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Machine gun robot capable stand-in for enemy forces

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Average daily cases, hospitalizations still on decline in US

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OLEKSANDR RATUSHNIAK/AP

Ukrainian forces patrol the Ukrainian-Belarusian state border at a checkpoint in Novi Yarylovychi, Ukraine, on Monday.

ANALYSIS

With Ukraine threats, more aggressive Putin seen

BY PAUL SONNE AND ROBYN DIXON
The Washington Post

He is the man with the very long table who seats world leaders and ministers at an almost comical distance. He is a lone figure in a dark coat laying a wreath at a St. Petersburg cemetery or sitting solo in his Olympic viewing booth in Beijing.

He is aging, isolated, more powerful than ever — and on the brink of waging a possibly catastrophic war.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, in the 22 years since he first took office, has evolved from an afterthought of Washington leaders to the world's most watched and pleaded-with man, using reconstituted Russian military might to force the globe to reckon with his interests after having complained for years about being ignored.

His latest belligerence follows two years of pandemic isolation and eight years of Western sanctions that analysts say have fed the bunker mentality Putin has exhibited since his earliest years.

At 69, and now a grandfather, he has had hours alone to consider his legacy as Russia's longest-serving leader since Josef Stalin and ponder one of his most striking and unendurable failures: the escape of Kyiv, for centuries the center of East Slavic statehood, into the hands of the West.

Putin's growing hunger for risk



Putin

Not out of the woods

Putin says Moscow will see two Ukrainian regions as independent, a potential pretext for war

BY RACHEL PANNETT AND ROBYN DIXON
The Washington Post

Russian President Vladimir Putin has recognized the independence of separatist regions in eastern Ukraine, raising tensions with West.

The Kremlin announced the move Monday, which Russia could use to justify an attack in those areas.

Troops continue to gather near the Ukrainian border, suggesting that the window for a diplomatic resolution to the crisis is closing and striking a discordant note from Sunday's news that President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin had agreed "in principle" to meet. The summit was proposed by French President Emmanuel Macron during

INSIDE

US says Russia has list of Ukrainians 'to be killed'

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separate calls with Biden and Putin on Sunday. Officials in Paris and Washington said the talks would go ahead only if Moscow doesn't attack.

Russian officials were ambiguous about whether the summit would go ahead. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday that there are not "concrete plans" for a Russia-U.S. summit.

Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, struck a pessimistic chord in comments to

ABC News on Monday morning: "We never give up hope on diplomacy until the missiles fly or the tanks roll," he said. But "the likelihood there's a diplomatic solution, given the troop movements of the Russians, is diminishing hour by hour."

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba on Monday called on the United Nations Security Council to meet immediately to discuss Ukraine's security.

In a Twitter post, he said he was acting on behalf of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He asked that Security Council members confer over "urgent actions aimed at de-escalation, as well as practical steps to guaran-

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SEE AGGRESSIVE ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Details on over 30K Credit Suisse clients leaked

Associated Press

BERLIN — A German newspaper and other media on Sunday said a leak of data from Credit Suisse, Switzerland's second-biggest bank, reveals details of the accounts of more than 30,000 clients — some of them unsavory — and points to possible failures of due diligence in checks on many customers.

Credit Suisse said in a statement it "strongly rejects the allegations and insinuations about the bank's purported business practices."

The German daily Sued-deutsche Zeitung said it received the data anonymously through a secure digital mailbox over a year ago. It said it's unclear whether the source was an individual or a group, and the newspaper didn't make any payment or promises.

The newspaper said it evaluated the data, which ranged from the 1940s until well into the last decade, along with the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project and dozens of media partners including The New York

Times and The Guardian.

It said the data points to the bank having accepted "corrupt autocrats, suspected war criminals and human traffickers, drug dealers and other criminals" as customers.

Credit Suisse said the allegations are "predominantly historical" and that "the accounts of these matters are based on partial, inaccurate, or selective information taken out of context, resulting in tendentious interpretations of the bank's business conduct."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		South Korea (Won)	
Euro costs (Feb. 22)	\$1.11	Switzerland (Franc)	0.9167
Dollar buys (Feb. 22)	0.8582	Thailand (Baht)	32.23
British pound (Feb. 22)	\$1.40	Turkey (NewLira)	13.6560
Japanese yen (Feb. 22)	112.00		
South Korean won (Feb. 22)	1167.00		
Commercial rates		(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
Bahrain(Dinar)	0.3770		
Britain (Pound)	1.3606		
Canada (Dollar)	1.2740		
China(Yuan)	6.3353		
Denmark (Krone)	6.5645		
Egypt (Pound)	15.7101		
Euro	0.8824		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8007		
Hungary (Forint)	314.56		
Israel (Shekel)	3.2154		
Japan (Yen)	114.87		
Kuwait(Dinar)	0.3024		
Norway (Krone)	8.9888		
Philippines (Peso)	51.38		
Poland (Zloty)	4.00		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7518		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3462		

INTEREST RATES

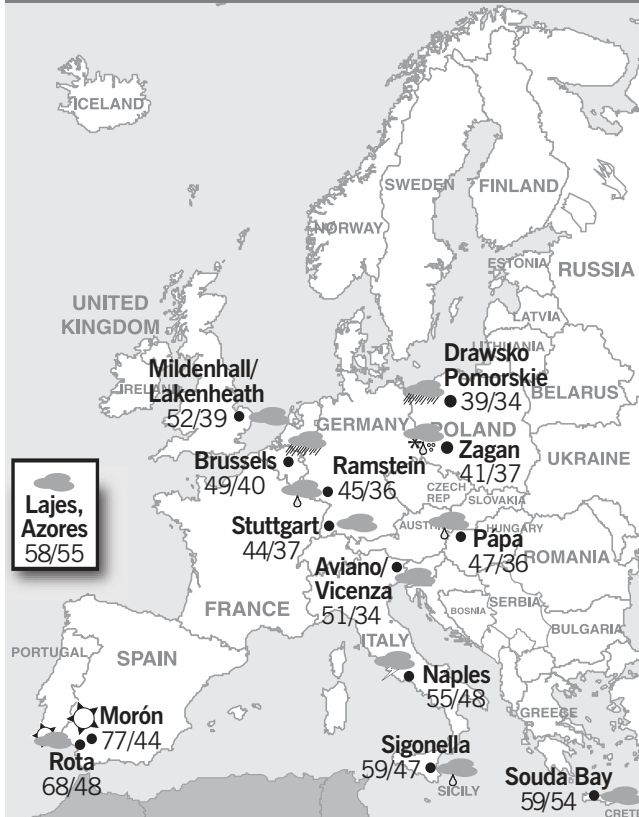
Prime rate	3.25
Interest Rates Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.38
30-year bond	2.31

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY 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

Rolling 'machine gun' robot has a shot

German army soldier-tinkerer's 20-inch-tall machine a capable stand-in for enemy forces during drills

By ALEXANDER RIEDEL
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Gereon may be the cutest cross between a Roomba and an angel of death that you'll ever see.

The 20-inch-tall machine may vaguely resemble a robot vacuum cleaner on off-road tires, but its battlefield simulation equipment makes it a capable stand-in for enemy forces stalking the students at the German army's officer school, according to a Bundeswehr statement.

Named after the patron saint of soldiers, the robot is the brainchild of 1st Lt. Marc Wietfeld, a 31-year infantry officer at the school in Dresden.

Wietfeld said that when he was in the enlisted ranks, he spent a lot of time playing an opposing force, or OPFOR, soldier for other units. During training, he spent hours lying in wait in drafty buildings just to fire off a few blanks at fellow trainees during mock assaults.

He thought there was a better way, so he started to work on the project in his off time while majoring in management and media studies at the German Army University's Munich campus.

"The whole prototype was created in my basement and later in the living room with my friends," Wietfeld is quoted as saying in the German army statement.

What started as amateur tinkering caught the attention of military officials and is now a funded German army project to reproduce the one Wietfeld invented.

Multiple Gereons acting with partial autonomy could create the illusion of a larger troop presence that challenges soldiers to incoming fire. The same approach could



The sensors from Gereon can be accessed via a tablet or laptop computer.

also see use in combat, the statement said.

The robot comes with a loudspeaker, a smoke mortar and a weapon with an LED muzzle flash simulator. When firing, the decoy gun fully simulates a machine gun, the statement said.

Gereon hunts the student officers using an optic-acoustic sensor and a high-resolution camera. Its independently mounted rubber wheels can roll through grass and brush. It weighs about 26 pounds.

The vision of creating the illusion of a larger force with robots is a new twist on an old battlefield tactic.

In World War II, the inflatable mock tanks of the "Ghost Army" of the U.S. Army's 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133rd Signal Service Company fooled Hitler's troops with realistic tank mock-ups and audio recordings.

The 1,100-person unit created the illusion of whole divisions, tricking the Germans into believing its small unit had 20,000 troops. Earlier this year, the units were honored with the Congressional Gold Medal.



PHOTOS BY SEBASTIAN WILKE/German armed forces

German army 1st Lt. Marc Wietfeld presents his prototype robot vehicle, Gereon, at the German army officer school in Dresden. He developed the small tactical robot as a decoy for realistic combat training.



With its decoy weapon, Gereon can simulate machine-gun fire using a loudspeaker and LED muzzle flash. Additional components could add lasers and other sensor equipment to the vehicle base.

What makes Gereon special, Wietfeld said, is its modular design. Planned upgrades include a sensor that can give the robot three-dimensional scanning ability. A powerful laser could be

used to confuse and distract modern tactical vehicles.

"The idea is for Gereon to laser on enemy tanks, for example, tricking the vehicle's sensors into thinking it's being targeted by an

anti-tank weapon," Wietfeld said in the statement.

The current version is based on a 3D-printed chassis and commercially available parts. In its basic configuration, the robot costs 4,000 euros in materials, and Wietfeld's team aims to keep final unit cost after upgrades below 10,000 euros, or about \$11,300.

For now, Gereon remains in testing. Recently, a student group installed radio range-independent remote control, Wietfeld said, allowing the device to be controlled from anywhere. The team is still working out problems with data latency and audio functions, the statement said.

"These are problems we are happy to find during testing," Wietfeld said in a German army video presentation. "Only then can we fix them."

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Marine, Navy, Coast Guard top brass talk cyber recruitment

By JOSHUA EMERSON SMITH
The San Diego Union-Tribune

The great pandemic resignation and a shift toward recruiting older, more skilled military service members was a major theme at the keynote panel that wrapped up the WEST 2022 conference in San Diego on Friday.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger and Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Karl Schultz addressed a room of largely military contractors, laying out in broad terms their take on a host of issues, most notably the need to enlist cyber security and other experts.

Berger — who in November, released a new plan for overhauling how the Marine Corps recruits and retains its personnel — said civilians leaving their jobs as the COVID-19 pandemic leads them to reassess how they spend their work hours, and what they get paid for it, provides an opportunity for the military.

"We shouldn't look at this resignation as a big negative," he said. "Fine, they're unhappy with their jobs. Our recruiters are going to be right there."

Under Berger's new vision, the Marine Corps will look to reverse the high turnover that's come with targeting younger, unskilled recruits. Instead, the ser-

vice will focus on people with experience, particularly in cyber security and other technology fields, creating pathways for entry that don't require starting at the bottom. Military families have seen consistent pay raises of at least 2.5% a year since 2018.

"We have always been a very young force," he said. "We can't do that going forward, for a lot of reasons. We're not giving up on the high school graduate, but we have to reach a better balance in our force."

Held at the San Diego Convention Center, the three-day event featured an array of military technology. Corporate war contractors from Lockheed Martin, Northrop

Grumman and Boeing to Verizon and AT&T showed off everything from robotic dogs to the latest drones.

The Coast Guard, which boasts the highest retention in the armed services, has also had challenges bringing in new recruits, Schultz said at the event.

Retention has been up across the branches during the pandemic.

"I think we find ourselves in a competitive environment," he said. "We don't have the deepest pockets, so I don't [throw] a lot of bonuses young men and women's ways. But we're getting great young men and women."

As the need for cybersecurity

expertise has increased, the military has also started targeting new recruits online, said Gilday with the Navy, which met its recruitment targets last year.

"We've shifted our marketing from TV to online," he said. "We've tried to show them what sailors are doing day-to-day, real life. That's been fairly effective for us. That outreach is really important."

WEST bills itself as the "premier" naval conference on the West Coast, drawing up to 7,000 people to San Diego annually. Now in its 32nd year, the event is co-sponsored by AFCEA International and the U.S. Naval Institute.

EUROPE

Aggressive: Putin focused on building Russia's power

FROM PAGE 1

comes as the United States, mired in political dysfunction and humbled by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, sees its relative global power decline. As Washington governance has faltered, Putin has reformed Russia's military into a capable force, eradicated political opposition at home, extended control over domestic internet and media, amended the Russian constitution to retain power and hardened Moscow's finances against external pressure. With the staying power of an ensconced autocrat, he steadily has built a foundation to take greater risks abroad and the confidence to confront Washington ever more vigorously.

In many ways, Putin believes his time has come — at last.

"If you are sitting in the Kremlin, things haven't been better from the standpoint of trying to push your interests against the West," said Thomas Graham, senior director for Russia on the White House National Security Council under President George W. Bush. "The trajectory of developments would tell Putin he is on the rise and the United States is on the decline."

That shift comes as Putin views himself increasingly in historical terms.

"Putin has got himself so wrapped up with the Russian state that he can't extract himself from the idea that he is the state," said Fiona Hill, who held the top Russia post at the NSC under President Donald Trump. "He is already living history."

To lose Ukraine would be to suffer a historic humiliation in Putin's eyes, she said, describing Putin's mindset as, "He's not going to let Ukraine get away — not on his watch."

Putin's long journey from inheriting a country reeling from the Soviet Union's collapse to threatening the West with a full-scale war in Ukraine is the story of a leader who for years felt slighted and demeaned by a succession of U.S. presidents preoccupied with other issues, only to build up the power to strike back.

But from his earliest days as leader, the former KGB officer exhibited a bellicose streak. He led a brutal war against Chechen separatists upon taking office — famously vowing to "waste them in their outhouses" — and exhibited a paranoia from his early days about foreign enemies trying to destroy Russia.

To a man who brawled on the streets of Leningrad in his youth and made his career in the Soviet security services, Russia's weakness after the USSR's collapse had become revolting.

His anger over his nation's humiliating frailty came through in the speech to the nation he gave in



MIKHAIL KLIMENTYEV, SPUTNIK, KREMLIN POOL/AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz during their talks in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, on Feb. 15.

Fiona Hill, former White House Russia expert, said to lose Ukraine would be to suffer a historic humiliation in Putin's eyes.

2004, after a terrorist attack on a school in the Russian city of Beslan. Putin lamented how Russia had failed to protect itself after the Soviet Union's downfall, giving its enemies the chance to tear the country apart.

"We demonstrated weakness, and the weak are beaten," Putin said.

Vowing to make Russia stronger, he immediately took steps to consolidate his power.

He loathed how the United States threw around its weight unchecked. In the "color revolutions" that brought Western-leaning governments to power in Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan, Putin saw unabashed U.S. encroachment on his sphere of influence. In NATO's 2004 expansion to the Baltics and four other Eastern European states, he saw Washington taking advantage of Moscow's hobbled military. In the U.S. invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, he saw the unbridled hubris of a reckless nation intoxicated with uncontested power.

The way the United States treated him only fed his anger and suspicion. When Bush needed to refuel Air Force One on a trip in late 2006 to southeast Asia, he stopped in Moscow but did not go to the Kremlin, forcing the Russian president to come to the airport and meet in the terminal. President Barack Obama famously dismissed Russia as a regional power, adding to the American slights

that Putin would register from the White House.

Months after the airport meeting with Bush, Putin made clear he would end U.S. dominance.

At the 2007 Munich Security Conference, 15 years ago this month, he excoriated Washington, telling a crowd including Robert Gates, then the secretary of defense, that the United States had overstepped its borders "in every way" and exhibited "an almost unconstrained hyper use of force."

In that speech, he chided NATO for putting "its front-line forces on our borders," assailed U.S. plans for missile defense installations in Europe and called for a new "architecture of global security" to balance out the U.S.-dominated world — the same demands he has been making in recent weeks.

Andrei Kolesnikov, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Moscow Center, said the 2007 speech was a "road map" for Putin.

"He demonstrated how he would behave — and he was honest," Kolesnikov said.

But Putin lacked the power to force his vision. The following year, NATO met in Bucharest and declared it was a question of "when, not if," Ukraine and Georgia would join the military alliance. An enraged Russia invaded Georgia four months later, and once again demanded a new European security architecture. But the Russian military's disastrous performance in that war under-

scored that Moscow remained ill-positioned to reorder world affairs.

Perhaps no episode fed his fears of U.S. influence more than the late 2011 mass protests in Moscow. The outpouring of anger in the streets, which followed a Russian parliamentary election widely seen as rigged, represented the biggest-ever threat to his power at home. In the protesters' demands for democracy and justice, Putin saw Washington's tentacles coming to strangle him.

He denounced the protesters as State Department-backed pawns taking cues from Obama's secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, and after four years as prime minister, he returned to the presidency a changed man. He clamped down on domestic dissent and cast himself as a global standard-bearer for those opposed to liberal Western values.

His intervention in Syria showed his willingness to use force to counter U.S. power and helped him professionalize a military he is now relying on to threaten Ukraine. Interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign demonstrated a new level of risk-taking in Putin's quest to hit back at Washington — and a growing confidence in his ability to get away with it.

When a pro-European uprising in Ukraine pushed out the Kremlin-leaning government in 2014, Putin lashed out — using military tactics to combat what he viewed as a U.S. attempt to weaponize a "brother" nation against him.

Discounting agency for Ukrainians, he blamed the crisis again on U.S. power run amok, saying the Americans influencing Kyiv were acting like they're in a lab, "running all sorts of experiments on the rats without understanding the consequences of what they're doing."

His annexation of Crimea brought him an irredentist surge in popularity at home, and in a triumphant speech afterward, Putin warned that the United States had crossed Russia's red lines in Ukraine, forcing him to "snap back hard."

Despite his perceived triumph with Crimea, the separatist proxy war Russia fueled in the eastern Donetsk and Luhansk regions failed to achieve the Kremlin's goals. Russia pushed for the conflict to end with an autonomous region loyal to Moscow inserted into the Ukrainian state as a spoiler to its Western ambitions. Instead, the war simmered unresolved, and a peace deal that would have reintegrated the regions went unimplemented.

Ukraine, at the same time, continued to drift westward. NATO militaries expanded their cooperation with Ukrainian forces and held exercises near Russia. As the war in the east dragged on, support within Ukraine for joining NATO skyrocketed. Even President Donald Trump's disdain for both Ukraine and NATO — and an impeachment scandal centering on demands he made of Kyiv — failed to scupper the growing partnership.

Putin had come to see Ukraine, one of the largest recipients of U.S. military assistance, as "a Western aircraft carrier parked just across from ... southern Russia," wrote Andrew S. Weiss and Eugene Rumer, Russia analysts at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. His need to reverse Ukraine's trajectory, they said, had become his legacy's most important piece of "unfinished business."

The pandemic left Putin isolated and surrounded by a group of hard-liners who, like him, fail to comprehend the genuine rise in pro-Western sentiment in Ukraine, said Tatiana Stanovaya, a political analyst at R. Politik. In Putin's eyes, she said, Ukrainians are like "hostages" to foreign interests suffering from Stockholm syndrome, who don't realize their true interests lie with Russia.

Putin's pandemic isolation was punctuated last July by the release of a sweeping historical treatise on Ukraine, in which he said sovereignty for Ukraine is possible "only in partnership with Russia" and described the country as a vassal state being used by Western nations to attack Moscow.

"People say, 'He wouldn't dare. He is not going to cross this line of a large-scale war in Europe,'" said Michael Kofman, a Russian military analyst at Virginia-based research group CNA. "I would love to agree. But in the last three years, I have seen him cross a lot of lines I thought he wouldn't."

EUROPE

Regions: Putin says it's clear Ukraine not set to implement Minsk agreement

FROM PAGE 1

tee the security of Ukraine" under Article 6 of the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances.

The agreement was signed by Russia, the United States and the United Kingdom in December 1994. After the breakup of the Soviet Union, Ukraine inherited the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal, but agreed to relinquish it in return for assurances of its sovereignty and the sanctity of its borders.

Among the guarantees given to Kyiv, the three countries promised that they would "refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine, and that none of their weapons will ever be used against Ukraine except in self-defence."

The memorandum's sixth and final article said the three would "consult in the event a situation arises that raises a question concerning these commitments." However, the agreement did not contain any mechanism to force the signatories to comply.

This month, the U.N. Security Council's rotating leader — which has some control over the body's agenda — is Russia.

Russia's Security Council earlier on Monday had called on Putin to recognize the independence of two Russian-backed separatist regions in eastern Ukraine, a move that could give him a pretext to invade Ukraine, particularly after Moscow's claims that Kyiv forces were attacking the areas.

Ukraine officials Monday denied the attacks, saying the claims were Russian disinformation. Western officials have warned repeatedly that Moscow is manufacturing a reason to invade.

All the members of Putin's Security Council supported recognizing two regions, calling themselves the Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic, where some 800,000 Russians live.

Putin called the extraordinary Security Council meeting after accusing Ukraine of committing "genocide" in the regions last week, without producing evidence.

The Security Council includes Putin's hawkish military, security and intelligence chiefs, who have emerged as his major source of advice, according to Russian political analysts, as well as Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin and the heads of Russia's upper and lower houses of parliament.

Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic are a major flashpoint in the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, and the scene of fighting between Uk-



EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

Ukrainian border guards stand at a checkpoint from territory controlled by Russia-backed separatists to the territory controlled by Ukrainian forces in Novotroitske, eastern Ukraine, on Monday.

rainian forces and separatists that has claimed 14,000 lives since 2014.

The decision to recognize them would breach a 2015 Minsk peace agreement brokered by France and Germany that was designed to return the two regions to Kyiv's control.

One by one, Security Council officials urged Putin to recognize the regions, arguing that Kyiv was trying to "freeze" the eastern Ukraine conflict, preventing a resolution and leaving Russia to cover the regions' costs.

Putin said it was clear that Ukraine had no intention of implementing the Minsk agreement, which requires Kyiv to pass laws giving the regions autonomy.

Kyiv officials say such laws would allow Moscow to use the separatist regions as leverage over Ukraine's foreign policy and to veto its pro-Western stance.

Russia's recognition of the breakaway territories could achieve several Russian goals, Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics told The Washington Post. "It seems they lost hope on Kyiv," he said, "and are taking what they can."

This "is a frozen conflict, and NATO and the [European Union] will not admit Ukraine any time soon," he said, if the status of the eastern territories is in question. It would put significant political pressure on Zelenskyy, potentially leading to his ouster and to a weaker and more divided Kyiv, he suggested.

And because it would stop short of a full invasion, it could hold off the most dramatic Western sanctions against Russia, Rinkevics said, though he said he supported strong sanctions against the Kremlin in response to its actions.

It's "a full plate," he said. "A complete pig's breakfast."

Putin said Russia had done ev-

erything to resolve the situation peacefully but that Ukrainian authorities had "carried out military punitive operations in these territories" in the past and was doing so again.

Deputy security council chief Dmitry Medvedev said Moscow had to protect the Russians living in the regions, after Moscow began handing out Russian passports to Ukrainians living there in recent years.

Convoys of Russian military equipment could be seen advancing into the forests toward Ukraine in Russia's southern region of Rostov on Monday, as close as a dozen miles from the border with the Ukraine's separatist-controlled Donetsk region.

Washington Post journalists saw a convoy of at least 20 Gvozdika and Msta-S self-propelled howitzers, artillery-fire-control systems, and all-purpose towing tractors crossing a muddy field about 18 miles away from the border with the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, an area Putin's security council has urged him to recognize as independent of Ukraine. Such recognition could be pretext to send in Russian forces.

A few miles farther from the border, The Post team spotted a tow truck transporting a tank with a dirt-caked caterpillar chain.

Trucks with fuel and cargo were stationed on the side roads along a highway leading to the Uspenka checkpoint on the border.

Fresh tank tracks were visible in fields near the border, which locals said had not been spotted before Monday in the area.

According to the Conflict Intelligence Team (CIT), an independent group of researchers tracking Russian movements near Ukraine, similar Russian military movements were observed in other parts of western Russia near Ukraine on Monday.

US: Russia has list of Ukrainians 'to be killed'

BY JOHN HUDSON AND MISSY RYAN
The Washington Post

The United States has informed the United Nations it has credible information showing that Moscow is compiling lists of Ukrainians "to be killed or sent to camps following a military occupation," according to a letter to the U.N. human rights chief obtained by The Washington Post on Sunday night.

The letter alleges that Moscow's post-invasion planning would involve torture, forced disappearances and "widespread human suffering." It does not describe the nature of the intelligence that undergirds its assessment.

The new warning comes after the Biden administration, amid weeks of speculation about President Vladimir Putin's intentions in Ukraine, said late last week that the Russian leader had decided to launch an invasion.

"I would like to bring to your attention disturbing information recently obtained by the United States that indicates that human rights violations and abuses in the aftermath of a further invasion are being planned," said the letter, written by Bathsheba Crocker, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and other international organizations in Geneva.

"These acts, which in past Russian operations have included targeted killings, kidnappings/forced disappearances, unjust detentions, and the use of torture, would likely target those who oppose Russian actions," said the letter addressed to Michelle Bachelet, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights.

Crocker says the Russian military's targets would include Russian and Belarusian dissidents in exile in Ukraine, journalists and anti-corruption activists, and "vulnerable populations such as religious and ethnic minorities and LGBTQI+ persons."

"Specifically, we have credible information that indicates Russian forces are creating lists of identified Ukrainians to be killed or sent to camps following a military occupation," the letter said, adding that the Biden administration also had information indicating Russian forces would likely use "lethal measures" to subdue peaceful protests or other "peaceful exercises of perceived resistance from civilian populations."

The letter was transmitted Sunday night to the U.N. human rights office, OHCHR, in Switzerland.

The Russian Embassy in Washington did not immediately respond

The U.S. letter says it is addressing the U.N. human rights office because of its mandate and reporting presence in Ukraine.

to a request for comment.

The Kremlin has denied that it plans to invade Ukraine and has accused the United States and Western governments of disseminating misinformation to destabilize the region.

Russia has amassed about 150,000 troops near Ukraine's border while demanding that the United States provide guarantees that Ukraine will never become a NATO member, a request Washington has refused.

The U.S. letter says it is addressing the U.N. human rights office because of its mandate and reporting presence in Ukraine.

In 2014, the United Nations established a human rights monitoring mission for Ukraine, with a special focus on the disputed areas of the country's east. The mission has offices in the capital Kyiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Kharkiv and other cities.

In a report covering August through October 2021, the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights cited increased civilian deaths and forced conscription, along with tighter restrictions of freedom of movement by authorities in Luhansk.

U.N. monitors also reported complaints of torture and arbitrary detention in separatist-controlled areas, along with a lack of access to detention sites for independent monitors.

The governments of both Russia and Ukraine have come under criticism for the treatment of LGBTQI individuals in their respective countries.

The letter says the U.N. human rights office has a global "leadership role" when it comes to monitoring abuses.

"We share this information with you in support of OHCHR's important mission," the letter says.

PACIFIC

China sanctions US firms over Taiwan deal

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — China said Monday it will impose new sanctions on U.S. defense contractors Raytheon Technologies and Lockheed Martin due to their arms sales to Taiwan, stepping up a feud with Washington over security and Beijing's strategic ambitions.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin announced the move at a daily press briefing, citing a newly passed Anti-Foreign Sanctions Law that took effect in 2021. It was in response to a \$100 million deal approved by the U.S. for maintenance of Taiwan's missile defense systems by the two

companies.

"China once again urges the U.S. government and relevant parties to ... stop arms sales to Taiwan and sever military ties with Taiwan," Wang said.



Wang

"China will continue to take all necessary measures to firmly safeguard its sovereignty and security interests in accordance with the development of the situation," he said without giving any details.

Taiwan is a democratically self-

governed island that communist-ruled China claims as its own territory. The two sides split amid civil war in 1949.

The U.S. has no formal relations with Taiwan but is its main ally. It has increased weapons sales in recent years, angering China with the sales. U.S. law requires the government to ensure Taiwan can defend itself.

Beijing regularly pressures American companies to try to influence U.S. policy.

In October 2020, Beijing also announced sanctions against Raytheon and other defense contractors and "relevant American individu-

als." A day later, the State Department said it had notified Congress of plans for a \$2.37 billion sale of Harpoon attack missiles to Taiwan.

It's unclear what penalties, if any, were imposed. U.S. weapons or military aircraft sales to Taiwan in 2010, 2015 and 2019 drew similar threats of sanctions.

China maintains that U.S. arms sale to Taiwan violates its so-called "one-China principle" and provisions of agreements between Beijing and Washington.

Tensions over Taiwan have been mounting as Beijing has stepped up military activity around the is-

land to try to force concessions from the pro-independence administration of President Tsai Ing-wen. The Communist Party also is using the Chinese mainland's growing economic weight to pressure other governments to cut diplomatic and unofficial ties with Taiwan.

Raytheon, Boeing, Lockheed Martin and other defense giants face controls on sales to China of military and dual-use technologies that have both defense and commercial applications. But they also have major civilian businesses and China is a huge market for aviation, among other industries.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

A woman looks at her phone as she passes an Olympic logo inside the main media center for the 2022 Winter Olympics, on Jan. 18, in Beijing.

At Olympics, cybersecurity worries continue to linger in background

By KELVIN CHANM

Associated Press

BEIJING — Warnings to use disposable "burner" phones and laptops. Privacy-protecting software. Concerns about a security flaw in an official Games smartphone app.

Such precautions fueled unease about data privacy for competitors and attendees at the Winter Olympics in Beijing. Not everyone heeded them.

"Honestly, I've been coming to China for 12 years or whatever, and I'm not that important," Canadian snowboarder Mark McMorris said. "Maybe if I was a diplomat or something, then I'd switch out my phone."

Nefarious cyber activity is a flashpoint in the geopolitical rivalry between China and the West. Beijing has long been accused by the U.S. and technology watchdogs of widespread online snooping and data pilfering, allegations it denies.

Now that the Games are ending, and some 16,000 athletes, organiz-

ers, journalists and other visitors are heading home, concerns turn to what malware and other problems those who failed to heed the warnings might be carrying with them.

The good news: Cybersecurity firm Mandiant said there's been no sign of any "intrusion activity" tied to the Olympics by the Chinese or other governments.

But that shouldn't be taken as a sign that nothing happened, said Benjamin Read, Mandiant's director of cyber espionage analysis.

"Most compromises are detected weeks or months after they occur, so it's too early to say for sure that there were no incidents," he said.

It's also possible that the electronic surveillance was most important when visitors were in China, and wouldn't continue when those people went home, he said.

He advised anyone who traveled to China for the Winter Games to change their passwords when they get back and make sure

that no unknown devices or services have access to their accounts.

"It's not always possible to know if a device has been compromised so it's best to take every precaution," he said.

The U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee had told athletes that anything they do online while in China would be monitored. The Canadian Olympic Committee warned there was the potential for cybercrimes.

But while there weren't specific details about threats, experts said it most likely wasn't about getting a competitive edge at the games.

Beijing was likely monitoring for anything politically sensitive in Olympic visitors' communications, such as contact with dissidents, said Greg Austin, a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

The International Olympic Committee said cybersecurity is "an important aspect of hosting the Games" but that in order to maintain secure operations, it would not comment further.

N. Korean loyalist wants MacArthur statue gone

By ANDREW JEONG

The Washington Post

INCHEON, South Korea — During the Korean War, Ahn Hag-sub was a devoted 22-year-old communist serving in a North Korean militia unit. Seven decades later, he still hates the Americans, and their wartime leader, Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

At age 91, he says his last act of resistance against MacArthur will be lighting on fire a statue of the general that has stood in Incheon since 1957.

"MacArthur is the enemy of our people," Ahn said in an interview at his home near Incheon, a South Korean port city located an hour's drive west of Seoul. Ahn has lived there since the late 1990s, when he was released from a South Korean prison on humanitarian grounds, after spending 40 years behind bars. "I will resist for as long as I can," he added, tightening his lips.

In South Korea, declaring loyalty to North Korea — as Ahn did, something he still refuses to rescind — is a serious national security crime that can land violators in prison for life.

As a free man, Ahn joined a small but dedicated far-left nationalist group calling itself the Peace Treaty Movement. (It's with several younger colleagues in that group that Ahn said he'd set alight the MacArthur statue.) The movement's dislike of MacArthur, who died in 1964, reflects a minority opinion in South Korea, but a heated one.

At a time when the statues of historical figures are being reexamined (and in some cases removed) in the United States and Britain, they are trying to bring attention to a debate over this pivotal — and foreign — figure in modern South Korea's history.

South Koreans with similar views to Ahn's see MacArthur as a ruthless commander whose forces killed Korean civilians. MacAr-



ANDREW JEONG/The Washington Post

The statue of Gen. Douglas MacArthur in Incheon, South Korea, in November.

thur's statue should be removed, they say, and sent to the war museum in Seoul. Or, better, it should be dismantled.

They also blame MacArthur for installing pro-Japan collaborators in positions of power in the early days of South Korea after World War II, instead of punishing them. That stance was aired last summer by Lee Jae-myung, a left-leaning South Korean candidate running in the country's presidential elections on March 9, who was criticized for his remarks. But very few have sought action against the statue, or other monuments marking U.S. contributions to South Korea.

Many South Koreans view MacArthur as a godsend who saved their country twice: first from Japan, which ruled Korea until 1945, and then from North Korea, which invaded the South in 1950 and was repelled by allied forces led by the American general. To them, MacArthur's statue is a symbol of patriotism that should be left alone.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

US virus cases, hospitalizations continue to fall

By LEAH WILLINGHAM AND JONATHAN MATTISE
Associated Press

Average daily COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are continuing to fall in the U.S., an indicator that the omicron variant's hold is weakening across the country.

Total confirmed cases reported Saturday barely exceeded 100,000, a sharp downturn from around 800,850 five weeks ago on Jan. 16, according to Johns Hopkins University data.

In New York, the number of cases went down by more than 50% over the last two weeks.

"I think what's influencing the decline, of course, is that omicron is starting to run out of people to infect," said Dr. Thomas Russo, professor and infectious disease chief at the University of Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

COVID-19 hospitalizations are down from a national seven-day average of 146,534 on Jan. 20 to 80,185 the week ending on Feb 13, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID data tracker.

Public health experts say they are feeling hopeful that more declines are ahead and that the country is shifting from being in a pandemic to an 'endemic' that is more consistent and predictable. However, many expressed concern that vaccine uptick in the U.S. has still been below expectations, concerns that are exacerbated by the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.

Dr. William Schaffner of Vanderbilt University's School of Medicine said Sunday that the downturn in case numbers and hospitalizations is encouraging. He agreed that it likely has a lot to do with herd immunity.

"There are two sides to omicron's coin," he said. "The bad thing is that it can spread to a lot of people and make them mildly ill. The good thing is it can spread to a lot of people and make them mildly ill, because in doing so, it has created a lot of natural immunity."

However, Schaffner said it's much too early to "raise the banner of mission accomplished." As a public health expert, he said he'll be more comfortable if the decline sustains itself for another month or two.

"If I have a concern, it's that taking off the interventions, the

restrictions, may be happening with a bit more enthusiasm and speed than makes me comfortable," he said. "My own little adage is, better to wear the mask for a month too long, than to take the mask off a month too soon and all of a sudden get another surge."

Officials in many states are cutting back on restrictions, saying they are moving away from treating the coronavirus pandemic as a public health crisis and instead shifting to policy focused on prevention.

During a Friday news conference, Utah Gov. Spencer Cox announced that the state would be transitioning into what he called a "steady state" model starting in April in which Utah will close mass testing sites, report COVID-19 case counts on a more infrequent basis and advise residents to make personal choices to manage the risk of contracting the virus.

"Now, let me be clear, this is not the end of COVID, but it is the end — or rather the beginning — of treating COVID as we do other seasonal respiratory viruses," the Republican said.

Also on Friday, Boston lifted the city's proof of vaccine policy, which required patrons and staff of indoor spaces to show proof of vaccination.

"This news highlights the progress we've made in our fight against Covid-19 thanks to vaccines & boosters," Boston Mayor Michelle Wu said via Twitter.

In Buffalo, Russo said he sees two possible future outcomes. In one, the U.S. experiences a fairly quiet spring and summer while immunity is still strong. He said in that scenario, it's likely immunity will wane and there will be a bump of new cases in the cooler months during flu season, but hopefully not a severe surge.

In the second — the one concerning public health experts — a new variant evolves and evades the immunity wall that was built up from both omicron infections and vaccinations.

"Whether such a variant can evolve is the big question, right?" he said. "That is the concern that we'll have to see through. Omicron was the first version of that, and there is this sort of adage that 'well, over time, viruses evolve to be less virulent,' but that's not really true. Viruses evolve to be able to infect us."



MATT ROURKE/AP

Customers eat at the Reading Terminal Market in Philadelphia on Wednesday.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Australia welcomes back vaccinated tourists

BY ROD MCGUIRK

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — International tourists and business travelers began arriving in Australia with few restrictions on Monday, bringing together families in tearful reunions after separations of two years or longer forced by some of the most draconian pandemic measures of any democracy in the world.

Australia closed its borders to tourists in March 2020 in a bid to reduce the local spread of COVID-19, but on Monday removed its final travel restrictions for fully vaccinated passengers.

Tearful British tourist Sue Witton hugged her adult son Simon Witton when he greeted her at Melbourne's airport.

"Seven hundred and twenty-four (days) apart and he's my only son, and I'm alone, so this means the world to me," she told reporters.

Travelers were greeted at Sydney's airport by jubilant well-wishers waving toy koalas and favorite Australian foods including Tim Tams chocolate cookies and jars of Vegemite spread.

Federal Tourism Minister Dan Tehan was on hand to welcome the first arrivals on a Qantas flight from Los Angeles that landed at 6:20 a.m. local time.

"I think there'll be a very strong rebound in our tourism market. Our wonderful experiences haven't gone away," Tehan said.

Danielle Vogl, who lives in Canberra, and her Florida-based partner Eric Lochner have been separated since October 2019 by the



DEAN LEWINS, AAP IMAGE/AP

Passengers are welcomed as they arrive at Sydney International Airport on Monday. Tourists and business travelers began arriving in Australia with few restrictions for the first time in almost two years after the government lifted some of the most draconian pandemic measures of any democracy in the world.

travel restrictions.

She said she burst into tears when she heard about the lifting of the restrictions, which will allow them to reunite in April, and telephoned him with the news.

"I actually woke him up to tell him, because I thought it was big enough news to do that," Vogl told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"He couldn't believe it. ... He was like, 'Are you sure, is this true?' and I'm like, 'Yes, it's happening. This is over now: we can be together again,'" she added.

Lochner was not eligible for an

exemption from the travel ban because the couple weren't married or living together.

"It's been a very long and very cruel process for us," Vogl said.

Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews said all travelers' vaccination status would be checked before they arrived to avoid a repeat of Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic's visa debacle.

Djokovic was issued a visa through an automated process before he left Spain to compete in the Australian Open in January but was deported after he arrived in

Melbourne because he was not vaccinated against COVID-19.

Tourism Australia managing director Phillipa Harrison said she expected tourist numbers would take two years to rebound to pre-pandemic levels.

"This is a really great start," Harrison said. "This is what the industry had been asking us for, you know, just give us our international guests back and we will take it from there."

Qantas on Monday was bringing in passengers from eight overseas destinations including Vancouver,

Singapore, London and New Delhi.

The Sydney-based airline's chief executive Alan Joyce said bookings have been strong since the federal government announced two weeks ago that the country was relaxing restrictions.

"It has been a tough two years for everybody in the tourism industry, but today is really one of the big steps on the way back to a full recovery so we are very excited," Joyce said.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said 1.2 million people had visas to enter Australia with 56 international flights due to touch down in the first 24 hours of the border reopening.

Australia on Monday reported 17,736 new COVID-19 infections and 34 deaths. Australia's death toll since the pandemic began is 4,929.

Australia imposed some of the world's toughest travel restrictions on its citizens and permanent residents in March 2020 to prevent them from bringing COVID-19 home.

Travelers had to apply for an exemption from the travel ban, but tourism wasn't an accepted reason. International students and skilled migrants were prioritized when the border restrictions were relaxed in November in response to an increasing vaccination rate among the Australian population. Tourists from New Zealand, Japan and South Korea were also allowed in early.

Australian states and territories also have their own COVID-19 rules. The strictest are in Western Australia state, which covers a third of the island continent.

Pope hails health care workers as heroes Israel to allow the unvaccinated to come into country

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis on Sunday hailed health care workers as heroes for their service every day, not just during the pandemic, asking the public in St. Peter's Square to join with him in applause.

Francis clapped his hands in what he said was a "great thank you" for health workers, including volunteers, who care for the sick. Italy was marking Sunday as a national day to pay tribute to health care workers.

The national professional association of doctors and dentists counts 370 physicians who have died of COVID-19 in Italy.

"We must recall the many doctors, nurses, volunteers, who are close to the sick, treat them, make them feel better, help them," Francis said in his weekly appearance from a window of the Apostolic Palace overlooking the square.

No one saves themselves, Francis said. "In illness we need someone who saves us, who helps us."

He hailed "the heroic health care personnel, who made plain this heroism in COVID times, but the heroism remains every day."

"For our doctors, nurses, volunteers, applause and a great thank you," Francis said.



GREGORIO BORGIA/AP

Pope Francis hailed "the heroic health care personnel" as part of his noon prayer from his studio window overlooking St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, on Sunday. Italy was marking Sunday as a national day to pay tribute to health care workers.

Israel to allow the unvaccinated to come into country

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel announced Sunday that it would allow unvaccinated tourists to enter the country beginning next month as the latest wave of the coronavirus recedes.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said that foreign tourists, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, would be required to take PCR coronavirus tests before their flights and upon landing. The rules go into effect on March 1.

"We are seeing a constant decline in morbidity data, so it is time to gradually open up," Bennett said.

Israel has largely restricted the entry of foreign tourists for the past two years and virtually closed its skies to foreign visitors late last year with the arrival of the highly contagious omicron variant. Recent data has shown a sharp drop in new cases, mirroring patterns in other countries around the world.

Bennett's office said that restrictions would also be eased on Israelis returning to the country, with travelers no longer required to take a PCR test before their flight.

NATION

No end in sight as rents reach 'insane' levels

By R.J. Rico
Associated Press

Krystal Guerra's Miami apartment has a tiny kitchen, cracked tiles, warped cabinets, no dishwasher and hardly any storage space.

But Guerra was fine with the apartment's shortcomings. It was all part of being a 32-year-old graduate student in South Florida, she reasoned, and she was happy to live there for a few more years as she finished her marketing degree.

That was until a new owner bought the property and told her he was raising the rent from \$1,550 to \$1,950, a 26% increase that Guerra said meant her rent would account for the majority of her take-home pay from the University of Miami.

"I thought that was insane," said Guerra, who decided to move out. "Am I supposed to stop paying for everything else I have going on in my life just so I can pay rent? That's unsustainable."

Guerra is hardly alone. Rents have exploded across the country, causing many to dig deep into their savings, downsize to subpar units or fall behind on payments and risk eviction now that a federal moratorium has ended.

In the 50 largest U.S. metro areas, median rent rose an astounding 19.3% from December 2020 to December 2021, according to a Realtor.com analysis of proper-

ties with two or fewer bedrooms. And nowhere was the jump bigger than in the Miami metro area, where the median rent exploded to \$2,850, 49.8% higher than the previous year.

Other cities across Florida — Tampa, Orlando and Jacksonville — and the Sun Belt destinations of San Diego; Las Vegas; Austin, Texas; and Memphis, Tenn., all saw spikes of more than 25% during that time period.

Rising rents are an increasing driver of high inflation that has become one of the nation's top economic problems. Labor Department data, which covers existing rents as well as new listings, shows much smaller increases, but these are also picking up. Rental costs rose 0.5% in January from December, the Labor Department said last week. That may seem small, but it was the biggest increase in 20 years, and will likely accelerate.

Economists worry about the impact of rent increases on inflation because the big jumps in new leases feed into the U.S. consumer price index, which is used to measure inflation.

Inflation jumped 7.5% in January from a year earlier, the biggest increase in four decades. While many economists expect that to decrease as pandemic-disrupted supply chains unravel, rising rents could keep inflation high through the end of the year since

housing costs make up one-third of the consumer price index.

Things have gotten so bad in Boston, which has nearly overtaken San Francisco as the nation's second-most expensive rental market, that one resident went viral for jokingly putting an igloo on the market for \$2,700 a month. "Heat/ hot water not included," Jonathan Berk tweeted.

Experts say many factors are responsible for astronomical rents, including a nationwide housing shortage, extremely low rental vacancies and unrelenting demand as young adults continue to enter the crowded market.

Whitney Airgood-Obyrcki, lead author of a recent report from Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies, said there was a lot of "pent-up demand" after the initial months of the pandemic, when many young people moved back home with their parents. Starting last year, as the economy opened up and young people moved out, "rents really took off," she said.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, rental vacancy rates during the fourth quarter of 2021 fell to 5.6%, the lowest since 1984.

"Without a lot of rental vacancy that landlords are accustomed to having, that gives them some pricing power because they're not sitting on empty units that they need to fill," said Danielle Hale, Realtor.com's chief economist.



REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP

Krystal Guerra, 32, does online coursework for a degree program inside the apartment that she is packing up to leave after her new landlord gave her less than a month's notice that her rent would go up by 26%, on Saturday, in Miami. Guerra had already been spending nearly 50% of her monthly income on rent prior to the increase.

Meanwhile, the number of homes for sale have been at a record low, contributing to ballooning home prices that have caused many higher-income households to remain renters, further upping demand.

Hale expects rents to continue to rise this year, but at a slower pace, thanks to increased construction.

"Improving supply growth should help create more balance in the market," said Hale, who forecasts rents to rise 7.1% in 2022.

In Miami, Guerra has started packing her belongings ahead of

her March move-out date. She spent weeks frantically looking for places in her budget but said she couldn't find anything that wasn't "either incredibly small, incredibly broken down or an hour away from work and everyone I know."

Her plan now is to put her things in storage and move in with her boyfriend, even though the timing isn't ideal.

"We didn't want to have the decision of moving in together forced upon us," Guerra said. "We wanted it to be something we agreed to, but it's happening before we wanted it to happen."

Helo crashes in Calif., Fla. both near beaches

By Bryan Pietsch
The Washington Post

A Huntington Beach police officer died Saturday evening and another was injured after the police helicopter they were in crashed in Newport Beach, Calif., just hours after another helicopter crashed near a beach in South Florida.

Huntington Beach Police Chief Eric Parra identified the officer as Nicholas Vella, 44. He was taken to a trauma center but died, Parra said at a news conference. Another officer was in stable condition. Vella had been with the force for 14 years, the police department said on Twitter, adding that he leaves behind a wife and daughter.

The police department said Saturday evening that one of its helicopters had "crash landed," and video of the crash site showed the helicopter downed in the water near the beach. The officers had been on their way to respond to a "disturbance fight call," Parra said.

Earlier Saturday, a helicopter crashed into the ocean yards away from a crowded Florida beach, leaving two passengers injured, the authorities said. Video of the crash showed South Beach in Miami buzzing with sunbathers and swimmers



MINDY SCHAUER, THE ORANGE COUNTY (CALIF.) REGISTER/AP

A crane lifts a Huntington Beach Police helicopter out of the water in Newport Beach, Calif., on Sunday. Authorities were investigating the cause of a helicopter crash along the Southern California coast that killed Huntington Beach Officer Nicholas Vella and sent another officer to the hospital with critical injuries.

when the helicopter dove into the water.

The Miami Beach Police Department, which posted the video on Twitter, said that two of the people who had been on the helicopter were transported to Jackson Me-

morial Hospital in Miami in "stable condition." A third person was not seriously injured.

There were three people onboard the Robinson R44 helicopter, which crashed at about 1:20 p.m. on Saturday, said Matthew Lehner, a

spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the crash, which happened "under unknown circumstances," Lehner said in an email Saturday evening.

Trump's Truth Social app launches

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former President Donald Trump's social media app that he hopes will rival Twitter launched Monday as he seeks a new digital stage to rally his supporters and fight Big Tech limits on speech a year after he was banned from Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

His Truth Social app was offered for download from the Apple App Store to a limited number of subscribers who had preordered, with others added to a waiting list to be given access over the next 10 days.

The site encountered technical glitches shortly after launch, with reports that subscribers were shut out for hours. Others had trouble signing on. The site is not expected to be open to anyone who wants to download it until next month.

"Due to massive demand, we have placed you on our waitlist," read a message to some of those trying to access the platform, adding, "We love you." Trump is hoping Truth Social will attract the millions who followed him on Twitter as he hints at a third presidential run.

NATION

Many call Potter's sentence injustice

BY AMY FORLITI
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The issue of race was barely brought up during the trial of Kim Potter, a former suburban Minneapolis police officer who was convicted of manslaughter for killing Daunte Wright after she said she confused her handgun for her Taser.

But Wright's family members and many activists say the killing of the 20-year-old Black motorist has always been about race, from the moment officers decided to pull him over, to the moment a judge gave Potter a two-year sentence, which family members decried as giving more consideration to the white defendant than the Black victim.

"What we see today is the legal system in America in Black and white," Ben Crump, an attorney for Wright's family, said after Friday's sentencing.

Wright was killed on April 11 after Brooklyn Center officers pulled him over for having expired license tags and an air freshener hanging from his rearview mirror, violations that civil rights activists say are used as a pretext to stop Black motorists.

Officers discovered Wright had a warrant for a weapons possession charge and they tried to arrest him but he pulled away. Video shows Potter, who is white, shouted several times that she would use her Taser on Wright, but she had her gun in her hand and fired once into his chest.

Many felt the traffic stop was the result of racial profiling and shouldn't have happened. The shooting, which occurred as Derek Chauvin was on trial in Minneapolis on murder charges in George Floyd's killing, sparked several days of demonstrations outside the Brooklyn Center police station marked by tear gas and clashes between protesters and police.

Family members and activists applauded in December when a mostly white jury convicted Potter of both first- and second-degree manslaughter. This week, they felt as if justice was yanked



PHOTOS BY NICOLE NERI/AP

Daunte Wright's father Aubrey Wright reacts after former Brooklyn Center Police Officer Kim Potter was sentenced to two years in prison, Friday, in Minneapolis.

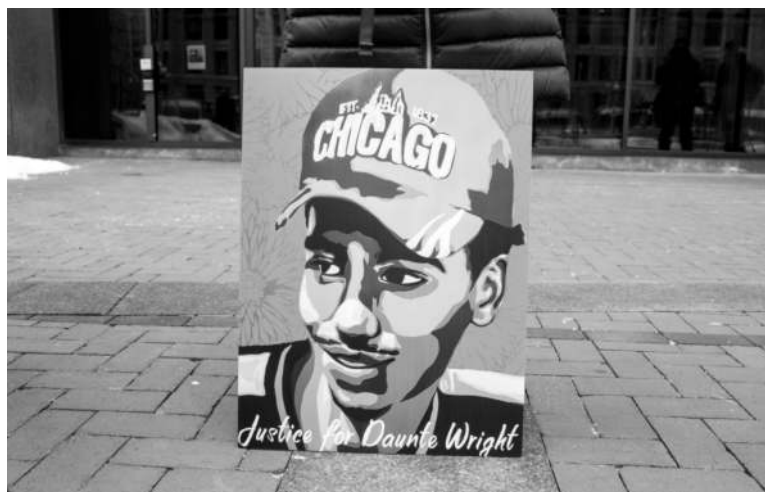
away when Judge Regina Chu gave Potter two years, well below the presumptive sentence of just over seven years she had faced under state guidelines.

"The judge overstepped her bounds and undermined any legitimacy from the judicial process that happened in this case," said Nekima Levy Armstrong, a civil rights attorney and activist. She said the sentence "again underscores why many Black people have a distrust of the justice system at all levels."

Levy Armstrong said the sentence essentially rolled back the jury's decision to find Potter accountable and that Chu's demeanor and comments during the sentencing stoked distrust and showed how Black people are viewed in the justice system primarily as defendants rather than victims.

"The judge made Kimberly Potter look like the victim," she said.

Chu said "the evidence is undisputed" that Potter didn't intend to



A portrait of Daunte Wright is displayed as a group of demonstrators stand outside of Hennepin County Government Center where former Brooklyn Center Police Officer Kim Potter was sentenced to two years in prison, Friday, in Minneapolis.

use her firearm, which made the case less serious than other recent killings by police officers. She asked those who disagree to try to empathize with Potter, and appeared to choke up and wipe away a tear when she said Potter didn't mean to hurt anyone.

Ayesha Bell Hardaway, associate professor of law and co-director of the Social Justice Institute at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, said the level of kindness Chu showed Potter was remarkable.

"If it's not about race, certainly

she made a point to make it clear she has a high regard for public service that police officers give in our society," Hardaway said. She said white people have long been held in higher regard in the judicial system and "we saw those realities playing out as the judge was delivering her sentence."

Levy Armstrong said Chu showed a lack of empathy for the Wright family, especially when encouraging those listening to walk in Potter's shoes. And she said one of the main reasons Chu cited for going below the state guidelines — saying this case is not as serious as some other high-profile police killings because it was a mistake — was "disingenuous and irresponsible, not to mention insensitive."

Rachel Moran, a law professor at the University of St. Thomas, said she can understand why the judge believes two years was appropriate; Potter is not at risk of reoffending, she will serve about 16 months of her sentence in prison and the shooting was deemed a mistake.

But Moran said the public is used to seeing high prison sentences and not used to a judge showing mercy.

"Where it becomes so painful is that that mercy is not frequently shown to many other people," Moran said. When you think about people who get more prison time for drug offenses, "it's really hard to swallow two years for someone who killed someone."

Family members and activists pointed to the case of Mohamed Noor, a Somali American who was a Minneapolis police officer when he killed a white woman, Justine Ruszczyk Damond, in 2017. Noor was sentenced to more prison time than Potter, on a lesser charge of second-degree manslaughter.

Moran said the sentences were decided by different judges who thought in different ways, and there can be justifications for both outcomes. But the conduct was similar, and the reality is the Black officer received a harsher sentence.

One dead, five hurt in shooting near Portland protest

The Washington Post

PORTLAND, Ore. — One person was killed and five others were injured during a shooting Saturday night in Portland, near the site of a demonstration planned to protest police violence.

The Portland Police Bureau said that one woman was dead when officers arrived at the scene, just after 8 p.m. local time. The wounded victims, two men and three women, were taken to hospitals. Authorities

have not released information about their conditions and have not identified a suspect or those shot.

The episode unfolded in the city's northeast, near Normandale Park, a frequent hub for protests against racism and police killings. On Sunday, police said they believe the incident "started with a confrontation between an armed homeowner and armed protesters." Beyond that, officials have not publicly discussed a potential

motive and have said the investigation is "very complicated," made more difficult by witnesses they say were unwilling to talk to responding officers.

Department spokesperson Lt. Nathan Sheppard would not say whether police had made any arrests in connection to the shooting, telling reporters at a virtual briefing on Sunday afternoon that "things are changing constantly in this investigation."

"As we learn more, things change," Sheppard said. "At this point, it would be irresponsible of me to comment on arrests that were made, if any."

According to social media fliers, protesters were set to gather in the park at 7 p.m. Saturday before setting off an hour later. They sought to highlight the cases of Amir Locke, a 22-year-old Black man who was shot and killed by a Minneapolis police officer earlier this

month during a no-knock raid, and Patrick Kimmons, a 27-year-old Black man killed by Portland police during a 2018 altercation. The shooting apparently began before the march was underway.

An initial statement from Portland police said that homicide detectives were investigating the scene and that the Oregon State Medical Examiner would determine the cause and manner of the victim's death.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

DOT retrieving traffic cones tossed into river

MA BOSTON — People keep tossing traffic cones in the Charles River. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation keeps retrieving them.

Surveillance video following a public records request by NBC Boston showed several people hoisting the orange cones and tossing them one by one off the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge.

Earlier this month, workers spent hours retrieving more than 100 cones from the ice on the river. The cones are part of a bicycle safety pilot program that launched in November.

MassDOT officials said it was unclear why people have tossed the cones off the bridge.

Stolen car parked at retired officers' home

MN ST. PAUL — A Minneapolis man is in trouble with the law after he allegedly stole a car and tried to hide it at the home of two retired police officers.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press reported that Alexander John Thompson was charged Jan. 31 with auto theft in Dakota County.

According to police, Thompson stole a car in Lakeville and parked the car in a pole barn at a Greenvale Township home. The home is owned by a retired Prior Lake police officer and her husband, a retired New Mexico police officer. The couple saw Thompson, handcuffed him and called police, according to a criminal complaint.

It's not clear why Thompson allegedly put the car in the barn.

Unique barn moved to new fall attraction site

WI LANCASTER — A unique, 60-foot round barn that has likely stood on land near Lancaster for 100 years or more has a new home several miles away at Vesperman Farms, a popular fall attraction.

The red barn drew plenty of attention as Heritage Movers of Grant County slowly hauled the structure over two days along private roads crossing six farms to get to its destination, the Dubuque (Iowa) Telegraph Herald reported.

Owner Kyle Vesperman said the barn is expected to be the new showpiece of Vesperman Farms, which features a corn maze and pumpkin patch. It stood for decades on land owned by the Weisbenner family, and dates back to the early 1900s.

Funeral worker jailed for stealing jewelry from body

ME SACO — A former funeral home worker was sentenced to three months in prison for stealing and selling the wedding bands and engagement



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Tunnel vision

Visitors watch penguins swim at the Polk Penguin Conservation Center at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak, Mich. The zoo's massive penguin center, billed as the world's largest, recently reopened to the public more than two years after it was shuttered to repair faulty waterproofing.

ring of a deceased 102-year-old woman.

Stuart Weston, 51, of Sanford, worked for Autumn Green Funeral Home in Alfred. Weston pleaded guilty to a felony theft charge, The Portland Press Herald reported.

In January 2021, Weston was in charge of the funeral arrangements for Laura Wood, but Wood's daughter said the funeral home did not have any of her mother's jewelry, WCSH-TV reported.

Sally Wood said she found the missing rings at a local pawn shop called Maine Gold and Silver in South Portland.

Overtime fraud charges hit dozens of officers

CA OAKLAND — Dozens of current and former Highway Patrol officers have been charged with racking up more than \$226,000 in phony hours in an overtime fraud scheme, California's attorney general said.

The charges stem from a criminal investigation of officers in the East Los Angeles station.

Between 2016 and mid-2018, 54 officers recorded hours of phony overtime while patrolling high-occupancy traffic lanes or providing protection to state transportation workers in construction zones,

THE CENSUS

10K The approximate worth, in dollars, of sports cards a Tennessee man is accused of stealing from a store in Kentucky. A federal grand jury handed down an indictment against Jason Cates, 28, of Knoxville. According to the indictment, Cates and a co-conspirator drove to Lexington in September 2021, where Cates stole about 1,000 sports cards from the Kentucky Roadshow Shop. The indictment says Cates later sold the cards over the internet. Cates is currently in a Georgia jail after allegedly breaking into a separate sports-card store and stealing an estimated \$200,000 of merchandise.

prosecutors said.

Charges were filed earlier this month and the officers were booked by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department last week, according to a statement from the attorney general's office.

Man caught in kickback scheme kills himself

MI DETROIT — A judge is defending how she handled the case of a former Detroit-area airport official who killed himself rather than report to prison for accepting more than \$6 million in kickbacks in a record-setting corruption investigation.

James Warner's body was discovered Friday, a day after he was supposed to turn himself in for a 10-year sentence. He was convicted in 2019 but allowed to remain free while pursuing appeals.

"Mr. Warner agreed to continue mental health treatment and his doctor certified he was not a danger to himself," U.S. District

Judge Victoria Roberts said. "Mr. Warner abided by all conditions the court set for him. He did not appear to be any danger to himself."

Warner, 55, was an infrastructure manager at the agency that runs Detroit Metropolitan Airport, from 2010 through 2014.

He was convicted of steering more than \$43 million in contracts to people in exchange for more than \$6 million in kickbacks — "the highest bribe totals in district history," prosecutors said, referring to Detroit and eastern Michigan.

Worker run over by street sweeper dies

FL BRANDON — A worker driving a street sweeper in the parking lot of a Florida supermarket died after a crash sent him flying out of the sweeper truck into its path as it kept moving forward, running over him, authorities said.

The truck operator had left the parking lot of a Publix supermarket to make a U-turn and get back into the lot, authorities said in a news release. The sweeper truck went into the path of another car, which crashed against the side of the street sweeper, officials said.

The worker was ejected and then run over by the sweeper.

Festival returns after two-year COVID hiatus

LA NEW ORLEANS — It's been two years since the largest free festival and showcase of Louisiana music, food and culture has taken place in New Orleans' French Quarter.

But that changes in April, when the 2022 French Quarter Festival returns. The coronavirus pandemic forced organizers to cancel the event in 2020 and last year.

"We are returning strong with over 1,800 local musicians, more than 50 chefs and restaurants, new interactive fan experiences, and evening programming across the city," said Emily Madero, president and chief executive of French Quarter Festivals Inc., the nonprofit that produces the event.

More than 260 acts will perform on the festival's 20 stages from April 21 through April 24.

NATION

Huge opal sells for nearly \$144K

Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska — A gemstone, billed as one of the largest gem-quality opals in existence, was sold for \$143,750 at auction in Alaska on Sunday.

The opal, dubbed the “Americus Australis,” weighs more than 11,800 carats, according to the auction house Alaska Premier Auctions & Appraisals. It also has a long history.

Most recently, it was kept in a linen closet in a home in Big Lake, north of Anchorage, by Fred von Brandt, who mines for gold in Alaska and whose family has deep roots in the gem and rock business.

The opal is larger than a brick and is broken into two pieces,

which von Brandt said was a practice used decades ago to prove gem quality.

Von Brandt said the stone has been in his family since the late 1950s, when his grandfather bought it from an Australian opal dealer named John Altmann.

The family, with roots in California, exhibited the stone at gem shows for years, until the early 1980s, he said. His father then branched out into furniture and displayed it at his shop. Guy von Brandt eventually moved to Oregon and kept the stone “kind of tucked away” for many years, von Brandt said.

Von Brandt said he brought it with him to Alaska over a year ago as he weighed the best ap-

proach to a possible sale.

Nick Cline, a partner and appraisal specialist with Alaska Premier Auctions & Appraisals, said the family has documentation surrounding the provenance of the opal. As part of his research, he contacted Fiona Altmann, granddaughter of John Altmann and general manager of Altmann + Cherny in Sydney, Australia.

Altmann said she discovered “something with my grandfather’s handwriting with the picture of the opal with the word ‘Americus Australis.’”

“I with 100% certainty know that their provenance information is 100% accurate” because it lines up with information she has, she



DANA FUENTES, ALASKA PREMIER AUCTIONS AND APPRAISALS / AP

One of the largest opals in the world was sold for almost \$144,000 at auction in Alaska on Sunday. The opal, dubbed the “Americus Australis,” weighs more than 11,800 carats.

said.

The auction house said the stone was discovered in the same field in Australia as the opal

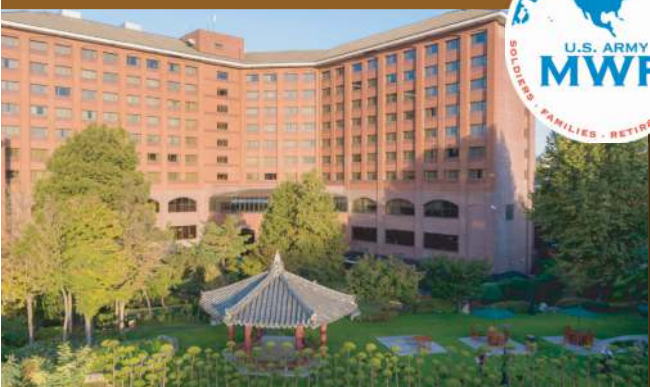
known as the “Olympic Australis,” which weighs 17,000 carats and is on permanent display in Altmann’s shop.



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WORLD

EU mulls ways to stop possible Bosnia breakup

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — European Union foreign ministers Monday discussed ways to ease tensions in Bosnia and prevent the possible breakup of the ethnically divided Balkan country as the peace agreement brokered over 25 years ago continues to unravel.

“The nationalist and separatist rhetoric is increasing in Bosnia and Herzegovina and jeopardizing the stability and even the integrity of the country,” EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in Brussels, where he chaired a meeting of the 27-country bloc’s foreign ministers.

He said the “ministers will have to take a decision on how to stop these dynamics in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is a critical situation.”

The U.S. last month announced new sanctions against Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik, who has for years been advocating that the Serb-run part of Bosnia should leave the rest of the country and unite with neighboring Serbia.

The U.S. accused him of “corrupt activities” that threaten to destabilize the region and undermine the U.S.-brokered Dayton Peace Accord.

F-5 fighter jet crash kills 3 in Iran

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — A fighter jet crashed onto a soccer pitch in a city in northwest Iran, the country’s state-run news agency reported Monday. The crash killed two pilots and a civilian.

IRNA said the F-5 fighter crashed onto the field in a residential area of Tabriz, a city of 1.6 million residents. Authorities are investigating the incident, the report said.

Gen. Reza Yousefi, commander of the air base in Tabriz, said the crashed jet had been used for training and suffered a technical problem on its final flight.

“Pilots could not reach the runway,” he said, according to the report.

In an effort to avoid crashing into the residential area, the pilots guided the jet to the

soccer pitch, he said. The report quoted Yousefi as saying: “The pilots sacrificed themselves, they could (have) used the ejection system, but they refused to do it.”

The pilots headed for the pitch “to keep people safe,” Yousefi said in the report.

A state TV reporter at the crash scene said that because the pitch was not long enough, the plane left the field and hit a school wall.

No one was inside. Schools were closed amid Iran’s sixth wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

Iran’s air force has an assortment of U.S.-made military aircraft purchased before the 1979 Islamic Revolution. It also has Russian-made MiG and Sukhoi planes. Decades of Western sanctions have made it hard to maintain the aging fleet.



TASNIM NEWS AGENCY/ AP

The wreckage of an Iranian F-5 fighter jet is seen at the crash site in Tabriz, northwestern Iran, on Monday.

Israel successfully tests naval air defense system

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel on Monday said it successfully tested a new naval air defense system, intercepting a series of threats in what officials called a key layer of protection against Iran and its proxies in the region.

The “C-Dome” system is a naval version

of the Iron Dome, which has been used to shoot down rockets fired from the Gaza Strip for the past decade. The C-Dome is being installed on Israel’s latest-generation corvette warships, which protect Israel’s coastline and offshore natural gas assets in the Mediterranean.

Monday’s test simulated a number of in-

coming threats, including rockets, cruise missiles and drones, the Defense Ministry said.

The C-Dome is to become part of Israel’s multilayer missile defense system — which includes weapons capable of intercepting everything from long-range missiles to short-range rockets.

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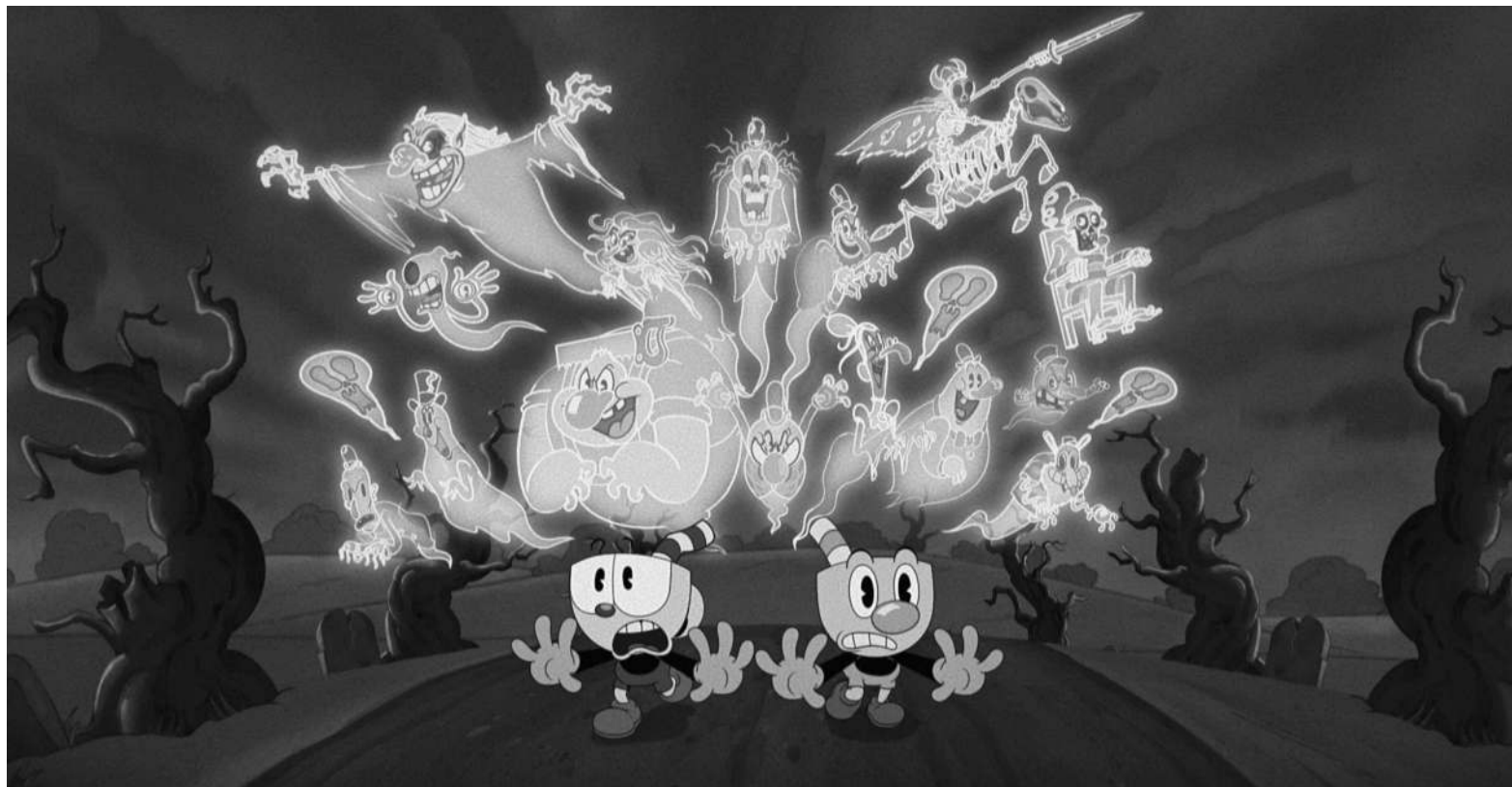
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Netflix

Cuphead, left, is voiced by Tru Valentino, and Frank Todaro voices Mugman, right, in "The Cuphead Show!" It's now available on Netflix.

A dream, nightmare for animators

Inside daunting, expensive process to bring vintage look of Cuphead game to Netflix

BY TRACY BROWN
Los Angeles Times

The opening shot of "The Cuphead Show!" is of a teapot-shaped cottage in the woods. Just outside the cottage are a goat and flowers dancing along to the upbeat background music. A couple of butterflies flutter by.

The brief scene-setter is notable because it involves 2D animation tracked over a 3D-sculpted miniature background, in what is known as the stereoscopic rotary process.

"It's something that's been dormant for decades, and to get to do things like that as somebody who works in animation [now], we savor every moment of it," said "The Cuphead Show!" art director Andrea Fernandez.

"It's painstaking and it's expensive; that's why it's not done anymore," explained executive producer Dave Wasson, who developed the Netflix animated series. "But it's such a signature of those 1930s cartoons. The Fleischers invented this process. [We said], 'If we're doing a 1930s show, it has to have that.'"

"The Cuphead Show!," which debuted last week on Netflix, is based on the hit 2017 run-and-gun video game Cuphead. Created by brothers Chad and Jared Moldenhauer of Studio MDHR, the fast-paced action game is known for its difficulty as well as its cast of characters and its vintage cartoon looks.

The animated series follows brothers Cuphead and Mugman — the playable characters of the original game, named for the drinkware that make up their heads — and their adventures on the Inkwell Isles. Besides utilizing stereoscopic animation, the series draws upon the touchstones of 1930s cartoons and has adapted them for both modern audiences and the current TV animation pipeline.

The original Cuphead game was born of the brothers' love for the surreal and experimental hand-drawn cartoons of the 1930s, including Walt Disney Productions' "Silly Symphonies" and the works of Fleischer Studios. The animated adaptation — for which both Moldenhauers serve as executive producers — marks

a full-circle journey in the medium that inspired them.

"The Skeleton Dance' by Disney has been burned into my mind from a very young age," said Chad Moldenhauer. "We rewatched that a ton throughout our life. The Fleischer series, all of this stuff, we found it so incredible. Back in that era of animation, they didn't quite understand the subtle nature of acting, which is a benefit because [the animations are] wild and all over the place. We were always drawn to it — something about it just had that extra sparkle."

"There's a whole generation of kids who've grown up with CGI, and they don't necessarily have the same level of appreciation for this incredibly beautiful, looks-like-hand-painted animation."

CJ Kettler

"The Cuphead Show!" executive producer

Among the hallmarks of 1930s cartoons that still delight the Moldenhauers are the energy of loose, rubber-hose characters and the disregard for the rules of physics in service of a gag.

"Another part of what I love about the old cartoons is there was always just a hint of nightmare to it," said Jared Moldenhauer. "It wasn't a horror show, but they didn't have the constraints of wondering what kids would think. ... It's just that hint of eerie. It's like the

most joyful nightmare you can have, essentially."

All these elements are channeled into "The Cuphead Show!"

"There's a whole generation of kids who've grown up with CGI, and they don't necessarily have the same level of appreciation for this incredibly beautiful, looks-like-hand-painted animation," said CJ Kettler, an executive producer on the series. "And now this generation of kids will see it for the first time and go, 'Oh, my God, I've never seen anything like that.' I think it's exciting to have the next generation get turned on to it."

Beyond the differences between the 3DCG animation that dominates films and the 2D animation seen more often on TV, modern tools and pipelines mean 2D animation is made differently now than it was in the 1930s.

The goal on the show, said Wasson, was "to try to make it look as much like a cartoon that could have been produced back at that time."

Figuring out the look of the series involved a long research-and-development process, studying how animation was made during a decade that spanned from black-and-white cartoons to Disney's "Snow White" (1938).

It was a task that involved not only synthesizing a style that felt like it was born of that era but also making it one that could be sustainable for the people working on the show and that would appeal to a modern audience.

Fernandez explained there was a lot of trial and error, and she found that there were no real shortcuts.

Re-creating the lush, vibrant looks of the vintage watercolor backgrounds, for example, involved the same process of painting layer by layer as would traditional painting. The only real difference was that it was done using digital tools rather than paper.

"The creative process is actually almost exactly the same," said Fernandez. "The artist is the same; it's coming from the same place. The time, the labor, the love — it's all the same in that respect. It's just our tools have been updated."

'Uncharted' No. 1 over weekend; 'No Way Home' passes 'Avatar'

Tribune News Service

Hot off the resounding success of "Spider-Man: No Way Home," Sony Pictures had another Tom Holland movie clinch first place at the domestic box office: "Uncharted" exceeded early expectations by launching at \$44.2 million this weekend, while Jon Watts' "Spider-Man" surpassed James Cameron's "Avatar" as the third-highest grossing domestic release of all time.

According to estimates from measurement firm Comscore, "Dog" opened in second place with \$15.1 million; "Spider-Man: No Way Home" came in third by adding \$7.2 million in its 10th weekend for a domestic cumulative of \$770.1 million; "Death on the Nile" was fourth with \$6.3 million in its second weekend (\$25 million total); and "Jackass Forever" collected \$5.2 million in its third weekend for fifth place (\$46.8 million total).

Vaccination requirements set for Academy Awards

And the "welcome to the Oscars" goes to ... vaccinated nominees.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is reportedly requiring guests and nominees attending this year's Oscars ceremony at the Dolby Theater in Hollywood to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 and at least two PCR negative tests.

Presenters and performers won't be required to do the same, but they will have to be tested.

The announcement comes a week after it was reported that the Academy had decided that guests wouldn't be required to show proof of vaccination — just a negative COVID test.

That was quickly slammed on social media by movie lovers, celebrities and politicians. Actor and producer Seth MacFarlane, who hosted the Oscars in 2013, called the decision "a colossal abdication of responsible management."

The Academy is inviting 2,500 guests to the March 27 event at the Dolby, which normally sits around 3,300 people. Guests could be required to wear face masks.

Other news

■ The musical "Jagged Little Pill," packed with Alanis Morissette tunes from her 1995 album of the same name, is set to premiere on London's West End in November. The England run follows the Tony- and Grammy-winning production's Broadway romp, which abruptly ended in December due to COVID-19 concerns. The show officially opened on Broadway in December 2019.

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OPINION

Putin's long offensive against Ukraine in new phase

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Vladimir Putin and his aides have long insisted that they have no intention of starting a war with Ukraine. President Joe Biden said Friday that U.S. intelligence has concluded that the Russian president has made the decision to invade.

In a larger sense, though, Putin's current offensive against Ukraine has been underway for a while now — through proxy forces, cyberwar, economic pressure and truculent diplomacy.

It's already had visible effects. Putin's deployment of more than 150,000 troops with tanks and artillery on the border has forced Ukraine's military — smaller and weaker than Russia's — to mobilize. His cyberattacks have caused chaos in Ukrainian government ministries.

The fear of war has blown a hole in Ukraine's already sputtering economy. Most private investment has stopped, commercial flights have been canceled, interest rates have soared, and the currency has fallen to a year-long low.

All that's on top of Putin's seizure of the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in 2014 and his military aid to rebels in the eastern part of the country.

"Putin's intimidation tactics are a great way of keeping Ukraine locked in the economic doldrums and vulnerable to Kremlin pressure," economist Anders Aslund wrote last week.

For a leader who wants to destabilize the anti-Moscow government in Kyiv, those measures count as achievements.

The threat of war has affected NATO's behavior as well. It forced the United States and Britain to withdraw military trainers from Ukraine, fulfilling — at least temporarily —

another of Putin's aims.

It's made the prospects for Ukrainian membership in the alliance, already modest, even more distant. And it's compelled the Biden administration to acknowledge publicly that Russia has legitimate security interests that deserve a hearing.

It's as if Putin had taken the advice of China's legendary general of ancient times, Sun Tzu: The ultimate test of a strategist's skill is to win without fighting.

Perhaps, as Biden suggested, Putin has decided to abandon that path and move to full-scale war. But if he continues to follow Sun Tzu's advice, his next logical step might be to step up aid to the pro-Russian separatists who occupy part of eastern Ukraine.

Russian government spokesmen hinted at such a move last week when they claimed that Ukraine was carrying out "genocide" against the area's ethnic Russian inhabitants.

There's no evidence that such a campaign is underway, and Ukrainian officials heatedly deny it. But the accusation could serve as a handy pretext for recognizing the independence of the rebel areas, or at least sending them more weapons in the guise of humanitarian aid.

Among other benefits, such a move would give Moscow a de facto veto over NATO membership for Kyiv, since the alliance won't want a new member that's already locked in low-grade conflict with Russia. And that course would stop short of provoking the Western response Putin presumably fears most: the massive economic sanctions Biden and other NATO leaders have brandished.

But if Biden and the U.S. intelligence community are right, and the Russian leader has decided to invade, then he has made a different calculation: He's gambling that the sanctions won't be effective enough to hurt much.

Putin has worked for years to make his

economy sanctions-proof, expanding his government's foreign currency reserve to a staggering \$631 billion and shifting much of Russia's trade from Europe to China.

And if European countries apply sanctions, he can retaliate by reducing his exports of natural gas, which supply much of his neighbors' heating fuel.

"Can you imagine German houses [going] cold in order to punish Russia?" asked Graham Allison, a Harvard scholar of international affairs. "I can't."

A battle over sanctions, he noted, could allow Putin to achieve another goal — using an energy crisis to drive a wedge through the NATO alliance.

The uncomfortable truth is that Putin, if only because of geography, has the advantage in this conflict. He's willing to put troops on the ground, which makes his threats credible. The United States and its NATO allies are not.

"Militarily, Putin has the high card," Allison said. "He has a military that can fight and win."

The Russian leader may invade in the next few days, as Biden warned, or he may wait for another round of diplomacy to see what he can gain without war. Either way, he has an interest in keeping the crisis going.

"We're all looking for a solution. There's not going to be one," Fiona Hill, a White House adviser on Russia in the Trump administration, warned.

"The Russians know that if they keep the pressure up, by hook or by crook, in their view they'll find a way of getting what they want in Ukraine."

Which means Putin's confrontation with Ukraine and the West is likely to continue for a long time — whether he launches a full-scale invasion or not.

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

Rogue Orthodox military unit is Israel's weakest link

By ZEV CHAFETS
Bloomberg Opinion

It's not very often that an event in the West Bank village of Jililya garners the attention of members of the U.S. Congress from Wisconsin. But the killing of a 78-year-old Palestinian American from Milwaukee by soldiers of Israel's ultra-Orthodox battalion has embarrassed Jerusalem, infuriated the U.S. State Department and placed a new stumbling block on the already rocky road of Israeli-Palestinian conciliation. More than a month later, the country is still coming to terms with what happened.

On the night of Jan. 12, one of the coldest of the year, Omar Abdel Majeed Asad was detained by Israeli troops near Jililya as he was driving home from a social event.

The soldiers stopped his car and took him to an empty lot, where he was handcuffed, gagged, blindfolded and laid on the ground. The time was 3:20 a.m. Forty minutes later, one of the soldiers noticed that the captive had turned blue in the face and he wasn't moving. He was taken to a nearby clinic and pronounced dead. An autopsy conducted by Palestinian doctors found that he died of heart failure.

In the nighttime skirmishes between Israeli troops and suspected terrorists in the West Bank, there are sometimes casualties. But Asad was a unique case. Nearly an octogenarian, he did not exactly fit the profile of a terrorist. Then it turned out he was also an American

citizen, formerly of Milwaukee.

Within hours, the Israeli military spokesman issued a statement admitting that the incident "showed a clear lapse of moral judgment" on the part of the troops and reflected a failure "to protect the sanctity" of a human life.

If the Israeli Defense Forces thought this was the end of the matter, it was mistaken. Two members of the House of Representatives contacted Secretary of State Antony Blinken and demanded to know what he was planning to do about the killing of a former constituent.

The IDF mea culpa did not impress the U.S. State Department, which called for a criminal investigation and full accountability of the incident. An army review concluded that the soldiers had made a "moral mistake." The brigade commander was discharged and two junior officers had their promotions frozen for two years.

Lt. Gen. Aviv Kohavi, IDF chief of staff, was dispatched to meet with the newly arrived American ambassador, Tom Nides, and explained that the killing was "a grave moral error contrary to the ethics of the Israel Defense Forces." Three days later, Israeli President Isaac Herzog addressed the issue, calling it "an ethical failure that should serve as a warning light for us all."

Now the question is what Israel plans to do differently. The soldiers who were responsible for the death belong to the infamous Netzach Yehuda battalion, a unit made up of members

of the ultra-Orthodox community. The battalion, which is segregated from other IDF forces, hostile to outsiders and inspired by the preaching of fanatical rabbis, serves entirely in the West Bank.

Netzach Yehuda exists because of political cowardice. The Haredi leadership refuses to allow the IDF to draft its sons and daughters. The courts have repeatedly ruled that this discriminates against Israelis who comply with mandatory conscription. Back in 1999, the Israeli government made a Faustian bargain: In effect, it was send us a few hundred of your misfits and dropouts each year, and we will let the rest of the community off the hook.

Certainly, Israel needs to compensate Asad's family. The check should be delivered personally, along with a sincere apology, by Herzog. And the hoodlums who caused the death of an innocent man should spend their next winters in a military prison.

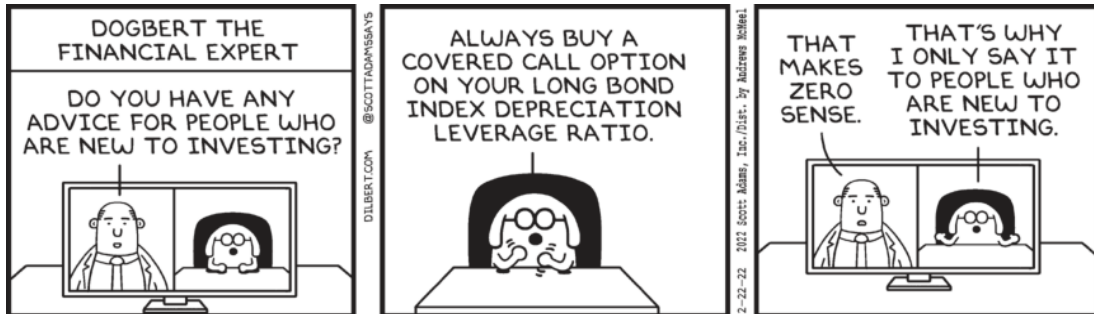
But the Israeli government, unencumbered for the moment by ultra-Orthodox coalition partners, should now muster the courage to disband the rogue battalion. Decent officers and soldiers from the unit can be reassigned to other units. As Kohavi told a group of graduating pilots Sunday, "You don't need a law to tell you not to leave an 80-year-old man in the cold during operational activity."

Zev Chafets is a journalist and author of 14 books. He was a senior aide to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and the founding managing editor of the Jerusalem Report Magazine.

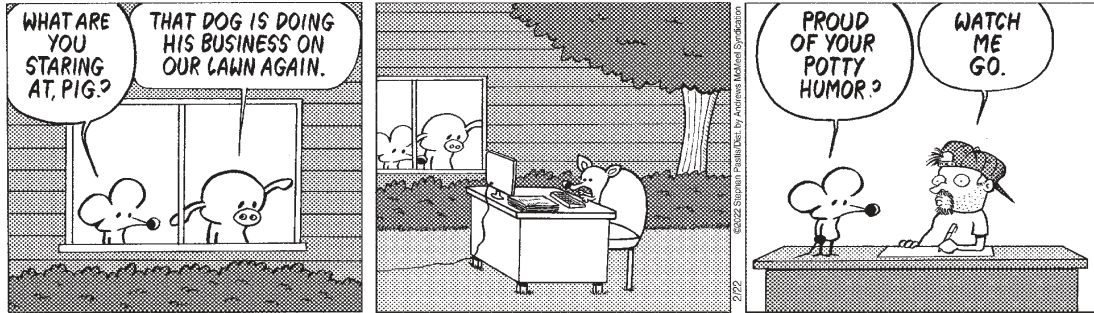
Frazz



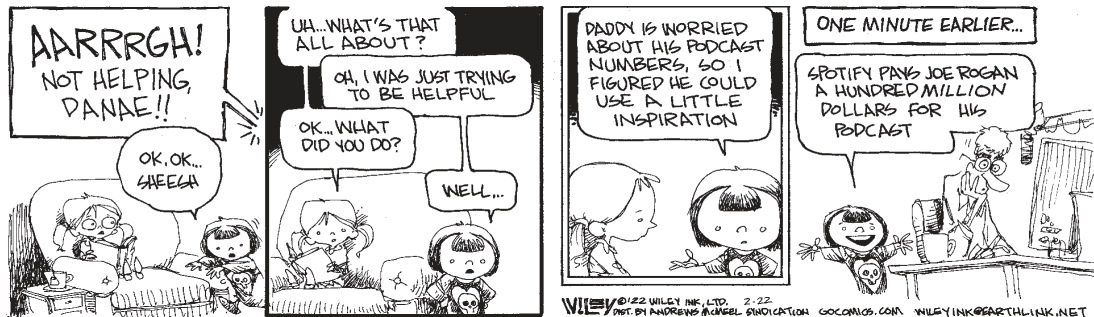
Dilbert



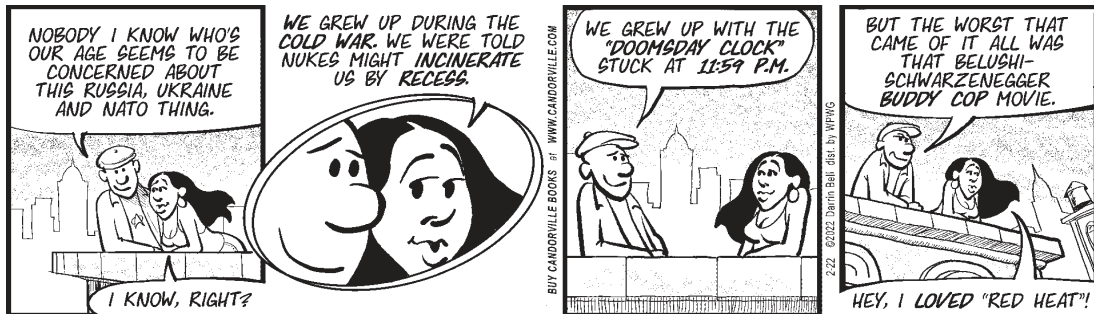
Pearls Before Swine



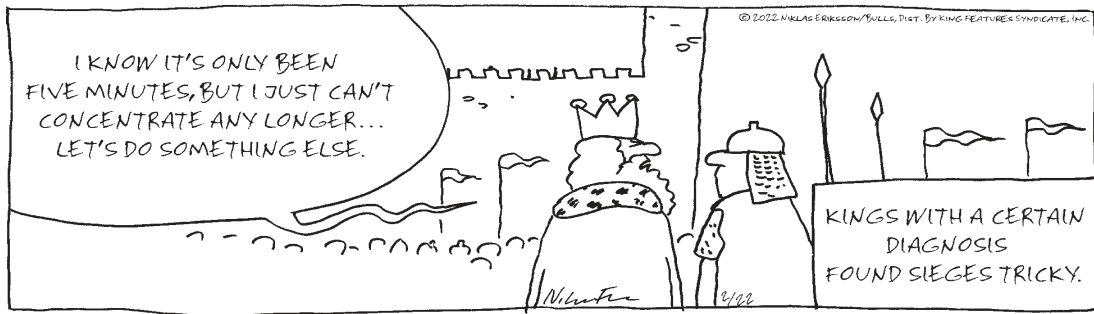
Non Sequitur



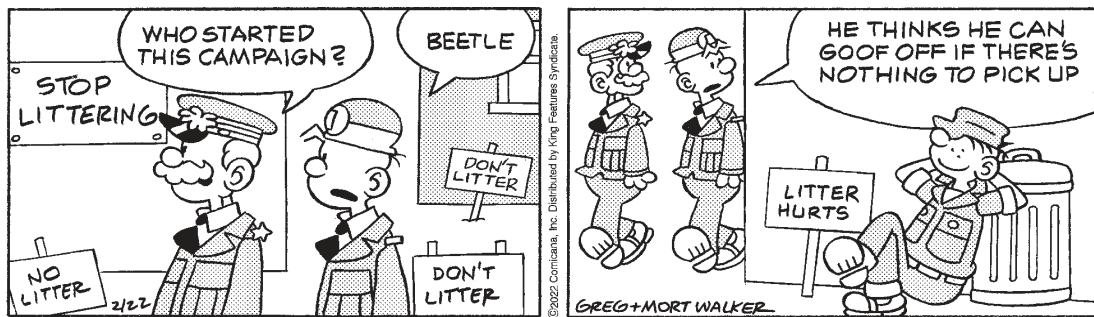
Candorville



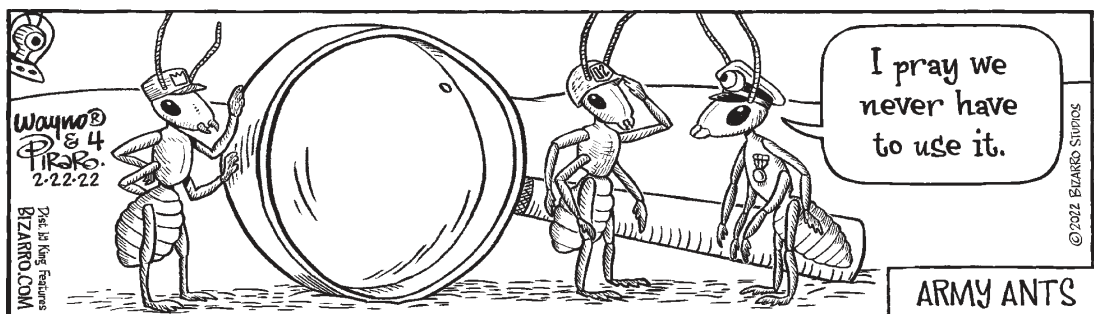
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

ACROSS

- 1 "Coffee Cantata" composer
- 5 TV alien
- 8 — Hari
- 12 Wrinkly fruit
- 13 Shell game item
- 14 Airline to Tel Aviv
- 15 Harvest
- 16 Actress Cruz
- 18 Foreign correspondents?
- 20 November tally
- 21 Fury
- 22 Chaps
- 23 Fleeting
- 26 Thoughtful
- 30 Oklahoma tribe
- 31 Upper limit
- 32 Long. crosser
- 33 Quintets
- 36 Honeycomb units
- 38 Apt. divisions
- 39 "— voyage!"
- 40 Brownstone feature
- 43 Gridiron infraction
- 47 Partial shadow
- 49 Surrealist Joan
- 50 Shake — (hurry)
- 51 Long time
- 52 Actor Estrada
- 53 TV/radio host John
- 54 Baseball execs
- 55 Toy block name

DOWN

- 1 Baby-feeding finale
- 2 Baseball's Tommie
- 3 Family
- 4 Woodstock attendee
- 5 Pie fruit
- 6 Sediment
- 7 Summer cooler
- 8 Honeydews
- 9 Oodles
- 10 Carton sealer
- 11 Pub orders
- 17 Tied
- 19 Canine greeting
- 22 Tex- — cuisine
- 23 Conk on the head
- 24 Hwy.
- 25 Bit of physics

- 26 — de deux
- 27 Unwell
- 28 Batman portrayer Kilmer
- 29 UFO fliers
- 31 Rx writers
- 34 Slop container
- 35 Clock radio toggle
- 36 Anti
- 37 Nail polish
- 39 Hot dog side dish
- 40 Quarrel
- 41 Prefix with conference
- 42 Singles
- 43 High school dance
- 44 Old Italian money
- 45 Advanced math
- 46 Music's Ono
- 48 Plead

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

2-22

CRYPTOQUIP

MB CR CLVCWF VDMR JFLF
 PCWF BLDP C VFLUCMR
 WGLCEAF JDDW, UOFR UOCU
 VDGAW EF CR DCYFR UDYFR.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EERIE LEGENDARY BOAT ROWER WHO'S MISSING A RATHER IMPORTANT BODY PART: THE HEADLESS OARSMAN.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals O

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SCOREBOARD/SPORTS BRIEFS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Sunday's men's scores

EAST

Fordham 50, George Mason 17
Hartford 74, Stony Brook 70
Iona 76, Fairfield 58
Loyola (Md.) 69, Lehigh 42
Maine 65, NJIT 61
Manhattan 84, Rider 78, OT
Marist 67, Quinnipiac 66
Siena 84, St. Peter's 70

SOUTH

UCF 69, East Carolina 66

MIDWEST

Cleveland St. 79, Green Bay 67
Creighton 83, Marquette 82
Detroit 80, Wright St. 75
Fort Wayne 81, Milwaukee 71
Houston 76, Wichita St. 74, 2OT
Jacksonville St. 82, Bellarmine 67
Mississippi St. 58, Missouri 56
N. Iowa 95, Missouri St. 75
N. Kentucky 71, Oakland 66
Providence 71, Butler 70, OT
Purdue 84, Rutgers 72
Temple 75, Cincinnati 71
Wisconsin 77, Michigan 63

SOUTHWEST

SMU 73, Memphis 57

FAR WEST

San Jose St. 71, New Mexico 55
Southern Cal 62, Washington St. 60

This week's men's Top 25 fared

No. 1 Gonzaga (22-2) beat Pepperdine 86-66; beat Santa Clara 81-69.
No. 2 Auburn (24-3) beat Vanderbilt 94-80; lost to Florida 63-62.
No. 3 Arizona (24-2) beat Oregon St. 83-69; beat Oregon 84-81.
No. 4 Kentucky (22-5) lost to No. 16 Tennessee 76-63; beat No. 25 Alabama 90-81.
No. 5 Purdue (24-4) beat Northwestern 70-64; beat Rutgers 84-72.
No. 6 Kansas (22-4) beat Oklahoma St. 76-62; beat West Virginia 71-58.
No. 7 Baylor (22-5) lost to No. 11 Texas Tech 83-73; beat TCU 71-63.
No. 8 Providence (22-3) lost to No. 10 Villanova 89-84; beat Butler 71-70.
No. 9 Duke (23-4) beat Wake Forest 76-74; beat Florida St. 88-70.
No. 10 Villanova (21-6) beat No. 8 Providence 89-84; beat Georgetown 74-66.
No. 11 Texas Tech (21-6) beat No. 7 Baylor 83-73; beat No. 20 Texas 61-55.
No. 12 Illinois (19-7) lost to Rutgers 70-59; beat No. 19 Michigan St. 79-74.
No. 13 UCLA (19-5) beat Washington St. 76-56; beat Washington 76-50.
No. 14 Houston (22-4) beat UCF 70-52; beat Wichita St. 76-74, 2OT.
No. 15 Wisconsin (21-5) beat Indiana 74-69; beat Michigan 77-63.
No. 16 Tennessee (19-7) beat No. 4 Kentucky 76-63; lost to No. 23 Arkansas 58-48.
No. 17 Southern Cal (23-4) beat Washington 79-69; beat Washington St. 62-60.
No. 18 Ohio St. (16-7) beat Minnesota 70-45; lost to Iowa 75-62.
No. 19 Michigan St. (18-8) lost to Penn St. 62-58; lost to No. 12 Illinois 79-74.
No. 20 Texas (19-8) beat Oklahoma 80-78, OT; lost to No. 11 Texas Tech 61-55.
No. 21 Murray St. (26-2) beat Austin Peay 91-58; beat UT-Martin 62-60.
No. 22 Wyoming (22-4) lost to New Mexico 75-66; beat Air Force 75-67.
No. 23 Arkansas (21-6) beat Missouri 76-57; beat No. 16 Tennessee 58-48.
No. 24 UConn (19-7) beat Seton Hall 70-65; beat Xavier 72-61.
No. 25 Alabama (17-10) beat Mississippi St. 80-75; lost to No. 4 Kentucky 90-81.

Sunday's women's scores

EAST

Boston College 82, Wake Forest 70
Creighton 97, Seton Hall 91, 2OT
Drexel 65, Delaware 64
Duquesne 99, St. Bonaventure 75
N. Kentucky 64, Robert Morris 49
Purdue 70, Rutgers 59
Saint Joseph's 57, George Washington 34
St. John's 68, Providence 62, OT
Texas 67, West Virginia 58
Towson 84, Coll. of Charleston 57
UConn 90, Georgetown 49

AP SPORTLIGHT

Feb. 22

1919 — The first dog race track to use an imitation rabbit opens in Emeryville, Calif.
1936 — Figure skater Sonja Henie wins her 10th straight world championship.
1959 — Lee Petty, driving an Oldsmobile, wins the first Daytona 500.
1969 — Barbara Jo Rubin becomes the first female jockey to win a race at an American thoroughbred track. She rides Cohesion to a neck victory over Reely Beeg in the ninth race at Charles Town in West Virginia.
1975 — Madison Square Garden hosts its first women's college basketball game. In a rematch of the 1973 national championship game, defending national champion Immaculata beats Queens College 65-31 before a crowd of 11,969.
1980 — The U.S. Olympic hockey team stuns the Soviet Union with a 4-3 victory in the medal round of the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y. Captain Mike Eruzione scores the winning goal midway through the final period.
1981 — Rookies Peter and Anton Stastny total eight points apiece, sending the Que-

Villanova 73, DePaul 64

SOUTH

Auburn 65, Georgia 60
Davidson 76, UMass 67
Duke 64, Clemson 61
Elon 78, Northeastern 65
James Madison 73, UNC-Wilmington 51
LSU 66, Florida 61
Longwood 77, Hampton 51
Louisville 70, Virginia Tech 56
Miami 51, Georgia Tech 39
Mississippi 57, Vanderbilt 47
NC State 95, Syracuse 53
North Carolina 64, Florida St. 49
South Carolina 67, Tennessee 53
Tulane 76, Houston 72
Virginia 74, Pittsburgh 65
William & Mary 61, Hofstra 48

MIDWEST

Jacksonville St. 77, Bellarmine 64
Kansas St. 56, Oklahoma St. 38
Loyola Chicago 60, Evansville 56
Michigan 71, Maryland 59
Missouri 76, Mississippi St. 66
Missouri St. 72, Bradley 56
Nebraska 93, Minnesota 70
Northwestern 82, Illinois 59
Ohio St. 59, Wisconsin 42
S. Illinois 65, Illinois St. 49
Valparaiso 74, Indiana St. 69
Xavier 73, Butler 54
Youngstown St. 77, Wright St. 53

SOUTHWEST

Alabama 81, Texas A&M 79, 2OT
Kentucky 78, Arkansas 55

FAR WEST

Colorado 67, Southern Cal 54
Colorado St. 62, Nevada 55
Oregon St. 68, California 59
Stanford 66, Oregon 62
Utah 75, UCLA 70
Washington 74, Arizona St. 69
Washington St. 74, Arizona 69

This week's women's Top 25 fared

No. 1 South Carolina (25-1) beat Auburn 75-38; beat No. 12 Tennessee 67-53.
No. 2 Stanford (23-3) beat Oregon St. 87-63; beat Oregon 66-62.
No. 3 Louisville (23-3) lost to No. 24 North Carolina 66-65; beat No. 23 Virginia Tech 70-56.
No. 4 NC State (25-3) beat Wake Forest 92-61; beat Syracuse 95-53.
No. 5 Indiana (19-5) lost to Nebraska 72-55; beat Northwestern 69-58; lost to No. 22 Iowa 96-91.
No. 6 Iowa St. (22-4) lost to No. 14 Texas 73-48; beat No. 15 Oklahoma 89-67.
No. 7 Baylor (21-5) beat TCU 80-55; beat TCU 78-59.
No. 8 Arizona (19-5) beat Washington 51-42; lost to Washington St. 72-67.
No. 9 Michigan (21-4) beat No. 13 Maryland 71-59.
No. 10 UConn (19-5) beat Xavier 89-35; beat Georgetown 90-49.
No. 11 LSU (23-4) beat Mississippi St. 71-59; beat No. 17 Florida 66-61.
No. 12 Tennessee (21-6) lost to Alabama 74-64; lost to No. 1 South Carolina 67-53.
No. 13 Maryland (20-7) beat No. 22 Iowa 81-69; beat No. 18 Ohio St. 77-72; lost to No. 9 Michigan 71-59.
No. 14 Texas (19-6) beat No. 6 Iowa St. 73-48; beat West Virginia 67-58.
No. 15 Oklahoma (20-6) lost to Texas Tech 97-87; lost to No. 6 Iowa St. 89-67.
No. 16 Georgia Tech (19-8) lost to No. 19 Notre Dame 72-66, OT; lost to Miami 51-39.
No. 17 Florida (20-7) beat Auburn 83-77; beat Arkansas 76-67; lost to No. 11 LSU 66-61.
No. 18 Ohio St. (20-5) beat Illinois 86-67; lost to No. 13 Maryland 77-72; beat Wisconsin 59-42.
No. 19 Notre Dame (20-6) beat No. 16 Georgia Tech 72-66, OT.
No. 20 BYU (23-2) beat Loyola Marymount 77-54; beat Gonzaga 63-39.
No. 21 Georgia (18-8) beat Missouri 74-49; lost to Auburn 65-60.
No. 22 Iowa (17-7) lost to No. 13 Maryland 81-69; beat No. 5 Indiana 96-91.
No. 23 Virginia Tech (20-7) beat Syracuse 102-53; lost to No. 3 Louisville 70-56.
No. 24 North Carolina (21-5) beat No. 3 Louisville 66-65; beat Florida St. 64-49.
No. 25 Florida Gulf Coast (24-2) beat Kenesaw St. 64-48; beat North Florida 63-52.

TENNIS

Delray Beach Open

Sunday
At Delray Beach Stadium & Tennis Center
Delray Beach, Fla.
Purse: \$593,895
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Men's Singles Championship
Cameron Norrie (1), Britain, def. Reilly Opelka (2), United States, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (4).
Men's Doubles Championship
Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands, and Marcelo Arevalo-Gonzalez (1), El Salvador, def. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan, and Aleksandr Nedovyesov (3), Kazakhstan, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 10-4.

Open 13

Sunday
At Palais des Sports
Marseille, France
Purse: Euro 545,200
Surface: Hardcourt indoor
Men's Singles Championship
Andrey Rublev (2), Russia, def. Felix Auger-Aliassime (3), Canada, 7-5, 7-6 (4).
Men's Doubles Championship
Denys Molchanov, Ukraine, and Andrey Rublev, Russia, def. Raven Klaassen, South Africa, and Ben McLachlan (2), Japan, 4-6, 7-5, 10-7.

Dubai Duty Free Open

Monday
At Dubai Tennis Stadium
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Purse: \$2,794,840
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Men's Doubles Round of 16
Hubert Hurkacz, Poland, and Jannik Sinner, Italy, def. Altug Celikbilek, Turkey, and Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 7-6 (6), 6-4.

Qatar Open

Sunday
At Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex
Doha, Qatar
Purse: \$2,632,448
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Women's Singles Round of 64
Sorana Cirstea, Romania, def. Mayar Sherif, Egypt, 6-2, 6-1.
Madison Brengle, United States, def. Ipek Oz, Turkey, 7-5, 6-3.
Alison van Uytvanck, Belgium, def. Vera Zvonareva, Russia, 6-4, 6-4.
Clara Tauson, Denmark, def. Belinda Bencic, Switzerland, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.
Ana Konjuh, Croatia, def. Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.
Kaja Juvan, Slovenia, def. Stefanie Vogele, Switzerland, 6-4, 6-2.
Jessica Pegula (9), United States, def. Katerina Siniakova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-2.

Ann Li, United States, def. Sofia Kenin, United States, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-3.
Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, def. Zhang Shuai, China, 6-1, 6-1.
Amanda Anisimova, United States, def. Beatriz Haddad Maia, Brazil, 7-5, 6-4.
Victoria Azarenka (12), Belarus, def. Yulia Putintseva, Kazakhstan, 7-6, 6-2, 7-5.
Alize Cornet, France, def. Liudmila Samsonova, Russia, 3-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Women's doubles Round of 32
Nicole Melichar-Martinez, United States, and Alexa Guarachi (5), Chile, def. Arantxa Rus, Netherlands, and Viktorija Golubic, Switzerland, 6-1, 4-6, 10-7.
Natalia Dzalamidze, Russia, and Tereza Martincova, Czech Republic, def. Hao-Ching Chan, Taiwan, and Demi Schuurs, Netherlands, 6-2, 6-3.
Jaqueline Adina Cristian, Romania, and Anna Bondar, Hungary, def. Daria Jurak Schreiber, Croatia, and Jasmine Paolini, Italy, 7-5, 6-4.
Alexandra Panova, Russia, and Ulrikke Eikeri, Norway, def. Makoto Ninomiya and Eri Hozumi, Japan, 6-4, 6-4.
Aleksandra Krunic, Serbia, and Shuko Aoyama, Japan, def. Ipek Oz, Turkey, and Mubarak AL-Naimi, Qatar, 6-2, 6-3.

Rio Open

Sunday
At Jockey Club Brasileiro
Rio de Janeiro
Purse: \$1,660,290
Surface: Red clay
Men's Singles Championship
Carlos Alcaraz (7), Spain, def. Diego Schwartzman (3), Argentina, 6-4, 6-2.
Men's Doubles Semifinals
Simone Bolelli and Fabio Fognini, Italy, def. Santiago Gonzalez, Mexico, and Andres Molteni, Argentina, 7-6 (4), 6-2.
Men's Doubles Championship
Simone Bolelli and Fabio Fognini, Italy, def. Bruno Soares, Brazil, and Jamie Murray (3), Britain, 7-5, 6-7 (2), 10-6.

PRO BASEBALL

MLB Calendar

March 31 — Opening Day (tentative)
July 15-19 — All-Star Week, at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles
Aug. 11 — MLB at Field of Dreams (Cubs vs. Reds in Dyersville, Iowa)
Aug. 21 — MLB Little League Classic (Red Sox vs. Orioles in Williamsport, Pa.)
Oct. 2 — Final scheduled day of regular season

DEALS

Sunday's transactions

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ARIZONA COYOTES — Waived G Carter Hutton.
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Signed G Jet Greaves to a three-year entry level contract.
LOS ANGELES KINGS — Reassigned D Jacob Moverare to Ontario (AHL).
OTTAWA SENATORS — Waived C Clark Bishop.
ST. LOUIS BLUES — Promoted F Dakota Joshua from Springfield (AHL). Reassigned D Calle Rosen to Springfield.
TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS — Waived F Ryan Dzingel.
WINNIPEG JETS — Reassigned D Ville Heinola to Manitoba.

GOLF

The Genesis Invitational

PGA Tour
Sunday
At Riviera Country Club
Pacific Palisades, Calif.
Purse: \$12 million
Yardage: 7,322; Par: 71
Final Round

Joaquin Niemann, \$2,160,000	63-63-68-71=265-19
Collin Morikawa, \$1,068,000	67-67-68-65=267-17
Cameron Young, \$1,068,000	66-62-69-70=267-17
Viktor Hovland, \$540,000	71-64-65-70=270-14
Adam Scott, \$540,000	68-65-71-66=270-14
Justin Thomas, \$435,000	67-64-70-70=271-13
Maverick McNealy, \$390,000	68-68-67-69=272-12
Scottie Scheffler, \$390,000	66-72-65-69=272-12
C.T. Pan, \$351,000	67-70-69-67=273-11
Max Homa, \$303,000	66-70-67-71=274-10
Rory McIlroy, \$303,000	69-70-67-68=274-10
Chez Reavie, \$303,000	74-68-66-66=274-10
Xander Schauffele, \$243,000	69-70-66-70=275-9
Cameron Tringale, \$243,000	69-68-69-69=275-9
Paul Casey, \$189,000	68-71-66-71=276-8
Matt Jones, \$189,000	70-67-71-68=276-8
Marc Leishman, \$189,000	70-66-67-73=276-8
Mito Pereira, \$189,000	70-68-68-70=276-8
Sepp Straka, \$189,000	74-68-66-68=276-8
Robert Macintyre, \$189,000	71-67-67-71=276-8
Emiliano Grillo, \$125,880	69-70-65-73=277-7
Danny Lee, \$125,880	70-70-65-72=277-7
Taylor Moore, \$125,880	69-69-69-70=277-7
Sebastian Munoz, \$125,880	70-66-69-72=277-7
Jon Rahm, \$125,880	69-73-70-65=277-7
Dylan Frittelli, \$85,800	68-73-68-69=278-6
Jason Kokrak, \$85,800	67-72-66-73=278-6
Kyung-Hoon Lee, \$85,800	72-67-67-72=278-6
Peter Malnati, \$85,800	69-68-69-72=278-6
Sam Ryder, \$85,800	70-69-68-71=278-6
Jordan Spieth, \$85,800	66-67-73-72=278-6
Will Zalatoris, \$85,800	69-70-68-71=278-6
Patrick Cantlay, \$64,000	70-72-66-71=279-5
Tony Finau, \$64,000	69-71-71-68=279-5
Russell Henley, \$64,000	72-66-69-72=279-5
Sungjae Im, \$64,000	71-66-75-67=279-5
Russell Knox, \$64,000	68-67-74-70=279-5
Cameron Smith, \$64,000	67-68-74-70=279-5
Abraham Ancer, \$45,000	69-72-68-71=280-4
Sergio Garcia, \$45,000	71-68-69-72=280-4
Lanto Griffin, \$45,000	74-66-68-72=280-4
Lee Hodges, \$45,000	71-70-68-71=280-4
Martin Laird, \$45,000	68-71-68-73=280-4
Hideki Matsuyama, \$45,000	72-70-68-70=280-4
Carlos Ortiz, \$45,000	68-71-68-73=280-4
Pat Perez, \$45,000	70-68-70-72=280-4
Erik Van Rooyen, \$45,000	74-65-68-73=280-4

Chubb Classic

Champions Tour
Sunday
At The Black Course
Naples, Fla.
Purse: \$1.6 million
Yardage: 6,909; Par: 72
Final Round

Bernhard Langer, \$240,000	64-68-68=200-16
Tim Petrovic, \$140,800	66-68-69=203-13
Retief Goosen, \$115,200	67-67-70=204-12
Brian Gay, \$95,000	70-67-69=206-10
Steven Alker, \$58,795	71-65-71=207-9
Miguel Angel Jimenez, \$58,795	71-70-66=207-9
Robert Karlsson, \$58,795	66-72-69=207-9
Jerry Kelly, \$58,795	68-68-71=207-9
Scott Parel, \$58,795	70-64-73=207-9
Ernie Els, \$40,000	69-68-72=209-7
David Toms, \$40,000	71-69-69=209-7
Colin Montgomerie, \$31,600	72-68-70=210-6
Paul Stankowicz, \$31,600	67-72-71=210-6
Kevin Sutherland, \$31,600	73-65-72=210-6
Y.E. Yang, \$31,600	70-67-73=210-6
Paul Broadhurst, \$26,400	68-73-70=211-5
Wes Short, \$26,400	72-70-69=211-5
Doug Barron, \$22,560	68-75-69=212-4
Scott Dunlap, \$22,560	68-69-75=212-4
Paul Goydos, \$22,560	69-72-71=212-4
Woody Austin, \$18,667	70-68-75=213-3
Ken Duke, \$18,667	69-72-72=213-3
Ken Tanigawa, \$18,667	70-70-73=213-3
Billy Andrade, \$16,400	69-70-75=214-2
Rocco Mediate, \$16,400	68-76-70=214-2
Stephen Ames, \$13,020	75-69-71=215-1
K.J. Choi, \$13,020	73-69-73=215-1
Ken Duke, \$13,020	70-73-72=215-1
Lee Janzen, \$13,020	72-67-76=215-1
Brandt Jobe, \$13,020	71-68-76=215-1
Rob Labritz, \$13,020	74-71-70=215-1
Tom Lehman, \$13,020	71-71-73=215-1



RYAN KANG/AP

Joaquin Niemann of Chile reacts with his trophy Sunday after winning the Genesis Invitational in Los Angeles.

BRIEFLY

Niemann scores win at Riviera

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Joaquin Niemann set or matched some form of a scoring record at Riviera every day of the Genesis Invitational until Sunday. All he got was the trophy handed to him from Tiger Woods after beating the best field in golf this year.

Niemann overcame a few anxious moments and closed with an even-par 71 to become the first wire-to-wire winner at the Genesis Invitational in 53 years, holding off British Open champion Collin Morikawa and PGA Tour rookie Cameron Young by two shots.

In other golf news:
■ A proposed Saudi-financed rival golf league took a massive hit Sunday when Dustin Johnson said he was “fully committed” to the PGA Tour, and Bryson DeChambeau indicated he would stay where the stars were playing.

Gonzaga is unanimous No. 1 in Top 25 poll

Gonzaga is the unanimous No. 1 in the latest Associated Press men's basketball poll. The Zags remained at No. 1 for the second straight week, receiving all 61 votes from a media panel in the poll released Monday. Arizona moved up a spot to No. 2 for its highest ranking in four years.

MLB lockout talks resume in Florida

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball's negotiations to salvage opening day resumed at a new venue Monday: Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, Fla.

Colorado Rockies CEO Dick Monfort, chairman of the owners' labor policy committee, was expected to join a management delegation that includes Deputy Commissioner Dan Haem, the clubs' lead negotiator. Bruce Meyer, the union's chief negotiator, was expected to be joined by players.

NHL

'Canes edge Pens, take division lead

Carolina never trails in 4-3 win over Pittsburgh

By WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

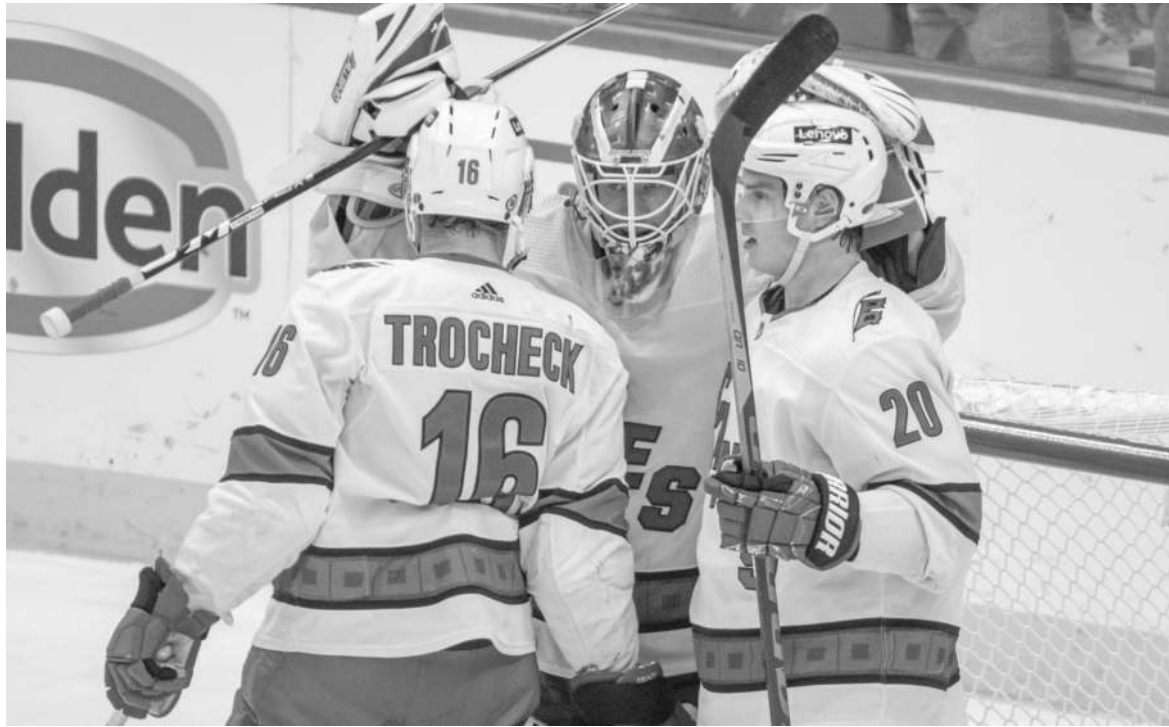
PITTSBURGH — The Carolina Panthers and Pittsburgh Penguins spent the first four months of the season shadowboxing each other for the top spot in perhaps the NHL's most competitive division.

Skating on the same sheet of ice for the first time in nearly two years, Carolina sent a very direct, very emphatic message: The Hurricanes are every bit as dangerous as the star-laden Penguins. And they have the firepower to prove it.

Jesper Fast scored 9 seconds into the third period to break a tie, Sebastian Aho followed with his 22nd goal of the season and Carolina edged Pittsburgh 4-3 on Sunday to move into first place in the Metropolitan Division.

"I see some battles (ahead)," said Hurricanes center and former Penguin Jordan Staal, who scored his fourth goal of the season 9 seconds into the second period on a bit of a fluky bounce. "We play a fair amount against each other the next few weeks, in the division. It's a lot of fun. Two good teams going at it."

Jesper Kotkaniemi also scored for Carolina, which never trailed in the first meeting of the season



FRED VUICH/AP

Carolina Hurricanes Vincent Trocheck (16), goalie Antti Raanta and Sebastian Aho (20) celebrate their 4-3 victory Sunday over the Pittsburgh Penguins in Pittsburgh.

between the teams that entered the day tied atop perhaps the league's most competitive division. Antti Raanta made 31 saves to pick up his 100th career victory.

Evan Rodrigues scored his first goal since Jan. 6 to get the Penguins within one with 1:12 remaining, but the Hurricanes held on.

Bryan Rust scored his eighth goal in his past eight games and Sidney Crosby added the 501st

goal of his career. Tristan Jarry finished with 26 stops for Pittsburgh and played well despite a series of breakdowns in front of him early on that allowed Carolina to control play for significant stretches.

"We gave them too many chances," Rust said. "We obviously didn't have the greatest start and I think we got on our heels a little bit and once we got down 2-0, we

countered from there. We were good for the last 60% of the game, but against a team like that, you can't spot them two."

The loss dropped the Penguins to 0-2 at the start of a challenging stretch that began with a listless loss to Toronto last Thursday and includes two more matchups with the Hurricanes as well as showdowns with Tampa Bay, Florida and the New York Rangers.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	50	35	10	5	75	208	145
Tampa Bay	49	32	11	6	70	169	139
Toronto	48	32	13	3	67	174	132
Boston	49	28	17	4	60	140	138
Detroit	51	23	22	6	52	147	176
Ottawa	49	18	26	5	41	130	156
Buffalo	51	16	27	8	40	138	182
Montreal	50	10	33	7	27	112	195

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	49	34	11	4	72	172	118
Pittsburgh	52	31	13	8	70	173	140
N.Y. Rangers	50	32	13	5	69	151	127
Washington	52	28	15	9	65	171	145
Columbus	49	25	23	1	51	163	180
N.Y. Islanders	45	18	20	7	43	111	126
Philadelphia	49	15	25	9	39	125	172
New Jersey	50	17	28	5	39	146	182

Western Conference

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	49	36	9	4	76	198	138
Minnesota	47	31	13	3	65	183	143
St. Louis	49	29	14	6	64	175	137
Nashville	50	28	18	4	60	153	143
Dallas	49	27	20	2	56	143	145
Winnipeg	49	22	19	8	52	144	147
Chicago	52	18	26	8	44	126	176
Arizona	50	13	33	4	30	114	186

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	48	29	13	6	64	166	113
Vegas	51	29	18	4	62	169	150
Edmonton	50	28	19	3	59	168	161
Los Angeles	50	26	17	7	59	147	141
Anaheim	52	24	19	9	57	156	158
Vancouver	51	23	22	6	52	135	146
San Jose	49	22	22	5	49	131	154
Seattle	51	16	31	4	36	133	180

Sunday's games

Carolina 4, Pittsburgh 3
Montreal 3, N.Y. Islanders 2, SO
Florida 5, Chicago 2
N.Y. Rangers 2, Ottawa 1
Columbus 7, Buffalo 3
Arizona 3, Dallas 1
Minnesota 7, Edmonton 3
Vegas 4, San Jose 1

Monday's games

Colorado at Boston
Carolina at Philadelphia
Winnipeg at Calgary
Toronto at Montreal
Seattle at Vancouver

Tuesday's games

Minnesota at Ottawa
Nashville at Florida
St. Louis at Philadelphia
Toronto at Columbus
N.Y. Islanders at Seattle
San Jose at Anaheim

Wednesday's games

Buffalo at Montreal
Colorado at Detroit
Edmonton at Tampa Bay
Winnipeg at Dallas
Los Angeles at Arizona

Thursday's games

Columbus at Florida
Minnesota at Toronto
New Jersey at Pittsburgh
Washington at N.Y. Rangers
Dallas at Nashville
Boston at Seattle
Calgary at Vancouver
N.Y. Islanders at San Jose

Scoring leaders

Through Monday			
	G	A	P
Connor McDavid, EDM	49	26	45 71
J. Huberdeau, FLA	50	17	53 70
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	50	35	35 70
J. Gaudreau, CGY	48	20	43 63
Nazem Kadri, COL	46	21	42 63
Kirill Kaprizov, MIN	46	23	39 62
Alex Ovechkin, WSH	50	31	31 62
Auston Matthews, TOR	45	33	26 59
Mikko Rantanen, COL	46	26	32 58
Matthew Tkachuk, CGY	48	24	32 56
Artemi Panarin, NYR	45	14	41 55
Steven Stamkos, TB	48	23	32 55
Kyle Connor, WPG	49	29	25 54
Joe Pavelski, DAL	49	21	32 53

ROUNDUP

Barkov leads Panthers to win over Blackhawks

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Aleksander Barkov had a goal and two assists and the surging Florida Panthers beat the Chicago Blackhawks on 5-2 on Sunday for their third straight win.

Aaron Ekblad, Brandon Montour, MacKenzie Weegar and Anton Lundell also scored as Eastern Conference-leading Florida won for the seventh time in eight games and finished a five-game road trip at 4-1-0.

The Panthers are 3-0 following the All-Star break and jelling when away from South Florida. They're an impressive 23-3-0 at home and have improved to 12-7-5 on the road.

According to Florida coach Andrew Brunette, there's no need for the high-scoring Panthers to be flashy all the time.

"I think we've managed the game pretty well on the road of late," Brunette said. "We have so much skill and we can play at a pretty high level some time, we can get a little carried away."

Canadiens 3, Islanders 2 (SO): Andrew Hammond made 30 saves and stopped two of three shootout attempts, leading Montreal to a win at New York.

It was Hammond's first regular-season start since March 28, 2018, and first NHL regular-season win since April 9, 2016, when he backstopped the Ottawa Senators to a 6-1 win against the Boston Bruins.

Rangers 2, Senators 1: Igor Shesterkin stopped 29 shots, Ryan Strome and Artemi Pa-



NAM Y. HUH/AP

Florida goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky, left, celebrates with defenseman Radko Gudas after their 5-2 win at Chicago on Sunday.

narin scored and New York won at Ottawa.

Tim Stutzle scored the lone goal for the Senators, who were playing the second half of a back-to-back and coming off a 3-2 overtime loss to Boston. Filip Gustavsson made 31 saves in his first NHL start since Dec. 7.

Blue Jackets 7, Sabres 3: Dean Kukan had

AUTO RACING

Scoreboard

Daytona 500

NASCAR Cup Series

Sunday

At Daytona International Speedway

Daytona Beach, Fla.

Lap length: 2.50 miles

(Start position in parentheses)

1. (5) Austin Cindric, Ford, 201 laps, 45 points.
2. (16) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 201, 43.
3. (9) Chase Briscoe, Ford, 201, 34.
4. (7) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 201, 33.
5. (38) Aric Almirola, Ford, 201, 32.
6. (10) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 201, 31.
7. (6) Michael McDowell, Ford, 201, 30.
8. (34) David Ragan, Ford, 201, 29.
9. (3) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 201, 44.
10. (11) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 201, 28.
11. (26) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 201, 26.
12. (33) Daniel Hemric, Chevrolet, 201, 0.
13. (14) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 201, 44.
14. (24) Corey Lajoie, Chevrolet, 201, 23.
15. (27) Landon Cassill, Chevrolet, 201, 0.
16. (4) Chris Buescher, Ford, 200, 25.
17. (32) Cody Ware, Ford, 200, 20.
18. (21) Daniel Suarez, Chevrolet, 199, 19.
19. (17) Kurt Busch, Toyota, 199, 22.
20. (31) Cole Custer, Ford, 199, 17.
21. (20) Joey Logano, Ford, 198, 31.
22. (40) Jacques Villeneuve, Ford, 198, 15.
23. (25) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 198, 14.
24. (2) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 197, 13.
25. (36) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 197, 17.
26. (35) Kaz Grala, Chevrolet, 196, 0.
27. (37) BJ McLeod, Ford, 196, 10.
28. (18) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, accident, 194, 22.
29. (13) Erik Jones, Chevrolet, accident, 191, 11.
30. (22) Kevin Harvick, Ford, dvp, 191, 10.
31. (39) Noah Gragson, Chevrolet, accident, 190, 0.
32. (1) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, accident, 190, 9.
33. (29) Todd Gilliland, Ford, accident, 190, 13.
34. (12) Christopher Bell, Toyota, accident, 152, 3.
35. (15) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet, accident, 151, 2.
36. (28) Greg Biffle, Chevrolet, 136, 0.
37. (30) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, accident, 63, 1.
38. (23) William Byron, Chevrolet, accident, 62, 1.
39. (8) Harrison Burton, Ford, accident, 62, 1.
40. (19) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, accident, 62, 1.

Race Statistics

Average Speed of Race Winner: 142.302 mph.

Time of Race: 3 hours, 31 minutes, 53 seconds.

Margin of Victory: .036 seconds.

Caution Flags: 7 for 37 laps.

Lead Changes: 35 among 13 drivers.

Lap Leaders: K.Larson 0; B.Keselowski 1-6; Ky.Busch 7; B.Keselowski 8-26; Ky.Busch 27-31; B.Keselowski 32; Ky.Busch 33-37; R.Stenhouse 38; H.Burton 39; J.Logano 40; Ky.Busch 41-57; W.Byron 58; H.Burton 59-60; M.Truex 61-67; A.Dillon 68; E.Jones 69-71; R.Blaney 72-107; M.Truex 108; B.Wallace 109; B.Keselowski 110-124; K.Larson 125; B.Keselowski 126-129; M.Truex 130-132; B.Wallace 133; B.Keselowski 134-155; B.Wallace 156; A.Cindric 157-162; B.Wallace 163-166; A.Cindric 167-168; B.Wallace 169-170; A.Cindric 171-175; B.Wallace 176-177; R.Stenhouse 178; B.Wallace 179; R.Stenhouse 180-193; A.Cindric 194-201.

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led): B.Keselowski, 6 times for 67 laps; R.Blaney, 1 time for 36 laps; Ky.Busch, 4 times for 28 laps; A.Cindric, 4 times for 21 laps; R.Stenhouse, 3 times for 16 laps; B.Wallace, 7 times for 12 laps; M.Truex, 3 times for 11 laps; E.Jones, 1 time for 3 laps; H.Burton, 2 times for 3 laps; J.Logano, 1 time for 1 lap; A.Dillon, 1 time for 1 lap; K.Larson, 1 time for 1 lap; W.Byron, 1 time for 1 lap.

Wins: A.Cindric, 1.
Top 16 in Points: 1. A.Cindric, 54; 2. B.Keselowski, 54; 3. M.Truex, 49; 4. B.Wallace, 47; 5. C.Briscoe, 41; 6. R.Blaney, 41; 7. M.McDowell, 39; 8. Ky.Busch, 38; 9. C.Buescher, 35; 10. C.Elliott, 34; 11. J.Logano, 33; 12. A.Almirola, 32; 13. D.Ragan, 29; 14. T.Dillon, 26; 15. R.Stenhouse, 25; 16. K.Busch, 24.

NASCAR Driver Rating Formula

A maximum of 150 points can be attained in a race.

The formula combines the following categories: Wins, Finishes, Top-15 Finishes, Average Running Position While on Lead Lap, Average Speed Under Green, Fastest Lap, Led Most Laps, Lead-Lap Finish.



PHELAN M. EBENHACK/AP

Austin Cindric, left, celebrates with one of his crew members.

Wallace runner-up at Daytona again

BY DAN GELSTON

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Bubba Wallace tried to explain how he lost the Daytona 500 by inches when the replay flashed on the 40-foot screen overlooking the track.

Wallace winced when he watched himself fall just short of Austin Cindric.

“I don’t want to see that,” Wallace said. “That sucks! Gah!”

Wallace had to relive his second career Daytona 500 runner-up finish moments after the most agonizing near-miss of his NASCAR career. Wallace, who led laps Sunday for the second straight Daytona 500, had the checkered flag in sight. The 23XI Racing driver charged to the finish and hugged the yellow line. Cindric had enough to nip Wallace by 0.036 seconds.

“I could smell it,” Wallace said of a win.

Wallace, who finished second behind Austin Dillon in 2018, had tears in his eyes outside the No. 23 Toyota as his fiancée came up for a hug. He sipped from a water bottle and stared at the screen as Cindric was interviewed and fireworks shot off around him.

“I’ll probably go punch a pillow or hug my dog when I get back to bus,” he said.

Wallace could only think of how agonizingly close he was to etching his name in history.

“This could hurt or victory could be sweet,” he said. “I think I’d rather get wrecked out than finish second.”

Wallace pulled himself together and con-



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Bubba Wallace rides around the track in front of fans before the Daytona 500 on Sunday.

gratulated Cindric in victory lane.

“I know there’s a lot of people that want this really bad and he’s definitely one of them,” Cindric said. “He’s worked hard for it and puts himself in position in a lot of these races.”

Wallace already had the highest finish for a Black driver in the Daytona 500 and last year he became the first one to lead laps in the race. He led seven times for 12 laps on Sunday --

surely enough to impress team owners Michael Jordan and Denny Hamlin.

Just not enough to win a Cup race for the second time in his career.

“I had a lot of confidence those last 10 laps,” he said. “I thought we had it in the bag. Even though we were like sixth, fifth, whatever, I was like, this is our night. Maybe I jumped the gun.”

Penske: Cindric delivers win on team owner’s 85th birthday

FROM PAGE 24

Cindric threw a huge block that forced Blaney into the outside wall.

Bubba Wallace then surged even with Cindric in the bottom lane, forcing Cindric to forget about Blaney behind him and focus on beating Wallace to the finish line.

“Oh, my God. I’ve got so many people to thank,” a stunned Cindric said after climbing from his car and saluting the capacity crowd of some 120,000 spectators. “First and foremost Roger Penske, happy birthday!”

Then Cindric remembered Blaney, who gave him a winning push but finished fourth.

“Appreciate Ryan being a great teammate,” Cindric said. “Obviously, he wants to win this one.”

Blaney was clear on the Penske expectations — “I wanted to try to win the race for Roger Penske. Whether that was me or another car, that’s what I was doing,” — and didn’t have much to say after the race about Cindric’s block.

“I don’t know. Congrats to him, I guess,” Blaney said. “You’ve got to throw a block in that situation.”

It was the first career Cup victory for the 23-year-old Cindric, who was promoted from the Xfinity Series to replace Keselowski and run for NASCAR’s rookie of the year honors.

The win was the third Daytona 500 victory for Penske, who also picked up the trophy in 2008 with



CHUCK MCQUINN/AP

Harrison Burton, right, flips as he wrecks on the backstretch as Christopher Bell, left, and Ross Chastain try but are unable to avoid the crash during the Daytona 500 on Sunday in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Ryan Newman and 2015 with Logano. Ford Motor Co. has won the Daytona 500 17 times, including two in a row.

Wallace finished second for the second time in his career in the Daytona 500.

“What could have been, right?” Wallace said. “Just dejected.”

A trio of Ford drivers rounded out the top five with Chase Briscoe third, followed by Blaney and Aric Almirola.

Kyle Busch was sixth to join Wallace as the only Toyota drivers

in the top 10. Michael McDowell was seventh, followed by David Ragan and Keselowski, and finally Chase Elliott in the only Chevrolet to finish inside the top 10.

Cindric, meanwhile, gave his family another one of the crown jewel trophies in motorsports. He’s the son of Tim Cindric, the president of Penske’s racing organization, and the maternal grandson of the late Jim Trueman, who fielded Bobby Rahal’s winning car in the 1986 Indianapolis 500. Trueman died of cancer 10 days after

the win at age 51.

Tim Cindric watched the finish from a suite high above the speedway alongside Penske and other team executives.

Penske said his longtime executive finally showed some emotion during overtime.

“I always kid him, I say, ‘You’ve got to be a little more excited.’ Well, he was excited today, really,” Penske said. “He even got out of his cool, calm way. I think he said, ‘I’m going to really celebrate; my boy won the Daytona 500.’”

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Michigan's Howard hits Wisconsin assistant

Incident leads to scuffle between teams following No. 15 Badgers' victory

BY STEVE MEGARGEE
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Angry about Wisconsin calling a late timeout, Michigan coach Juwan Howard began arguing in the postgame handshake line.

Moments later, he hit a Badgers assistant in the head, and mayhem followed.

The Wolverines' inability to boost their NCAA Tournament credentials was the least of their concerns after a 77-63 loss Sunday at No. 15 Wisconsin. Their head coach could be facing major discipline after his poke turned a pushing-and-shoving scum into a punched brawl.

Howard struck Badgers assistant Joe Krabbenhoft after jawing with Wisconsin coach Greg Gard during the handshake line. The Big Ten said it planned to "take swift and appropriate disciplinary action when it completes its review."

During his postgame news conference, Howard said he didn't like the Badgers calling for a timeout with 15 seconds left and leading by 15.

"I thought it was not necessary at the moment, especially being a large lead," Howard said.

Gard said he called the timeout because his reserves were in the game and only had four seconds to get the ball past midcourt. A timeout gives them 10 seconds.

"I was not going to put them in position, where the ball had already gotten knocked out of bounds, to have to break a press in four seconds," Gard said.

After the game, Howard pointed a finger at Gard while complaining about the late move. Later on, Howard reached through a crowd to get to Krabbenhoft — replays showed Howard had his hand open as he struck Krabbenhoft on the left side of the head.

Players from each side got involved in the skirmish, and video appeared to show Michigan's Moussa Diabate and Wisconsin's Jahcobi Neath throwing punches.

Howard said he reacted after someone from the Badgers put hands on him. He said that "at that point, I felt it was time to protect myself."

Video showed Gard had his hands touching Howard's arm or wrist area while trying to explain why he called the timeout.

"Someone touched me, and I think it was very uncalled for, for them to touch me, as we were verbalizing and communicating with one another," Howard said. "That's what escalated it."

Wisconsin athletic director Chris McIntosh said he already had contacted Big Ten Commissioner Kevin Warren about the situation, adding that the Badgers had staff members who were "affected and injured."



AMBER ARNOLD/AP

Michigan head coach Juwan Howard could be facing discipline after he struck Wisconsin assistant Joe Krabbenhoft.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

No. 5 Purdue ends Rutgers' run against ranked teams

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — For Purdue coach Matt Painter, Jaden Ivey's ability to break down the defense was the difference.

Ivey scored 25 points, Zach Edey added 15 points and the No. 5 Boilermakers beat Rutgers 84-72 on Sunday, ending the Scarlet Knights' recent run of success against ranked teams.

Rutgers had won its last four games, all against teams in the Top 25. The Scarlet Knights also beat Purdue in December.

The Boilermakers stopped the string as Ivey did much of his scoring at the line, hitting 15 of 18 free throws. Trevion Williams and Sasha Stefanovic each scored 11 points and Mason Gillis 10 points for Purdue (24-4, 13-4 Big Ten).

Zach Edey and Trevion Williams were a combined 10-of-14 from the field with Edey making 5 of 6 shots.

"I think teams know if they play us 1-on-1, there is high chance we're going to score," Williams said. "It's all about making the other team make a decision. You are either going to play us 1-on-1 or you are going to sink in and we'll dish it out to our shooters. It's been working for us to go inside out."

Paul Mulcahy scored 15, Clifford Omoruyi added 14, Ron Harper Jr. had 12 points and Geo Baker 11 points for Rutgers (16-10, 10-6).

"We were trying to push the lead," Ivey said. "We didn't want it to get close at all. We just played great team basketball today. We made plays down the stretch. They were pressing us the whole game. I felt we were patient and we took what they gave us."

Painter said balance was key.



DOUG MCSCHOOLER/AP

Purdue guard Jaden Ivey (23) swings from the rim after a dunk Sunday in a 84-72 win over Rutgers in West Lafayette, Ind. Ivey led the Boilermakers with 25 points.

"We had the balance of driving the basketball and make enough threes," Painter said. "We had some open ones you like to see go down. We just kept trying to execute. We outrebounded them and had fewer turnovers than them at their place and still lost. Tonight we had outrebounded them and fewer turnovers and won. If you do that you have a chance and it helps

when you can make some shots. We made enough tonight."

The Boilermakers closed the first half with a 9-1 run to take a 45-36 lead, then opened the second half by scoring the first 11 points. Purdue held the Scarlet Knights scoreless for nearly five minutes in pushing the lead to 56-36.

For the game, the Boilermakers shot 53% while Rutgers shot 51%.

The big difference was Purdue had a 19-4 edge in points off turnovers. The Boilermakers also made 24 of 29 free throws to the Scarlet Knights' 13 of 17.

No. 8 Providence 71, Butler 70 (OT): Jared Bynum made two free throws with 38 seconds left in overtime, capping the visiting Friars' rally from a 19-point deficit against the Bulldogs.

Down 43-24 early in the second half and still trailing by seven points with 2½ minutes left in regulation, Providence (22-4, 12-2 Big East) pulled off the comeback.

Nate Watson scored 22 points and Noah Horchler had 15 points and 11 rebounds to help keep the Friars atop the conference standings.

Chuck Harris had 17 points and Aaron Thompson added 16 for Butler (13-15, 6-11), which has lost three in a row.

No. 14 Houston 76, Wichita State 74 (2OT): J'wan Roberts' dunk with 1.3 seconds remaining in double overtime lifted the visiting Cougars.

It was Roberts' only basket of the game and followed the Shockers' Craig Porter hitting a tying three-pointer with 5.4 seconds remaining in the second overtime.

Josh Carlton scored 11 of his 23 points in the two overtimes, finishing 9 of 14 from the floor for Houston (22-4, 11-2 American Athletic Conference).

Porter and Ricky Council each scored 17 for Wichita State (13-10, 4-7).

No. 17 Southern California 62, Washington State 60: Boogie Ellis hit a 16-foot jumper from the foul line with 0.2 seconds left to lift the host Trojans over the Cougars.

Washington State had a 60-57

advantage before USC scored the final five points. Max Agbonkpolo hit a three-pointer to tie it with 2:15 remaining.

Ellis scored 21 points, with six coming in the final five minutes. Drew Peterson added 17 points for the Trojans (23-4, 12-4 Pac-12). They have won four straight and are off to their best start since 1974.

Tyrell Roberts had 16 points for the Cougars (14-12, 7-8). Noah Williams added 14.

Creighton 82, Marquette 82: Ryan Kalkbrenner scored 21 points and Ryan Hawkins made a layup with 1:55 left to help lift the host Bluejays past the Golden Eagles.

Hawkins' layup capped a 7-1 run for Creighton. Neither team scored again until the final eight seconds.

The Bluejays' Ryan Nembhard missed a three-pointer with 17 seconds to go and Creighton turned over the ball when the shot clock expired. Rati Andronikashvili got the ball back with a steal with eight seconds to go and the Bluejays finished it off with 3 of 4 free throws.

SMU 73, Memphis 57: Kendrick Davis scored 27 points, Marcus Weathers added 20 points and seven rebounds, and the Mustangs won their 13th straight home game.

Franklin Agunanne had seven rebounds for SMU (19-6, 10-3 American Athletic Conference). Michael Weathers added six points, 10 rebounds and four blocks.

Lester Quinones had 13 points for the Tigers (15-9, 9-5), whose six-game winning streak was snapped. Landers Nolley II added 12 points. Jalen Duren had 11 points and four blocks.

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	35	23	.603	—
Boston	34	26	.567	2
Toronto	32	25	.561	2½
Brooklyn	31	28	.525	4½
New York	25	34	.424	10½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	38	21	.644	—
Atlanta	28	30	.483	9½
Charlotte	29	31	.483	9½
Washington	27	31	.466	10½
Orlando	13	47	.217	25½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	38	21	.644	—
Cleveland	35	23	.603	2½
Milwaukee	36	24	.600	2½
Indiana	20	40	.333	18½
Detroit	13	45	.224	24½
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	41	19	.683	—
Dallas	35	24	.593	5½
San Antonio	23	36	.390	17½
New Orleans	23	36	.390	17½
Houston	15	43	.259	25
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	36	22	.621	—
Denver	33	25	.569	3
Minnesota	31	28	.525	5½
Portland	25	34	.424	11½
Oklahoma City	18	40	.310	18
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	48	10	.828	—
Golden State	42	17	.712	6½
L.A. Clippers	30	31	.492	19½
L.A. Lakers	27	31	.466	21
Sacramento	22	38	.367	27

Sunday's game					
2022 All-Star Game					
Team LeBron	163, Team Durant 160				
Monday's games					
No games scheduled.					
Tuesday's games					
No games scheduled.					
Leaders					
Through Sunday					
Scoring					
G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG	
Embiid, PHI	46	439	421	1361	29.6
Anttknmp, MIL	49	496	393	1443	29.4
James, LAL	41	453	172	1192	29.1
DeRozan, CHI	55	566	381	1547	28.1
Young, ATL	53	495	327	1475	27.8
Doncic, DAL	44	428	234	1212	27.5
Morant, MEM	46	460	244	1233	26.8
Jokic, DEN	52	516	236	1352	26.0
Curry, GS	54	452	238	1393	25.8
Tatum, BOS	56	500	285	1439	25.7
Mitchell, UTA	46	426	179	1184	25.7
FG Percentage					
	FG	FGA	PCT		
Gobert, UTA	246	346	.711		
Allen, CLE	329	494	.666		
McGee, PHO	222	338	.657		
Harrell, WAS	275	426	.646		
Ayton, PHO	266	420	.633		
Rebounds					
	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Gobert, UTA	44	155	496	651	14.8
Jokic, DEN	52	148	570	718	13.8
Capela, ATL	50	186	417	603	12.1
Sabonis, IND	51	167	446	613	12.0
Vucevic, CHI	52	106	503	609	11.7
Assists					
	G	AST	AVG		
Paul, PHO	58	619	10.7		
Harden, PHI	44	447	10.2		
Young, ATL	53	493	9.3		
Murray, SA	52	486	9.3		
Doncic, DAL	44	395	9.0		



PHOTOS BY CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Above: Warriors guard Stephen Curry shoots for three as Grizzlies' guard Ja Morant defends. Curry had a record 16 three-pointers and scored 50 points to help Team LeBron win 163-160 over Team Durant on Sunday in the NBA All-Star Game in Cleveland. Below: James had 24 points, including a winning jumper.

Curry sets threes record, Team LeBron runs to 5-0

Curry, James born in same hospital, star in Team LeBron's 163-160 All-Star win

BY BRIAN MAHONEY
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Stephen Curry got another three-point record. LeBron James got another All-Star win.

Not a bad night in Ohio for the two All-Stars from Akron.

"It's right on the nose of how it should go," Curry said.

Curry turned boos to oohs and aahs with the greatest long-distance shooting performance in All-Star Game history, then James made a turnaround jumper that gave Team LeBron a 163-160 victory over Team Durant on Sunday night.

Curry made 16 three-pointers and scored 50 points, two off Anthony Davis' record. He was clearly hunting it, asking on the sideline during a sizzling third quarter how many points it would take.

On a night both players were among the greats of the game who were honored during a halftime ceremony celebrating the NBA's 75th anniversary team, Curry and James showed why they continue to stand out among today's best.

Curry, who earlier this season became the NBA's career leader in three-pointers, missed his final attempt beyond the arc that would have allowed him to surpass Davis. But with James' team needing a basket to reach the target score of 163 points, they couldn't afford to keep feeding Curry.

So James pulled up from deep on the right side for the winning

bucket, making him 5-0 in the format where the leading vote-getters in each conference draft teams.

The All-Star Game's return to Cleveland was expected to be James' night. He is the Cavaliers franchise's greatest player, having led them to their only NBA championship in 2016.

Instead, he fittingly co-starred with Curry, who was born in the same Akron hospital three years later.

"Obviously I got the MVP; I played well the whole night. He hit the game-winner," Curry said. "All the history of our series and the Akron ties, and all that kind of going into how the night went, so it was pretty — can't really draw it up any other way."

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 30 points, increasing what was a 28.8 average that was already best in All-Star Game history. James finished with 24 in his old home. Joel Embiid led Team Durant with 36 points.

Curry finished 16 of 27 beyond the arc — sometimes well, well behind it. He launched a few from the All-Star 2022 logo near mid-court, running backward without even waiting to watch one go in.

The three-point arc is slightly more than 23 feet away. Curry made shots listed from 37, 33 and 34 feet during one stretch of the third quarter.

"This guy is from a different planet. He literally has an auto-



matic sniper connected to his arm, and when he lets it go, not only himself, but everybody on the floor, in the stands, on TV, on their phones, whatever you are watching on, you think it's going in every time," James said.

Curry had been booed all weekend, smiling through the sounds during pregame introductions as Cleveland fans made clear they hadn't forgiven him for helping Golden State beat the Cavaliers three times in the NBA Finals from 2015-18.

But the fans were enjoying his show too much to keep going as the game went on, though the boos returned when he was presented the MVP award that in 2020 was renamed in honor of Kobe Bryant, who won a record-tying four of them.

NBA honors past, present with tribute to 75 years

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — One by one the names of the NBA's greatest players were called, bridging basketball's past and present.

And as each walked onto the floor, LeBron James found himself in further disbelief.

The posters on his bedroom wall as a kid came to life.

"Allen Iverson and Jason Kidd, Gary Payton, Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Oscar Robertson," James said, still trying to grasp the experience. "To see those guys today and then be on stage with those guys — it's just crazy."

On Sunday night, the league celebrated its diamond anniversary with a sparkling tribute to honor 75 years on the hardwood floor.

During a moving halftime tribute at Sunday's All-Star Game, 45 members of the 75th Anniversary Team — including Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and James — stood elbow to elbow on a giant circular stage in the middle of Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse.

This was a chance for the game's greatest to take a bow and be saluted for cutting the path for today's players.

For James, who made a fadeaway jumper — the kind Jordan made famous — to send Team LeBron to a 163-160 win over Team Durant, the chance to be around players he idolized, was overwhelming.

"Every time they would announce another name, I didn't even get an opportunity to like rejoice in the player that they had named," he said. "I was just tripped out."

Each wearing blue blazers with a 75th logo on their chests, the best of the NBA's best were introduced to huge ovations, with the loudest cheers going to Jordan.



RON SCHWANE/AP

Former NBA greats Dennis Rodman, left, and Michael Jordan greet each other during the introduction of 75 of the league's greatest players.

SPORTS



Shooting for the stars

Curry's 16 threes set All-Star record in Team LeBron win » **NBA, Page 23**

AUTO RACING



DAVID GRAHAM/AP

Austin Cindric (2) beats Bubba Wallace (23) to the checkered flag to win the NASCAR Daytona 500 on Sunday at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Teamwork rules at Daytona 500

Cindric wins NASCAR's season-opening showcase with assist from fellow Penske driver Blaney

BY JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

Roger Penske had one rule at the Daytona 500 for his drivers: Do Not Wreck Each Other. His orders were followed Sunday night when Austin Cindric worked with teammate Ryan Blaney over the closing laps to win the Daytona 500 as a celebration of Penske's 85th birthday.

It was just one year ago that Penske drivers Cindric, Joey Logano and Brad Keselowski all crashed while racing for the win on the final lap at Daytona International Speedway. It took time for tempers to thaw as Penske made his expectations clear to his drivers.

"We had talked for weeks after last year, when we were one-two and ended up in the fence," Penske said. "I said,

'Look, the best man wins at the end. I think we've got to work together.'

"They played ball, and Austin won."

Cindric was the leader at the start of the two-lap overtime shootout with Blaney beside him. He was driving the No. 2 Ford, the flagship car at Team Penske that was vacated at the end of last season when Keselowski left the organization, and now Keselowski was behind him, determined not to get beaten by his replacement.

But Cindric switched lanes as soon as he'd cleared Blaney to drop in front of his teammate so the duo could hook together for two final trips around the track. Blaney made one desperate attempt up high to get around Cindric, but

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JOHN RAOUX/AP

Austin Cindric celebrates in Victory Lane on Sunday.

INSIDE

Wallace crushed in second runner-up finish in Daytona 500 **Page 21**

Michigan coach Howard involved in scuffle » Page 22

