POETRY, YOU SHOULD LEAVE IT TO THE PROSE.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals G

FACES

This week: Jack Harlow on screen, Kesha, DMB

Associated Press

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

Movies

■ Three decades after Wesley Snipes and Woody Harrelson mixed it up on the black top, a new "White Men Can't Jump" has next. A remake of that 1992 film teams Sinqua Walls and rapper Jack Harlow as a pair of basketball players who hustle hoops for money and compete in a lucrative three-on-three tournament. The film, which debuts Friday on Hulu, is directed by Calmatic and co-written by Kenya Barris ("black-ish"). In it, Harlow makes his acting debut.

■ Anna Nicole Smith gets the Netflix documentary treatment in "Anna Nicole Smith: You Don't Know Me." The film, which debuted Tuesday, chronicles Smith's life as a model, Playboy playmate and reality star. Smith died in 2007 at 39 from an accidental overdose. "You Don't Know Me" includes home video of Smith, whose birth name was Vickie Lynn Hogan.

■ Cristian Mungiu's "R.M.N." is one of the cinematic highlights of the first half of 2023. The latest from the acclaimed Romanian filmmaker ("4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days") is a powerful microcosm of a migrant drama that has played out around the world. A mountainous Transylvania village is increasingly torn apart by violent nationalist impulses that course through the town's civic life in response to a handful of foreign workers. Mungiu, the pioneering filmmaker of the Romanian New Wave, crafts an unflinching societal portrait both gripping and grim.

Currently playing in theaters, "R.M.N." is available on demand beginning Friday.
— AP Film Writer
Jake Coyle

Music

■ Check out Kesha's new album for what "post-pop" sounds like. That's what the ever-changing pop star is calling her Rick Rubin-produced record "Gag Order." Single "Fine Line" is an introspective, beatless ballad with the lyric "Am I bigger than Jesus / Or better off dead? / There's a fine line between genius and crazy." There's also "Eat the Acid," an experimental, mournful number. Her team says the album excavates "the deepest recesses of her soul to date."

■ Def Leppard are following in the footsteps of Metallica, the Scorpions and Bring Me the Horizon with an orchestral reworking of their catalog. "Drastic Symphonies" features their greatest tracks reimagined by The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Fifteen of the hard rockers' hits like "Animal," "Love Bites," "Hysteria" and "Pour Some Sugar on Me" have a new sound. Some songs — "Rock of Ages," "Photograph" and "Let's Get Rocked" — didn't work and were left off.

■ May turns out to be a great month for 11-time Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Brandy Clark. Her Broadway musical "Shucked" was nominated for best original score and she's got a new self-titled album out Friday. Produced by Brandi Carlile, the album showcases Clark's tenderness, with the 11 songs including the heartbreaking "Buried," a celebration of her home in "Northwest" and a loving tribute to her grandma with "She Smoked in the House."

■ Ahead of their first post-pandemic album, Dave Matthews Band has

released two strong singles, including the nostalgia-drenched "Monsters," with the lyrics "Chutes and ladders / Pick up sticks / Counting cards and counting bricks / Driving past that old five and dime / Can't get nothing for a nickel since a long long time."

The first single, "Madman's Eyes," leans into Middle Eastern rhythms for a darker song about the madness of violence. Both songs will be on the album "Walk Around the Moon," out Friday, and the band says it "is as much a reflection on the current times as it is an urge to find common ground."

— AP Entertainment Writer
Mark Kennedy

Television

■ Stock up on tissues because home renovation twins Drew and Jonathan Scott's series "Celebrity IOU" is back with new episodes on HGTV. Each episode features a Hollywood star who dreams up a home renovation project for someone they want to give back to. Enter the Scott brothers, who use their knowledge of construction to make it happen. The episodes follow each project from start to finish with a heart-warming, emotional presentation at the end. This batch of eight episodes features Heidi Klum, Kristin Chenoweth, Glenn Close, Taraji P. Henson, Jay Leno, Derek Hough, Kristin Davis and Emma Roberts. "Celebrity IOU" returned Monday.

■ If you watched the "To All the Boys" movies, you probably remember scene-stealer Anna Cathcart as the confident, chatty kid sister, Kitty, to Lana Condor's Lara Jean. Cathcart has landed her own spinoff series called "XO, Kitty." Created by "To All the Boys" author Jenny Han, Kitty



Rapper Jack Harlow, left, makes his acting debut in "White Men Can't Jump," a remake of the 1992 film starring Wesley Snipes and Woody Harrelson. The new version, co-starring Sinqua Walls, right, premieres Friday on Hulu.

travels to Korea to attend an elite boarding school that her long-distance boyfriend is a student at. It's also the same school where her late mother went as a teen. Kitty imagines a seamless transition to a new school in a new country and a romantic reunion with her boyfriend, but quickly realizes life doesn't always go as planned. All 10 episodes drop Thursday on Netflix.

■ Wilderness expert and adventure-seeker Bear Grylls has never encountered a mountain he won't climb or a random creature he won't eat for fuel. We've seen him on TV venture into the great outdoors with celebrities, but now he's taking everyday people out of their comfort zone in a new show, "I Survived Bear Grylls." With the help of comedian co-host Jordan Conley, Grylls uses simulated challenges to test contestants on their survival skills, physicality and gross-out tolerance. "Get ready for the hardest, the dirtiest, the most disgusting day of your life," Grylls says in the trailer. "I Survived Bear Grylls" debuts Thursday on TBS.

— Alicia Rancilio

The Weeknd changes name on social media

The Weeknd, born Abel Tesfaye, switched social media profiles to show his birth name rather than the stage name he previously vowed to "kill."

Now the Grammy-winning singer's display name is Abel Tesfaye on Twitter, where he has 17.3 million followers, and Instagram, where he has 55.6 million followers. The switch happened Monday, per NBC News, although his handle on both platforms is still @theweeknd.

In a W Magazine profile published online, Tesfaye said he was ready for a change. "I'm going through a cathartic path right now," he told the magazine.

"It's getting to a place and a time where I'm getting ready to close the Weeknd chapter. I'll still make music, maybe as Abel, maybe as The Weeknd. But I still want to kill The Weeknd. And I will. Eventually. I'm definitely trying to shed that skin and be reborn."

The social media switch also comes shortly before the June 4 premiere of the HBO series "The Idol," in which Tesfaye plays a nightclub boss and cult leader.

Martha Stewart is oldest SI swimsuit cover model

Martha Stewart, 81, has been chosen as one of Sports Illustrated's swimsuit cover models, the magazine announced Monday.

Stewart is the oldest model to grace the cover of the annual swimsuit issue, surpassing Maye Musk who posed for the special issue in 2022 at 74.

The businesswoman and media personality wrote in an Instagram post Monday that she hopes the cover inspires people "to try new things, no matter what stage of life you're in."

Stewart founded Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia in the 1990s and became synonymous with cooking, entertaining and home-making. She released cookbooks, cookware, magazines, towels and other items. She's hosted numerous TV shows and in recent years has had a number of ventures with rapper Snoop Dogg. In 2004, Stewart was convicted of lying to the government about a stock sale. She served five months in prison.

Other models chosen for this year's swimsuit cover are recording artist Kim Petras, actor Megan Fox and model Brooks Nader.

Other news

■ Country music superstar Reba McEntire has signed on to be a coach for season 24 of NBC's mega-popular "The Voice," joining veteran coach John Legend and returning coaches Niall Horan and Gwen Stefani, according to a news release. The move follows McEntire's role as "the Mega Mentor" for season 23 of the TV talent show.

From wire reports



Dave Matthews Band will release its first post-pandemic album, "Walk Around the Moon," on Friday.

Danny Clinch



SCOREBOARD

PRO SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New England	7	2	3	24	19	11
Cincinnati	7	1	3	24	15	12
Nashville	5	3	4	19	15	7
Atlanta	5	4	3	18	21	21
Philadelphia	5	4	2	17	17	14
Inter Miami CF	5	6	0	15	12	12
CF Montréal	5	6	0	15	11	17
Columbus	4	4	3	15	21	14
D.C. United	4	5	3	15	16	16
NYCFC	4	5	3	15	14	15
Orlando City	4	4	3	15	12	14
Charlotte FC	4	5	3	15	16	22
Chicago	3	3	5	14	14	16
New York	2	4	6	12	8	11
Toronto FC	2	4	6	12	13	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	7	3	2	23	19	9
Los Angeles FC	6	1	3	21	20	8
Saint Louis SC	6	4	1	19	22	13
FC Dallas	5	3	3	18	13	11
San Jose	5	4	3	18	16	16
Portland	4	5	3	15	18	19
Houston	4	4	2	14	10	9
Vancouver	3	3	5	14	15	12
Minnesota	3	5	3	12	10	14
Colorado	2	4	6	12	10	14
Real Salt Lake	3	6	2	11	10	20
Austin FC	2	5	4	10	10	17
LA Galaxy	2	6	3	9	10	18
Sporting KC	2	7	3	9	8	16

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

Wednesday's games

Colorado at Atlanta
Chicago at Charlotte FC
CF Montréal at Cincinnati
LA Galaxy at Columbus
New York City FC at Orlando City
D.C. United at Philadelphia
New York at Toronto FC
Vancouver at FC Dallas
Houston at Minnesota
Miami at Nashville
Portland at Real Salt Lake
Sporting Kansas City at Los Angeles FC
Austin FC at Seattle

Saturday's games

Nashville at Charlotte FC
Columbus at Cincinnati
LA Galaxy at D.C. United
Orlando City at Miami
CF Montréal at New York
New England at Philadelphia
Toronto FC at Austin FC
Atlanta at Chicago
Houston at FC Dallas
Real Salt Lake at Colorado
Sporting Kansas City at Saint Louis City SC
San Jose at Los Angeles FC
Minnesota at Portland
Seattle at Vancouver

Saturday, May 27

Miami at CF Montréal
Chicago at New England
Philadelphia at New York City FC
Atlanta at Orlando City
D.C. United at Toronto FC
Austin FC at Houston
Real Salt Lake at Minnesota
Vancouver at Saint Louis City SC
Cincinnati at Colorado
Charlotte FC at LA Galaxy
FC Dallas at San Jose
New York at Seattle

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	4	0	3	15	10	5
OL Reign	4	2	1	13	12	6
Gotham FC	4	2	1	13	7	6
Portland	3	1	3	12	18	10
San Diego	4	3	0	12	12	10
North Carolina	3	3	1	10	8	9
Houston	2	2	3	9	5	6
Angel City	2	3	2	8	11	13
Louisville	1	2	4	7	9	9
Orlando	2	4	1	7	5	11
Kansas City	2	5	0	6	9	14
Chicago	1	5	1	4	11	18

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

Saturday's games

Angel City at North Carolina
Washington at Orlando
Louisville at Kansas City
San Diego at Houston

Sunday's games

Chicago at Portland
Gotham FC at OL Reign

Friday, May 26

Houston at Kansas City
Portland at San Diego

Saturday, May 27

Angel City at OL Reign
North Carolina at Louisville
Orlando at Chicago

TENNIS

Italian Open

Monday
At Foro Italico
Rome
Purse: Euro 7,705,780
Surface: Red clay
Men's Singles
Round of 32

Borna Coric (15), Croatia, def. Roberto Carballes Baena, Spain, 7-6 (3), 6-1.
Yannick Hanfmann, Germany, def. Marco Cecchinato, Italy, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.
Fabian Marozsan, Hungary, def. Carlos Alcaraz (2), Spain, 6-3, 7-6 (4).
Andrey Rublev (6), Russia, def. Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (27), Spain, 7-6 (8), 6-3.
Daniil Medvedev (3), Russia, def. Bernabe Zapata Miralles (31), Spain, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3.

Women's Singles

Anhelina Kalinina (30), Ukraine, def. Madison Keys (19), United States, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.
Zheng Qinwen (22), China, def. Wang Xiyu, China, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.
Beatriz Haddad Maia (12), Brazil, def. Camila Osorio, Colombia, 6-3, 6-3.
Veronika Kudermetova (11), Russia, def. Marie Bouzkova (27), Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-2.
Elena Rybakina (7), Kazakhstan, def. Marketa Vondrousova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.
Jelena Ostapenko (20), Latvia, def. Daria Kasatkina (8), Russia, 6-4, 4-6, 6-0.

Men's Doubles

Michael Venus, New Zealand, and Jamie Murray, Britain, def. Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands, and Marcelo Arevalo-Gonzalez (4), El Salvador, 7-6 (7), 4-6, 10-2.

Round of 16

Jason Kubler and Alex de Minaur, Australia, def. Rohan Bopanna, India, and Matthew Ebden (7), Australia, 2-6, 7-6 (8), 12-10.

Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, def. Daniel Evans, Britain, and Ben Shelton, United States, 6-1, 7-6 (1).
Hugo Nys, Monaco, and Jan Zielinski, Poland, def. Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Austin Krajicek (3), United States, 7-6 (3), 6-2.
Rajeev Ram, United States, and Joe Salisbury (2), Britain, def. Andrea Pellegrino and Andrea Vavassori, Italy, 7-6 (1), 6-7 (1), 10-7.

Women's Doubles

Shuko Aoyama and Ena Shibahara (6), Japan, def. Ekaterina Alexandrova and Anastasia Potapova, Russia, 6-3, 6-3.
Ulrikke Eikeri, Norway, and Miyu Kato, Japan, def. Monica Niculescu, Romania, and Makoto Ninomiya, Japan, 6-4, 4-6, 10-6.

Quarterfinals

Storm Hunter, Australia, and Elise Mertens (4), Belgium, def. Timea Babos, Hungary, and Anna Danilina, Kazakhstan, 6-4, 6-2.

Trophee Clarins

Monday
At Lagardere Paris Racing Club
Paris
Purse: \$115,000
Surface: Red clay
Women's Singles
Qualification

Lois Boisson, France, def. Yana Moroderger, Germany, 6-3, 6-2.
Carol Zhao (4), Canada, def. Marine Parraud, France, 6-2, 6-2.
Elizabeth Mandlik (1), United States, def. Amandine Hesse, France, 6-1, 4-6, 6-1.
Chloe Paquet, France, def. Elsa Jacquemot (2), France, 7-6, 6-3.

Round of 32

Oksana Selekhmeteva, Russia, def. Sinja Kraus, Austria, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.
Yuan Yue, China, def. Anna-Lena Friedsam (8), Germany, 6-1, 6-4.
Varvara Gracheva (2), Russia, def. Carole Monnet, France, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

DEALS

Haack and CB Kei'Trel Clark. Released K Elliott Fry, DL Manny Jones and LB Blake Lynch.

ATLANTA FALCONS — Signed S Lukas Denis, LB Andre Smith, WR Slade Bolden, OL Barry Wesley and DBs Natrone Brooks and Clifford Chattman. Released LB David Anenih, RB B.J. Baylor, CB Javelin Guidry, WR Ra'Shaun Henry, TE/FB John Raine and DBs Matt Hankins and Dylan Mabin.

BALTIMORE RAVENS — Signed C Sam Mustipher.

BUFFALO BILLS — Signed RB Isaiah Bowser, LB Travin Howard, TE Dalton Kincaid and DE Shane Ray.

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed OT B.J. Wilson.

CHICAGO BEARS — Signed OT Darnell Wright and DT Zacch Pickens and WR Tyler Scott.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Waived LB Storey Jackson and DT Roderick Perry II.

DENVER BRONCOS — Waived WR Dallas Daniels, DB Darrius Gaines, TE Kris Leach and RB Emanuel Wilson. Signed RB Jacques Patrick and QB Ben Dinucci.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed DT Brodrick Martin and WR Dylan Drummond.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Released S James Wiggins.

HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed CB Shaquill Griffin and OL Juice Scruggs.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed WR Jacob Harris, OT Anton Harrison and DT Tyler Lacy and S Latavious Brini. Waived DL Jayson Ademilola.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed DB Ekow Boye-Dow. Waived WR Ty Scott.

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Signed WR Kristian Wilkerson. Waived WR Tyler Johnson.

LOS ANGELES RAMS — Signed DB Timarcus Davis. Waived WR Tyler Hudson, LB Matthew Jester and DB Jaiden Woodbey.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed DB Bryce Thompson and TS Cedric Ogbuehi and Isaiah Wynn. Waived OT Jarrett Horst, and OLs Alex Jensen and D.J. Scaife.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Signed WR James Washington, RB Ellis Meriwether, DB Adrian Frye, OL Nick Saldiveri and DL Jack Heflin. Released WR Sy Barnett and DB Vincent Gray.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed WR Jalin Hyatt.

NEW YORK JETS — Signed WR Izaiah Gathings.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed RB Alfonso Graham.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Signed DE Mario Edwards Jr. and DT Forrest Merrill. Waived LB Michael Ayers and DE Jacob Sykes.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS — Signed WR David Moore, OLB Markees Watts, DT C.J. Brewer and S Kendrick Whitehead. Waived OT Dylan Cook and OLB Nelson Mbanasor.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed CBs L.J. Davis, Eric Garris and Armani Marsh, C James Empey and WRs Gavin Holmes and Kearis Jackson.

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS — Placed LB Drew White on the physically unable to play (PUP) list.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS — Assigned G Joseph Woll to Toronto (AHL).
COLLEGE
KANSAS STATE — Announced head football coach Chris Klieman signed a new 8-year contract.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

NCAA Tournament

(Double elimination; x-if necessary)
Norman (Okla.) Regional
Friday, May 19

Game 1 — Oklahoma (51-1) vs. Hofstra (29-25)
Game 2 — Missouri (34-24) vs. California (33-19-1)

Saturday, May 20

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner
Game 4 — Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser
Game 5 — Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 winner

Sunday, May 21

Game 6 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 5 winner
x-Game 7 — Game 6 opponents

Clemson (S.C.) Regional

Friday, May 19
Game 1 — Clemson (46-9) vs. UNC-Greensboro (37-20)
Game 2 — Auburn (40-17) vs. Cal St.-Fullerton (33-19)

Saturday, May 20

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner
Game 4 — Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser
Game 5 — Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 winner

Sunday, May 21

Game 6 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 5 winner
x-Game 7 — Game 6 opponents

Stanford (Calif.) Regional

Friday, May 19
Game 1 — Florida (36-20) vs. Loyola Marymount (27-20)
Game 2 — Stanford (40-13) vs. Long Beach St. (31-21)

Saturday, May 20

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner
Game 4 — Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser
Game 5 — Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 winner

Sunday, May 21

Game 6 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 5 winner
x-Game 7 — Game 6 opponents

Durham (N.C.) Regional

Friday, May 19
Game 1 — Duke (45-10) vs. George Mason (35-22)
Game 2 — Charlotte (33-21) vs. Campbell (41-16)

Saturday, May 20

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner
Game 4 — Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser
Game 5 — Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 winner

Sunday, May 21

Game 6 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 5 winner
x-Game 7 — Game 6 opponents

Tuscaloosa (Ala.) Regional

Friday, May 19
Game 1 — Middle Tennessee (39-18) vs. Cent. Arkansas (44-10)
Game 2 — Alabama (40-18) vs. LIU (32-24)

Saturday, May 20

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner
Game 4 — Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser
Game 5 — Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 winner

Sunday, May 21

Game 6 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 5 winner
x-Game 7 — Game 6 opponents

Evanston (Ill.) Regional

Friday, May 19
Game 1 — Kentucky (30-20-1) vs. Miami (Ohio) (37-18)
Game 2 — Northwestern (38-11) vs. E. Illinois (34-19)

Saturday, May 20

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner
Game 4 — Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser
Game 5 — Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 winner

Sunday, May 21

Game 6 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 5 winner
x-Game 7 — Game 6 opponents

Austin (Texas) Regional

Friday, May 19
Game 1 — Texas (42-13-1) vs. Seton Hall (42-16)
Game 2 — Texas A&M (33-19) vs. Texas St. (34-23-1)

Saturday, May 20

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner
Game 4 — Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser
Game 5 — Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 winner

Sunday, May 21

Game 6 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 5 winner
x-Game 7 — Game 6 opponents

Knoxville (Tenn.) Regional

Friday, May 19
Game 1 — Indiana (41-16) vs. Louisville (35-18)
Game 2 — Tennessee (44-8) vs. N. Kentucky (23-30)

Saturday, May 20

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner
Game 4 — Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser
Game 5 — Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 winner

Sunday, May 21

Game 6 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 5 winner
x-Game 7 — Game 6 opponents

May 17

1925 — Tris Speaker of the Cleveland Indians collects his 3,000th career hit off Tom Zachry in a 2-1 loss to the Washington Senators.
1930 — Gallant Fox wins the Kentucky

x-Game 7 — Game 6 opponents
Tallahassee (Fla.) Regional
Friday, May 19

Game 1 — Florida St. (50-8) vs. Marist (29-28)
Game 2 — South Carolina (37-20) vs. UCF (39-19)

Saturday, May 20

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner
Game 4 — Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser
Game 5 — Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 winner, TBA

Sunday, May 21

Game 6 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 5 winner
x-Game 7 — Game 6 opponents

Athens (Ga.) Regional

Friday, May 19
Game 1 — Virginia Tech (37-18) vs. Boston U. (51-8)
Game 2 — Georgia (39-13) vs. NC Central (19-33)

Saturday, May 20

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner
Game 4 — Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser
Game 5 — Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 winner

Sunday, May 21

Game 6 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 5 winner
x-Game 7</

MLB

ROUNDUP

Ohtani has another notable night

Angels' 2-way star becomes 1st pitcher to reach base 5 times in a game since 1964

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Shohei Ohtani turned a shaky start on the mound into another night of historic excellence.

Ohtani became the first starting pitcher since 1964 to reach base five times in a game as the Los Angeles Angels beat the Baltimore Orioles 9-5 on Monday night. Ohtani had four hits and a walk, making up for his pitching struggles with a stellar performance at the plate. He hit a titanic three-run homer and finished a double shy of the cycle on a night the Orioles hit three home runs off him.

"I'm sure all those records come because the sample size is so small, so I don't really look too deeply into it," Ohtani said through a translator.

The sample size — of players who can hit and pitch like this — is indeed small. That is, of course, part of what makes Ohtani such a marvel. The last person to reach base five times in a game he started on the mound was Mel Stottlemyre of the New York Yankees, on Sept. 26, 1964, against Washington.

Ohtani (5-1) allowed five runs on four hits in seven innings, but he did plenty of damage with a bat in his hands. In addition to his 456-foot drive in the fourth that gave the Angels a 7-4 lead, he had a walk, two singles and a triple.

"He's a once-in-a-generation player. Once in a lifetime, really," Orioles infielder Adam Frazier said. "Special guy, and I'm glad to say I can compete against him, because it's fun. He brings out the best in everyone."

Orioles rookie Grayson Rodriguez (2-1) allowed eight runs and nine hits in 3½ innings. With the score tied at 4 in the fourth, Ohtani connected for his ninth home run of the season. The ball appeared to bounce off the gate behind the seating area in right-center field at Camden Yards.

"I was actually pretty relaxed at the plate today," Ohtani said. "(Rodriguez) hung the curveball in a good spot. I didn't even really take a hard swing, but the ball went where it went."

Dodgers 9, Twins 8 (12): Chris Taylor scored on a bases-loaded walk in the 12th inning, Max Muncy homered twice to retake the major league lead and host Los Angeles won its sixth straight.

Trayce Thompson drew a walk on a full count with the bases load-



Nick Wass/AP

The Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani celebrates after his three-run homer during the fourth inning against the Orioles on Monday in Baltimore. The Angels won 9-5.

ed count off Jorge López (1-1) to give Los Angeles the victory.

Will Smith also went deep as the Dodgers led 6-3 through seven innings before the game saw three ties and three lead changes in the final five innings.

Minnesota's Trevor Larnach hit a game-tying home run in the eighth inning. Jorge Polanco had three hits, including a solo shot. Christian Vázquez also had three hits for the AL Central-leading Twins, who have dropped 11 straight to the Dodgers.

Yankees 7, Blue Jays 4: Aaron Judge homered twice, including a 462-foot drive over the center field batter's eye three pitches after manager Aaron Boone was ejected for arguing a called strike to the slugger, and visiting New York beat Toronto.

Judge hit two solo homers, putting the Yankees ahead in the first inning with an opposite-field shot to right against Alek Manoah (1-4) and extending New York's lead to seven in the eighth. Judge had three RBIs and reached base five times.

Willie Calhoun hit a two-run homer in the first, and Anthony Rizzo and Kyle Higashioka each drove in a run as New York won for the sixth time in eight games. Rookie Jhony Brito (3-3) earned the win.

Padres 4, Royals 0: Michael Wacha took a no-hitter into the eighth inning before allowing Michael Massey's leadoff single and struck out a career-high 11 as host San Diego snapped a four-game

skid with a win over Kansas City.

Massey's hit came on Wacha's 103rd pitch, and the right-hander was immediately lifted from the game. Nick Martinez came on and retired the side and then finished the combined two-hitter.

Wacha (4-1) walked one and had a perfect game going before hitting Edward Olivares with a pitch with one out in the fifth. He walked Bobby Witt Jr. with two outs in the sixth.

Mariners 10, Red Sox 1: Cal Raleigh became the first catcher to homer from both sides of the plate at Fenway Park, and George Kirby pitched visiting Seattle past Boston.

Raleigh hit two long two-run homers and Eugenio Suárez added a two-run shot of his own. Ty France had two doubles to extend his hitting streak to 12 games for Seattle, which has won 10 of 14.

Cardinals 18, Brewers 1: Nolan Arenado homered in his fourth straight game and Nolan Gorman had a career-high five RBIs to lead host St. Louis over Milwaukee for its season-best fourth straight win.

Andrew Knizner hit his first career grand slam in a 10-run eighth after entering as a pinch runner earlier in the inning, which began with Tommy Edman homering. The Cardinals tied their season high with 16 hits and have won seven of their last eight.

Nationals 10, Mets 3: Joey Meneeses had four hits and drove in four runs, CJ Abrams homered and host Washington beat New York to split a four-game series.

New York has lost nine of 13 and dropped 15 of 21 since its 14-7 start. The Mets are 0-5-2 in their past seven series and have not won consecutive games since taking three in a row from April 19-21.

Diamondbacks 5, Athletics 2: Geraldo Perdomo hit a two-run homer in the second inning and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. added a two-run shot in the third to back Merrill Kelly's third straight winning decision in visiting Arizona's win over Oakland.

The A's drew an announced crowd of 2,064, their smallest for a home game fans were allowed to attend since drawing 1,037 against Texas on Sept. 19, 1979.

Braves 12, Rangers 0: Kevin Pillar and Ronald Acuña Jr. each hit a two-run homer in the second inning, spoiling Cody Bradford's big league debut, as visiting Atlanta routed Texas in an interleague matchup of division leaders.

Astros 6, Cubs 4: Alex Bregman hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the seventh inning, helping host Houston over Chicago.

Rockies 9, Reds 8: Rookie Brenton Doyle had his first multi-homer game and Harold Castro had a tiebreaking, two-run double that lifted host Colorado over Cincinnati for the Rockies' 10th win in 14 games.

Giants 6, Phillies 3: Michael Conforto hit his fourth homer in the past six games as part of a six-run second inning and host San Francisco beat Philadelphia to end a three-game skid.

Scoreboard

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	31	11	.738	—
Baltimore	26	15	.634	4½
Toronto	24	17	.585	6½
New York	24	19	.558	7½
Boston	22	20	.524	9

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	23	19	.548	—
Cleveland	19	21	.475	3
Detroit	18	21	.462	3½
Chicago	14	28	.333	9
Kansas City	12	31	.279	11½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	25	16	.610	—
Houston	22	19	.537	3
Los Angeles	22	20	.524	3½
Seattle	21	20	.512	4
Oakland	9	34	.209	17

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	26	15	.634	—
Miami	20	21	.488	6
Philadelphia	20	21	.488	6
New York	20	22	.476	6½
Washington	18	23	.439	8

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	23	18	.561	—
Pittsburgh	22	19	.537	1
Chicago	19	22	.463	4
Cincinnati	18	23	.439	5
St. Louis	17	25	.405	6½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	27	15	.643	—
Arizona	24	18	.571	3
San Diego	20	22	.476	7
San Francisco	18	23	.439	8½
Colorado	18	24	.429	9

Monday's games

- L.A. Angels 9, Baltimore 5
- L.A. Dodgers 9, Minnesota 8, 12 innings
- N.Y. Yankees 7, Toronto 4
- San Diego 4, Kansas City 0
- Seattle 10, Boston 1
- St. Louis 18, Milwaukee 1
- Washington 10, N.Y. Mets 3
- Arizona 5, Oakland 2
- Atlanta 12, Texas 0
- Houston 6, Chicago Cubs 4
- Colorado 9, Cincinnati 8
- San Francisco 6, Philadelphia 3

Tuesday's games

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

Wednesday's games

- Pittsburgh (Hill 3-3) at Detroit (Rodriguez 4-2)
- Cincinnati (Ashcraft 2-1) at Colorado (Gomber 3-4)
- Minnesota (Gray 4-0) at L.A. Dodgers (May 4-1)
- Arizona (Nelson 1-2) at Oakland (Medina 0-2)
- Philadelphia (Walker 3-2) at San Francisco (TBD)
- Kansas City (TBD) at San Diego (Darvish 2-2)
- L.A. Angels (Canning 2-1) at Baltimore (Bradish 1-1)
- Washington (Gore 3-2) at Miami (Cabrer 2-3)
- N.Y. Yankees (Cole 5-0) at Toronto (Bassitt 5-2)
- Seattle (Gonzales 3-0) at Boston (Bello 2-1)
- Tampa Bay (TBD) at N.Y. Mets (Senga 4-2)
- Milwaukee (Burnes 4-2) at St. Louis (Wainwright 0-0)
- Atlanta (Strider 4-1) at Texas (Eovaldi 5-2)
- Chicago Cubs (Smyly 4-1) at Houston (France 1-0)
- Cleveland (Battenfield 0-4) at Chicago White Sox (Clevinger 2-3)

GOLF/MMA

Oak Hill changes make PGA return feel new

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
Associated Press

Major golf championships are nothing new at Oak Hill. The Donald Ross gem in upstate New York has already hosted three U.S. Opens, three PGA Championships and the Ryder Cup. And yet the PGA Championship's return to Oak Hill feels like a debut.

Part of that is because of the fabled East Course.

Oak Hill kept getting so far away from its Ross roots — the club dates to 1901 — that it finally took on a restoration project so thorough that it's a wonder any of the 32 players who have played it in the last two PGA Championships will recognize the place.

Three holes were not there when the PGA Championship was last at Oak Hill in 2013. Trees were removed, creating more vistas and recovery options. The bunkers are steep and penal, similar to what Ross had in mind.

And part of the newness to this PGA Championship is the calendar.

The PGA of America announced in 2017 that it would be moving its premier championship to May, a decision that would eliminate northern courses from future consideration. Oak Hill, however, was already locked in for 2023, the last hurdle before a lineup of courses in warmer climates.

Imagine a major in May on a course located about an hour east of Buffalo.

Kerry Haigh, the PGA's chief championships officer, has recently started most conversations with the Oak Hill staff by asking a



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Jason Dufner celebrates after winning the PGA Championship at Oak Hill Country Club on Aug. 11, 2013, in Pittsford, N.Y. The PGA Championship returns to Oak Hill for the fourth time starting Thursday.

question on everyone's mind: How's the weather?

"The last six weeks there have been more conversations with the superintendent than normal — to your point, checking on the weather, checking on what's growing and what's not," Haigh said, noting the Rochester area had some 45 inches of snow this winter.

Mother Nature, always the unknown factor in golf, appears to have cooperated.

There was a week of unseasonable warmth along with weeks of rain, a combination that led to enough grass on the ground and leaves in the trees. Temperatures are expected to be in the 60s when the 105th PGA Championship

starts Thursday. It should be pleasant enough for players not to have to bundle up in pursuit of the Wanamaker Trophy.

What hasn't changed is the nature of the field.

The PGA Championship is known for having the strongest field of the four majors, and this year was no exception with 99 of the top 100 players from the world ranking expected at Oak Hill. The exception is Will Zalatoris, out for the season after back surgery.

Also missing is Tiger Woods, who had surgery on his ankle last month and is likely to miss the other two majors this year.

The 156-man field includes 17 players who are part of the Saudi-

funded LIV Golf League — down one from the 18 who played in the 89-man field at the Masters last month.

One question going into the year was how LIV Golf players would fare against more than just a 48-man field and stronger competition from top to bottom. If the Masters was any indication, that's no longer a concern.

Brooks Koepka, a four-time major champion, had the 54-hole lead at Augusta National until Jon Rahm tracked him down in the final round. Koepka was a runner-up with 52-year-old Phil Mickelson, who only two years ago became golf's oldest major winner in the PGA Championship at Kiawah

Island. Patrick Reed tied for fourth.

Was that the familiarity of Augusta National for Mickelson, a three-time Masters champ? Oak Hill might be the place to validate that.

Koepka, who recently revealed his wife is pregnant with their first child, would appear to have his major mojo back. When he won at Bellerive in 2018 and Bethpage Black in 2019, he joined Woods and Padraig Harrington as the only back-to-back PGA champions in stroke play. "I like the majors. I like the discipline, the mental grind that comes with it," Koepka said.

Koepka is among those 32 players who have played Oak Hill at either the 2003 or the 2013 PGA Championship — eight have played both years — and he's in for a surprise. This doesn't look anything like it once did.

Robert Trent Jones tweaked the Ross design to make it tougher as Oak Hill began landing majors. Lee Trevino won the second U.S. Open there in 1968, becoming the first player to break 70 all four rounds (it was 25 years before that happened again in a U.S. Open). So the club brought in George and Tom Fazio for more upgrades. Finally, the club hired architect Andrew Green to restore the spirit of Ross.

"I think Andrew Green's done a really good job," Rory McIlroy said. "I think the renovation has hopefully restored the East Course back to its former glory. I'm just hoping for a good weather week."

Ex-UFC heavyweight champion Ngannou signs with PFL

By **DAN GELSTON**
Associated Press

Francis Ngannou's reign as one of the top heavyweights in MMA will continue in the Professional Fighters League following the former champion's contentious split with UFC.

Ngannou was still UFC heavyweight champion when contract talks collapsed once the African fighter said his demands for health insurance and personal sponsorships were rejected. UFC President Dana White stripped Ngannou of the belt in January.

The 36-year-old Ngannou will fight exclusively for PFL in its pay-per-view super fight division. Ngannou, who defeated Stipe Miocic in 2021 to win the UFC crown, will also serve as chairman and equity owner in PFL Africa.

Terms of the deal were not announced.

"I believe in the PFL's 'fighter first' culture and global vision including developing the sport in



GREGORY PAYAN/AP

Francis Ngannou is shown during a heavyweight championship bout against Stipe Miocic at UFC 220 on Jan. 21, 2018, in Boston.

Africa," Ngannou said Tuesday in a statement. "With that, I am also proud to announce that I will

serve as Chairman of PFL Africa which will be the leading MMA organization on the continent pro-

viding great African fighters the opportunity to compete on a global platform."

PFL CEO Peter Murray told The Associated Press that Ngannou's first scheduled fight will be in early 2024.

Murray said talks with Ngannou began when "he was no longer encumbered" and the fighter was expected to play a pivotal role in the company's planned global expansion. Ngannou also wants to box, and the PFL will not stand in his way.

"We're supportive of Francis taking on boxing," Murray said.

Ngannou (17-3) will also serve in a leadership role on the PFL global advisory board, making him the first active fighter to serve on the board and represent fighters' interests.

While the PFL has a unique MMA competition format that includes a regular season, a postseason and a championship event, Ngannou will only fight in a planned PPV division that in-

cludes other stars such as Kayla Harrison and Jake Paul.

"This is a new model and it's a transformational deal," Murray said. "This is not just an athlete signing. This is a strategic partnership. Francis has all the capabilities not only as an elite MMA fighter but as a businessperson, and we're excited to be in business with him."

Ngannou had dropped a teaser video on social media that he planned to make a big announcement on May 16. He rebounded from consecutive losses in UFC to win six straight bouts, that included the championship fight and one successful title defense. Ngannou hasn't fought since he defeated Cyril Gane by unanimous decision at UFC 270 in January 2022.

His relationship with UFC frayed to the point that White vowed Ngannou would "never be in the UFC again."

"I never say never, but I'll give you a never on that one. We tried," White said.

NBA

76ers fire Rivers after three seasons

Three straight second-round exits keep coach from retaining his job

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Doc Rivers' penchant for playoff collapses and second-round exits cost him his coaching job with the Philadelphia 76ers.

The 76ers fired Rivers on Tuesday following a third straight exit in the second round of the playoffs, and the second time over that span he lost a series lead and a Game 7.

Rivers led the 76ers to their second straight 50-win season behind NBA MVP Joel Embiid but again failed to lead them to the Eastern Conference finals for the first time since 2001. The Sixers have not won an NBA championship since 1983.

"We're grateful for all he did in his three seasons here and thank him for the important impact he made on our franchise," team president Daryl Morey said in a statement. "After having the chance to reflect upon our season, we decided that certain changes are necessary to further our goals of competing for a championship."

Morey was scheduled to address the decision at a news conference Wednesday.

The 76ers held a 3-2 semifinals series lead against Boston before dropping Game 6 at home and were crushed in Game 7 on the road.

Rivers fell to 6-10 in Game 7s. The 10 defeats are five more than any other NBA coach.

Rivers and the 76ers also lost a decisive Game 7 at home in the second round to Atlanta in 2021 as

a No. 1 seed. Embiid endorsed Rivers' return following Sunday's loss but James Harden was noncommittal about wanting Rivers back.

Rivers had two years left on his contract and was 154-82 in three years with the Sixers. He won the 2008 NBA title as coach of the Boston Celtics.

Asked after the 112-88 thumping in Boston if he expected to be back next year, Rivers said: "Yeah. I think I got two years left. No one is safe in our business and I get that."

He's just the latest big-name coach fired already during the postseason and the 76ers are sure to have their pick among the best in the game. Nick Nurse (Toronto) and Mike Budenholzer (Milwaukee) have been fired after both won championships since 2019, and former Sixers assistant Monty Williams (who coached Phoenix in the 2021 NBA Finals) is also available.

Rivers took over ahead of the 2020-21 season for Brett Brown, who was fired after the 76ers were swept in the first round of the playoffs.

Rivers himself had just been fired about two weeks after the Los Angeles Clippers wasted a 3-1 series lead and lost to the Denver Nuggets in the Western Conference semifinals.

He expected to coach a team seemingly on the brink of winning a title. Instead, he was on the bench for one of the worst losses in team history, a franchise-shifting loss to Atlanta in Game 7 that came on the heels of Ben Simmons failing to dunk an uncontested



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Philadelphia 76ers guard James Harden talks with head coach Doc Rivers during Game 2 of the Eastern Conference semifinals against Boston. The 76ers lost the series in seven games.

shot, which spiraled into a loss and the end of the All-Star guard's tenure in Philly. Simmons never played for the 76ers again after Rivers and Embiid failed to publicly back the star following the loss, and the relationship soured from there.

Simmons was traded a year later for Harden, who was expected to serve as the missing piece that could get Embiid a championship. Or least into the conference finals.

Asked after the Game 7 loss to Boston to describe his relationship with Rivers and if he'd like his coach to return for a fourth season, Harden said "our relation-

ship is OK" and didn't answer the second part of the question.

Now it doesn't matter.

"I thought we had the right group. I really did," Rivers said.

But one other intriguing potential candidate to keep an eye on is former Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni. D'Antoni coached Harden for four seasons in Houston and they both thrived there working under Morey. Morey has been a staunch Harden defender and worked hard to bring him to the 76ers. With Rivers gone, another reunion could be on the horizon.

Harden, who played the last few months with nagging left Achilles

soreness, has a player option of \$35.6 million. He was vague on what he might do this summer. But perhaps a reunion with D'Antoni — or, at the very least a coach who knows how to pair Harden-Embiid to their strengths — can entice The Beard to stay. The 76ers are eligible to sign Harden to a \$210 million, four-year deal while other teams can't offer more than \$202 million over the same contract length.

Rivers also coached the Orlando Magic and the Los Angeles Clippers and is 1,097-763 over a career that dates to the 1999-2000 season.

Security: Recent champions have fired coaches

FROM PAGE 24

to get into. I should have been a TV reporter."

Of the last nine coaches to take a team to the NBA Finals, only two — Kerr and Spoelstra — are still with the franchise that they went to the title round with.

Three of the last four championship-winning coaches — Budenholzer in 2021, the Los Angeles Lakers' Frank Vogel in 2020 and Nurse in 2019 — have since been fired by those clubs. Also fired for various reasons after recent runs to the Finals: Ime Udoka in Boston, Cleveland's David Blatt and then Tyronn Lue as well, and now Williams by the Suns.

Budenholzer's dismissal left Kerr upset, as he revealed earlier this month — but noted that all coaches understand how vulnerable they are.



MORRY GASH/AP

Mike Budenholzer, who led Milwaukee to the 2021 NBA title, was fired this year after the Bucks' first-round playoff exit.

"My first response is not necessarily shock, it's more disappointment because Bud is a fantastic coach," Kerr said. "He just won a

championship and has been wildly successful in his coaching career. But this is the business we're in. ... Expectations every year for every team are so high, and only one team can win. It's sad news for the coaching profession."

At least five teams will have new coaches next season — Phoenix, Milwaukee, Toronto and Detroit are looking, and Houston has already hired Udoka as the replacement for Stephen Silas. Brooklyn's Jacque Vaughn was hired by the Nets in November, and Atlanta's Quin Snyder was hired by the Hawks in February.

And, at minimum, 12 of the NBA's 30 teams will open next season with a coach who has been in place for no more than one season.

Spoelstra has long said part of Miami's strength is consistency.

Managing general partner Micky Arison, CEO Nick Arison, team president Pat Riley, general manager Andy Elisburg and others have been with the Heat for decades — and from the very beginning, in Elisburg's case, since he's been with the franchise for all 35 of its seasons.

Spoelstra has been with the organization for more than half his life as well; he was 24 when he started in the video room, and now he's 52.

"It takes so much time and energy to restart something," Spoelstra said. "And I think that's part of the reason why we've been able to reboot so many times, over and over and over. We're not reinventing a new culture and then trying to teach everybody and then all of a sudden, two years later, it's going to be somebody else doing the

Scoreboard

Playoffs

CONFERENCE FINALS
(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)
Eastern Conference
Boston vs. Miami

Wednesday: at Boston, AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m. Thursday CET; 9:30 a.m. Thursday JKT
Friday: at Boston, AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m. Saturday CET; 9:30 a.m. Saturday JKT
Sunday, May 21: at Miami, AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m. Monday CET; 9:30 a.m. Monday JKT

Tuesday, May 23: at Miami, AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m. Wednesday CET; 9:30 a.m. Wednesday JKT
x-Thursday, May 25: at Boston
x-Saturday, May 27: at Miami
x-Monday, May 29: at Boston
Western Conference
Denver vs. L.A. Lakers

Tuesday: at Denver
Thursday: at Denver, AFN-Sports, 3:10 a.m. Friday CET; 10:10 a.m. Friday JKT
Saturday: at L.A. Lakers, AFN-Sports 2:30 a.m. Sunday CET; 9:30 a.m. Sunday JKT
Monday, May 22: at L.A. Lakers, AFN-Sports, 3:10 a.m. Tuesday CET; 10:10 a.m. Tuesday JKT
x-Wednesday, May 24: at Denver
x-Friday, May 26: at L.A. Lakers
x-Sunday, May 28: at Denver

exact same thing. But particularly to have proven veteran guys (fired), it's just been stunning. It really has been disturbing."

NHL PLAYOFFS



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Stars center Wyatt Johnston, left, celebrates after scoring against the Seattle Kraken during the third period of Game 7 of their second-round series Monday night in Dallas. The Stars won 2-1.

Stars beat Kraken to advance to West final

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
Associated Press

DALLAS — Wyatt Johnston is no longer a teenager, not that he's played like one at all during his rookie season with a Dallas Stars team that is headed to the Western Conference final.

A day after his 20th birthday, Johnston scored a crucial goal for the Stars off a hard ricochet in their 2-1 victory over the Seattle Kraken in Game 7 in the second-round series Monday night.

"It's a world-class play by one of the youngest players in the league," Stars coach Pete DeBoer said. "He's been fantastic all year. He's a big part of our group. It feels like the deeper we get, the more we rely on him, the more responsibility he wants."

Roope Hintz also scored for the Stars and 24-year-old goalie Jake Oettinger had 22 saves while again bouncing back after a loss.

Dallas moves on to play first-year Stars coach DeBoer's former team, the Vegas Golden Knights. Game 1 of the West final is Friday night in Las Vegas.

DeBoer improved to 7-0 in Game 7s, this being the fourth team he led to a win in the finale of a best-of-seven series that went the distance. Darryl Sutter and Scott Bowman are the only other coaches to do that.

It was the fourth time in five seasons the Stars got a Game 7 — the others were all away from home. They hadn't won a Game 7 at home since 2000, when they made the Stanley Cup Final for the second season in a row, a year

Scoreboard

Second round
(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Florida 4, Toronto 1

Florida 4, Toronto 2
Florida 3, Toronto 2
Florida 3, Toronto 2, OT
Toronto 2, Florida 1
Florida 3, Toronto 2, OT

Carolina 4, New Jersey 1
Carolina 5, New Jersey 1
Carolina 6, New Jersey 1
New Jersey 8, Carolina 4
Carolina 6, New Jersey 1
Carolina 3, New Jersey 2, OT

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Vegas 4, Edmonton 2
Vegas 6, Edmonton 4
Edmonton 5, Vegas 1
Vegas 5, Edmonton 1
Edmonton 4, Vegas 1
Vegas 4, Edmonton 3
Vegas 5, Edmonton 2

Dallas 4, Seattle 3
Seattle 5, Dallas 4, OT
Dallas 4, Seattle 2
Seattle 7, Dallas 2
Dallas 6, Seattle 3
Dallas 5, Seattle 2
Seattle 6, Dallas 3
Monday: Dallas 2, Seattle 1

Conference finals
(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Carolina vs. Florida

Thursday: Florida at Carolina
Saturday: Florida at Carolina
Monday, May 22: Carolina at Florida
Wednesday, May 24: Carolina at Florida
x-Friday, May 26: Florida at Carolina
x-Sunday, May 28: Carolina at Florida
x-Tuesday, May 30: Florida at Carolina

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Vegas vs. Dallas
Friday: Dallas at Vegas
Sunday: Dallas at Vegas
Tuesday, May 23: Vegas at Dallas
Thursday, May 25: Vegas at Dallas
x-Saturday, May 27: Dallas at Vegas
x-Monday, May 29: Vegas at Dallas
x-Wednesday, May 31: Dallas at Vegas

after their only title.

In the only other Game 7 they hosted at American Airlines Center, the Stars lost 6-1 to St. Louis in a second-round series in 2016.

Johnston made it 2-0 with 7:12 left, when he gathered a puck that ricocheted off the back boards to

the left of the Seattle net. The kid who has played in every game this season, and is living with veteran Joe Pavelski's family, then sent a shot that went off the shoulder and mask of goalie Phillip Grubauer before going into the net.

Grubauer stopped 26 shots, two weeks after his 33 saves when Seattle won at Colorado 2-1 in another Game 7 to knock out last year's Stanley Cup champion.

Hintz's ninth goal of the playoffs was credited as an unassisted tally and came with 4:01 left in the second period, the deepest in this series any game got before a score.

Oliver Bjorkstrand scored with 17.6 seconds left, preventing the second shutout this postseason season for Oettinger. Bjorkstrand had both goals against the Avalanche in that Game 7 last month.

This series finale came exactly one year after Oettinger's 64-save performance in another Game 7 — a 3-2 loss at Calgary after Johnny Gaudreau's OT goal ended the first-round series.

Oettinger improved to 5-0 after losses this postseason. He allowed four goals on 18 shots during Game 6 in Seattle on Saturday, when he was pulled 4 1/2 minutes into the second period.

"Yeah, that's playoff hockey. I don't think had my best series of my career, but it shows how good of a team we are," Oettinger said. "It's ups and downs and, you know, you think might be out of it, and the next thing you know you're going to the conference final."

Dallas' DeBoer now 7-0 behind bench in Game 7s

By **SCHUYLER DIXON**
Associated Press

DALLAS — Dallas Stars coach Pete DeBoer pulled his goalie twice in seven games in the Western Conference semifinals against Seattle.

Jake Oettinger didn't take either move as a sign of panic. Quite the opposite, which the 24-year-old goalie believes helps explain DeBoer's perfect record in Game 7s in his coaching career.

"I think if your coach is back there freaking out and hitting the panic button every time you lose, I think that trickles down into the group," Oettinger said. "He's the exact opposite of that."

DeBoer reached 7-0 in winner-take-all meetings with the Stars' 2-1 victory over the Kraken on Monday night. He's the third coach to win a Game 7 with four teams.

Dallas plays one of those teams, the Vegas Golden Knights, in the West final starting Friday night in Las Vegas. DeBoer was fired after the Golden Knights missed the playoffs last season.

"There's a lot to unpack there," DeBoer said with a laugh. "I think we'll just enjoy tonight and talk about that as we go forward."

The only coach in the four major pro sports to win more Game 7s without a loss was Basketball Hall of Famer Red Auerbach, who was 8-0 with the NBA's Boston Celtics.

The pulling of Oettinger in a 7-2 loss in Game 3 and again in a 6-3 loss in Game 6 was never anything more than a reset. Oettinger starting the next game was never in doubt, and he won both.

"I appreciate that coming from Jake, who for me is our calming presence as a team with how he plays," DeBoer said when told of Oettinger's take on his coach's calm demeanor.

"It's something you learn as a coach," DeBoer said. "I think you come into the league fiery and excitable, and you realize you can

have more impact picking your spots and being a calming presence when there's a lot of chaos going on."

DeBoer is the first coach to lead four different teams to the conference final in his first season. He's also one series victory away from taking a third team to the Stanley Cup Final in his debut.

With New Jersey in 2011-12, DeBoer's first career playoff series went seven games as the Devils beat Florida on the way to the Cup final.

Four years later in his first season with San Jose, DeBoer won his second Game 7 in the West semifinals against Nashville.

There were two Game 7 victories with the Sharks in 2019 against Vegas and Colorado before a six-game defeat to St. Louis in the West finals.

DeBoer took over the Golden Knights midseason in 2019-20, winning a Game 7 over Vancouver in the playoff bubble in Canada before losing to the Stars in the West finals.

Vegas beat Minnesota in Game 7 of a first-round series in 2021.

"Game 7, there's a lot of emotion," DeBoer said. "The guys are wound up. There's nobody that isn't ready to play and give everything they've got. They know the stakes."

The other two coaches to win Game 7s with four different teams are Darryl Sutter (Chicago, San Jose, Calgary and the Los Angeles Kings) and Scotty Bowman (St. Louis, Montreal, Pittsburgh and Detroit).

Sutter and Bowman won multiple Stanley Cups. The 54-year-old DeBoer is seeking his first.

"He believes in this group of guys and that if we do what he's teaching us and what we do as a group well, I think if we do that, he believes we can win the Cup," Oettinger said. "Belief starts and ends with him, and his demeanor trickles down to the whole group."



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Seattle Kraken head coach Dave Hakstol, left, and Stars head coach Peter DeBoer shake hands after the Stars won Game 7 of their second-round series Monday night in Dallas.

SPORTS



On to the conference finals
Rookie Johnston, Stars win Game 7 against Kraken » **NHL playoffs, Page 23**

NBA



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Denver Nuggets head coach Michael Malone, right, confers with guard Reggie Jackson during a game earlier this season. Malone has been coach of the Nuggets since 2015.

Lack of job security

As coaching changes mount, some complain about situation

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

Miami's Erik Spoelstra and Denver's Michael Malone are two of the four NBA coaches to have spent at least eight years with their current team.

They know how rare that is. Spoelstra and Malone both spoke out Monday following the recent dismissals of three coaches who aren't far removed from great success — 2019 NBA champion Nick Nurse, 2021 champion Mike Budenholzer and most recently 2021 Western Conference champion and 2022 coach of the year Monty Williams. Nurse was fired by Toronto, Budenholzer by Milwaukee and Williams by Phoenix.



Williams

On Tuesday, Philadelphia parted ways with Doc Rivers after the 76ers were eliminated from the playoffs in the second round for the third straight season. Rivers led the 76ers to their second straight 50-win season but failed to get them to the Eastern Conference finals for the first time since 2001.

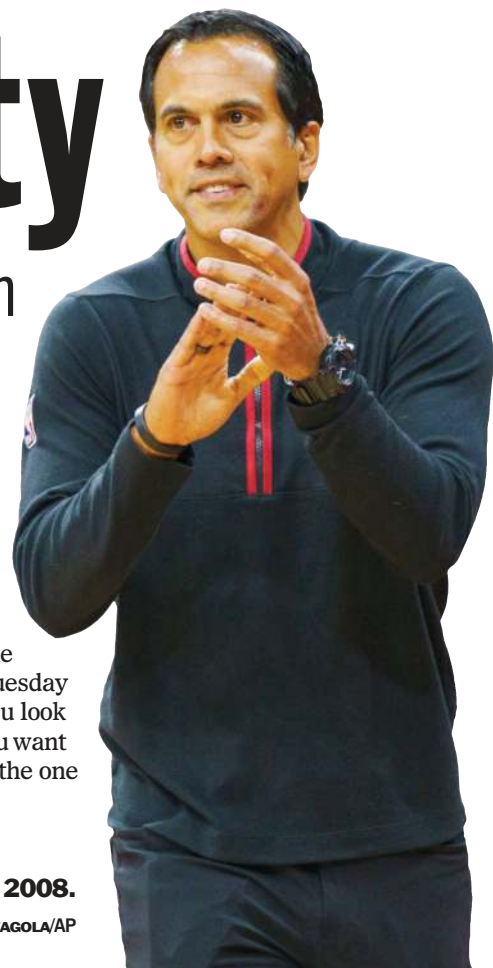
"I've been thinking more about the great, proven, experienced coaches that have lost their jobs already," Spoelstra said as the Heat prepared for another trip to the Eastern Conference finals and a matchup against Boston that starts Wednesday. "It just doesn't make sense

to me."

Spoelstra has the NBA's second-longest current tenure with one team. San Antonio's Gregg Popovich has coached the Spurs since 1996, Spoelstra took over the Heat in 2008, Steve Kerr became coach in Golden State in 2014 and Malone became coach in Denver in 2015.

"I understand this business," said Malone, who led Denver into the Western Conference finals Tuesday against the Los Angeles Lakers. "You look around the coaching landscape, if you want a secure profession, coaching is not the one

SEE SECURITY ON PAGE 22



CHRIS SZAGOLA/AP

Miami head coach Erik Spoelstra has the second-longest tenure of any coach in the league, taking over the Heat in 2008.

Angels star Ohtani reaches base five times » MLB, Page 20

