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STARS AND STRIPES

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NARIMAN EL-MOFTY/AP

Tamara Markova, 82, sits with her son Mykola Riaskov in their home in Malotaranivka village, in Kramatorsk, eastern Ukraine, on July 18. Markova and Riaskov said they spent five days as evacuees in the city of Dnipro this month before deciding to take their chances back home.

'The money is gone'

Tens of thousands of evacuated Ukrainians forced to return to homes near front lines

By CARA ANNA
Associated Press

POKROVSK, Ukraine — The missile's impact flung the young woman against the fence so hard it splintered. Her mother found her dying on the bench beneath the pear tree where she'd enjoyed the afternoon. By the time her father arrived, she was gone. Anna Protsenko was killed two

days after returning home. The 35-year-old had done what authorities wanted: She evacuated eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region as Russian forces moved closer. But starting a new life elsewhere had been uncomfortable and expensive.

Like Protsenko, tens of thousands of people have returned to rural or industrial communities

RELATED

Russian airstrikes target Black Sea regions of Ukraine
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close to the region's front line at considerable risk because they

can't afford to live in safer places.

Protsenko had tried it for two months, then came home to take a job in the small city of Pokrovsk. On Monday, friends and family caressed her face and wept before her casket was hammered shut beside her grave.

"We cannot win. They don't hire

SEE RETURN ON PAGE 7

Study eyes injury rates of sexes in the military

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

The reason U.S. servicewomen seem to be injured more than their male counterparts may be lower fitness levels at the start of basic training combined with less reluctance to report their injuries and seek care, according to a new study.

The study found that women were more than twice as likely as men to be at risk of injury during basic training and 1.7 times as likely during officer training. But after initial training, women's injury risk dropped to 1.23 times as likely as men's.

Those findings, derived from an analysis of 25 studies on military injury, were published Monday in the journal BMC Women's Health.

Women tended to improve their fitness during basic training more than men and reported their injuries sooner and more frequently, the analysis found.

After adjusting for differences between the sexes in average fit-

SEE STUDY ON PAGE 3



PATRICK ALBRIGHT/U.S. Army

Pvt. Gorgeous Wilson completes an obstacle conditioning course at Fort Benning, Ga., in August.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

German strike forces Lufthansa to cancel flights

Associated Press

BERLIN — Lufthansa said it will have to cancel almost all flights at its main Frankfurt and Munich hubs on Wednesday because of a strike by its German ground staff, affecting tens of thousands of passengers in the latest travel turmoil to hit Europe.

The airline said Tuesday that the strike will force the cancellation of 678 flights at Frankfurt, 32 of them Tuesday and the rest Wednesday. It is also canceling 345 flights at Munich, including

15 on Tuesday.

Lufthansa said 92,000 passengers will be affected by the Frankfurt cancellations and 42,000 by the Munich disruption. It said those affected will be contacted Tuesday and rebooked on alternative flights where possible, but warned that “the capacities available for this are very limited.”

The company said the strike may still lead to “individual flight cancellations or delays” Thursday and Friday.

The ver.di service workers’ union announced the one-day strike Monday as it seeks to raise pressure on Lufthansa in negotiations on pay for about 20,000 employees of logistical, technical and cargo subsidiaries of the airline.

The walkout comes at a time when airports in Germany and across Europe are already seeing disruption and long lines for security checks because of staff shortages and soaring travel demand.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		South Korea (Won)	
Euro costs (July 27)	\$0.99	Switzerland (Franc)	0.9634
Dollar buys (July 27)	0.9605	Thailand (Baht)	36.69
British pound (July 27)	\$1.17	Turkey (New Lira)	17.8476
Japanese yen (July 27)	133.00		
South Korean won (July 27)	1,277.00		
Commercial rates		INTEREST RATES	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	Prime rate	4.75
Britain (Pound)	1.2017	Interest Rates Discount rate	2.25
Canada (Dollar)	1.2875	Federal funds market rate	0.08
China (Yuan)	6.7616	3-month bill	2.60
Denmark (Krone)	7.3361	30-year bond	3.04
Egypt (Pound)	18.9315		
Euro	0.9853		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8493		
Hungary (Forint)	394.09		
Israel (Shekel)	3.4456		
Japan (Yen)	136.39		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3073		
Norway (Krone)	9.8584		
Philippines (Peso)	55.42		
Poland (Zloty)	4.67		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7578		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3888		

(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.)

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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MILITARY

Townsend: Africa security needs new approach

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The United States needs a revised approach to security in western Africa as militant groups make inroads and Russian-backed mercenaries proliferate, U.S. Africa Command's Gen. Stephen Townsend said Tuesday.

Townsend, who has commanded military efforts in Africa from his Stuttgart headquarters for the past three years, said the tumult stretches from Mali to Nigeria and the broader Sahel. As a result, countries are examining their paths forward in the region.

"The United States is also recalibrating our approach and striving to find a way to be more effective in the future," said Townsend, who is slated to retire in the coming weeks after a 40-year military career.

In Africa, numerous Islamic militant groups are operating and the allegiances between them are often shifting.

A few years ago, the Nigeria-based terrorist group Boko Haram was regarded as perhaps the most lethal in all of Africa but now is "hanging on," Townsend said. Meanwhile, ISIS West Africa appears to have become the dominant force in the region, he said.

Violence is accelerating faster



ANDREA RUMPLE/U.S. Navy

U.S. Army Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, commander of U.S. Africa Command, speaks to Djiboutian navy commander Col. Ahmed Daher Djama, left, and others during a visit to Djibouti in November 2019.

in the Sahel than in any other African region, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies said in a report issued Tuesday.

Violence in Burkina Faso, Mali and western Niger surged by 140% since 2020, with militant Islamist groups in the Sahel accounting for 60% of violence

against civilians in all of Africa.

Meanwhile, Russia's mercenary Wagner Group has increased its numbers in Mali, Townsend said. The organization, which is propping up Mali's transitional government, has also brought sophisticated Russian air defenses into the country.

Unlike the case in Libya, where some Wagner personnel have been relocated to Ukraine to support Russia's war there, the group appears to be doubling down in Mali, Townsend said.

The main motivation for the Wagner Group in Africa is to prop up governments and give Russia a

foothold into the continent's vast natural resources, Townsend said.

While Wagner is advertised as a military contractor organization, Townsend said that in practice it is a mercenary group that functions as "an arm of the Kremlin."

"They are doing President (Vladimir) Putin's bidding," he said.

On the other side of the continent, AFRICOM is in the initial stages of getting U.S. troops back on the ground in Somalia, Townsend said.

At the tail end of former President Donald Trump's administration, all 700 American troops were pulled from the volatile east African country.

But in the absence of a steady American presence, al-Qaida-aligned militants gained ground, U.S. military officials have said. President Joe Biden in May authorized the return of an unspecified number of forces to Somalia.

Townsend said the numbers will be small but the mission will be the same as before: train, advise and equip Somalia's military in its fight against the al-Shabab militant group.

"Our mission in Somalia has not changed," he said.

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Study: Fitness levels, reporting likely factors in women's higher injury count

FROM PAGE 1

ness levels based on their times in the 2-mile run, there was no longer a significant difference in injury rates during basic training, the study found.

The 25 studies examined how differences between men and women may contribute to injury variability among military personnel.

For example, the fact that wom-

en are shorter on average makes them susceptible to overstriding while marching in formation when the pace is set by men, researchers said.

Other researchers suggested that bone differences "predispose female personnel to a higher incidence of injury, particularly those classified as overuse injuries," they said.

Differences in which body parts

are injured have been observed, with foot injuries more common for women during marches and ankle injuries more common among men, according to the analysis.

Researchers also found that the manner in which injuries were reported made a statistical difference.

Self-reports significantly underestimate injury rates when

compared with those coming from medical care, the analysis noted. Female personnel are more likely to seek medical assistance.

One study of Marine Corps recruits showed no difference in injury rates between sexes when both reported and nonreported injuries were pooled, the analysis said.

Given that the difference in injury rates declined as military ca-

reers progressed and female personnel are more prone to report injuries, the variability in injury rate is "unlikely to be due to biological sex ... but rather to average sex-based differences in fitness levels, reporting behaviors and possibly other factors," the analysis concluded.

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Ethics claim latest hitch in case of 2000 Navy ship bombing

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two decades after his arrest, the suspected organizer of a deadly 2000 al-Qaida attack on a U.S. Navy warship faced the possibility of further delays of his Guantanamo trial after his defense lawyer on Monday pressed to be allowed to leave the case over an alleged conflict of interest.

Guantanamo detainee Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri faces a possible death penalty in the killing of 17 U.S. sailors, who died when an explosives-laden skiff blew up alongside the USS Cole off Yemen.

Proceedings before the military commission have been mired in



Nashiri

of his trial and detention. Captured in 2002, Nashiri underwent waterboarding, beatings and confinement in a crate in years of CIA custody at clandestine detention facilities.

Questions over the handling of Nashiri's case, like those of five fellow Guantanamo Bay detainees accused of planning and aiding al-Qaida's 9/11 attacks on the United

States, have led to a military court still wading through pretrial hearings, constitutional debates and other problems.

There is increasing talk of plea bargains to end all the cases, but it remains unclear where defendants would serve out any sentences.

On Monday, Nashiri's top military lawyer, Navy Capt. Brian Mizer, pressed Judge Col. Lanny Acosta Jr. to allow Mizer to withdraw as Nashiri's attorney, alleging he had a conflict of interest that should bar him from serving on Nashiri's team.

The alleged conflict concerns Mizer's past defense work for a former Guantanamo detainee, Sa-

lim Hamdan, an alleged driver for Osama bin Laden. Prosecutors of Nashiri propose to introduce a statement from Hamdan, who is now in Yemen after serving his sentence. It's expected to allege that Hamdan heard Nashiri talking about arranging the attack on the Cole.

Mizer also had information regarding Hamdan's case that Nashiri's defense team should have, but that he could never ethically disclose given his attorney-client confidentiality with Hamdan, Mizer told the judge.

"Red lines have been tripped," said Mizer, who was appointed by the military to defend Nashiri. "I have gone as far as I can ethically

go ... to assist this defense team."

Acosta, the judge, grilled Mizer on why he was pressing to withdraw only after years on Nashiri's defense in the now 22-year-old attack.

"Raising of this issue now — it's questionable why it's raised now," Mizer said, waving an index finger sternly at one point.

Nashiri, in court in Guantanamo in a shirt and gray jacket, spoke up, with the judge's permission.

"Based on my understanding there is a conflict with Mr. Mizer. At the same time, I need him. I do not know how this is resolved," Nashiri said, spreading his hands wide in the air.

MILITARY

F-35 contract said to be worth \$30B

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg

Lockheed Martin's next mega-contract for several hundred F-35 jets will be worth about \$30 billion, according to a defense official familiar with the negotiations, but the total number of fighters purchased has been affected by inflation and COVID-related delays.

The exact number of stealthy, next generation fighters included in the deal will be provided once the contract is awarded — a move that could come this summer or early fall — though a lot of work remains to get to that point, said the official, who asked not to be identified pending completion of the contracting process.

The Pentagon last week announced that it reached a preliminary agreement with Lockheed Martin on what is now a planned 375 aircraft for the 15th through 17th production contracts.

That's a drop from a potential 485 listed in February 2019, before negotiations began, and 404 in April 2019, according to a decision memo from acting acquisition chief Stacy Cummings.

Lockheed Martin spokeswoman Laura Siebert said in an email that "quantities for each contract are determined by our customers to meet their mission planning needs and budget requirements."

The then-F-35 government



CHRISTOPHER PIKE/Bloomberg

The Government Accountability Office earlier this year said that F-35 fighter jet readiness rates for the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps have improved since 2019 but still fall short of program goals.

program manager, Lt. Gen. Eric Fick, told reporters in March that the per-jet cost of the next batch would rise.

"I think it's likely that we'll see costs rise, on a tail-by-tail basis," he said. "There are some pretty stiff headwinds that we're working to counter" such as COVID-related production cost increases, supply chain disruptions and inflation, he added. "We only have so much money."

Since Fick's remarks, the F-35 Joint Program Office and

Lockheed Martin have "made significant progress in negotiations," Pentagon spokesman Russell Goemaere said in a statement.

The program office has "considered the actual costs of production during the COVID-19 pandemic and updated information in regards to inflation, which resulted in lower quantities," he said. The Pentagon is also placing "more priority on investments in sustainment to improve F-35 readiness," he

said.

The Government Accountability Office earlier this year said that F-35 readiness rates for the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps have improved since 2019 but still fall short of program goals. The aircraft could fly and perform all its assigned missions 39% of the time in 2020 before slipping to 38% in fiscal 2021. That's far short of goals of 72% for the Air Force and 75% for the Navy and Marine models.

Travelers in S. Korea must be tested for COVID-19

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — U.S. military travelers arriving in South Korea must immediately take a polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, test for COVID-19, according to a policy update by U.S. Forces Korea on Monday.

The change applies to all arrivals regardless of their vaccination status, according to a post on USFK's official Facebook page.

USFK personnel, including family members, Defense Department civilian employees and contractors, should take the PCR test within a day of their arrival in South Korea. Their movements are restricted until the test returns a negative result.

The command adjusted its PCR test policy "in order to align with [South Korea's] entry requirement changes," its website said.

South Korea on Monday reinstated its requirement that travelers take a PCR test within a day of arriving in the country, a change from a three-day window.

USFK continues to recommend its personnel obtain a rapid antigen test on the sixth or seventh day in the country but has not made the test mandatory. In June, the command rescinded its seven-day mandatory quarantine for arriving personnel not fully vaccinated.

USFK, which oversees roughly 28,500 troops in South Korea, remains at health protection condition Alpha, which indicates an elevated risk of the virus spreading but allows personnel to visit most off-base businesses regardless of their vaccination status.

South Korea reported 99,327 new cases on Monday, an increase from 35,883 cases on Sunday, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency. The KDCA reported a one-day record of 621,328 new cases on March 17.

COVID-19 infections within USFK are also growing. The command in its weekly update Tuesday reported 380 cases between July 19 and Monday, up from 157 cases during the previous week.

The COVID-19 omicron subvariant, BA.5, is the dominant variant in the country, according to the KDCA. South Korean health officials estimated that daily positive cases in the country may reach as high as 200,000 in August and September.

Navy officer reports to prison; officials pledge support

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Navy Lt. Ridge Alkonis, convicted of causing the deaths of two Japanese citizens last year, reported to a Japanese prison on Monday after U.S. lawmakers voiced disappointment with Japan's handling of his case.

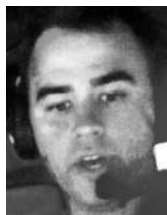
Alkonis, 34, of Claremont, Calif., was sentenced in October in Shizuoka District Court to three years in prison for negligent driving causing death. The Tokyo High Court rejected his appeal on July 13.

U.S. Naval Forces Japan spokeswoman Cmdr. Katie Cerezo confirmed by phone Tuesday that Alkonis reported to the Tokyo High Court's Prosecutors Office on Monday and was taken to the Tokyo Detention House for processing. She said he'll ultimately be placed in Yokosuka Prison, although the timeline for that is unclear, she said.

Alkonis was driving on May 29, 2021, in Shizuoka prefecture, about two hours from Yokosuka, when his car plowed into pedestri-

ans and parked cars outside a soba restaurant in Fujinomiya. Alkonis, his wife and three children were returning from a hike on Mount Fuji.

A woman, 85, died that day; her son-in-law, 54, died June 11, 2021. A second woman, 53, the daughter and wife of the other victims, was injured. Alkonis testified Aug. 24



Alkonis

that a case of mountain, or altitude, sickness caused him to lose consciousness behind the wheel. The Shizuoka District Court and the Tokyo High

Court dismissed his argument. After the high court ruled on July 13, U.S. lawmakers called on President Joe Biden to intervene in Alkonis' case, pleas also made by Alkonis' wife, Brittany, and his parents on U.S. network TV.

Rep. Mike Levin, D-Calif., on July 22 said the trial process was unfair to Alkonis and violated the status of forces agreement that outlines the rights and responsi-

bilities of individuals affiliated with the U.S. military in Japan.

Rep. Aumua Amata Radewagen, a Republican from American Samoa, speaking in the House on July 20, said she was "deeply troubled by Japan's mistreatment" of Alkonis and called on Biden and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel to act.

"These abuses are hurting the U.S.-Japan alliance exactly when it needs to be strengthened," she said.

On Monday, Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, tweeted that the U.S. should consider reevaluating SOFA if "this is how Japan is going to treat U.S. military personnel who have done NOTHING wrong ..."

The veteran advocacy group Pipe Hitter Foundation alleges that Japanese authorities violated SOFA by unjustly holding Alkonis for 26 days after the crash, according to its website. It also alleged SOFA was violated because "the judge's ruling was not made immediately." The foundation was not immediately available for clarification.

Under SOFA, Japanese author-

ities are required to release offenders to U.S. custody unless they can deem "adequate cause and necessity" to continue holding them. The foundation also alleged Alkonis' human rights were violated by lengthy interrogations and sleep deprivation.

Aspects of Alkonis' treatment, however, appear to be the norm in Japan. Suspects in criminal cases may be held up to 23 days without an opportunity to post a release bond until they're formally charged, according to information from the Japan Federation of Bar Associations.

Alkonis was formally charged within 23 days of the incident. Police may question a suspect in a closed interrogation room for a long time over many sessions without an attorney present, according to the bar associations. Video or audio recordings are required only in cases to be tried by juries, also called lay judges, and those in which public prosecutors make their own investigations.

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MILITARY

‘You can never plan for the unplanned’

Airmen respond to real emergency during exercise

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The scripted emergency scenarios devised to kick off a basewide exercise gave way to an actual urgent situation Tuesday, providing a real test of the 86th Airlift Wing’s ability to respond.

An elderly man who was later identified as a resident of Germany employed on base was found unconscious near Ramstein Middle School, officials said Tuesday, adding that he had been evacuated by air for medical care. No information was given about his condition.

At the time, even the wing’s inspection team, which was evaluating a mock aircraft crash response, didn’t know the details of what had really happened.

When the call about the real emergency came in, some firefighters grabbed their gear, jumped in one of about half a dozen fire trucks at the scene and took off with lights flashing.

Meanwhile, U.S. military and German first responders on the base continued to treat the patients retrieved from the plane at the simulated crash scene: six mannequins and one airman.

Tech. Sgt. James Bennett, 30, played the part well. Stage make-up applied by medical personnel to his hand mimicked a burn injury. After being helped off the plane, Bennett tore off his oxygen mask and rolled in the grass toward the other patients, repeatedly asking if they were OK.

First responders tried to treat the survivors. More than an hour after the call came in to respond to the crash, the firefighters were still waiting for the medics to show up. The patients still needed to be transported to the hospital for the exercise.

They would have been there by then if not for the real emergency call involving the elderly man, said Senior Master Sgt. Jimmy Drybala, the readiness section team chief for the 86th Inspector General office.

Drybala said the wing commander would decide whether to pause the exercise for the day and continue it Wednesday.

“When we’re planning these exercises, we do our best to space them out throughout the year so that we don’t interfere with operations,” he said. “That’s always our goal, but you can never plan for the unplanned.”



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER RIEDEL/Stars and Stripes

Firefighters assigned to the 86th Civil Engineer Group respond to a real medical emergency call involving an unconscious base employee at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Tuesday. The first responders answered the emergency call in the midst of an ongoing simulated aircraft crash exercise scenario.



Firefighters assigned to the 86th Civil Engineer Group rescue a victim mannequin trainer during the aircraft crash scenario at Ramstein.



Senior Airman Philip Mathys, left, a firefighter with the 86th Civil Engineer Squadron, takes a blood pressure measurement on a medical training mannequin at the scene of the simulated aircraft crash during Operation Varsity, a recurring emergency exercise at Ramstein.



Firefighters with the 86th Civil Engineer Group receive feedback from Naciri Mehdi, a medical simulation specialist assigned to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, on Tuesday.



An 86th Civil Engineer Group airman stands ready with a firehose at the scene of the simulated aircraft crash at Ramstein.

EUROPE

Russian strikes hit Black Sea regions of Ukraine

BY SUSIE BLANN
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia targeted Ukraine's Black Sea regions of Odesa and Mykolaiv with airstrikes Tuesday, hitting private buildings and port infrastructure along the country's southern coast, the Ukrainian military said.

The Kremlin's forces used air-launched missiles in the attack, Ukraine's Operational Command South said in a Facebook post.

In the Odesa region, a number of private buildings in coastal villages were hit and caught fire, the report said. In the Mykolaiv region, port infrastructure was targeted despite the agreements Moscow and Kyiv signed last week that was intended to allow grain shipments to resume from Ukraine's Black Sea ports.

Hours after the strikes, a Moscow-installed official in southern Ukraine said the Odesa and Mykolaiv regions would soon be "liberated" by Russian forces, just like the already occupied Kherson region further east.

"The Kherson region and the city of Kherson have been liberated forever," the region's Russia-appointed official, Kirill Stremousov, was quoted as saying by Russian state news agency RIA Novosti.

Meanwhile, Russia's top diplomat repeated his insistence that Moscow was ready to hold talks with Ukraine on ending the war, though he once again claimed that Kyiv's Western allies oppose a deal.

"We never refused to have talks, because everybody knows that any hostilities end at the negotiating table," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Tuesday during a trip to Uganda.

He said negotiations have gone no



MICHAEL SHTEKEL/AP

Firefighters work at a damaged residential building following Russian shelling on the outskirts of Odesa, Ukraine, on Tuesday. The Kremlin's forces used air-launched missiles in the attack, Ukraine's Operational Command South said in a Facebook post.

further since a meeting between the two sides in Istanbul at the end of March.

While Ukrainian officials have spoken of a possible counteroffensive in the south, the British Defense Ministry said Tuesday that there was no indication of a Ukrainian warship and a stockpile of anti-ship missiles were at Odesa's port, as Moscow claimed when it struck the site over the weekend.

The British ministry said Russia sees Ukraine's use of anti-ship missiles as "a key threat" that is limiting its Black Sea Fleet.

"This has significantly undermined the overall invasion plan, as

Russia cannot realistically attempt an amphibious assault to seize Odesa," the military said. "Russia will continue to prioritize efforts to degrade and destroy Ukraine's anti-ship capability."

It added that "Russia's targeting processes are highly likely routinely undermined by dated intelligence, poor planning and a top-down approach to operations."

In other military developments, Russian shelling over the previous 24 hours killed at least three civilians and wounded eight more in Ukraine, the Ukrainian president's office said Tuesday. In the eastern Donetsk region, where the fighting has

been focused in recent weeks, shelling continued along the entire front line, with the largest cities of the region, including Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Toretsk, targeted by Russian forces, the presidential office said.

Donetsk regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko accused Russian troops of using cluster munitions and repeated his call for civilians to evacuate.

"There is not a single safe place left, everything is being shelled," Kyrylenko said in televised remarks. "But there are still evacuation routes for the civilian population."

The Institute for the Study of War,

a think tank based in Washington, reported that Moscow was using mercenaries from the shadowy Wagner Group to capture the Vuhledar Power Plant on the northern outskirts of the village of Novoluhanske village.

But Russian forces have made "limited gains" there, according to Ukraine's General Staff.

The main Russian focus for the moment is on capturing Bakhmut, which the Russian military needs to press its offensive on the main Ukrainian strongholds in Donetsk, the cities of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk.

"Russian forces made marginal gains south of Bakhmut, but are unlikely to be able to effectively leverage these advances to take full control of Bakhmut itself," the Institute for the Study of War said.

Russian forces continued to launch strikes on civilian infrastructure in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, and the surrounding region in the country's northeast.

Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said the strikes on the city resumed around dawn Tuesday and damaged a car dealership.

"The Russians deliberately target civilian infrastructure objects — hospitals, schools, movie theaters," Syniehubov told Ukrainian television. "Everything is being fired at, even queues for humanitarian aid, so we're urging people to avoid mass gatherings."

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said that Moscow wants "the complete subjugation of Ukraine and its people."

"We must be prepared for this war — which Russia is conducting with absolute brutality, and is conducting in a way that no one else would — to last months," Baerbock said during a visit to Prague.

Ukraine pushes to try alleged war crimes as fighting rages

BY ERIKA KINETZ
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — The appeal of Ukraine's first war crimes conviction was adjourned on Monday, as prosecutors keep pushing to hold Russia legally accountable for atrocities even as fighting rages in the south and east of the country.

Thin and subdued, Vadim Shishimarin, a 21-year-old captured Russian soldier who pleaded guilty to killing a civilian and was sentenced in May by a Ukrainian court to life in prison, sat in a glass box in the courtroom as he faced news cameras. The hearing was postponed until July 29 due to his lawyer's ill health.

Around Ukraine's capital region, where Russian forces pulled out four months ago, much of the work of documenting crime scenes and interviewing witnesses has been done. Now a more difficult phase in the search for accountability is un-

derway: Finding those responsible.

"While conducting searches in the previously occupied region, we regularly find documents, passports and lists with names of participants of the units, with their complete data, including sites of birth and dates of births," Andrii Nebytov, head of the Kyiv regional police, told The Associated Press. "All of this information is being transferred to the relevant law enforcement. The investigators are working with the victims, trying to identify the people who committed crimes against them."

Shishimarin's case is unusual in that Ukrainian authorities quickly found evidence to link him with the shooting of a 62-year-old man in the northeastern Sumy region on Feb. 28. That's not the case for most war crimes cases now under investigation.

Ukrainian prosecutors have registered over 20,100 potential war

crimes, and police in the Kyiv region have exhumed more than 1,300 bodies.

But as of July, prosecutors in Ukraine have only been able to identify 127 suspects, according to the prosecutor general's office. Fifteen of them are currently in Ukraine as prisoners of war while the rest remain at large. Those suspects include three accused of sexual violence and 64 accused of willful killing or ill-treatment of civilians.

Shishimarin is one of 10 people to face war crimes trials so far in Ukraine, in cases involving indiscriminate shelling, willful killing, sexual violence, robbery, ill-treatment of civilians and attacks on civilian objects. Six have been convicted, according to the prosecutor general's office.

The speed of justice in Ukraine has been unusual. War crimes prosecutions are rarely conducted during an ongoing conflict.

Ukraine's top prosecutors have long argued for speedy trials — in part to meet a seething public hunger for justice — even as they work to maintain judicial standards that will satisfy domestic watchdogs and allies in the United States and Europe.

The prosecutor general behind this effort, Iryna Venediktova, was dismissed last week along with the former chief of Ukraine's SBU security service, Ivan Bakanov, for reportedly not doing enough to tackle "collaborators and traitors" in their departments. Her replacement is expected to be announced shortly.

Even as the hunt for war crimes perpetrators intensifies, the daunting work of documenting atrocities continues.

Victims of chaos and carnage in the early weeks of war in Ukraine were buried haphazardly. All those bodies had to be dug up for forensic

examination. Kyiv regional police have exhumed 1,346 bodies, but more than 300 people are still missing, according to Nebytov.

More than half of the victims police have found so far were shot dead; 38 of them were children. Kyiv police have found 13 mass graves in the region.

Nebytov said he has documented a litany of horrors: babies shot dead as their families tried to escape in civilian convoys, a man kidnapped as he gathered wood to make a fire and executed, civilians taken in for interrogation by Russian forces whose bodies were found with hands and eyes bound with tape, shot in the knees and shot in the head.

"With the intelligence at my disposal, I can say that there's no specific military strategy in sight. It is not a military strategy, but rather terror," he said. "It is a concentration of evil, violence and cruelty."

EUROPE

SC man among 2 Americans killed in Ukraine

By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM
AP/Report for America

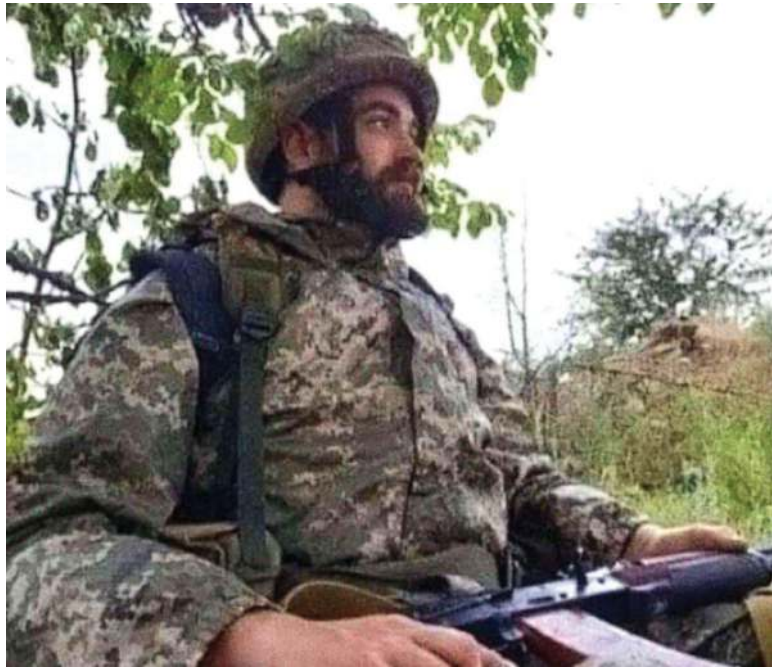
A South Carolina man serving as a medic in the Ukrainian military was identified by his commanding officer over the weekend as one of two Americans killed in action last week.

Luke "Skywalker" Lucyszyn, a 31-year-old Myrtle Beach resident, died on July 18 in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine after he was knocked unconscious by an artillery strike and fatally shot by a Russian tank, his commander, Ruslan Miroshnichenko, wrote on Facebook.

The State Department confirmed the deaths of two Americans in Ukraine on Friday but did not release their names or further details. Family and friends have confirmed reports that Lucyszyn was one of the men who died.

Miroshnichenko identified the other American as Bryan Young. Other information about Young wasn't immediately available Monday.

Thousands of foreign fighters, including many Americans, have



Facebook

Luke Lucyszyn was one of two Americans who died while fighting in the Ukrainian war.

joined Ukrainian forces battling Russia since it invaded on Feb. 24. Some of the volunteers are hardened veterans from other wars;

others have little to no military experience.

Lucyszyn's longtime friend Trey Kober, of North Myrtle

Beach, said Lucyszyn left for Ukraine in early April after telling close friends he felt a responsibility to defend his late grandmother's homeland.

Lucyszyn volunteered to take the place of another man who needed to be with his family, Kober said.

"I was proud of him," Kober said Monday. "He relieved the man, and he immediately started teaching others because some of these guys had never held guns before, had never loaded ammunition into magazines."

Kober, 40, befriended Lucyszyn on a North Carolina paintball course 12 years ago and took on "an older brother role" for the young paintball instructor. The two spent their weekends camping in the woods and playing multiday paintball matches with friends. Lucyszyn later worked as a police officer and was the father of two children.

Two weeks before his death, Lucyszyn said goodbye to Kober in an emotional Facebook message after he learned that his platoon

would soon be sent to the more dangerous Donbas region, where Russia has focused most of its firepower, bombarding cities and towns, in its assault on Ukraine.

"He was pretty confident he wouldn't be coming back," Kober said. "He sent us a serious message that said he was being sent to the frontlines to relieve a platoon that had been there for a long time, and he basically just told us, 'I'm not coming back from this. This is it.'"

Though Kober knew his friend might die in battle, he said nothing could have prepared him for the shock when he learned the news.

Lucyszyn's parents, Kathryn and George Lucyszyn, said the State Department informed them of their son's death on a phone call Tuesday. The Calabash, N.C., residents said they tried to dissuade their son from serving abroad, but he insisted it was his calling.

"He didn't go there to be a hero," Lucyszyn's mother said Saturday in an interview with NBC News. "He went there because he wanted to help people."

Return: Frustrations for residents and officials rage in path of war

FROM PAGE 1

us elsewhere and you still have to pay rent," said a friend and neighbor, Anastasia Rusanova. There's nowhere to go, she said, but here in the Donetsk region, "everything is ours."

The Pokrovsk mayor's office estimated that 70% of those who evacuated have come home. In the larger city of Kramatorsk, an hour's drive closer to the front line, officials said the population had dropped to about 50,000 from the normal 220,000 in the weeks following Russia's invasion but has since risen to 68,000.

It's frustrating for Ukrainian authorities as some civilians remain in the path of war, but residents of the Donetsk region are frustrated, too. Some described feeling unwelcome as Russian speakers among Ukrainian speakers in some parts of the country.

But more often, lack of money was the problem. In Kramatorsk, some people in line waiting for boxes of humanitarian aid said they were too poor to evacuate at

all. The Donetsk region and its economy have been dragged down by conflict since 2014, when Russian-backed separatists began fighting Ukraine's government.

"Who will take care of us?" asked Karina Smulska, who returned to Pokrovsk a month after evacuating. Now, at age 18, she is her family's main money-earner as a waitress.

Volunteers have been driving around the Donetsk region for months since Russia's invasion helping vulnerable people evacuate, but such efforts can end quietly in failure.

In a dank home in the village of Malotaranivka on the outskirts of Kramatorsk, speckled twists of flypaper hung from the living room ceiling. Pieces of cloth were stuffed into window cracks to keep out the draft.

Tamara Markova, 82, and her son Mykola Riaskov said they spent only five days as evacuees in the central city of Dnipro this month before deciding to take their chances back home.



NARIMAN EL-MOFTY/AP

Karina Smulska, who returned to her home town after fleeing, prints a receipt for Ukrainian troops at a restaurant in Pokrovsk, Ukraine, on July 20.

"We would have been separated," Markova said.

The temporary shelter where they stayed said she would be moved to a nursing home and her son, his left side immobilized after a stroke, would go to a home for the disabled.

They found that unacceptable. In their hurry to leave, they left his wheelchair behind. It was too big to take on the bus.

Now they make do. If the air raid siren sounds, Markova goes to shelter with neighbors "until the bombing stops." Humanitarian aid is delivered once a month. Markova calls it good enough. When winter comes, the neighbors will cover their windows with plastic film for basic insulation and clean the fireplace of soot.

Maybe they'll have gas for heat, maybe not.

"It was much easier under the Soviet Union," she said of their lack of support from the state, but she was even unhappier with Russian President Vladimir Putin and what his soldiers are doing to the communities around her.

"He's old," she said of Putin. "He has to be retired."

Homesickness and uncertainty also drive returns. A daily evacuation train leaves Pokrovsk for relatively safer western Ukraine, but another train also arrives daily

with people who have decided to come home. While the evacuation train is free, the return one is not.

Oksana Tserkovnyi took the train home with her 10-year-old daughter two days after the deadly attack on July 15 in Dnipro, where they had stayed for more than two months. While the attack was the spark to return, Tserkovnyi had found it difficult to find work. Now she plans to return to her previous job in a coal mine.

Taxi drivers who wait in Pokrovsk for the arriving train said many people give up on trying to resettle elsewhere.

"Half my work for sure is taking these people," said one driver, Vitalii Anikieiev. "Because the money is gone."

In mid-July, he said, he picked up a woman who was coming home from Poland after feeling out of place there. When they reached her village near the front line, there was a crater where her house had been.

"She cried," Anikieiev said. "But she decided to stay."



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NATION

Abortion debate draws crowds, vice president

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Thousands of people arguing the abortion issue surrounded the Indiana Statehouse and filled its corridors Monday as state lawmakers began consideration of a Republican proposal to ban nearly all abortions in the state and Vice President Kamala Harris denounced the effort during a meeting with Democratic legislators.

Harris said during a trip to Indianapolis that the abortion ban proposal reflects a health care crisis in the country. Despite the bill's abortion ban language, anti-abortion activists lined up before a legislative committee to argue that the bill wasn't strict enough and lacked enforcement teeth.

Indiana is one of the first Republican-run state legislatures to debate tighter abortion laws following the U.S. Supreme Court decision last month overturning *Roe v. Wade*. The Supreme Court ruling is expected to lead to abortion bans in roughly half the states.

"Maybe some people need to actually learn how a woman's body works," Harris said Monday, eliciting murmurs and laughs from the Democratic legislators. "The pa-

rameters that are being proposed mean that for the vast majority of women, by the time she realizes she is pregnant, she will effectively be prohibited from having access to reproductive health care that will allow her to choose what happens to her body."

Confrontations erupted periodically between anti-abortion and abortion-rights demonstrators around the Indiana Statehouse. One person carrying a message on cardboard — "Forced Birth Is Violence" — followed a man, who carried a fake red fetus in a plastic bag over his shoulder, and tried to obscure his sign that read "Save Our Babies."

Some people had virulent arguments encircled by other demonstrators

"You think you should dictate my life and my kids' lives. That's what you're saying," Kait Schultz, who wore a dark gray "Pregnant and Pissed" shirt, shouted to Christopher Monaghan.

"You don't want to have a conversation," Monaghan replied as they spoke over each other. He held a vertical sign that read "Babies Lives Matter."



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Abortion-rights advocates march between the Indiana Statehouse and Indiana State Library in Indianapolis, where Vice President Kamala Harris was meeting with legislators to discuss reproductive rights Monday.

Elsewhere Monday, lawmakers in West Virginia's Republican majority Legislature hurried to advance legislation that would criminalize abortion with few exceptions. A bill introduced Monday makes providing an abortion a felony carrying up to 10 years in prison. It provides exceptions only in cases where there is an ectopic pregnancy, a "nonmedically viable fetus" or a medical emergency.

West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice abruptly added state abortion law to the state Legislature's agenda for a special session he called for Monday to focus on his income tax cut

plan.

In his announcement, Justice asked legislators to "clarify and modernize" the state abortion laws in the wake of the Supreme Court ruling. A week ago, a Charleston judge blocked enforcement of the state's 150-year-old abortion ban, saying the recent laws enacted by the West Virginia Legislature "hopelessly conflict with the criminal abortion ban."

In Tennessee, meanwhile, the attorney general's office said it's still unknown when the state's anti-abortion "trigger ban" will go into effect, but some state lawmakers

are raising alarm that the ban has no exceptions for victims of rape or incest.

Tennessee has been limiting abortion as early as six weeks into pregnancy — when most women don't know they're pregnant — ever since the U.S. Supreme Court's abortion decision last month. Republican Gov. Bill Lee refused last week to answer questions from reporters on whether he supported tweaking the trigger law, particularly sidestepping on whether he supported exempting children who were raped and then became pregnant.

Republicans warm to far-right gubernatorial nominee in Pa.

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Republicans are warming up to Doug Mastriano.

When he crushed a nine-person field to win the GOP nomination for Pennsylvania governor in May, some in the party warned that Mastriano's far-right views on everything from abortion to the 2020 presidential election would squander an otherwise attainable seat in a critical battleground state. But now, as the general election season intensifies, the GOP machinery is cranking up to back Mastriano's campaign and attack his Democratic rival, Josh Shapiro.

Mastriano spoke in Aspen, Colo., last week at an event with donors sponsored by the Republican Governors Association. At the GOP's "Rally at the Rock" campaign event in northern Pennsylvania earlier this month, the independently elected state treasurer,

Stacy Garrity, introduced Mastriano as "our next governor." County offices and booths are festooned with his campaign signs and he spoke at this month's closed-door state party meeting. And on Wednesday, a pair of top party officials are hosting a fundraiser for Mastriano.



Mastriano

In one of America's most politically divided states, the GOP's embrace of a candidate who opposes abortion rights with no exceptions, spread conspiracy theories about the 2020 election and was outside the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6 insurrection risks alienating moderate party members.

But some Republicans say they're duty bound to get behind their party's nominee.

"When you play team sports, you learn what being part of a team means," said Andy Reilly, the state GOP's national committeeman and co-host of Wednesday's fundraiser. "Our team voted for him in the primary and, no matter how you slice it, his philosophies are much better to run the state than a career politician like Josh Shapiro."

November's election has major implications.

Working with a Republican-controlled Legislature, Mastriano could dramatically scale back access to abortion. And he would be able to appoint Pennsylvania's secretary of state, giving him tremendous power over elections in a state that is often decisive in presidential campaigns.

Mastriano and Shapiro are vying for the right to succeed Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf, who is constitutionally term-limited after entering office in 2015.

Record downpour causes flooding in St. Louis area

Associated Press

O'FALLON, Mo. — Record rainfall caused widespread flash flooding across the St. Louis area early Tuesday, closing multiple roadways and prompting rescues from vehicles and homes.

There were no immediate reports of injuries to people, but several puppies drowned when water got into a building at Stray Paws Adoptables, a stray dog rescue operation in St. Peters. Firefighters in boats were able to rescue other dogs from the building.

Damage across the St. Louis region was widespread after a massive downpour dropped more than 11 inches of rain in parts of St. Charles County and up to 10 inches elsewhere in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

By 8 a.m., 8.3 inches of rain had fallen at Lambert Airport, demolishing the previous daily record of 6.85 inches set Aug. 20, 1915, when remnants of the Galveston, Texas, hurricane moved north to St. Louis. Forecasters expected

Tuesday's rain to wrap up by late-morning, but more storms were likely through the rest of the week.

Firefighters across the St. Louis region were busy with water rescues. A section of Interstate 70 was closed in St. Peters, and many other roadways were flooded. Some vehicles were completely submerged. The Missouri State Highway Patrol on Twitter urged drivers to avoid I-70. Some motorists took to social media to report being stranded for several hours.

At one point, sections of interstates 64, 55 and 44 also were closed in the St. Louis area.

In the city of St. Louis, the fire department rescued people from 18 homes in the same general area after floodwaters made it into houses. The fire department said on Twitter that six people and six dogs were rescued by boat, while 15 others declined to leave their homes.

Flooding was so bad that the iconic Gateway Arch closed for the day.

NATION

Study: Millennials haven't strayed far from home

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**
Associated Press

Growing up in mid-sized Virginia Beach, Andrew Waldholtz wanted to live in a big city, so he moved to Washington, D.C., for college. After four years in the comparatively expensive city, he realized he wanted a place to live that was more affordable.

Waldholtz, 35, eventually found a happy compromise in St. Louis, whose Midwestern affordability and opportunities to build his career in corporate compliance had the added bonus that his sister and brother-in-law lived there.

Now living 940 miles away from Virginia Beach, Waldholtz is in a distinct minority among others who reached adulthood in the 21st century in that he resides a half-continent away from where he grew up, according to a new study by U.S. Census Bureau and Harvard University researchers released Monday.

The study found that by age 26, more than two-thirds of young adults in the United States lived in the same area where they grew up, 80% had moved less than 100 miles away and 90% resided less than 500 miles away. Migration distances were shorter for Black and Hispanic individuals, compared to white and Asian young adults, and the children of higher income parents



MARTA LAVANDIER/AP

Starbucks employee Jeremy Rojas serves coffee on July 6, in Miami Springs, Fla. A study by U.S. Census Bureau and Harvard University researchers released Monday found that by age 26, more than two-thirds of young adults in the United States lived in the same area where they grew up.

traveled farther away from their hometowns than those of less wealthy parents, according to the study.

"For many individuals, the 'radius of economic opportunity' is quite narrow," the report said.

Young adulthood is a period in

life when migration is highest in the U.S. The study looked at the likelihood of people born primarily between 1984 and 1992 moving away from the commuting zone they grew up in. Commuting zones are made up of one or more counties that reflect a local labor market, and

there are more than 700 commuting zones in the U.S. The birth range in the study overlaps the generation typically referred to as millennials.

It turns out that the most common destinations for young adults were concentrated near where they grew up, said the study which utilized de-

centennial census, survey and tax data.

For instance, three-quarters of people who grew up in the Chicago area stayed there. Rockford was the top destination for people who moved away and stayed in Illinois, but only represented less than 1% of the young adults from Chicago. Los Angeles was the top destination for those who moved out of state but that accounted for only 1.1% of young adults from Chicago, according to an interactive data tool that accompanies the study.

Where young adults moved to varied by race.

Atlanta was the most popular destination for young Black adults moving away from their hometowns, followed by Houston and Washington. Young Black adults who grew up in high-income households were multiple times more likely to move to these cities in a "New Great Migration" than those from low-income families, according to the study.

For white adults leaving their hometowns, New York, Los Angeles, Washington and Denver were the most population destinations. Los Angeles and New York were the top two destinations for Asians and Hispanic young adults. San Antonio and Phoenix also were popular with Hispanics, while San Francisco also appealed to Asian young adults.

Ex-congressman among 9 charged in insider trading cases

By **LARRY NEUMEISTER**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A former U.S. congressman from Indiana, technology company executives, a man training to be an FBI agent, and an investment banker were among nine people charged in four separate and unrelated insider trading schemes revealed on Monday with the unsealing of indictments in New York City.

It was one of the most significant attacks by law enforcement on insider trading in a decade, and a prosecutor and other federal officials pledged fresh enthusiasm for

similar prosecutions in the future. They said the cheating resulted in millions of dollars of illegal profits for defendants situated on both coasts and in middle America.

Stephen Buyer was accused in court papers of engaging in insider trading during the \$26.5 billion merger of T-Mobile and Sprint, announced in April 2018. An indictment identified him as someone who misappropriated secrets he learned as a consultant to make \$350,000 illegally.

Buyer, 63, of Noblesville, Ind., was arrested Monday in his home state. He served on committees

with oversight over the telecommunications industry while a Republican congressman from 1993 through 2011.

He was described as making purchases of Sprint securities in March 2018 just a day after attending a golf outing with a T-Mobile executive who told him about the company's then-nonpublic plan to acquire Sprint, according to a civil case brought against Buyer by the Securities and Exchange Commission in a federal court in Manhattan.

Authorities said he also engaged in illegal trading in 2019 ahead of

Navigant Consulting Inc.'s acquisition by consulting and advisory firm Guidehouse. Documents said he leveraged his work as a consultant and lobbyist to make illegal profits.

His lawyer, Andrew Goldstein, said in a statement: "Congressman Buyer is innocent. His stock trades were lawful. He looks forward to being quickly vindicated."

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams told a news conference that the cases, in addition to several other recently announced crackdowns on insider trading, represent a follow-through on his pledge to be

"relentless in rooting out crime in our financial markets."

"We have zero tolerance, zero tolerance for cheating in our markets," said Gurbir S. Grewal, director of the SEC Enforcement Division.

"When insiders like Buyer — an attorney, a former prosecutor and a retired Congressman — monetize their access to material, non-public information, as alleged in this case, they not only violate the federal securities laws, but also undermine public trust and confidence in the fairness of our markets," Grewal said.

Co-defendant in Central Park jogger case exonerated over 30 years later

By **TOM HAYS**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A co-defendant of the so-called Central Park Five, whose convictions in a notorious 1989 rape of a jogger were thrown out more than a decade later, had his conviction on a related charge overturned Monday.

Steven Lopez was exonerated in response to requests by both Lopez's attorney and prosecutors at a court hearing in Manhattan.

Lopez was 15 when he was arrested along with five other Black and Latino teenagers in the rape



Lopez

and assault on Trisha Meili, but reached a deal with prosecutors to plead guilty to the lesser charge that he and several others mugged a male jogger on the same night.

District Attorney Alvin Bragg told a judge Monday that a review of the case found that Lopez had pleaded guilty involuntarily "in the face of false statements" and under "immense external pres-

sure." He served more than three years behind bars before being released in the early 1990s.

Lopez, now 48, didn't give a statement in court and left without speaking to reporters.

"Mr. Lopez is looking for privacy at this time," said his lawyer, Eric Shapiro Renfroe.

During the hearing, the defense attorney told his client: "I believe what happened to you was a profound injustice and an American tragedy. ... I'm happy to be here today with DA Bragg so we can give you your name

back."

The brutal assault on Meili, a 28-year-old white investment banker who was in a coma for 12 days after the attack, was considered emblematic of New York City's lawlessness in an era when the city recorded about 2,000 murders a year.

Five teenagers were convicted in the attack on Meili and served six to 13 years in prison. Their convictions were thrown out in 2002 after evidence linked a convicted serial rapist and murderer, Matias Reyes, to the attack.

Reyes told investigators he alone had been responsible for Meili's assault.

Prosecutors who reviewed the case had concluded the teenagers' confessions, made after hours of interrogations, were deeply flawed.

"A comparison of the statements reveals troubling discrepancies," they wrote in court papers at the time. "The accounts given by the five defendants differed from one another on the specific details of virtually every major aspect of the crime."

NATION



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Firefighters from multiple departments work on putting out hot spots when a nearby grass fire burned several homes in Balch Springs, Texas, on Monday.

Official says grass fire torches as many as 20 Dallas-area homes

Associated Press

DALLAS — A grass fire apparently sparked by a mower swept about 300 yards across a tinder-dry open field to a suburban Dallas subdivision Monday, burning through wooden fences and torching as many as 20 homes, officials said.

The blaze in Balch Springs was the latest in drought-stricken North Texas, which has been vulnerable to explosive wildfires for at least two weeks.

The mower was being used in the open field to trim the brush when its blade struck some debris

and generated a spark that ignited the blaze, said Balch Springs Fire Marshal Sean Davis. The fire spread quickly north from the shoulder of Interstate 20 to the subdivision about 4 p.m. Monday, causing varying degrees of damage to 14 to 20 homes before the flames were contained, Davis said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries, he said.

Aerial video showed the fire spread up and down the street as firefighters and homeowners working in 103-degree heat tried to prevent the fire from spreading to more of the bricked frame homes.

One end of the fire spread to a home where a panicked dog ran back and forth before running through a pet door at a neighboring home. The fate of pets was not immediately known, Davis said.

Fire crews from Dallas and other nearby suburbs went to the scene to assist Balch Springs crews.

Firefighting teams have thrown dozens of extra crew members into the fight over the weekend against a North Texas wildfire that has destroyed 16 homes and damaged five others, officials said Monday.

Feds sue poultry producers over worker practices

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department filed a lawsuit Monday against some of the largest poultry producers in the U.S. along with a proposed settlement seeking to end what it claims have been longstanding deceptive and abusive practices for workers.

The suit, filed in federal court in Maryland, names Cargill, Sander Farms and Wayne Farms, along with a data consulting company known as Webber, Meng, Sahl and Co. and its president.

In its lawsuit, the Justice Department alleges the companies have been engaged in a multiyear conspiracy to exchange information about the wages and benefits of workers at poultry processing plants to drive down employee competition in the marketplace. The companies did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

The government contends the data consulting firm helped to share the information about the workers' compensation with the companies and their executives. By carrying out the scheme, officials allege, the companies were able to compete less intensely for workers and reduce the amount of money and benefits they had to offer their employees, suppressing

competition for poultry processing workers across the board, according to court papers.

The defendants and unnamed co-conspirators in the lawsuit account for hiring about 90% of all chicken processing jobs in the nation.

The suit is the latest example of the Justice Department's antitrust enforcement targeting companies the government believes engage in anticompetitive behavior to stifle workers or harm consumers. It also comes as the department continues a broader investigation into labor abuses in the poultry industry.

"Through a brazen scheme to exchange wage and benefit information, these poultry processors stifled competition and harmed a generation of plant workers who face demanding and sometimes dangerous conditions to earn a living," said Doha Mekki, the principal deputy assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's antitrust division.

The suit against the companies was filed with a proposed consent decree — a settlement that would require the companies to pay \$84.8 million in restitution for workers who were harmed by the unlawful information sharing network.

Firefighters slow growth of California blaze near Yosemite

Associated Press

JERSEYDALE, Calif. — Firefighters have significantly slowed the spread of a huge wildfire burning in a forest near Yosemite National Park that burned 55 homes and other buildings and forced thousands from their homes, officials said Monday.

"It was a successful day for aircraft and firefighters, resulting in minimal growth on the fire. Helicopters dropped 300,000 gallons of water on the fire. Crews continue to construct control lines and extinguish hot spots along existing lines," said a Monday night report by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire.

Thousands of residents from mountain communities were still under evacuation orders Monday while smoke from the fire drifted more than 200 miles, reaching Lake Tahoe, parts of Nevada and the San Francisco Bay Area, officials said.

"It's been just horrendous with the air quality," said Kim Zagaris, an adviser with the Western Fire Chiefs Association, which maps wildfires across the country.

More than 2,500 firefighters with aircraft support were battling the blaze, known as the Oak Fire, that erupted last Friday southwest of the park, near the town of Midpines in Mariposa County. Officials described "explosive fire behavior" on Saturday as flames made runs through bone-dry vegetation caused by the worst drought in decades.

The blaze had consumed 27 square miles of forest land, with 16% containment, Cal Fire said. The cause was under investigation.

Firefighters on Monday struggled in steep terrain in temperatures that reached the mid- to high 90s.

On Sunday, ground forces protected homes as air tankers



NOAH BERGER/AP

An air tanker drops retardant while trying to stop the Oak Fire from progressing in Mariposa County, Calif., on Sunday.

dropped retardant on 50-foot flames racing along ridgetops east of the tiny community of Jerseydale.

There are two major blazes

burning in California, which is experiencing a fairly typical ramp-up to what is sure to be an active fire year once California's infamous Santa Ana and Diablo

wind events begin in September, Zagaris said.

"We've been fortunate. We're not quite as far along as we were at this time last year," he said. "But the fuels, the vegetation, are much dryer than they were last year. It's so dry out there."

Zagaris compared the wildfires in California this year to 2008, when few blazes burned early but a mid-summer barrage of lightning hit the state "and before we knew it there were 2,000 fires burning in the northern part of the state."

Evacuations were in place Monday for over 6,000 people living across a several-mile span of the sparsely populated fire zone in the Sierra Nevada foothills, though a handful of residents defied the orders and stayed behind, said Adrienne Freeman, a U.S. Forest Service spokesperson.

"We urge people to evacuate when told," she said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Muhammad Ali's 'Rumble in the Jungle' belt sold

TX DALLAS — Muhammad Ali's championship belt from his 1974 "Rumble in the Jungle" heavyweight title fight was sold at auction for \$6.18 million.

The winner of the heated competition for the belt was Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay, according to Heritage Auctions in Dallas.

In a tweet, Irsay confirmed he acquired the belt for his collection of rock music, American history and pop culture memorabilia that is currently touring the country.

The belt will be displayed on Aug. 2 at Chicago's Navy Pier and on Sept. 9 in Indianapolis.

The 1974 fight was one of boxing's most memorable moments. Ali stopped the fearsome George Foreman to recapture the heavyweight title in the African nation of Zaire, now known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ali won the fight in a knockout in the eighth round.

Police investigate theft of ancient Torah from hotel

NV LAS VEGAS — Authorities said they still are investigating the reported theft of an ancient Torah from a man who was staying at a hotel on the Las Vegas Strip.

Metro Police said the item was reported stolen from The Venetian. They said a man told detectives that he had left his Torah inside of the convention room that had been converted into a synagogue.

Police said the Torah had been used in the convention room since June 8 and had remained in that location until it was reported stolen two days later.

Hotel video surveillance showed a man walking through the property pulling a suitcase on wheels, but police said that they have not been able to identify the suspect yet.

Chemical's release so stinky it broke the law

NC CHARLOTTE. — Officials said an environmental cleanup company violated a county's "objectionable odor rule" when it accidentally released a smelly chemical that offended nostrils and caused alarm across Charlotte.

The Charlotte Observer reported that the area's 911 system was flooded with calls from people who thought they smelled a leak of natural gas. Climate conditions around the city seemed to spread the smell broadly.

In fact, though, a company called Legacy Environmental Services accidentally released a chemical called mercaptan while it was recycling four metal tanks.

Mercaptan is the otherwise harmless chemical added to natural gas that smells like rotten eggs so that people can detect a possible



JULIA NIKHINSON/AP

New York's annual Giglio Feast

Lifters carry Our Lady of Mount Carmel back to the shrine outside of the church following a procession through Williamsburg, in the Brooklyn borough of New York. Revelers recently returned to celebrate the annual Giglio Feast following its first-ever cancellation in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and then downsized crowds in 2021. The feast, first held in Williamsburg in 1903 by immigrants from Nola, Italy, combines two celebrations. One, typically held on June 22, is dedicated to St. Paulinus, the Bishop of Nola from A.D. 409 to A.D. 431, and the other, celebrated on July 16, to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the name given to the Virgin Mary by the Catholic Church's Carmelite Order. While the feast used to span several weeks between the holidays, it has since been combined into one 12-day event.

leak.

The Observer reported that Mecklenburg County officials said the release has been classified as a violation and that they are seeking more information from the company to determine next steps.

Man posed as young girl to get explicit videos

MD BALTIMORE — A Baltimore man has pleaded guilty to charges that he posed as a young girl to induce teenage boys to send him sexually explicit images and videos before he extorted them, a federal prosecutor said.

Matthew K. Walsh, 24, pleaded guilty to sexual exploitation of a minor in order to produce child pornography, said U.S. Attorney Erik L. Barron.

According to his plea agreement, from at least 2016 through 2021, Walsh created fake online profiles on multiple platforms posing as a young girl to make contact with boys between the ages of 12 and 17 and induce them to produce sexually explicit images and videos.

Once Walsh got the images, he extorted the boys into producing more explicit images and videos, threatening to send the earlier images to their friends if they didn't, the plea agreement said.

Prosecutors said Walsh also uploaded the files to various social media accounts and sold the sexually explicit files to others.

To date, more than 40 boys have been positively identified as victims of Walsh's conduct, and at least 30 victims' pictures and videos were sold and/or distributed to others by Walsh.

Authorities: Plane hits turbulence, diverted

AL BIRMINGHAM — An American Airlines plane bound for Nashville, Tenn., with 56 people from Tampa, Fla., was diverted to an Alabama airport after hitting severe turbulence, and at least eight minor injuries were reported, authorities said.

Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service responded to Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport, fire Capt. Orlando Reynolds told news outlets. The plane hit unexpected turbulence over the Pensacola area of the Florida Panhandle and was diverted, officials said.

Reynolds said 52 passengers were aboard the Embraer E175 plane along with two pilots and two flight attendants. Ten people were evaluated, and two flight attendants and six passengers were taken to an area hospital with minor

injuries, the airline said in a statement.

The airline said it was bringing in another aircraft for the other passengers to board and continue on to Tennessee.

Hot dog stand worker killed at service window

IL CHICAGO — A worker was fatally shot while staffing a restaurant's service window, Chicago police said.

He was working at the Original Maxwell Street hot dog stand on the West Side when he was shot in the face, police said.

His name wasn't immediately released.

Police were searching for the gunman.

Man sentenced in illegal guide service case

AK ANCHORAGE — A man has been sentenced to six months in prison for illegally selling big game guiding services, the Alaska U.S. attorney's office said.

Stephen Jeremy Hicks signed a plea agreement last year, pleading guilty to a Lacey Act violation. The document states that in 2018, Hicks conducted a guided hunt and that the hunt took place on federally managed land.

The U.S. attorney's office in a statement said Hicks was not permitted to operate on those lands and that he violated state provisions related to supervision of clients in the field.

Hicks also was ordered to forfeit his interest in a small plane and to pay \$13,460 in restitution for the hunt, the statement said. He was also sentenced to three years of supervised release during which he cannot fly private aircraft or engage in commercial hunting activity, the statement said.

Storytelling festival to be held at national park

TN ONEIDA — A day of stories, music and crafts is planned for the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area's "Haunting in the Hills" Storytelling Festival in September.

The event will be held at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center and Campground on Sept. 17. The events are free.

The storytelling started out 30 years ago as a small program for local schools and has grown to a full-day festival with professional storytellers from around the world, the park said in a news release.

NATION

Unusual heat wave hits Northwest

By **CLAIRE RUSH**
AP/Report for America

PORTLAND, Ore. — The temperatures in Portland, Ore., could top 100 degrees Tuesday, making it likely the hottest day of a week-long heat wave for the Pacific Northwest region that rarely sees such scorching weather.

Forecasters issued an excessive heat warning for parts of Oregon and Washington state. Temperatures could hit the 90s in Seattle and 110 in eastern parts of Oregon and Washington.

While interior parts of the states often experience high temperatures, those kind of hot blasts do not happen nearly as often in Portland and Seattle.

“To have five-day stretches or a weeklong stretch above 90 degrees is very, very rare for the Pacific Northwest,” said Vivek Shandas, professor of climate adaptation at Portland State University.

As the northwestern United States heated up, the hot spell on the East Coast appeared to have broken, with few areas east of the Mississippi River under heat advisories.

Philadelphia hit 99 degrees Sunday before factoring in humidity. Newark, N.J., had its fifth consecutive day of 100 degrees or higher, the longest such streak since records began in 1931. Boston also hit 100 degrees, surpassing the previous daily record high of 98 degrees set in 1933.

Tuesday’s forecast highs in Philadelphia, New York and Boston were all in the mid-80s.

Residents and officials in the Northwest have been trying to adjust to the likely reality of longer, hotter heat waves following last summer’s deadly “heat dome” weather phenomenon that prompted record temperatures and deaths.

In response, the Portland Housing Bureau that oversees city housing policy will require newly constructed subsidized housing to have air conditioning in the future.

A new Oregon law will require all new housing built after April 2024 to have air conditioning installed in at least one room. The law already prohibits landlords in most cases from restricting tenants from installing cooling de-

VICES in their rental units.

The measures were in response to the heat wave in late June and early July 2021, when about 800 people died in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.

The temperature soared to 116 degrees in Portland and smashed heat records in cities and towns across the region. Many of those who died were elderly and lived alone.

While temperatures this week are not expected to get that high, the anticipated number of consecutive hot days raised concerns among officials.

Portland could top 100 degrees F on Tuesday, and temperatures across wide swaths of western Oregon and Washington are predicted to be well above historic averages throughout the week.

“It’s nothing we haven’t seen before in terms of the magnitude, but the duration of the event is fairly unusual,” said John Bumgardner, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Portland.

Portland’s Bureau of Emergency Management will open cooling



KORI SUZUKI, THE SEATTLE TIMES/AP

Stacks of air conditioners, fans and other cooling equipment line the entrance of McLendon Hardware in Renton, Wash., on Sunday.

centers in public buildings and put misting stations in parks. In Seattle, community centers and libraries will serve as cooling stations.

Multnomah County, which includes Portland, will open four overnight emergency cooling shelters starting Tuesday where people can spend the night.

Officials hope the outreach efforts will help people facing the greatest heat risks — including older people, those living alone, people with disabilities, members of

low-income households without air conditioning and people without housing.

Overnight temperatures in the Pacific Northwest may not go below the 70s, said Treena Jenson, the Portland warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service.

“In the urban areas we have the urban heat island effect that tends to keep temperatures warmer a little bit longer and can cause more heat impacts,” she said.

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EUROPE

EU reaches deal to ration gas amid Russian cutoff concerns

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — European Union governments agreed Tuesday to ration natural gas this winter to protect themselves against any further supply cuts by Russia as Moscow pursues its invasion of Ukraine.

EU energy ministers approved a draft European law meant to lower demand for gas by 15% from August through March. The new legislation entails voluntary national steps to reduce gas consumption and, if they yield insufficient savings, a trigger for mandatory moves in the 27-member bloc.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen welcomed the move, saying in a statement that “the EU has taken a decisive step to face down the threat of a full gas disruption by (Russian President Vladimir) Putin.”

On Monday, Russian energy

giant Gazprom said it would limit supplies to the EU through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to 20% of capacity, heightening concerns that Putin will use gas trade to challenge the bloc’s opposition to the war in Ukraine.

“The winter is coming and we don’t know how cold it will be,” said Czech Industry Minister Jozef Sikela, whose policy portfolio includes energy. “But what we know for sure is that Putin will continue to play his dirty games in misusing and blackmailing by gas supplies.”

The ministerial agreement was sealed in less than a week. It’s based on a proposal last Wednesday from the European Commission, the EU’s executive arm. Keen to maintain a common EU front over a conflict that shows no sign of ending, the commission said coordinated rationing would enable the bloc as a whole to get through the winter

should Russia stop all gas deliveries.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February and the West protested with economic sanctions, 12 EU countries have faced halts to, or reductions in, Russian gas deliveries.

Although it has agreed to embargo oil and coal from Russia starting later this year, the EU has refrained from sanctioning Russian natural gas because Germany, Italy and some other member states rely heavily on these imports.

“Germany made a strategic error in the past with its great dependency on Russian gas and faith that it would always flow constantly and cheaply,” said German Economy Minister Robert Habeck, who is also responsible for energy and serves as the country’s vice chancellor. “But it is not just a German problem.”

Russia, after '24, to opt out of International Space Station

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia will opt out of the International Space Station after 2024 and focus on building its own orbiting outpost, the country’s newly appointed space chief said Tuesday.

Yuri Borisov, who was appointed earlier this month to lead the state-controlled space corporation Roscosmos, said during a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin that Russia will fulfill its obligations to other partners at the International Space Station before it leaves the project.

“The decision to leave the station after 2024 has been made,” Borisov said.

Borisov’s statement reaffirmed previous declarations by Russian space officials about Moscow’s intention to leave the space outpost after 2024. It comes amid soaring tensions between Russia and the West over the Kremlin’s military action in Ukraine.

Despite the rift, NASA and Roscosmos made a deal earlier this month for astronauts to continue riding Russian rockets and for



This image provided by NASA shows astronauts performing maintenance on the International Space Station on July 21.

Russian cosmonauts to catch lifts to the International Space Station with SpaceX beginning this fall.

The agreement ensures that the space station will always have at least one American and one Russian on board to keep both sides of the orbiting outpost running smoothly, according to NASA and Russian officials. The swap had long been in the works and was finalized despite frictions over Ukraine in a sign of continuing Russia-U.S. cooperation in space.

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Uvalde paradox: So many police, so little protection

BY CHRISTY E. LOPEZ

Special to The Washington Post

The recent report on the Uvalde, Texas, school shooting persuasively recounts “systemic failures and egregious poor decision making” by law enforcement during the response. But Uvalde raises a broader question about policing in America: How is it possible that we have so many instances of police being overly aggressive and unnecessarily violent, yet police in Uvalde failed to act with the decisiveness and force necessary to save lives?

The answer involves a paradox. We rely too heavily on policing to do too many things, which means that our system under-protects even as it over-polices.

The disastrous response at Robb Elementary cannot be explained away as the fault of a particularly bad police department. Twenty-three agencies, from every level of government, responded: municipal, county, state, federal, school and fire; in total, there were 376 law enforcement officers on the scene. The report found that none of the agencies followed active-shooter protocols, meaning all the officers stood by for too long, while children and their teachers might have bled to death.

Meanwhile, the sheer number of agencies and officers likely contributed to the failure to establish a clear chain of command, resulting in “chaos.” As the report put it: “We must not delude ourselves into a false sense of security by believing that ‘this would not happen where we live.’”

Rather, Uvalde offers a dramatic illustration of the gap between the rhetoric and the reality of American policing. “Police officers see danger and run to meet it, knowing the cost and stepping forward to pay it,” the report states at the outset — and then proceeds to contradict this lofty assertion.

To be sure, countless police officers perform bravely every day. Even though my career has focused on police misconduct, I count many officers among the most self-sacrificing, caring people I know. But I have learned also that this is despite, not because of, the dominant dynamics in policing.

Long before Uvalde, there have been complaints that even when on-scene, police do not always intervene to prevent ongoing assaults. Indeed, in a 2005 case, *Castle Rock v. Gonzales*, the Supreme Court explicitly excused police who failed to perform their central duty — intervening to prevent violence. In *Castle Rock*, Jessica Gonzales sued police for failing to enforce a restraining order, resulting in the murder of her three young daughters by her estranged husband. The court ruled that the restraining order did not constitute the “property interest” necessary to create a police duty to protect. Thus, alongside opinions facilitating police violence, the court has given the police permission to do nothing, arguably even in school shootings such as the one in Uvalde.

But what has fueled the over-policing/under-protection dynamic even more than this legal backdrop is the impossibly broad set of responsibilities we have given police. The vast majority of what we ask of police does not involve intervening to prevent violence. Instead, we’ve mostly tasked police with filling in for the social safety net we’ve cut to bits — to deal with the fallout of addiction or respond to people in mental health crisis. We’ve even directed police to focus on goals that can run counter to public safety, such as revenue generation, or that could readily be done by non-police, such as traffic enforcement.

So if it seemed that the officers on the scene in Uvalde were not particularly primed to intercede to prevent violence, that is our fault as much as theirs. We have allowed policing to drift too far from what should be its core role.

We know from past school shootings what this means: The people who sign up to be school police aren’t actually signing up to confront armed gunmen, and they don’t always do so when the need arises.

If we want a policing system that protects children from violence, in our schools or in our neighborhoods, we need to stop using police to do so much that has so little to do with preventing violence. Focusing police on this core function would make it feasible to select for policing only those special individuals who are able to show great restraint even as they are ready to give their lives for a stranger on any given workday. We might not be able to fill the current ranks of about a million officers if we elevate entry criteria in this way, but, as Uvalde underscores, in policing, quality is more important than quantity.

We also need to be more judicious in how we direct police to prevent violence. The Texas legislative report found that “less-serious” school alerts of “bailouts” (people fleeing car crashes caused by high-speed law enforcement pursuits of suspected undocumented immigrants) diluted the significance of such alerts and “dampened” the response of both law enforcement and educators to the genuine emergency of an active shooter. In other words, too much policing can contribute to under-protection, as policing develops a “boy who cried wolf” quality.

Rethinking the role of police in public safety is often discussed as necessary to reduce the harms of over-policing. Uvalde is an illustration of the corollary to that proposition: Fewer police with a more focused role might provide better protection from violence to the communities they serve.

Christy E. Lopez, a Washington Post contributing columnist, is a Professor from Practice at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C.

Online schooling is the bad idea that refuses to die

BY ANDREA GABOR

Bloomberg Opinion

Nearly all of the 20 largest U.S. school districts will offer online schooling options this fall. Over half of them will be offering more full-time virtual school programs than they did before the pandemic. The trend seems likely to continue or accelerate, according to an analysis by Chalkbeat.

That’s a problem. School closings over the last two years have inflicted severe educational and emotional damage on American students. Schools should now be focusing on creative ways to fill classrooms, socialize kids and convey the joy of collaborative learning — not on providing opportunities to stay home.

Historically, various forces have pushed for online education — not all of them focused on improving education. These include: the quest for cheaper, more efficient modes of schooling; the push to limit the influence of teachers unions by concentrating virtual teachers in non-union states; and a variety of medical and social factors that lead some students and families to prefer online learning.

Since the pandemic, some virtual programs have reasonably stressed medically fragile students. But others are seizing on online education in a rushed effort to shore up public-school enrollments, which plummeted in some cities. The prevalence of these programs in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Dallas and New York is particularly worrying, as they target

poor and minority students who are likely to be particularly ill-served by online options. A new study shows that while young children, especially, are bouncing back from the pandemic-era academic doldrums, the gap between high-poverty and low-poverty schools remains greater than it was pre-pandemic.

Research, where it exists, shows consistently worse educational outcomes for online schools than for traditional public schools.

Students in cyber schools do their coursework mostly from home and over the internet, with teachers often located in different states and time zones. There is little comprehensive information about the curricula, student-teacher ratios, how much actual teaching occurs, or what if any academic supports are provided by the schools.

The adverse impact of the pandemic on the emotional well-being and social skills of children — one-third of school leaders reported a surge in disruptive student behavior during the past school year — is a cautionary lesson for online learning.

Graham Browne, the founder of Forte Preparatory Academy, an independent charter school in Queens, N.Y., said recently that he saw a sharp increase in “aggressive or threatening” behavior, especially among sixth-graders who spent much of the previous two years online. During a recent multi-day field trip to a camp run by the Fresh Air Fund, Browne said he noticed that during team-building exercises, such as figuring out how to

carry a large object over a low bridge, students resorted to screaming at each other. Previously, he said, they would have worked out a strategy for maneuvering the object together.

Equally concerning, when the school offered an online option during the 2020-21 school year, Browne found that close to half of his highest achieving eighth-graders — those taking algebra rather than pre-algebra — selected the option because it gave them the flexibility to pursue academics at their own pace.

“Our school is small, so having such a large portion of high-performing students out of the building has an impact on peer tutoring, student morale, and a culture of team building that we emphasize at school,” Browne said.

What kids need most are robust in-person learning opportunities and the chance to experiment. Schools also need to maintain reassuring safety protocols as COVID-19 variants continue to spread.

What makes no educational sense is the rush to embrace online schooling. Experience has demonstrated its disadvantages. State oversight isn’t strong enough to mitigate them. Before barreling ahead, research should be financed and conducted by independent scholars to pinpoint the potential benefits. Until that happens, schools should do everything they can to keep kids in classrooms.

Andrea Gabor is the Bloomberg chair of business journalism at Baruch College of the City University of New York and the author of “After the Education Wars: How Smart Schools Upend the Business of Reform.”

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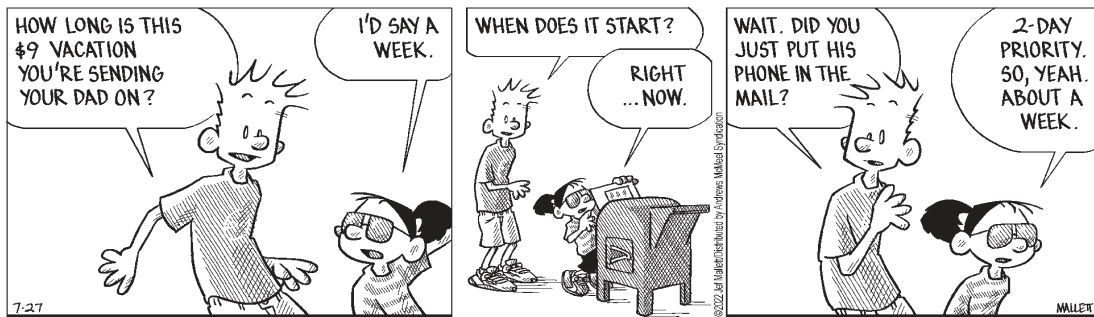
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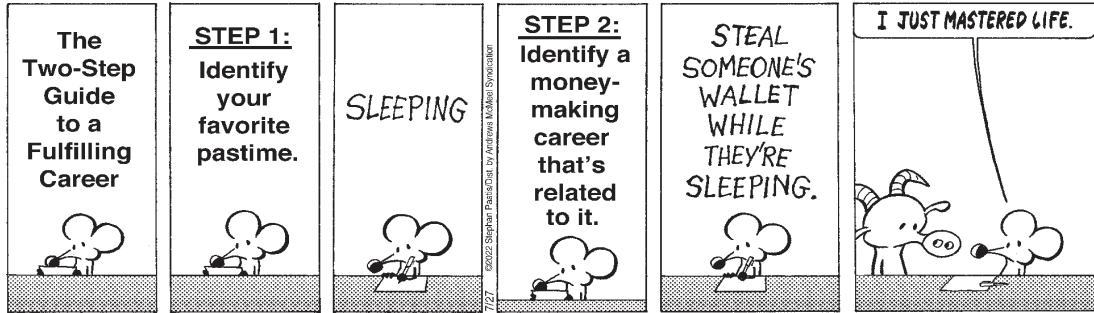
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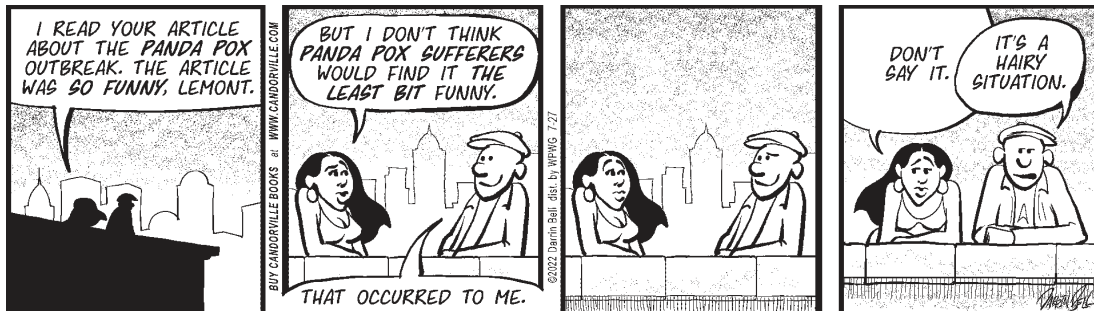
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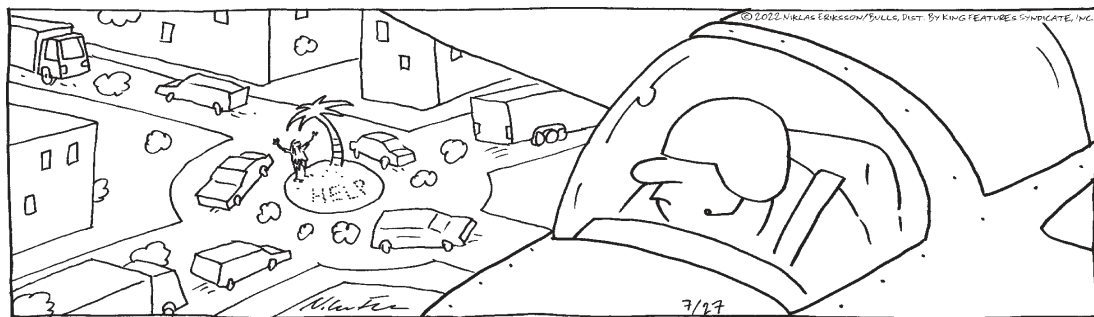
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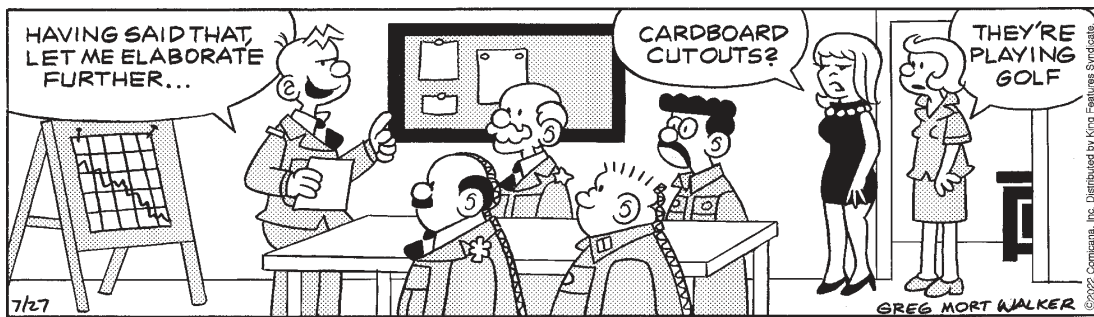
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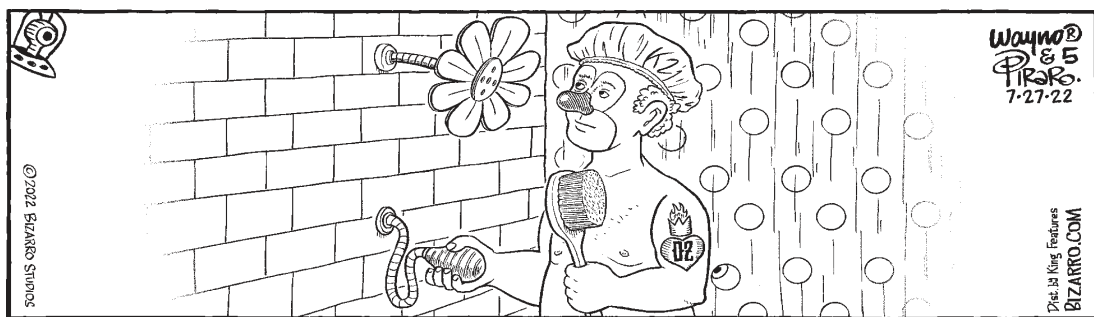
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Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



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ACROSS

- 1 Fringe benefit
- 5 "Humbug!"
- 8 Rocky outcrop
- 12 Jai —
- 13 Swelled head
- 14 Valentine border
- 15 Cooking area
- 17 Gray's subj.
- 18 Wedding setting
- 19 Riyadh residents
- 21 Pride parade letters
- 24 GI entertainers
- 25 Ganges wrap
- 28 Incursion
- 30 "Tasty!"
- 33 Actress Thurman
- 34 Orchestral strings
- 35 Director Ang
- 36 Prohibit
- 37 Gas co., for one
- 38 Printer's blue
- 39 Corn core
- 41 Cruising
- 43 Drag
- 46 New York's — Island
- 50 Pundit's piece
- 51 Causing annoyance
- 54 Stallion's mate
- 55 Flightless bird
- 56 Revise
- 57 Org.
- 58 Trench
- 59 Pixels

DOWN

- 1 Brazilian rubber
- 2 Mideast airline
- 3 Harangue
- 4 Capital of Rwanda
- 5 Wager
- 6 Past
- 7 Beer ingredient
- 8 Santa —
- 9 Not by design
- 10 "Superfood" berry
- 11 Understands
- 16 Work unit
- 20 German car name
- 22 Author Harte
- 23 Shire of "Rocky"
- 25 Long lunch?

- 26 Docs' org.
- 27 Cattle farm workers
- 29 Misfortunes
- 31 — culpa
- 32 Gents
- 34 Rubik's brain-teaser
- 38 Phoned
- 40 From days of yore
- 42 "A mouse!"
- 43 "Brave New World" drug
- 44 IRS employees
- 45 Get ready, briefly
- 47 Chic beach resort
- 48 Monogram pt.
- 49 Pvt.'s superiors
- 52 Parisian pal
- 53 Fanatic

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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7-27

CRYPTOQUIP

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 GWDYYHAB JHYW IRTNDK
 MSKZI, YWRC JRNR ONSDFKC
 WDTTAB D BDFR-MRIY.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT STRING INSTRUMENTALISTS KNOCK BACK WHILE AT A MUSIC HALL'S BARROOM? CELLO SHOTS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals G

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FACES

New this week: Maggie Rogers returns, 'Not Okay' critiques influencer culture

Associated Press

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

Music

■ Few artists want to compete against a Beyoncé release, but Maggie Rogers' new album also drops Friday. "Surrender" is the singer-songwriter's first collection since her stunning major label debut "Heard It in a Past Life" in 2019. During the pandemic, Rogers relocated to the Maine coast, cutting herself off from the outside world to write what became the dozen tracks of "Surrender." One single, "Want Want," showcases an edgier, dancier side, while "That's Where I Am" is a bolder, confident Rogers turning in something almost anthemic. She is rising and rising. One fan must be David Byrne — see if you can spot him in the video.

■ Exploring the multiverse is all the rage these days, and Wiz Khalifa is jumping into his. He drops "Multiverse" on Friday, and some of the producers are Hitmaka, Sledgren, ID Labs, RMB Justice, Big Jerm and IamSu! The rapper tells Vibe: "The title comes from the unique world that I live in and experience. It's one of my favorite projects to date and I'm so excited for the fans to come into my world and go crazy with it."

■ "Surround me with the girls / I love being a girl," sings Hayley Kiyoko on her sophomore album, "Panorama," out Friday. The poppy, airy lead single "For the Girls" has a great video that's a queer "Bachelorette" parody, complete with roses, snark and pool diving. Kiyoko achieved a level of viral



AMY HARRIS, INVISION/AP

On Friday, Maggie Rogers will release "Surrender," her first album since her stunning 2019 major-label debut, "Heard It in a Past Life."

fame in 2015 with the iconic queer bop "Girls Like Girls."

— AP Entertainment Writer Mark Kennedy

Movies

■ Modern influencer culture is skewered in the smart new satire "Not Okay," streaming on Hulu starting Friday. The film, written and directed by Quinn Shephard, stars Zoey Deutch as Danni, an aspiring writer in her 20s who is lacking for things to say until she embarks on a little social media lie (pictures of a "trip to Paris" taken from her Bushwick apartment).

When the landmark she's supposedly posing with explodes, Danni gets the trauma narrative she's been craving. Dylan O'Brien ("The Maze Runner") co-stars alongside newcomer Mia Isaac of the recent father-daughter road trip pic "Don't Make Me Go."

■ For a different critique of influencer culture, look to "Hatching," the gruesome Finnish body horror about a 12-year-old Tinja (Siiri Solalinna) and her perfectionist mother (Sophia Heikkilä), who runs a popular blog called "Lovely Everyday Life." Directed by Hanna Bergholm, in her debut,

the film has shades of both "E.T." and "Black Swan" making for an interesting creature feature. "Hatching" also arrives Hulu on Friday and could make for a fun double feature with "Not Okay."

■ A high school senior ("Spider-Man's" Angourie Rice) is desperate to get into Harvard and trying to take down her competitors in the comedy "Honor Society," streaming on Paramount+ on Friday. Directed by Oran Zegman and written by David A. Goodman ("Family Guy"), "Honor Society" also stars "Stranger Things" Gaten Matarazzo and "Superbad's" Christopher Mintz-Plasse.

— AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr

Television

■ Cristin Milioti was caught in a "Groundhog Day"-like recycled day in the film "Palm Springs." In Peacock's eight-episode dark comedy "The Resort," debuting with three episodes Thursday, time is again an issue for Milioti's character, Emma, who's vacationing with husband, Noah (William Jackson Harper), when a 15-year-old mystery intrudes. Andy Siara is the other link between "Palm Springs" and the series: He wrote the former and is a writer and showrunner for the latter.

■ Comedies about life after a breakup are common, but Netflix's "Uncoupled," an eight-episode series premiering Friday, offers a new take. Neil Patrick Harris stars as Michael, who's dumped by partner Colin (Tuc Watkins) after 17 years. Michael grapples with pain, anger and fretful acceptance as he takes on the challenge of being an unattached gay man in his 40s in NYC.

— AP Television Writer Lynn Elber



AP

Paul Sorvino, who died Monday, played notable roles on both sides of the law in his career.

'Goodfellas,' 'Law & Order' actor Sorvino dies at 83

BY LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Paul Sorvino, an imposing actor who specialized in playing crooks and cops like Paulie Cicero in "Goodfellas" and the NYPD sergeant Phil Cerreta on "Law & Order," has died. He was 83.

His publicist, Roger Neal, said Sorvino died Monday morning of natural causes at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla.

Mira Sorvino, his Academy Award-winning daughter, wrote a tribute on Twitter: "My father the great Paul Sorvino has passed. My heart is rent asunder — a life of love and joy and wisdom with him is over. He was the most wonderful father. I love him so much. I'm sending you love in the stars, Dad, as you ascend."

Sorvino was a mainstay in films and television, playing an Italian American communist in Warren Beatty's "Reds," Henry Kissinger in Oliver Stone's "Nixon" and mob boss Eddie Valentine in "The Rocketeer." He often said that while he might be best known for playing gangsters, his passions were poetry, painting and opera.

With his 6-foot-4-inch stature, Sorvino made an impactful presence no matter the medium. In the 1970s, he acted alongside Al Pacino in "The Panic in Needle Park" and with James Caan in "The Gambler" and was among the ensemble in William Friedkin's bank robbery comedy "The Brink's Job." In John G. Avildsen's "Rocky" follow-up, "Slow Dancing in the Big City," Sorvino got to play a romantic lead and use his dance training opposite professional ballerina Anne Ditchburn.

He was especially prolific in the 1990s, playing Lips in Beatty's "Dick Tracy" and Cicero in Martin Scorsese's "Goodfellas," who was based on the real-life mobster Paul Vario, and 31 episodes on Dick Wolf's "Law & Order."

He wanted to be seen for more than what he was on screen and took particular pride in his singing. In 1996, "Paul Sorvino: An Evening of Song" was broadcast on television as a part of a PBS fundraising campaign.

TBS cancels Bee's show, 'Full Frontal'

TBS is canceling "Full Frontal with Samantha Bee" after seven seasons, removing a rare female voice from late-night TV.

In a statement Monday, the channel said it has made "some difficult, business-based decisions" as part of its new programming strategy. TBS praised Bee and other makers of "Full Frontal" for "groundbreaking work" and said it will explore ways in the future to collaborate with the cast and crew.

Representatives for Bee, a producer as well as the host of "Full Frontal," did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Bee and relative newcomers NBC's Amber Ruffin and Showtime's Ziwe have been among the few women to gain a weekly foothold in the realm long dominated by male hosts.



Bee

Harlow, Lil Nas X, Lamar top VMA noms

Jack Harlow, Lil Nas X and Kendrick Lamar are top contenders with seven nominations at the 2022 MTV Video Music Awards.

MTV announced Tuesday that Lil Nas X and Harlow earned multiple nominations for their collaborative hit "Industry Baby," which is nominated for video of the year. Both performers — along with Drake, Bad Bunny, Ed Sheeran, Harry Styles and Lizzo — will compete for artist of the year.

Lamar, nominated for the first time since 2018, has two songs, "family ties" and "N95," that will vie for best cinematography. The rapper was also nominated for best hip-hop, direction, visual effects, editing and video for good.

The VMAs will take place Aug. 28 at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J.



Harlow

Report: 'Jeopardy!' will keep co-hosts

"Jeopardy!" fans and participants will get a double serving of hosts, with Mayim Bialik and Ken Jennings set to share hosting duties for the trivia show's upcoming 39th season. According to Deadline, Jennings and Bialik are working toward a deal to split the hosting role.

Bialik and Jennings will fill the shoes left by beloved, longtime "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek, who died in November 2020 from pancreatic cancer. He was 80.

"The Big Bang Theory" star Bialik and 74-time "Jeopardy!" champ Jennings both served as hosts during the most recent season.



Bialik



Jennings

SCOREBOARD/WNBA

PRO SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	11	2	9	42	34	15
NYFC	12	4	5	41	41	21
New York	10	6	6	36	34	25
CF Montréal	11	8	2	35	36	36
Orlando City	8	8	6	30	26	31
Columbus	7	5	9	30	27	22
Cincinnati	7	8	7	28	33	38
Charlotte FC	8	12	2	26	25	31
Chicago	7	10	5	26	24	28
New England	6	7	8	26	32	34
Inter Miami CF	7	10	4	25	22	33
Atlanta	6	9	6	24	29	33
Toronto FC	6	12	4	22	30	39
D.C. United	5	12	3	18	26	43

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LAFC	14	4	3	45	42	22
Austin FC	12	5	5	41	45	28
Minnesota	10	8	4	34	31	26
Real Salt Lake	9	7	6	33	28	27
FC Dallas	8	6	8	32	32	25
Nashville	8	7	7	31	28	28
LA Galaxy	9	9	3	30	30	27
Portland	7	6	9	30	35	31
Seattle	9	10	2	29	28	25
Vancouver	7	10	5	26	24	37
Houston	7	11	4	25	28	31
Colorado	6	9	6	24	25	29
San Jose	5	9	7	22	34	43
Sporting KC	5	13	5	20	19	40

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

Friday's game

Seattle at Los Angeles FC

Saturday's games

Portland at Minnesota
Atlanta at Chicago
Columbus at Charlotte FC
New York City FC at CF Montréal
Houston at Philadelphia
Cincinnati at Miami
Vancouver at Nashville
Toronto FC at New England
Austin FC at Sporting Kansas City
LA Galaxy at FC Dallas
Real Salt Lake at San Jose

Sunday's game

Orlando City at D.C. United

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego	6	3	4	22	19	11
Portland	5	1	6	21	29	10
Chicago	5	2	5	20	20	16
Houston	5	4	3	18	20	14
Kansas City	5	4	3	18	12	14
OL Reign	4	3	5	17	11	9
Angel City	5	4	2	17	10	11
Orlando	3	5	4	13	12	26
Gotham FC	4	6	0	12	7	18
Louisville	2	5	5	11	13	18
Washington	1	5	7	10	11	15
North Carolina	2	5	2	8	14	16

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

Friday's games

Washington at North Carolina
Portland at Louisville

Saturday's games

San Diego at Chicago
OL Reign at Angel City

Sunday's games

Houston at Gotham FC
Orlando at Kansas City

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Chicago	21	7	.750	—
Connecticut	19	9	.679	2
Washington	17	11	.607	4
Atlanta	12	16	.429	9
New York	10	17	.370	10½
Indiana	5	25	.167	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Las Vegas	20	8	.714	—
Seattle	18	10	.643	2
Los Angeles	12	15	.444	7½
Dallas	12	15	.444	7½
Phoenix	12	16	.429	8
Minnesota	10	19	.345	10½

x-clinched playoff spot

Monday's games

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's game

Las Vegas at Chicago

Wednesday's games

No games scheduled.

TENNIS

Atlanta Open

Monday
At Atlanta Station
Atlanta

Purse: \$708,530

Surface: Hardcourt outdoor

Men's Singles

Round of 32

Kwon Soon Woo, South Korea, def. Marcos Giron, United States, 7-6 (3), 4-6, 7-5.
Taro Daniel, Japan, def. Sebastian Korde, United States, 1-6, 6-1, 6-3.

Brandon Nakashima (8), United States, def. Jordan Thompson, Australia, 7-6 (5), 3-6, 6-3.
John Millman, Australia, def. Alexei Popyrin, Australia, 7-6 (1), 4-6, 6-3.

Men's Doubles

Round of 16

Mackenzie McDonald and Christopher Eubanks, United States, def. Adrian Panarin and Quentin Halys, France, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 10-8.
Rajeev Ram and Jack Sock (3), United States, def. Ramkumar Ramanathan, India, and Hans Hach Verdugo, Mexico, 6-3, 6-3.

Nick Kyrgios and Thanasi Kokkinakis (2), Australia, def. Nicolas Mahut and Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, 7-6 (8), 6-3.

Prague Open

Monday
At TK Sparta Praha
Prague

Purse: \$251,750

Surface: Hardcourt outdoor

Women's Singles

Round of 32

Nao Hibino, Japan, def. Mihaela Buzarnescu, Romania, 6-2, 6-2.
Marie Bouzkova (8), Czech Republic, def. Sinja Kraus, Austria, 6-2, 7-6 (2).

Wang Qiang, China, def. Rebecca Peterson, Sweden, 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4).
Magda Linette, Poland, def. Elise Mertens (3), Belgium, 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

Zhu Lin, China, def. Vitalia Diatchenko, Russia, 6-1, 6-1.
Dalila Jakupovic, Slovenia, def. Alison van Uytvanck (6), Belgium, 5-2, ret.

Chloe Paquet, France, def. Tereza Martincova, Czech Republic, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Women's Doubles

Round of 16

Ekaterina Yashina and Alena Fomina-Klotz, Russia, def. Jessy Rompies, Indonesia, and Peangtarn Plipuech, Thailand, 7-5, 7-5.
Linda Noskova and Lucie Havlickova, Czech Republic, def. Dominika Salkova and Barbora Palicova, Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-4.

Lucie Hradecka and Andrea Sestini Hlavackova, Czech Republic, def. Anastasia Detiuc and Miriam Kolodziejova, Czech Republic, 5-7, 6-2, 10-3.

Generali Open

Monday
At Tennis Stadium Kitzbuhel
Kitzbuhel, Austria

Purse: Euro 534,555

Surface: Red clay

Men's Singles

Round of 32

Juan Pablo Varillas, Peru, def. Carlos Taberner, Spain, 6-4, 6-3.
Joao Sousa (8), Portugal, def. Vit Koprieva, Czech Republic, 6-1, 7-5.

Jiri Lehecka, Czech Republic, def. Thiago Monteiro, Brazil, 7-6 (6), 6-4.
Filip Misolic, Austria, def. Daniel Dutra Da Silva, Brazil, 6-2, 7-6 (6).

Jurij Rodionov, Austria, def. Hernan Casanova, Argentina, 6-4, 6-2.
Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, def. Vitaliy Sachko, Ukraine, 6-4, 7-6 (5).
Federico Coria, Argentina, def. Cristian Garin, Chile, 6-4, 7-5.

Men's Doubles

Round of 16

Pedro Martinez, Spain, and Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, def. Treat Conrad Huey, Philippines, and Nikola Patic, Serbia, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5).
Hugo Nys, Monaco, and Jan Zielinski, Poland, def. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan, and Aleksandr Nedovyesov, Kazakhstan, 6-4, 7-6 (7).

Michael Venus, New Zealand, and Tim Puetz (1), Germany, def. Sebastian Ofner and Lukas Neumayer, Austria, 6-2, 6-3.

Croatia Open

Monday
At ITC Stella Maris
Umag, Croatia

Purse: Euro 534,555

Surface: Red clay

Men's Singles

Round of 32

Giulio Zepieri, Italy, def. Pedro Cachin, Argentina, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.
Roberto Carballes Baena, Spain, def. Henri Laaksonen, Switzerland, 6-4, 7-5.

Daniel Elahi Galan, Colombia, def. Fabio Fognini (7), Italy, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.
Jaume Munar, Spain, def. Mikael Ymer, Sweden, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Marco Cecchinato, Italy, def. Mili Poljicak, Croatia, 6-1, 5-7, 6-2.

Men's Doubles

Round of 16

Nicolas Barrientos, Colombia, and Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela, Mexico, def. Andre Goransson, Sweden, and Ben McLachlan, Japan, 3-6, 6-2, 10-4.

DEALS

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLAS — Recalled LHP Nick Vespi from Norfolk (IL). Optioned RHP Rico Garcia to Norfolk.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Agreed to terms with OFs Drew Gilbert, Jacob Melton and RHP Brett Gillis on minor league contracts.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with OFs Spencer Jones, Anthony Hall, RHPs Drew Thorpe, Trystan Vrieling and Eric Reyzelman on minor league contracts.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Recalled LHP Sam Selman from Las Vegas (PCL). Reinstated INF Jonah Brice from the 10-day IL. Optioned RHP David McKay to Las Vegas. Placed 1B/OF Seth Brown on the paternity list.

TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with LHP Dallas Keuchel on a minor league contract.

National League

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Designated RHP Connor Sadzeck for assignment. Recalled LHP Ethan Small from Nashville (IL). Traded OF Abraham Almonte to Boston for cash considerations.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Agreed to terms with OFs Justin Crawford, Gabriel Rincones Jr., Chad Castillo, Cade Fergus and Troy Schreffler, RHPs Orion Kerkering, Alex Rao, Josh Bortka, Daniel Harper and Drew Garrett, LHP Mavis Graves, CF Gustavo Sosa and Jordan Dissin and SS Bryan Rincin on minor league contracts. Agreed to terms with LHPs Ezra Farmer, Mason Ronan and Danny Wilkerson, 3B Matthew Alifano and OF Dakota Kotowski as non-drafted free agents.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Reinstated OF Bryan Reynolds from the 10-day IL. Placed OF Jake Marisnick on the 10-day IL. Agreed to terms with OF Tres Gonzales, LHP Dominic Perachi, RHPs Derek Diamond, JP Massey, Mike Walsh and Josh Loeschom on minor league contracts.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES — Signed F Josh Minott. Re-signed F Nathan Knight.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

BUFFALO BILLS — Signed G Jordan Simons.

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed QB Matt Corral.

CHICAGO BEARS — Signed OL Michael Schofield.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Signed DTs Dominique Davis and Raymond Johnson III and LB Tegray Scales.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed S Dallin Leavitt.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed TE Shaun Beyer. Placed WR Blake Powell and LB Ryan Connelly on the physically unable to perform (PUP) list.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Activated LB Raekwon McMillan from the PUP list.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released RB Trey Edmunds.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

ANAHEIM DUCKS — Signed C Isac Lundestrom to a two-year contract.

CAROLINA HURRICANES — Signed D William Lagesson and RW Stelio Mattheos to one-year, two-way contracts. Signed D Joey Keane to a one-year contract.

DETROIT RED WINGS — Signed D Robert Hagg to a one-year contract.

OTTAWA SENATORS — Signed RW Jayce Hawryluk to a one-year, two-way contract.

ST. LOUIS BLUES — Signed C Nathan Todd to a one-year, two-way contract.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Signed D Trevor Carrick to a one-year, two-way contract.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

MINNESOTA UNITED FC — Re-signed D Bakaye Dibassy to a one-yr contract.

NEW YORK CITY FC — Loaned F Valentin Castellanos to Girona FC (La Liga).

ORLANDO CITY SC — Loaned F Wilfredo Rivero to Indy Eleven (USL Championship). Acquired F Ivan Angulo on loan from Sociedade Esportiva Palmeiras (Serie A), pending receipt of his international transfer certificate (ITC) and P-1 visa.

National Women's Soccer League

PORTLAND THORNS FC — Acquired D Tegan McGrady from San Diego in exchange for D Madison Pogarch.

COLLEGE

ST. BONAVENTURE — Named Gill Conners men's associate head lacrosse coach.



ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/AP

WNBA star and two-time Olympic gold medalist Brittney Griner stands in a courtroom cage at a hearing Tuesday in Khimki, outside Moscow.

Trial considers Griner's use of medical cannabis

By JIM HEINTZ

Associated Press

KHIMKI, Russia — The drug trial of American basketball star Brittney Griner in a Russian court focused Tuesday on testimony that cannabis, while illegal in Russia, is regarded in other countries as having legitimate medicinal use.

Griner has acknowledged that she was carrying vape canisters containing cannabis oil when she was arrested in February at a Moscow airport, but she contends that she had no criminal intent and that the canisters ended up in her luggage inadvertently because of hasty packing.

“We are not arguing that Brittney took it here as a medicine. We are still saying that she involuntarily brought it here because she was in a rush,” defense attorney Alexander Boykov said after the session in which a Russian neuropsychologist testified about worldwide use of medicinal cannabis.

“The Russian public has to know, and the Russian court in the first place has to know, that it was not used for recreational purposes in the United States. It was prescribed by a doctor,” he said.

Griner, a two-time Olympic gold medalist who plays for the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury, faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted. The medical testimony and Griner's admission that she had the canisters is aimed at bringing her a mild sentence.

“We have a lot of mitigating factors. So we do hope that the court will take it into consideration. And the courts in Russia, in fact, have

very broad discretion with regard to the sentence,” said Maria Blagovolina, another of Griner's lawyers.

After about 90 minutes in session Tuesday, the case was adjourned until Wednesday afternoon.

The trial began July 1 but only five sessions have been held, some them lasting only about an hour.

The slow-moving trial and Griner's five months of detention have raised strong criticism among teammates and supporters in the United States, which has formally declared her to be “wrongfully detained,” a designation sharply rejected by Russian officials.

Elizabeth Rood, the U.S. Embassy's charge d'affaires, attended Tuesday's court session. Griner “confirms that she is doing ok and as well as can be expected under these circumstances,” she told reporters.

ABC's “Good Morning America” aired a producer's brief interview with Griner in which she wished her wife, Cherelle “good luck on the bar exam.”

When asked whether she had any complaints, she replied: “No, no complaints. Just waiting patiently.” She displayed photos of her wife, friends and teammates.

Griner was arrested in February amid high U.S.-Moscow tensions ahead of Russia sending troops into Ukraine later that month. Some supporters contend she is being held in Russia

MLB

ROUNDUP

Stott's 5 RBIs lift Phils past Braves

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Bryson Stott homered, doubled and drove in five runs to lift the Philadelphia Phillies to a 6-4 comeback victory over the Atlanta Braves on Monday night.

Alec Bohm doubled and had three hits for the Phillies, who rebounded from a three-game sweep at home against the Chicago Cubs last weekend.

"It's huge after losing three to the Cubs being able to come back today and pull that one out," Stott said. "Hopefully that'll give us the momentum to keep going."

Austin Riley had a pair of doubles and Marcell Ozuna had three hits and an RBI for the Braves, who fell two games behind the first-place New York Mets in the NL East.

With Atlanta leading by one, A.J. Minter (4-3) got the first two outs in the eighth inning before Bohm and Yairo Muñoz singled to put runners on first and second. Stott then drove a full-count cutter into the seats in right field for his seventh home run, putting Philadelphia ahead 6-4.

Diamondbacks 7, Giants 0: Merrill Kelly threw eight innings of three-hit ball, Carson Kelly had a pair of doubles and host Arizona beat skidding San Francisco for its third win in four games.

Kelly retired the first 15 batters he faced in another stellar performance. Kelly (10-5) lowered his ERA to 3.04, striking out seven and walking none.

Red Sox 3, Guardians 1: Cleveland pitcher Zach Plesac threw the ball out of Fenway Park as the grounds crew began to bring out the tarp, and Boston ended a five-game losing streak.

Alex Verdugo hit a tiebreaking double and the Red Sox bullpen worked 3½ scoreless innings. Boston remains a half-game ahead of last-place Baltimore in the AL East.

Athletics 7, Astros 5: Tony Kemp homered and hit a two-run double, Skye Bolt added a two-run shot, and host Oakland dealt AL West-leading Houston its first de-



MATT ROURKE/AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Bryson Stott follows the flight of his three-run home run off the Atlanta Braves' A.J. Minter during the eighth inning of the Phillies' 6-4 win Monday at home.

feat after a 5-0 start following the All-Star break.

Elvis Andrus added an insurance RBI single in the eighth for the Athletics before closer Lou Trivino surrendered a solo homer to Chas McCormick, then finished for his ninth save.

Reds 11, Marlins 2: Jonathan India hit his first career grand slam and Brandon Drury connected for a three-run shot, helping host Cincinnati pound banged-up Miami.

India and Donovan Solano each had three hits as the last-place Reds improved to 9-4 in their last 13 games.

Mariners 4, Rangers 3: Ty France hit his 13th home run as part of a three-hit night, Cal Raleigh added an RBI single and host Seattle rebounded from a rough weekend and beat Texas.

The Mariners won for the 15th time in 18 games, a stretch of success interrupted over the weekend when they were swept at home by AL West-leading Houston following a 14-game winning streak. But the Rangers were welcome visitors as the Seattle won its sixth straight

over Texas and improved to 9-2 against it this season.

Orioles 5, Rays 1: Ryan Mountcastle hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in a four-run fifth inning that sent host Baltimore over Tampa Bay.

Austin Voth and five Orioles relievers kept the Rays' offense from delivering the big hit. They left 10 men on base, including six in the first three innings.

Cubs 3, Pirates 2: Nico Hoerner hit a tiebreaking double in the eighth inning, and host Chicago extended its win streak to five games by beating Pittsburgh.

Hoerner finished with two hits and two RBIs. Rafael Ortega homered for the Cubs, and Adrian Sampson pitched seven innings of two-run ball.

Rockies 2, Brewers 0: Kyle Freeland pitched four-hit ball over seven innings, Daniel Bard worked his way out of a bases-loaded jam in the ninth and Colorado avoided a four-game sweep with a victory at Milwaukee.

Elias Díaz had a homer that helped the Rockies beat the Brew-

ers for the first time in their last nine meetings.

Royals 7, Angels 0: Zack Greinke combined with four Kansas City relievers to hold visiting Los Angeles to five hits and Michael A. Taylor drove in three runs in the win.

Emmanuel Rivera drove in a run during a four-run seventh, and MJ Melendez added a two-run homer in the eighth, helping to position the Royals for another shot at their first four-game win streak this season on Tuesday night.

Tigers 12, Padres 4: Eric Haase hit a grand slam off Sean Manaea, Jeimer Candelario homered twice and host Detroit routed San Diego. Miguel Cabrera hit his 506th career homer in the sixth inning and moved past Al Simmons for 13th on the career RBI list with 1,840.

Manaea (5-5) was tagged for a career-worst nine runs in 3½ innings, and his replacement, left-hander MacKenzie Gore, was pulled with an apparent arm injury. The Padres, who got a solo homer from Jurickson Profar, lost their second in a row.

Scoreboard

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	66	31	.680	—
Toronto	53	43	.552	12½
Tampa Bay	52	44	.542	13½
Boston	49	48	.505	17
Baltimore	48	48	.500	17½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	52	44	.542	—
Cleveland	48	47	.505	3½
Chicago	48	48	.500	4
Kansas City	39	57	.406	13
Detroit	39	58	.402	13½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	64	33	.660	—
Seattle	52	45	.536	12
Texas	43	52	.453	20
Los Angeles	40	56	.417	23½
Oakland	36	63	.364	29

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	59	37	.615	—
Atlanta	58	40	.592	2
Philadelphia	50	46	.521	9
Miami	45	51	.469	14
Washington	33	65	.337	27

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	53	44	.546	—
St. Louis	51	46	.526	2
Pittsburgh	40	57	.412	13
Chicago	39	57	.406	13½
Cincinnati	37	58	.389	15

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	64	31	.674	—
San Diego	54	44	.551	11½
San Francisco	48	48	.500	16½
Colorado	44	53	.454	21
Arizona	43	53	.448	21½

Monday's games

Boston 3, Cleveland 1
 Baltimore 5, Tampa Bay 1
 Detroit 12, San Diego 4
 Kansas City 7, L.A. Angels 0
 Oakland 7, Houston 5
 Seattle 4, Texas 3
 Cincinnati 11, Miami 2
 Philadelphia 6, Atlanta 4
 Chicago Cubs 3, Pittsburgh 2
 Colorado 2, Milwaukee 0
 Arizona 7, San Francisco 0
 Washington 4, L.A. Dodgers 1

Tuesday's games

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

Wednesday's games

San Diego (Darvish 9-4) at Detroit (Skubal 7-8)
 L.A. Angels (Junk 0-0) at Kansas City (Keller 5-10)
 Minnesota (Archer 2-4) at Milwaukee (Burnes 7-4)
 Chicago White Sox (Giolito 6-6) at Colorado (Senzatela 3-5)
 Houston (Javier 6-5) at Oakland (Irvin 5-7)
 Texas (Gray 7-4) at Seattle (Gonzales 5-10)
 Tampa Bay (Rasmussen 6-3) at Baltimore (Wells 7-6)
 St. Louis (Wainwright 6-8) at Toronto (Gausman 7-7)
 Cleveland (Quantrill 7-5) at Boston (Eovaldi 4-3)
 N.Y. Yankees (Germán 0-1) at N.Y. Mets (Scherzer 6-2)
 Atlanta (Morton 5-4) at Philadelphia (Gibson 5-4)
 Washington (Corbin 4-13) at L.A. Dodgers (Heaney 1-0)
 San Francisco (Webb 9-3) at Arizona (Gallen 5-2)
 Miami (Garrett 2-3) at Cincinnati (Castillo 3-4)

Rays rule Kiermaier, Zunino out for season

BY NOAH TRISTER
 Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Tampa Bay Rays standouts Kevin Kiermaier and Mike Zunino are out for the season because of injuries, another significant blow for the defending AL East champions.

Manager Kevin Cash said before Monday night's game at Baltimore that Kiermaier is having an operation in the coming weeks. The 32-year-old outfielder hasn't played since July 9 because of a left hip injury, and Kiermaier said earlier this month that he might miss the rest of the regular season.

Zunino, a 31-year-old catcher, hasn't played since June 9 because of left shoulder problems. He's out for the season because of thoracic outlet syndrome surgery, according to a spokesman.

Tampa Bay entered Monday's game holding the second of the American League's three wild cards. In addition to missing Kiermaier and Zunino, the Rays are also without Wander Franco, Nick Anderson, Shane Baz, Tyler Glasnow, Manuel Margot and several others who are on the injured list. Brandon Lowe recently returned after missing two months.

Kiermaier, a three-time Gold Glove winner,

has hit .228 with seven home runs, 22 RBIs and six steals this year. Cash indicated that his operation would be to fix the labrum.

"He's been playing with it, and the doctor basically said years ago that you play through it until you can't," Cash said. "Well, we got to the point where he couldn't."

Kiermaier is on the 60-day IL and wasn't eligible to return until September. Zunino was eligible to come back next month.

Zunino was an All-Star last year, when he hit a career-high 33 home runs. He's hit .148 with five homers in 36 games this season.

MLB

Future Dodger? Soto, lowly Nats cool off LA

He hits a 2-run triple in 4-1 win for Washington

By BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles Dodgers fans made their feelings known as Juan Soto stepped into the batter's box, just in case the Washington Nationals star didn't get their message at the All-Star Game.

"Future Dodger!" the crowd of 48,647 chanted. They heartily applauded Soto in his first at-bat.

Whether he ends up in LA or not, Soto put on a show.

His two-run triple capped a four-run fifth inning and the lowly Washington Nationals defeated the NL West-leading Dodgers 4-1 on Monday night, snapping Los Angeles' 11-game home winning streak.

"Our best player, Soto, comes up with a big hit and drove in some runs," Nats manager Dave Martinez said. "It was a big moment for Juan to come through."

Washington (33-65) brought the worst record in the majors into Dodger Stadium, where it won for the first time since the 2019 NL Division Series, against the team with baseball's best record (64-31).



PHOTOS BY MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Above: Washington Nationals' Juan Soto, right, hits a two RBI triple as Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Will Smith watches during the fifth inning of the Nats' 4-1 win Monday in Los Angeles. Below: Dodgers' Trea Turner, left, and Soto, former teammates in Washington, stay in regular contact.



The Dodgers' season-high eight-game overall winning streak ended.

"They shut down a really good team," Martinez said of his bullpen. "Guys played with a lot of

energy."

Soto said before the game he's trying not to think about the trade talk swirling around him ahead of the Aug. 2 trade deadline. The chatter isn't affecting him at the plate. Soto is batting .362 with a 1.260 OPS this month, including six homers, a triple and two doubles.

The 23-year-old All-Star right fielder left his trophy from winning last week's Home Run Derby in the visitors' clubhouse, knowing that he'd soon be back here. It rested on a wheeled trunk in the middle of the room with a gold link chain wrapped around it and Derby Champ spelled out in platinum.

The Nationals haven't signaled that they're looking to unload the left-handed hitter with a .248 average and .895 OPS. But that hasn't

stopped the growing speculation, especially after Soto turned down a long-term contract offer worth \$440 million.

"We don't need anything but I stand by any team can always get better," Los Angeles manager Dave Roberts said when asked about Soto before the game. "Juan is a very talented player."

Soto finished 2-for-4 with a strikeout and a walk. He chatted up former Washington teammate Trea Turner, with whom he stays in regular contact.

The Nationals batted around in the fifth when Yadiel Hernández led off with an opposite-field solo shot over the wall in left that tied the game 1-1.

"It just created more excitement in the bullpen," Hernández said

through a translator.

After two quick outs, Tony Gonsolin (11-1) gave up four straight base hits in his first defeat of the season and his first start since taking the loss for the NL in the All-Star Game. Ehire Adrianza and Victor Robles singled back-to-back before César Hernández hit a bloop single inside the third-base line to make it 2-1.

"He still is terrific," Martinez said of Gonsolin. "He's got good stuff."

Soto's two-run triple over the first-base bag scored two runs to extend Washington's lead to 4-1.

The Dodgers had the tying runs on base in the bottom of the inning. Max Muncy and Gavin Lux singled back-to-back off Nats starter Paolo Espino. Andres Machado (1-0) came in to strike out Cody Bellinger before walking Trayce Thompson to load the bases. Mookie Betts took a called third strike and Turner lined out to right for the third out.

"I like coming in that situation," Machado said.

Kyle Finnegan pitched the ninth to earn his third save.

The Nationals loaded the bases in a messy eighth for Reyes Moronta, who threw 31 pitches and just 15 for strikes. He had two wild pitches and hit Keibert Ruiz before Robles struck out to end the threat.

Los Angeles had the potential tying run at the plate in the eighth. Turner and Jake Lamb singled before Carl Edwards Jr. struck out Muncy for the third out.

Hitting in the ninth spot, Thompson went deep with two strikes and two outs in the third for a 1-0 lead.

Turner's ground-rule double to deep center in the fourth extended his hitting streak to 12 games. Freddie Freeman went 0-for-4 with a strikeout to end his 12-game hitting streak.

Players union rejects international draft proposal

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball's goal of an international amateur draft was thwarted again when the players' association rejected management's final offer on Monday and retained direct draft-pick compensation for free agents.

The quirky tie between the two provisions was established in the March 10 agreement that ended the 99-day lockout and preserved a 162-game season. The sides gave themselves until July 25 to reach an agreement on an international draft, which MLB has sought since 2002, and specified the draft-pick provision would be dropped in the event of a deal.

There was little movement over the four months. The union made an offer during a Zoom meeting Saturday, and MLB presented what it termed its final proposal in

an email Sunday. Union officials forwarded that plan to the players' executive board and said they planned to reject it.

Hearing no opposition, union deputy executive director Bruce Meyer telephoned deputy commissioner Dan Halem with the rejection at about 3:45 p.m. EDT Monday.

The decision, announced about eight hours before the deadline, was the final step needed to complete the collective bargaining agreement that expires on Dec. 1, 2026. Retaining compensation is likely to limit the market for some older players set to become free agents, a group set to include Anthony Rizzo, J.D. Martinez, Chris Sale and Charlie Morton.

"Each of our proposals was focused on protecting against the scenario that all players fear the most — the erosion of our game on the world stage, with international players becoming the latest victim in

baseball's prioritization of efficiency over fundamental fairness," the union said in a statement. "The league's responses fell well short of anything players could consider a fair deal."

As a result, the international signing bonus pool total for 2022-23 will remain at \$167 million, its level in 2021-22, according to a side letter between MLB and the union whose contents were divulged to The Associated Press.

The total will increase starting in 2023-24 by any corresponding percentage rise in industry revenue since 2019 — the last year before the pandemic. The decision keeps in place a system of qualifying offers for free agents that began in 2012. A club can make a qualifying offer following the World Series to a free agent who has been with the team since opening day, a one-year contract for the average of the top 125 deals by average annual value.

Last year's figure was \$18.4 million.

If a player rejects a qualifying offer and signs elsewhere, the signing team is subject to a loss of one or two amateur draft picks and a reduction in international signing bonus pool allotment.

Craig Kimbrel and Dallas Keuchel, unhappy with offers during the offseason and spring training, delayed signing in 2019 until June, after the draft pick compensation no longer was attached.

An amateur draft was established for residents of the United States and Canada in 1965 and extended to residents of U.S. territories such as Puerto Rico in 1990. MLB has pushed for a similar international amateur draft, saying part of its rationale was to combat illicit agreements made before players are age eligible — at least 17 at the time of signing or 16 at the time as long as the player turns 17 by the Sept. 1 of the contract's first season.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/AUTO RACING

Bold Big Ten open to more expansion

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Big Ten Commissioner Kevin Warren talked Tuesday about the conference being bold and aggressive as college sports goes through a period of sweeping change and left the door open for more expansion after the league added Southern California and UCLA.

Warren's opening remarks to begin Big Ten football media days went nearly 15 minutes before he directly mentioned the two Los Angeles schools that announced last month they will be joining the conference in 2024.

"Regarding expansion, I get asked every single day what's next? It may include future expansion," Warren said. "We will not expand just to expand. It will be strategic. It will add additional value to our conference."

He added: "We are in a perpetual state of evaluating what's next for college athletics."

Warren also said the Big Ten is in the process of finalizing a new media rights deal that will go into effect next year, with an announcement expected "sooner rather than later." He dodged questions about what it could be worth to the conference but some projections have the Big Ten in position to pay out about \$100 million in revenue annually to its schools in the coming years.

He did say USC and UCLA will enter the conference as full members with regards to revenue sharing. In previous expansions with Nebraska, Rutgers and Maryland, the incoming members received partial shares of revenue at first.

The West Coast additions will make the Big Ten a coast-to-coast conference. For football coaches, the prospect of making long road trips was not much of a concern

"We are in a perpetual state of evaluating what's next for college athletics."

Kevin Warren
Big Ten commissioner

compared to the benefits USC and UCLA bring.

Just a year ago at the first in-person Big Ten media days hosted by Warren as commissioner, the SEC dominated headlines with news that Texas and Oklahoma would be leaving the Big 12 for the Southern superconference.

The Big Ten's counterpunch came about 11 months later.

"I thought it was a very smart move for our league to get out in front of any changes that might be happening around the country," Nebraska coach Scott Frost said.

Minnesota coach P.J. Fleck summed it up succinctly: "L.A.! Are you kidding me? That's perfect."

Warren reminisced about the days when his family would shop from a Sears, Roebuck and Co. catalog and the company's long history in and around Chicago. The third-year commissioner, who received plenty of criticism of the Big Ten's handling of the 2020 pandemic season, said he would not let the conference become an outdated business like Sears.

"Where expansion goes, I don't know," he said. "It is important for all of us in business to recognize that were in a time of change. I'm embracing change. I'm going to be very aggressive."



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Big Ten Commissioner Kevin Warren talks to reporters during Big Ten Conference media days at Lucas Oil Stadium on Tuesday.



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Denny Hamlin's daughter waves the checkered flag from her dad's car after he won a NASCAR Cup race at Pocono Raceway on Sunday. Hamlin was disqualified after the race, and the team won't fight the penalty.

JGR apologizes, accepts penalties for Hamlin, Busch

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

NASCAR warned its teams it was serious about stamping out a culture of cheating that stretched back to its roots and let illegitimate race winners often walk away unscathed with nothing worse than a fine or a few docked points for the team.

But the drivers always kept the trophy and added the number in the win column.

No more and not again. NASCAR carried out its stiffest punishment against a race winner in more than 60 years when it stripped Joe Gibbs Racing's Denny Hamlin of his Pocono Raceway victory and teammate Kyle Busch of his runner-up finish.

JGR didn't bother to fight the penalties, declining Monday to take the matter to an appeals panel.

Message received.

"What you've seen here is a reaction to kind of a new way of doing business," said Scott Miller, NASCAR's senior vice president of competition.

The JGR Toyotas flunked post-race inspection Sunday night when NASCAR found issues in both cars that affected the aerodynamics. Miller said Monday on Sirius XM the exact issue was "extra layers of vinyl" found under the wrap of the car — more commonly known as the paint scheme — that essentially modified that area of the lower nose on each car.

Joe Gibbs Racing apologized in a statement and said changes were underway to make sure it did not happen again.

"This change in our build process was not properly vetted within our organization and we recognize it is against NASCAR's rules," said Wally Brown, director of competition for Joe Gibbs Racing.

Hamlin was the first Cup winner to be disqualified since April 17, 1960, when Emanuel Zervakis' victory at Wilson Speedway in North Carolina was thrown out because of an oversized fuel tank. Hamlin was stripped of his third Cup Series win of the season and a track-record seventh at Pocono.

Chase Elliott finished in third place and was awarded the win without the Hendrick Motorsports driver ever leading a lap in his No. 9 Chevrolet.

NASCAR introduced a new car this year that spent years in development and was designed to cut costs and essentially attempt to level the playing field. The 2022 version is pretty much a kit car; teams get all the same pieces from varying vendors and have detailed instructions regarding how to put it together.

And many of the pieces that fit under the car, items that used to cost hundreds of thousands annually to develop, are now spec parts that are essentially bought off store shelves. They're the same for everyone and not allowed to be manipulated.

Four years after NASCAR first threatened to tighten up inspection rules, it doubled down this season on going after potential rule benders.

NASCAR's three manufacturers — Chevrolet, Ford and Toyota — and their race teams never stop trying to find that extra edge that can give them more speed. They look for gray areas and wiggle room that give them an advantage yet keep them under the inspection radar.

"One of the early directives was that NASCAR was going to have to inspect these cars at a level that previously had never been done before," Miller said. "It's critical that we inspect at the level that we

do and it's critical that we react when we see something that wasn't agreed on on the Next Gen concept."

Toyota Racing Development President David Wilson said the manufacturer stood by NASCAR's decision.

"As we've stated throughout the Next Gen process, we applaud NASCAR's hypervigilance when it comes to policing the rules on this new race car," Wilson said. "We have been in close communication with Joe Gibbs Racing and they have acknowledged that the tape added to the front fascia of the #11 and the #18 was not permissible by NASCAR's rules."

NASCAR's inspection team usually tears down the first- and second-place cars at the track, and third- through fifth-place cars (such as Elliott's Chevrolet) are also inspected. All cars go through a prerace inspection and multiple failures can result in the car losing its starting spot and getting sent to the back of the field.

NASCAR said the Toyota infractions were not caught in the prerace inspection because the wrap was not removed from the cars until after the race.

"This is not akin to a big engine or soaked tires or anything like this," Miller said. "This is more about the integrity of what was agreed on between NASCAR and the teams and protecting the integrity of the Next Gen inspection process."

Were the JGR teams the first to push changes on the car beyond what is allowed in the rulebook?

No way.

First ones to get caught? Yup. And NASCAR can only hope the punishments are a big enough deterrent for the rest of the garage to stay away from any funny business.

NFL

Owner says Bengals must pay Burrow

Star QB will be eligible for a new contract after upcoming season

By MITCH STACY
Associated Press

CINCINNATI — The Bengals are already structuring finances so they can pay Joe Burrow enough money to stay in Cincinnati when the star quarterback becomes eligible to negotiate a new contract after this season, team owner Mike Brown said Monday.



Brown

Burrow likely will command a long-term deal paying him somewhere in the \$40 million to \$50 million range per season, based on the deals of other top NFL quarterbacks.

The latest to cash in was Kyler Murray, who last week signed a five-year, \$230 million deal with the Cardinals, working out to about \$46.1 million per season.

Bengals receiver Tee Higgins, drafted in same 2020 class as Burrow, also will be eligible to negotiate after this season, reigning Offensive Rookie of the Year Ja'Marr Chase the year after that. Both also will require big contracts.

"Right now our obvious, most important issue will be our quarterback," the 86-year-old Brown said a day before the team opens training camp in Cincinnati. "It's not quite ready or ripe yet, but it's right down the track and we see the train coming."

The odd man out here may be safety Jessie Bates III, who has been frustrated by failed efforts to reach a long-term deal with the Bengals. A popular team leader,

Bates stayed away from organized team activities in the spring and will play this season with a franchise tag, meaning he can negotiate with any team after the season. No one knows when he might show up for training camp.

"We were two years trying to extend him, and we weren't able to get there," Brown said. "I regret that we didn't. But we will have another chance at the end of the season. Maybe it will happen then."

"Keep in mind we have a lot going on," Brown continued. "We're trying to get ready for our cap and as we go down the line and we're going to need room for our quarterback and our receivers."

Burrow's value to the team on the field and as the face of the franchise can't be overstated. He led Cincinnati to its first Super Bowl appearance in 33 years, losing to the Los Angeles Rams 23-20. The excitement has carried over. Bengals season tickets are already sold out for the 2022 season.

"We couldn't be happier with Joe Burrow," Brown said. "He's everything you would wish for, especially for a quarterback in Cincinnati. And our whole focus is going on keeping him here."

Duke Tobin, the Bengals director of player personnel, said he's got an eye on those looming contract issues, but would rather concentrate on the more immediate goal of getting back to the Super Bowl.

"We don't really bury our head in the sand and ignore what's going on elsewhere," Tobin said when asked about Murray's new contract with the Cardinals. "We are aware of what's going on el-



JEFF DEAN/AP

Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow takes part in drills at the team's stadium on June 14 in Cincinnati. Bengals owner Mike Brown said the team already has an eye on structuring finances so they can pay Burrow enough to stay in Cincinnati when the star quarterback becomes eligible to negotiate a new deal.

sewhere. We are aware of other deals that are out there. At this point we are just focused on 2022 and putting the best team out there.

"We are aware that we have decisions and contracts that will be coming up as our team matures," Tobin said. "That is the design of any player we pull off the draft board. The design is they are going to earn a big, big contract. That's what we want out of our guys. We want them to be considered top, top-level guys."

What's in a name?

Cincinnati's home field is still called Paul Brown Stadium, but that's likely to change soon.

Brown said it's inevitable that the naming rights to the 22-year-old venue that carries the name of his father and team founder will be sold. He wasn't able to provide any details Monday but said an announcement is coming.

"We are a small-market team," he said, noting that most NFL teams have sold naming rights. "We need the revenue streams that we can obtain. We have to do some things just to keep up."

Brown declined to comment on whether his father's name could be incorporated into the stadium's new branding.

The Bengals reported to camp on Tuesday with workouts beginning Wednesday.

No go

Some key players will be sidelined for the opening of camp.

Alex Cappa and La'el Collins, expected starters on Cincinnati's retooled offensive line, will be out for now. Cappa (core muscle injury) was put on the active/physically unable to perform, and Collins (back) on the active/non-football injury list. Offensive coordinator Brian Callahan said both are expected to be ready to go when Cincinnati opens the season Sept. 11 against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Also out for the start of camp are LB Joe Bachie, DE Khalid Kareem, RB Samaje Perine and S Brandon Wilson.

Content: QBs making more than Mahomes have had less success

FROM PAGE 24

who signed a six-year deal worth more than \$258 million last August and whose 3-3 playoff record includes a dramatic overtime loss to Kansas City last season. And the Browns' Deshaun Watson, who is 1-2 in the playoffs, but signed a five-year, \$230 million deal that's fully guaranteed in March. And Dak Prescott of the Cowboys, who signed a four-year, \$160 million contract last year despite having never played for a conference title.

Mahomes has played for the last four of those, winning two with the nail-biter finishes.

"I think especially the quarterback position, because the next guy or the top guy or any of these top-tier quarterbacks, they make such a difference in NFL games, that (contracts) are going to get passed up," Mahomes explained. "And I mean, if you look at guys that signed last year to this year, they got passed up."

\$450 million

Contract of Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, which is to be paid over 10 years. The deal, signed in July 2020, averages out to \$45 million per season.

SOURCE: Associated Press

He expects the same to happen when the Chargers' Justin Herbert and the Bengals' Joe Burrow sign new deals.

Mahomes was quick to make a crucial point about his own deal, though: "I was going to make sure that I got paid, like I said, to take care of your family. But I want to have a great team around me as well. And whatever way that is, I'm going to make sure I have a great team around me for the rest of my career."

The Chiefs spent lavishly last offseason, both in free agency and the draft, to rebuild an offensive line that failed to protect Ma-

homes against Tampa Bay in the Super Bowl. And while general manager Brett Veach has still been forced to make some tough financial decisions — like trading away Tyreek Hill rather than give the wide receiver a record-setting contract — he's still been able to land players such as JuJu Smith-Schuster, Marquez Valdes-Scantling and Ronald Jones II to help out.

Mahomes understands the responsibility that comes with his hefty contract, too. That was evident this past offseason, when he invited wide receivers, running backs and tight ends to his home in Texas for some voluntary workouts.

"Patrick does a great job with his leadership ability," Chiefs coach Andy Reid acknowledged this week. "He understands his strengths, he understands his weaknesses, and he's willing to work on his weaknesses like a wild man. He attacks all those things, and he wants you to coach him and coach him hard."

Regardless of what Mahomes' bank account might say.

"I want the Chiefs to be at the top of the rankings. I want to do whatever I can to put us in those positions," he said. "That all comes with how you play on the field. You can have these offseason lifts and everything like that, but when it comes down to it, it's going to be who's there in the middle of February holding up that trophy and getting that ring. So, I think whenever you have that motivation to be the best and to win as a team then everything else kind of handles itself."

Notes: The Chiefs practiced again Monday with rookies and quarterbacks before veterans reported later in the day. The first full-squad workout is Wednesday. ... WR Cornell Powell was the star of Sunday's workout with several impressive catches in traffic. ... LB Leo Chenal was back to work after leaving Saturday's practice early due to heat exhaustion.

SPORTS



Impressive comeback
Stott drives in five runs as Phillies rally past Braves » **MLB, Page 20**

NFL

Perfectly content

Mahomes fine with other QBs earning more money than him

BY DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

Patrick Mahomes walked onto the practice field at Missouri Western State University on Sunday flanked by NFL rookies and longshots, many of whom dream of making in a year what the Chiefs quarterback will make by the end of the day.

Yet when the Chiefs open the season in Arizona on Sept. 11, Mahomes won't even be the best-paid QB in the game.

Yes, Mahomes set the market when he signed a 10-year, \$450 million contract in July 2020, but that astonishing deal has been surpassed — in average pay and guaranteed compensation — multiple times over the past couple of years. And the latest to join the club with a skyrocketing quarterback contract is the Cardinals' Kyler Murray, whose 5-year, \$230.5 million deal signed this week outpaces Mahomes in average pay by more than a million per year.

All of which is fine for Mahomes, whose inherent humility means he doesn't mind seeing others get their due.

"You want the salaries to keep going up, your players getting more and more," Mahomes said. "When I saw my deal, I knew I was going to be pretty set for life, regardless of what the market kind of patterns. But you just keep playing. I mean, money is one thing, but when you get a Super Bowl ring in your career, I mean, that's the kind of thing you look back upon."

Mahomes earned that ring with a victory over San Francisco on a warm Miami night in February 2020.

That's something missing from the résumé of Murray, who lost the only playoff game of his first three seasons in the league, along with just about everyone else whose contract rivals that of the Kansas City quarterback.

There's the Bills' Josh Allen,

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"Money is one thing, but when you get a Super Bowl ring in your career, I mean, that's the kind of thing you look back upon."

Patrick Mahomes
Chiefs QB on what's most important to him



Despite all his success, Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes isn't the highest-paid quarterback in the NFL.

CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

JGR accepts penalties for Hamlin, Busch » Auto racing, Page 22

