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STARS AND STRIPES

stripes.com

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CONTINGENCY EDITION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021

Free to Deployed Areas

VIRUS OUTBREAK



CHANDLER WILBOURN/U.S. Marine Corps

Entry-level Marines with the Personnel Administration School, Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools, form a line for COVID-19 vaccinations at Camp Johnson, N.C., July 22. Approximately 100 vaccinations were administered to MCCSSS entry-level Marines.

AFGHANISTAN

Taliban capture first district capital since US began leaving

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban overran Zaranj on Friday, the first capture of a provincial capital since the U.S. began leaving the country this year, local officials and the militant group said.

Zaranj, the seat of the government in southwestern Nimruz province, which borders Iran, is an important hub for cross-border trade.

“All of the city is taken by the Taliban,” Abdul Wahid Zawri, a provincial council member for Nimruz, said in a phone call with Stars and Stripes from Zaranj.

In a WhatsApp message, the Taliban said they had captured the city, its airport and numerous military vehicles. The Taliban released photos they say show its fighters walking around abandoned government buildings in the city. There are about 186,000 people in Nimruz province, about a sixth of which live in Zaranj, Afghan government estimates show.

The governor of Nimruz did not respond to calls for comment.

Zaranj went silent at around 3 p.m. after about 30 minutes of fighting.

SEE TALIBAN ON PAGE 4



iStock

Will troops toe the line?

Potential military vaccine mandate brings distrust from some, along with support

By JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Since President Joe Biden asked the Pentagon last week to look at adding the COVID-19 vaccine to the military’s mandatory shots, former Army lawyer Greg T. Rinckey has fielded a deluge of calls.

His firm, Tully Rinckey, has heard from hundreds of soldiers,

Marines and sailors wanting to know their rights and whether they could take any legal action if ordered to get inoculated for the coronavirus.

“A lot of U.S. troops have reached out to us saying, ‘I don’t want a vaccine that’s untested, I’m not sure it’s safe, and I don’t trust the government’s vaccine. What are my rights?’” Rinckey said.

RELATED

Schools reopening in US with masks optional for many

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Generally, their rights are limited since vaccines are widely seen

as essential for the military to carry out its missions, given that service members often eat, sleep and work in close quarters.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has said he is working expeditiously to make the COVID-19 vaccine mandatory for military personnel and is expected to ask Biden to

SEE MANDATE ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Biden: 'We have to catch up' making electric cars

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Declaring the U.S. must “move fast” to win the world’s carmaking future, President Joe Biden on Thursday announced a commitment from the auto industry to produce electric vehicles for as much as half of U.S. sales by the end of the decade.

Biden also wants automakers to raise gas mileage and cut tailpipe pollution between now and model year 2026. That would mark a significant step toward meeting his pledge to cut emissions and battle

climate change as he pushes a history-making shift in the U.S. from internal combustion engines to battery-powered vehicles.

He urged that the components needed to make that sweeping change — from batteries to semiconductors — be made in the United States, too, aiming for both industry and union support for the environmental effort, with the promise of new jobs and billions in federal electric vehicle investments.

Pointing to electric vehicles

parked on the White House South Lawn, the president declared them a “vision of the future that is now beginning to happen.”

“The question is whether we lead or fall behind in the race for the future,” he said, “Folks, the rest of the world is moving ahead. We have to catch up.”

In obvious good spirits, the president hopped into a plug-in hybrid Jeep Wrangler Rubicon that can run solely on batteries and took a quick spin around the driveway after the ceremony.

EXCHANGE RATES

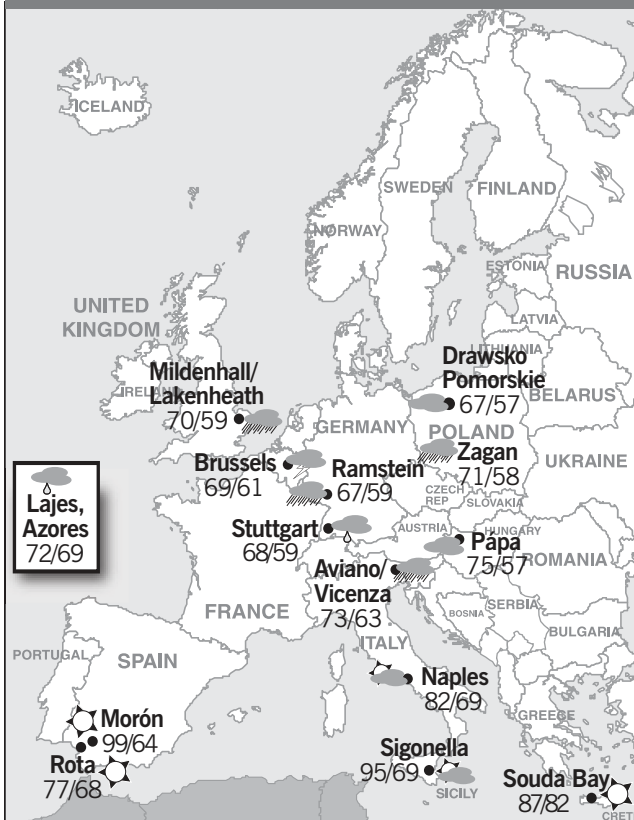
Military rates		South Korea (Won)	
Euro costs (Aug. 9)	\$1.15	Switzerland (Franc)	0.9124
Dollar buys (Aug. 9)	0.8258	Thailand (Baht)	33.39
British pound (Aug. 9)	\$1.36	Turkey (NewLira)	8.6283
Japanese yen (Aug. 9)	107.00		
South Korean won (Aug. 9)	1113.00		
Commercial rates		INTEREST RATES	
Bahrain(Dinar)	0.3770	Prime rate	3.25
Britain (Pound)	1.3888	Interest Rates Discount rate	0.75
Canada (Dollar)	1.2546	Federal funds market rate	0.09
China(Yuan)	6.4817	3-month bill	0.05
Denmark (Krone)	6.3156	30-year bond	1.86
Egypt (Pound)	15.7057		
Euro	0.8492		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7794		
Hungary (Forint)	299.58		
Israel (Shekel)	3.2206		
Japan (Yen)	110.28		
Kuwait(Dinar)	0.3006		
Norway (Krone)	8.8559		
Philippines (Peso)	50.66		
Poland (Zloty)	3.87		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7503		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3538		

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SATURDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SATURDAY IN EUROPE



SUNDAY 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

New Marine One will be delivered soon

By CAITLIN DOORBOS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A new kind of helicopter will soon be used as Marine One, the name given to helicopters that fly the president, a Marine Corps general said this week.

Delivery is “imminent” for the first two VH-92A helicopters that will transport the president, Maj. Gen. Gregory Masiello, program executive officer for air anti-submarine warfare, assault and special mission programs, said Tuesday at the Navy League’s Sea-Air-Space conference.

“The squadron and the program are ready today,” Masiello said. “We have enough aircraft for the initial usage, we have enough pilots that are trained, we have the support equipment — we have all that kind of stuff.”

The new helicopters will replace the Marine Corps fleet of



HUNTER HELIX/Communication Directorate

Marine Helicopter Squadron One runs test flights of the new VH-92A at the White House in 2018.

VH-3D Sea King and VH-60N White Hawk aircraft that now transport the president, according to a June Government Accountability Office report.

The Pentagon has ordered 23 VH-92As, which cost about \$217 million each, according to the report.

“The VH-92A is expected to

provide improved performance, communications and survivability capabilities, while offering increased passenger capacity,” according to the report.

It’s not the first time a new Marine One helicopter program was pitched. In 2009, then-President Barack Obama directed the Pentagon to cancel plans to build 28 VH-71 Kestrel helicopters that would have cost more than \$13 billion.

“The VH-92A program ... superseded the VH-71 program that DOD canceled due to cost growth, schedule delays and performance shortfalls,” according to the report.

The Marine Corps is now developing how they will phase out the old helicopters and bring in the new ones and working with the White House on a commissioning program, Masiello said.

“I think that will all coalesce over the next few months and you will see the VH-92s in service shortly,” he said.

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A-10 jets hit the highway for 1st time on US soil

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

A-10 Thunderbolt II attack jets landed and took off from a remote stretch of state highway in the northern part of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula on Thursday in a training exercise National Guard officials labeled a first for Air Force combat pilots in the United States.

Four A-10s, the popular close air support jets known among troops as Warthogs, took off and landed on a closed section of the civilian highway M-32 west of the town of Alpena, Michigan Guard officials said. A pair of C-146A Wolfhound turbo-prop special operations transport planes also participated in the operation, titled “Thunder Landing Zone,” the Michigan Guard said in a statement.

“Thunder [Landing Zone] gave the pilots the opportunity to land in an austere environment that they’re not used to,” Air Force Lt. Col. Brian Wyrzykowski, the Michigan Air Force National Guard pilot who commanded the mission, said in a statement. “But it’s also a first in the nation, as this is the first time that modern combat aircraft have landed on U.S. soil, on a highway.”

The events saw two A-10s from Michigan National Guard’s 127th Wing land on the highway and two A-10s from the active-duty 355th Wing from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., also land on the highway, officials said. The C-146 crew came from Air Force Special Operations Command at Duke Field, Fla.

The operation on Thursday was conducted as part of the Michigan National Guard’s annual training event known as Northern Strike, which includes some 5,100 service members from several states and countries training to prepare for a potential conflict with a near-peer adversary, such as Russia or China, according to the Guard’s description of the exercise. The training runs through Aug. 14.

The Thunder Landing Zone mission fits into preparations for major combat operations because pilots



SCREENSHOT FROM MICHIGAN STATE POLICE TWITTER VIDEO

A-10 Thunderbolt II attack jets landed and took off on a closed section of highway M-32 west of Alpena, Mich., on Thursday.

might need to be able to land and take off from unusual locations when facing an enemy with similar air defense capabilities as the United States, defense officials have said.

“Our adversaries have advanced weapons systems and advanced technology that they can use against us, so we need to be able to operate efficiently in austere situations and gain proficiency in those operations,” Wyrzykowski said. “We are making sure we are ready for the high-end fight against a near-peer adversary.”

Michigan State Police shut down about three miles of the four-lane highway for about five hours for the exercise. Videos posted by the law enforcement agency show civilians gathered along the highway to watch the military aircraft come and go.

Nearby homes went without power during the exercise as a safety precaution, Guard officials said.

Air Force Col. Jim Rossi, who commands the Michigan Guard’s Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center near the location of Thursday’s training event, thanked the local community for supporting the exercise.

“I’d like to extend our gratitude for the outstanding support we enjoy from our civil partners and the local community. Without them, this historic training event would not be possible,” Rossi said in a statement. “They’re such a patriotic group of Americans who are up here, willing to support and are as excited as we are to make this happen.”

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Loss of braking cited in 2019 Fla. plane incident

Associated Press

Investigators say a rain-soaked runway and the pilots’ failure to anticipate the poor conditions caused a plane chartered by the Pentagon to slide into a Florida river two years ago.

The Miami Air jet hydroplaned off the runway and wound up in shallow water of the St. Johns River. None of the 143 passengers and crew were seriously hurt, but several pets in the cargo hold died.

The plane was carrying Defense Department personnel from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The National Transportation Safety Board said pilots of the Miami Air International plane landed too fast and waited too long to deploy speed-reducing panels as the Boeing 737 touched down at Jacksonville Naval Air Station on May 3, 2019.

Investigators said that even without those mistakes, the plane would not have been able to stop on the ungrooved runway because of the amount of standing water. They said in a report released Wednesday that Miami Air failed to give pilots adequate guidance to evaluate braking conditions on wet runways.

Proper estimates about the conditions “would have prohibited (the pilots) from attempting the landing,” the investigators said.

Two months after the accident, the Federal Aviation Administration issued a safety alert tightening guidance about landing on ungrooved runways when moderate

to heavy rain is expected.

As the Boeing 737 approached the naval air station, the pilots talked to air traffic controllers about the rainstorm. The report said that as the plane descended, the captain failed to set the speedbrakes — movable panels on the wings that create drag — as called for in the landing checklist.

After touchdown, the captain applied one of the engine thrust reversers but didn’t feel the plane slowing. The speedbrakes came on automatically, but a few seconds later than if the captain had set them manually, the report said.

The plane drifted to the right and went off the end of the runway, hit a seawall and came to rest in the river, with its belly under water.

The NTSB said the excessive speed and delay in using speedbrakes “contributed to the severity of the accident.” But investigators calculated that the plane would not have been able to stop on the runway anyway because of the standing water.

The report said the pilots missed “several cues” that should have led them to call off the landing and, presumably, land somewhere else.

However, the investigators said, the pilots might have been under pressure to complete the flight because it was running late. They added that the first officer’s inexperience — only 18 hours flying Boeing 737s — may have put too much burden on the captain.

MILITARY



HAMED SARFARAZI/AP

Private militia loyal to Ismail Khan, the former mujahedeen commander, talk with each other and patrol after security forces took back control of parts of Herat city following fighting between Taliban and Afghan security forces in Herat province, Afghanistan, Friday.

Taliban kill Afghan media chief in Kabul

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban ambushed and killed the director of Afghanistan's government media center on Friday in the capital of Kabul, the latest killing of a government official just days after an assassination attempt on the country's acting defense minister.

The slaying comes amid Taliban advances and battles for more territory as U.S. and NATO forces complete their final pullout from Afghanistan by the end of the month. The Taliban have been waging fierce battles for months across Afghanistan, laying siege to provincial capitals in the south and west of the country after capturing district after district and even seizing several key border crossings.

Also Friday, in southern Nimroz province, the capital of Zaranj appeared to be the first provincial capital to fall to the Taliban though the government claimed there was still fierce fighting around key infrastructure in the city. But the Taliban posted images on social media showing insurgents inside the local airport and posing for photographs at the entrance to the city.

Nimroz is sparsely populated in a region that's mainly desert and Zaranj, the provincial capital, has about 50,000 residents. Its fall to the Taliban, if confirmed, was a mostly symbolic victory for the insurgents.

Meanwhile, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told The Associated Press that the insurgents killed Dawa Khan Menapal, the chief of the Afghan government's press operations for local and foreign media. He had previously been a deputy spokesman for Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

The assassination took place during weekly Friday prayers, according to the Interior Ministry's

deputy spokesman, Said Hamid RUSHAN. After the shooting, Afghan forces fanned out across the neighborhood of Kabul where Menapal was gunned down while riding in his car.

Mujahid, the Taliban spokesman, later put out a statement claiming responsibility and said that Menapal "was killed in a special attack" by the mujahedeen, or holy warriors.

The Taliban often target government officials and those they perceive as working for the government or foreign forces, though several recent attacks have been claimed by the Islamic State. The government most often holds the Taliban responsible.

Earlier this week, a Taliban bombing attack targeted Afghanistan's acting defense minister, Bismillah Khan Mohammadi. The attack in a heavily guarded upscale Kabul neighborhood late Tuesday killed at least eight people and wounded 20. The minister was unharmed.

The bombing was followed by a gun battle that also killed four Taliban fighters. The militants said the attack was to avenge Taliban fighters killed during government offensives in rural provinces.

Meanwhile, Afghan and U.S. aircraft pounded Taliban positions in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province on Friday, as the insurgents closed a major border crossing with neighboring Pakistan.

Residents in Helmand's contested provincial capital, Lashkar Gah, said airstrikes destroyed a market in the center of the city — an area controlled by the Taliban. Afghan officials say the Taliban now control nine out of the 10 districts of the city.

Afghanistan's elite commandos have deployed to Lashkar Gah, backed up by airstrikes by the Afghan and U.S. air forces.

Mandate: Distrust among troops recalls trouble with anthrax program

FROM PAGE 1

waive a federal law that requires individuals be given a choice if the vaccine is not fully licensed. Biden has also directed that all federal workers be vaccinated or face frequent testing and travel restrictions.

Lawyers say the waiver will put the military on firmer legal ground so it can avoid the court battles it faced when it mandated the anthrax vaccine for troops in the 1990s when it was not fully approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

The distrust among some service members is not only a reflection of the broader public's feelings about the COVID-19 vaccines, which were quickly authorized for emergency use, but stems in part from the anthrax program's troubles.

Scores of troops refused to take that vaccine. Some left the service. Others were disciplined. Some were court-martialed and kicked out of the military with other-than-honorable discharges.

In 2003, a federal judge agreed with service members who filed a lawsuit asserting the military could not administer a vaccine that had not been fully licensed without their consent, and stopped the program.

The Pentagon started it back up in 2004 after the FDA issued an approval, but the judge stopped it again after ruling the FDA had not followed procedures.

Eventually the FDA issued proper approvals for the vaccine, and the program was reinstated on a limited basis for troops in high-risk locations.

Military experts say the legal battles over the anthrax vaccine could be why the Biden administration has been treading cautiously. Until now, the government has relied on encouraging troops rather than mandating the shots. Yet coronavirus cases in the military, like elsewhere, have been rising with the more contagious delta variant.

If the military makes the vaccine mandatory, most service members will have to get the shots unless they can argue to be among the few given an exemption for religious, health or other reasons.

According to the Pentagon, more than 1 million service members are fully vaccinated, and more than 237,000 have gotten at least one shot. There are roughly 2 million active-duty, Guard and Reserve troops.

Many see the COVID-19 vaccine as being necessary to avoid another major outbreak like the one last year that sidelined the USS Theodore Roosevelt and resulted in more than 1,000 crew member cases and one death.

An active-duty Army officer said he would welcome the vaccine among the military's mandatory shots. The soldier, who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said he worries unvaccinated service members may be abusing the honor system and going to work without a mask.



ISAIAH CAMPBELL/U.S. Marine Corps

Hospitalman Morgan Roseberry, assigned to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, administers an anthrax vaccine aboard amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima in the Gulf of Aden, July 10.

He recently rode in a car with others for work but didn't feel like he could ask if everyone was vaccinated because it's become such a political topic. Commanders have struggled to separate vaccinated and unvaccinated recruits during early portions of basic training across the services to prevent infections.

Accommodating unvaccinated troops would burden service members who are vaccinated since it would limit who is selected for deployment, according to active-duty troops and veterans.

"The military travels to vulnerable populations all over the world to be able to best serve the U.S.," said former Air Force Staff Sgt. Tes Sabine, who works as a radiology technician in an emergency room in New York state. "We have to have healthy people in the military to carry out missions, and if the COVID-19 vaccine achieves that, that's a very positive thing."

Dr. Shannon Stacy, who works at a hospital in a Los Angeles suburb, agreed.

"As an emergency medicine physician and former flight surgeon for a Marine heavy helicopter squadron, I can attest that COVID-19 has the potential to take a fully trained unit from mission ready to non-deployable status in a matter of days," she said.

The biggest challenge will be scheduling the shots around trainings, said Stacy, who left the Navy in 2011 and did pre-deployment, group immunizations.

Army Col. Arnold Strong, who retired from the military in 2017, said he believes it's not anything the U.S. military cannot overcome: Troops working in the farthest corners of the Earth have access to medical officers. Given that most people sign up to follow orders, he thinks this time will be no different.

"I think the majority of service members are going to line up and get vaccinated as soon as it is a Department of Defense policy," he said.

Strong has lost five friends to the virus, three of whom were veterans. His hope is that the military can set the example for others to follow.

"I would hope if people see the military step up and say, 'Yes, let's get shots in arms,' it will set a standard for the rest of country," he said. "But I don't know because I think we face such a strong threat of disinformation being deployed daily."

Taliban: Zaranj's capture follows group's shut down of other key border trading cities

FROM PAGE 1

ing, said Roh Gul Khairzad, deputy governor of the province.

"Right now, the governor's house, police chief's house and all other government offices" are controlled by the Taliban, she said.

Zaranj fell to the Taliban weeks before the Aug. 31 deadline outlined

by President Joe Biden for the U.S. to end its longest war.

The Taliban have captured or shut down other key border trading cities in their latest offensive, which began after Biden announced that U.S. troops will leave the country.

More than 95% of U.S. troops have been withdrawn from Afghanistan, the Pentagon has said,

though American airstrikes in support of government forces have continued.

Zaranj's capture follows heavy fighting throughout the country, with Taliban attacks on the outskirts of major cities such as Herat in the west, Mazar-e-Sharif in the north, and Kandahar and Lashkar Gah in the south.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Schools reopen with differing rules on masks

By **JEFF AMY**
Associated Press

MCDONOUGH, Ga. — As Tussahaw Elementary opened this week for a new school year, teary-eyed mothers led in kindergartners dwarfed by backpacks and buses dropped off fifth graders looking forward to ruling their school. The biggest clue to the lingering COVID-19 crisis was the masks worn by students and teachers — but not all of them.

Georgia, like most states, is leaving it up to local schools to decide whether to require face coverings. And 43,000-student Henry County, like many districts worn out by months of conflict over masks, has decided not to insist on them.

Instead, they are “highly recommended.”

Many parents Wednesday in this suburb south of Atlanta had mixed feelings about the policy. Some kept their children home in disagreement with it. Others sent their youngsters to class with face coverings.

Shatavia Dorsey, the mother of a kindergartner and a fifth grader, said her children are going to wear their masks at school regardless of the rules.

“They’re not vaccinated because they’re too young, and I don’t know if someone else is carrying it in,” said Dorsey, who is

doubtful about the school system’s ability to maintain in-person instruction amid rising infections.

With the delta variant spreading rapidly, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics have advised in recent weeks that everyone in schools wear masks in communities with substantial or high transmission.

Educators have had to contend with strong resistance to masks from some parents and political leaders. Some consider mask rules an intrusion on parents’ authority to make decisions about their children’s health.

California, Louisiana, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington state intend to require masks for all students and teachers regardless of vaccination status. At the other end of the spectrum, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Utah have banned mask requirements in public schools.

Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida said Thursday the decision of whether to wear masks in school should be made by parents, adding: “What are the harmful effects of putting a kindergartener in a mask for seven hours? Have they talked about the emotional, the academic, the physiological? Why isn’t CDC studying that?”

Outbreaks that have hit schools



BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

Students walk down the hallway at Tussahaw Elementary school on Wednesday, in McDonough, Ga.

at the very start of the year have added to calls for more mask requirements.

In Marion, Ark., over 800 students and staff members have been quarantined because of exposure since classes began last week in the 4,000-student district.

Marion Superintendent Glen Fenter urged lawmakers to overturn the state law banning masks, warning that a “full-blown crisis” could lie ahead.

And Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson expressed regret over signing the ban in the first place

and asked that it be lifted. But the GOP-controlled Legislature left it in place Friday.

At least 28 of Georgia’s more than 180 school districts are requiring masks, encompassing more than 38% of the state’s public school students.

At Tussahaw Elementary, more than 60% of students were wearing masks in four classrooms visited by a reporter Wednesday, though some had pulled them down.

In only one room, where the teacher was also unmasked, were

a majority of students without face coverings.

What parents at Tussahaw really wanted was some normalcy — an end to trying to help children at home learn virtually, or cycling between in-person school and quarantine.

“We weathered the storm, but it’s a lot better being back in the classroom,” Bryant Thigpen said after dropping off his son for the first day of fifth grade. He said he thinks the school system should require masks — “at least until the cases go down.”

US military reports dozens of new cases in Japan, S. Korea

By **JOSEPH DITZLER**
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The coronavirus pandemic on Friday dug deeper into Japan’s capital city, host of the delayed 2020 Olympic Games, with another 4,515 newly infected people and four dead, public broadcaster NHK reported.

Friday was the third day the Tokyo Metropolitan Government reported more than 4,000 new cases, and the fourth day exceeding 3,000, according to its own data. The metro area reached a new pandemic high on Thursday with 5,042 people testing positive for the virus.

Tokyo 2020, the Olympics organizing committee, on Friday reported 29 people associated with the games tested positive for the coronavirus, including 19 contractors, six people with the committee, two volunteers, one media



AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

Friday was the third day the Tokyo Metropolitan Government reported more than 4,000 new coronavirus cases.

representative and one employee. Since July 1, the games have reported 382 positive test results.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military in

Japan on Friday reported more than 30 new COVID-19 cases from the past week. The U.S. command in South Korea reported four.

Yokosuka Naval Base, in Kanagawa prefecture south of Tokyo, had 10 people test positive since Tuesday, according to a base news release. Yokosuka has 28 active cases of COVID-19.

Naval Air Facility Atsugi, also in Kanagawa, reported two new COVID-19 cases Friday, according to a news release from the base. The air facility is monitoring 17 active cases.

Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo said seven people had turned up positive between July 31 and Friday.

Farther south, Sasebo Naval Base on Kyushu Island said one person with the virus was discovered during a medical screening, according to a Facebook post by the base Friday.

Kadena Air Base on Okinawa said 17 people there tested positive between July 31 and Friday,

according to its homepage Friday. Kadena has 22 cases under observation. The Marine Corps reported two new cases of COVID-19 at its bases on Okinawa, according to a Facebook post by Marine Corps Installations Pacific on Friday.

In South Korea, four service members tested positive on Tuesday and Wednesday, according to a news release from U.S. Forces Korea.

Two fell ill, one each at Osan Air Base and Camp Humphreys, and tested positive Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively.

At Osan, two more people turned up positive, one on Tuesday during surveillance testing and the other on Wednesday during contact tracing.

Stars and Stripes reporter Mari Higa contributed to this report.
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NATION

Wildfire explodes to 3rd-largest in California history

BY CHRISTOPHER WEBER
AND NOAH BERGER
Associated Press

GREENVILLE, Calif. — A wildfire raging in Northern California exploded in size overnight, becoming the third-largest wildfire in state history amid high temperatures and strong winds. Better weather conditions were expected to aid the firefight on Friday.

The Dixie Fire grew by 110 square miles between Thursday night and Friday morning, making the blaze the largest wildfire currently raging in the nation.

"This is going to be a long firefight," said Capt. Mitch Matlow, spokesperson of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The fire was 35% contained Friday morning but was largely expanding within the perimeter firefighters previously established. It now spans an area of 676 square miles.

On Wednesday, the fire tore through the little California mountain town of Greenville, which resident Eva Gorman said was a place of community and strong character, where neigh-

bors volunteered to move furniture, colorful baskets of flowers brightened Main Street, and writers, musicians, mechanics and chicken farmers mingled.

Now, it's ashes.

As hot, bone-dry, gusty weather hit California, the fire raged through the Gold Rush-era Sierra Nevada community of about 1,000, incinerating much of the downtown that included wooden buildings more than a century old.

The winds were expected to calm and change direction heading into the weekend but that good news came too late for Gorman.

"It's just completely devastating. We've lost our home, my business; our whole downtown area is gone," said Gorman, who heeded evacuation warnings and left town with her husband a week and-a-half ago as the Dixie Fire approached.

She managed to grab some photos off the wall, her favorite jewelry and important documents but couldn't help but think of the family treasures left behind.

"My grandmother's dining room chairs, my great-aunt's bed from Italy. There is a photo I keep visualizing in my mind of my son



NOAH BERGER/AP

Homes and cars destroyed by the Dixie Fire line central Greenville on Thursday, in Plumas County, Calif.

when he was 2. He's 37 now," she said. "At first you think, 'It's OK, I have the negatives.' And then you realize, 'Oh. No. I don't.'"

Officials had not yet assessed the number of destroyed buildings, but Plumas County Sheriff Todd Johns estimated on Thursday that "well over" 100 homes had burned in and near the town.

"My heart is crushed by what has occurred there," said Johns, a lifelong Greenville resident.

The three-week-old Dixie Fire was one of 100 active, large fires burning in 14 states, most in the West where historic drought has left lands parched and ripe for ignition.

The fire's cause was under investigation, but Pacific Gas & Electric has said it may have been sparked when a tree fell on one of the utility's power lines.

The blaze exploded on Wednesday and Thursday through timber, grass and brush so dry that one fire official described it as "basically near combustion." Dozens of homes had already burned before the flames made new runs.

No deaths or injuries were reported but the fire continued to threaten more than 10,000 homes.

On Thursday, the weather and towering smoke clouds produced by the fire's intense, erratic winds

kept firefighters struggling with shifting hot spots.

"It's wreaking havoc. The winds are kind of changing direction on us every few hours," said Capt. Sergio Arellano, a fire spokesman.

"We're seeing truly frightening fire behavior," said Chris Carlton, supervisor for Plumas National Forest. "We really are in uncharted territory."

The fire was not far from the town of Paradise, which was largely destroyed in a 2018 wildfire sparked by PG&E equipment that killed 85 people, making it the nation's deadliest in at least a century.

Northwest heat wave targeted vulnerable, tested climate prep

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Karen Colby thought she could make it through an unprecedented Pacific Northwest heat wave with a little help from her neighbor, who dribbled cold water on her head and visited every hour to wrap frozen towels around her neck.

But when temperatures in her tiny fifth-floor studio soared to 107 degrees Fahrenheit, Colby suddenly stopped responding to questions and couldn't move from her recliner to her walker. The friend called an ambulance, and Colby, 74, wound up hospitalized for 10 days with heatstroke.

"We had just survived the coronavirus and had been in complete lockdown. We were basically in jail here," said Joel Aslin, Colby's longtime friend who lives in the same apartment complex for low-income Portland residents who have a disability or are over 62.

"We did everything right and she survived — and then we had that stupid heat wave and that almost took her life," Aslin said.

The record-smashing heat that



GILLIAN FLACCUS/AP

Karen Colby listens July 22 while her neighbor Joel Aslin tells how he called an ambulance for her when she got heat stroke during a record-breaking heat wave in June, in Portland, Ore.

swept through cities from Portland to Vancouver, British Columbia, at the end of June silently killed scores of the region's most vulnerable who could not leave their homes, afford air conditioning or get a ride to public cooling centers.

Consecutive days of temperatures as high as 116 F in Portland

made a folly of years of planning for more anticipated emergencies such as earthquakes and snowstorms — and it was only as the disaster unfolded that authorities got a sense of how devastating it would ultimately be. Emergency rooms overflowed, 911 calls spiked and death reports rolled in.

The crisis was a wake-up call

for the normally temperate Pacific Northwest about what lies ahead with climate change and was a harsh lesson in how unprepared the region is, particularly when it comes to those living on society's margins.

The median summer temperature in Oregon could increase as much as 10 degrees by the end of the century, according to the Climate Impact Lab, and extreme weather events like heat waves will become more frequent.

"The really important and complex point is that places that are already hot — and are going to get hotter — are already adapted. They have air conditioning and they have homes built for wind to flow through," said Alan Barreca, an associate professor at the University of California, Los Angeles' Institute of Environment and Sustainability.

"Definitely the Pacific Northwest is not used to those temps, and so they're more vulnerable," he said.

Authorities in Portland spent days leading up to the heat wave warning the public, calling and

texting hundreds of the most vulnerable, dispatching volunteers with thousands of bottles of water and opening round-the-clock cooling centers.

Still, it was not enough to prevent what officials labeled a mass casualty event.

While nobody is certain exactly how many died, officials have estimated that the number is in the hundreds in Oregon, Washington state and British Columbia combined.

In Oregon, officials say 83 people died of heat-related illness, and the hot weather is being investigated as a possible cause in 33 more deaths. Washington state reported at least 91 heat deaths, and officials in British Columbia say hundreds of "sudden and unexpected deaths" were likely due to the soaring temperatures.

Most of the Oregon deaths occurred in Multnomah County, home to Portland, where the average victim was white, lived alone and 70 years old. There were more heat deaths in Portland in June than in the entire state over the past 20 years, authorities said.

NATION



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., Rep. Jennifer Wexton, D-Va., left, and Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., display a bill that will award Congressional Gold Medals to the U.S. Capitol Police and those who protected the Capitol during the Jan. 6 attack, during a ceremony at the Capitol Wednesday.

Biden signs legislation awarding medals to Jan. 6 first responders

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Thursday offered “profound gratitude” to law enforcement officers who responded to the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection as he signed legislation to award them Congressional Gold Medals for their service. The president thanked the officers for saving the lives of members of Congress during those “tragic hours” of the attack seven months ago.

The medal is the highest honor Congress can bestow. Joined by members of Congress, law enforcement officers and the families of police who died following the attack, Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris held the formal signing ceremony in the White House Rose Garden.

Many officers were brutally beaten and injured that day as the violent mob of then-President Donald Trump’s supporters pushed past them to break into the Capitol and interrupt the certification of Biden’s victory. Many of the insurrectionists repeated Trump’s false claims about widespread election fraud as they hunted for lawmakers and

tried to beat down the doors of the House chamber with lawmakers inside.

Some of the officers, including four who testified at a House hearing last week, have spoken openly about the lasting mental and physical scars.

“My fellow Americans, let’s remember what this was all about,” Biden said of the siege. “It was a violent attempt to overturn the will of the American people, to seek power at all costs, to replace the ballot with brute force. To destroy, not to build. Without democracy, nothing is possible. With it, everything is.”

The Senate passed the legislation unanimously earlier this week. The new law will place the medals in four locations — Capitol Police headquarters, the Metropolitan Police Department, the U.S. Capitol and the Smithsonian Institution. Biden said the medals will be at the Smithsonian “so all visitors can understand what happened that day.”

The Senate passed the legislation by voice vote, with no Republican objections. The House passed the bill in June, with 21 Republicans who have downplayed the insurrec-

tion in Trump’s defense voting against it.

Biden said at Thursday’s ceremony that “we cannot allow history to be rewritten,” and the officers’ heroism cannot be forgotten.

“We have to understand what happened,” Biden said. “The honest and unvarnished truth. We have to face it.”

In a ceremony to send the bill to the president, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Wednesday that Jan. 6 was “a moment, a day of extraordinary tragedy for our country” and praised the Capitol Police for their bravery and patriotism.

“I’m so sad that it took a tragedy of this nature for the recognition to be given to them,” Pelosi said.

The Congressional Gold Medal has been handed out by the legislative branch since 1776. Previous recipients include George Washington, Sir Winston Churchill, Bob Hope and Robert Frost. In recent years, Congress has awarded the medals to former New Orleans Saints player Steve Gleason, who became a leading advocate for people struggling with Lou Gehrig’s disease, and biker Greg LeMond.

US Apple iPhones to detect images of child sex abuse

Associated Press

Apple unveiled plans to scan U.S. iPhones for images of child sexual abuse, drawing applause from child protection groups but raising concern among some security researchers that the system could be misused, including by governments looking to surveil their citizens.

The tool designed to detect known images of child sexual abuse, called “neuralMatch,” will scan images before they are uploaded to iCloud. If it finds a match, the image will be reviewed by a human. If child pornography is confirmed, the user’s account will be disabled and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children notified.

Separately, Apple plans to scan users’ encrypted messages for sexually explicit content as a child safety measure, which also alarmed privacy advocates.

The detection system will only flag images that are already in the center’s database of known child pornography. Parents snapping innocent photos of a child in the bath presumably need not worry. But researchers say the matching tool — which doesn’t “see” such images, just mathematical “fingerprints” that represent them — could be put to more nefarious purposes.

Matthew Green, a top cryptography researcher at Johns Hopkins University, warned that the system could be used to frame innocent people by sending them seemingly innocuous images designed to trigger matches for child pornography. That could fool Apple’s algorithm and alert law enforcement.

“Researchers have been able to do this pretty easily,” he said of the

ability to trick such systems.

Other abuses could include government surveillance of dissidents or protesters.

“What happens when the Chinese government says, ‘Here is a list of files that we want you to scan for,’” Green asked. “Does Apple say no? I hope they say no, but their technology won’t say no.”

Tech companies including Microsoft, Google, Facebook and others have for years been sharing digital fingerprints of known child sexual abuse images. Apple has used those to scan user files stored in its iCloud service, which is not as securely encrypted as its on-device data, for child pornography.

Apple has been under government pressure for years to allow for increased surveillance of encrypted data. Coming up with the new security measures required Apple to perform a delicate balancing act between cracking down on the exploitation of children while keeping its high-profile commitment to protecting the privacy of its users.

But a dejected Electronic Frontier Foundation, the online civil liberties pioneer, called Apple’s compromise on privacy protections “a shocking about-face for users who have relied on the company’s leadership in privacy and security.”

Apple said the latest changes will roll out this year as part of updates to its operating software for iPhones, Macs and Apple Watches.

“Apple’s expanded protection for children is a game changer,” John Clark, the president and CEO of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, said in a statement. “With so many people using Apple products, these new safety measures have lifesaving potential for children.”

Biden grants people fleeing Hong Kong crackdown refuge for 18 months

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden granted temporary refuge Thursday to people from Hong Kong amid the Chinese government’s effort to crush the pro-democracy movement and tighten its control on a city once known for its freedom.

Biden signed a memorandum allowing people from Hong Kong currently residing in the United States to live and work in the country for 18 months, a move likely to further inflame the already tense relations between Washington and Beijing.

The decision to provide a temporary safe haven comes in response to Hong Kong’s sweeping new national security law and other measures that undercut the rights promised when the former British colony was handed back to China in 1997. It also comes as China and the United States are at odds over a range of foreign policy and trade issues.

“Given the politically motivated arrests and trials, the silencing of the media and the diminishing space for elections and democratic opposition, we will continue to take steps in support of people in Hong

Kong,” White House press secretary Jen Psaki said.

The Chinese government has sought to stifle opposition following protests in Hong Kong in 2019 against a proposed law allowing extraditions to mainland China. Under the new national security law, which took effect in June, police have arrested at least 100 opposition politicians, activists and demonstrators.

Changes have also been made to Hong Kong’s election laws to reduce the number of directly elected lawmakers and give a largely pro-Beijing committee the leeway to

nominate lawmakers aligned with the mainland government.

“Despite widespread demonstrations, which brought millions together to call for greater freedom, Hong Kong’s promise of democracy has dimmed,” Secretary of State Antony Blinken said as the measure granting safe haven was announced.

China bristles at the criticism, saying it is merely restoring order to the city and instituting national security protections found in other countries. It has denounced U.S. sanctions on Hong Kong officials as

interference in its domestic affairs.

There are several thousand people from Hong Kong in the United States who would be eligible to remain and avoid being deported under what is formally known as deferred enforced departure, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

Under U.S. law, the president is able to grant deferred enforced departure as part of constitutional power to conduct foreign relations. Former President Donald Trump granted it for Venezuelans just before he left office.

NATION

943K jobs added in July; unemployment at 5.4%

BY PAUL WISEMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hiring surged in July as American employers added 943,000 jobs. The unemployment rate dropped to 5.4% another sign that the U.S. economy continues to bounce back with surprising vigor from last year's coronavirus shutdown.

The July numbers exceeded economists' forecast for more than 860,000 new jobs. Hotels and restaurants, reopening and doing brisk business, added 327,000 jobs last month. Local public schools added 221,000.

The number of people who reported they had jobs surged by 1 million, pushing the jobless rate down from 5.9% in June. Last month, 261,000 people returned to the job market.

Scrambling to find workers as business surges back, companies raised wages: Average hourly earnings were up 4% last month from that of a year earlier.

The coronavirus triggered a brief but intense recession last spring, forcing businesses to shut down and consumers to stay home as a health precaution. The economy lost more than 22 million jobs in March and April 2020. Since then, though, it has recovered nearly 17 million jobs, leaving a 5.7 million shortfall compared to that of February 2020.

"Things are undeniably moving in the right direction," said Greg McBride, chief financial analyst at Bankrate.com.

The rollout of vaccines has encouraged businesses to reopen and consumers to re-

turn to shops, restaurants and bars that they had shunned for months after the pandemic struck. Many Americans are also in surprisingly strong financial shape because the lockdowns allowed them to save money and bank relief checks from the federal government.

As a result, the economy has bounded back with unexpected speed. The International Monetary Fund expects U.S. gross domestic product — the broadest measure of economic output — to grow 7% this year, its fastest pace since 1984.

Employers are advertising jobs — a record 9.2 million openings in May — faster than applicants can fill them.

Some businesses blame generous federal unemployment benefits — including an ex-

tra \$300 a week tacked on to regular state jobless aid — for discouraging Americans from seeking work. In response, many states have dropped the federal unemployment assistance even before it is scheduled to expire nationwide Sept. 6.

Many Americans may be staying out of the job market because of lingering health fears and trouble obtaining child care at a time when many schools are closed.

The outlook is clouded by a resurgence of COVID-19 cases caused by the spread of the highly contagious delta variant. The United States is reporting an average of more than 75,000 new cases a day, up from fewer than 12,000 a day in late June — although still well below the 250,000 levels of early January.

Senators struggle to agree on amendments to \$1T public works bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nearing decision time, senators were struggling to wrap up work on the bipartisan infrastructure plan despite hopes to expedite consideration and voting on the nearly \$1 trillion proposal.

The package had appeared on track for eventual Senate passage, a rare accord between Republicans and Democrats joining on a shared priority that also is essential to President Joe Biden's agenda. But senators hit new problems late Thursday as they worked late into the night on amendments. A procedural vote was set for Saturday.

"We've worked long, hard and collaboratively, to finish this important bipartisan bill," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., just before midnight. In announcing Saturday's schedule, he said "We very much want to finish."

Called the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the thick bill is a first part of Biden's infrastructure agenda, and would inject billions of new spending on roads, bridges, waterworks, broadband and other projects to virtually every corner of the nation.

If approved by the Senate, it would next go to the House.

The late-night session stalled out as new debates emerged over proposed amendments to change the 2,700-page package. Senators have processed nearly two dozen amendments, so far, and none has substantially changed the framework of the public works package. With more than a dozen amendments still to go, senators struggled to reach agreements.

One of the amendments generating the most attention Thursday involved cryptocurrency.

The bill would raise an estimated \$28 billion over 10 years by updat-



JABIN BOTSFORD/The Washington Post

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., talks to a staff member on Tuesday.

ing IRS reporting requirements for cryptocurrency brokers, just as stockbrokers report their customers' sales to the IRS.

Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., and others are concerned that crypto miners, software developers and others would be subject to the new IRS reporting requirement. Toomey led efforts to narrow the definition of who must file the reporting forms to the IRS.

A top Republican negotiator, Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, who had written the provision, tweeted that he agreed with the amendment sponsors that more can be done to clarify the intent of the provision and the Senate should vote on their amendment.

But that vote has yet to occur and the White House weighed in late Thursday, suggesting it favored a different approach from Portman and other senators.

White House deputy press secretary Andrew Bates said the compromise amendment "would reduce tax evasion in the cryptocurrency market." He said the administration believes "this provision will strengthen tax compliance in this emerging area of finance and ensure that high income taxpayers are contributing what they owe under the law."



NAM Y. HUH/AP

A sign stating face coverings are required is displayed at O'Hare airport in Chicago. In his letter to airport officials the nation's top aviation regulator suggested unruly passengers be prosecuted more often.

FAA head seeks more criminal charges for unruly passengers

BY DAVID KOENIG
Associated Press

The nation's top aviation regulator is suggesting that local police around the country should file charges more often against unruly airline passengers and that airports should clamp down on alcohol sales.

Federal Aviation Administration chief Stephen Dickson said that every week, police are asked to be there when a flight lands after an incident involving passengers, including cases in which they assault flight attendants.

"Nevertheless, many of these passengers were interviewed by local police and released without criminal charges of any kind," Dickson said in letters to airport officials. "When this occurs, we miss a key opportunity to hold unruly passengers accountable for their unacceptable and dangerous be-

havior."

Dickson noted in the letters dated Wednesday that the FAA has proposed civil fines against dozens of passengers in recent months, but the agency has no authority to file criminal charges.

Dickson also asked airports to work with concessionaires to limit alcohol-related incidents. He said some concessionaires sell alcohol to go and passengers get drunk before the flight or believe they can carry their drinks onto the plane.

The letter went to more than 500 airports and two airport trade groups.

This week, the FAA said airlines have reported 3,715 incidents involving unruly passengers since Jan. 1, with about three-fourths of the events involving people who refuse to wear face masks, as the federal government requires on airline flights. The FAA said it started

investigating more than 600 incidents — nearly double the numbers for 2019 and 2020 combined — and has proposed fines in 99 of them.

The Association of Flight Attendants has pushed for more criminal prosecutions. The union said last week that nearly one in five members who responded to a survey reported witnessing or being involved in physical incidents involving passengers this year.

The surge in incidents of bad behavior on planes has been attributed to many factors including opposition to the mask rule, stress brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, and the easy availability of alcohol in airports. Planes have been packed this summer with vacation travelers, and flight delays and cancellations have soared for reasons including thunderstorms, staffing shortages and technology outages.

NATION

Tourism at risk as Lake Powell hits historic low

Associated Press
Report for America

PAGE, Ariz. — A thick, white band of newly exposed rock face stretches high above boaters' heads at Lake Powell, creating a sharp contrast against the famous red desert terrain as their vessels weave through tight canyons that were once underwater.

It's a stark reminder of how far the water level has fallen at the massive reservoir on the Utah-Arizona border. Just last year, it was more than 50 feet higher. Now, the level at the popular destination for houseboat vacations is at a historic low amid a climate change-fueled megadrought engulfing the U.S. West.

At Lake Powell, tents are tucked along shorelines that haven't seen water for years. Bright-colored jet-skis fly across the water, passing kayakers, water-skiers and fishermen under a blistering desert sun. Closed boat ramps have forced some houseboats off the lake, leaving tourists and businesses scrambling. One ramp is so far above the water, people have to carry kayaks and stand-up paddleboards down a steep cliff face

to reach the surface.

Houseboat-rental companies have had to cancel their bookings through August — one of their most popular months — after the National Park Service, which manages the lake, barred people from launching the vessels in mid-July.

At the popular main launch point on Wahweap Bay, the bottom of the concrete ramp has been extended with steel pipes so boats can still get on the lake, but that solution will only last another week or two, the park service said.

"It's really sad that they're allowing such a beautiful, beautiful place to fall apart," said Bob Reed, who runs touring company Up Lake Adventures.

Lake Powell is the second-largest reservoir in the United States, right behind Nevada's Lake Mead, which also stores water from the Colorado River. Both are shrinking faster than expected, a dire concern for a seven-state region that relies on the river to supply water to 40 million people and a \$5 billion-a-year agricultural industry.

In 1983, Lake Powell's water ex-



RICK BOWMER/AP

Visitors carry a kayak up a newly exposed cliff face beneath the closed Antelope Point launch ramp on Lake Powell on July 31, near Page, Ariz.

ceeded its maximum level of 3,700 feet and nearly overran Glen Canyon Dam. The lake is facing a new set of challenges having reached a record low of 3,553 feet last week.

Government officials had to begin releasing water from sources upstream last month to keep the lake's level from dropping so low it would have threatened hydropower supplied by the dam.

It comes as less snowpack flows into the Colorado River and its tributaries, and hot temperatures parch soil and cause more river water to evaporate as it streams through the drought-plagued American West. Studies have linked the region's more than 20-year megadrought to human-caused climate change.

Fluctuating water levels have long been a staple of Lake Powell, but National Park Service officials say the usual forecasts weren't able to predict just how bad 2021 would be.

Once the severity of the drought became clear, federal officials began looking for options to allow boat access at low water levels, said William Shott, superintendent of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, where Lake Powell is located. The park service discovered an old ramp on Wahweap Bay that will be built out to support houseboats and smaller motorboats.

Shott says he hopes the \$3 million ramp can be completed by Labor Day weekend. The project is funded by the park service and

lake concessionaire Aramark.

The agency and officials from the town of Page, which relies on lake tourism, plan to open another old asphalt ramp to provide access for smaller boats while the larger one is updated.

Page Mayor Bill Diak said losing boat access to the lake could have devastating financial consequences for the city of 7,500.

He said local leaders were "slow" to address dropping water levels and limited boat access but that he's been working closer with park officials and concessionaires on solutions.

"We could have been a little bit more proactive on planning ... but we're moving in the right direction now working together," Diak said.

Virgin Galactic begins space-trip sales at \$450K

Associated Press

The ticket window is open again for space flights at Virgin Galactic, with prices starting at \$450,000 a seat.

The space-tourism company said Thursday it is making progress toward beginning revenue flights next year. It will sell single seats, package deals and entire flights.

Virgin Galactic announced the offerings as it reported Thursday that it lost \$94 million in the second quarter on soaring costs for overhead and sales. The company posted revenue of \$571,000, barely enough to cover one seat on a future flight.

The company's most noteworthy recent achievement came last month, after the quarter ended, when founder Richard Branson and five crewmates soared to 53.5 miles above the New Mexico desert.

CEO Michael Colglazier said the company resumed sales on Thursday to take advantage of a

surge in consumer interest after the flight by Branson, who beat rival billionaire Jeff Bezos and his Blue Origin ship into space by nine days.



Branson

The company based in Las Cruces, New Mexico, won regulatory approval in June to fly people into space.

Virgin Galactic said "early hand-raisers" will get first priority to book seats, and another list will be created for new customers.

The company's next spaceflight is scheduled for late September in New Mexico with the Italian air force.

Virgin Galactic said it ended the quarter with cash and equivalents totaling \$552 million.

The results were released after the stock market closed. The company's shares were up nearly 5% in after-hours trading.

Sheriff says aide who accused Cuomo files criminal complaint

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — A woman who accused Gov. Andrew Cuomo of groping her breast at the governor's state residence filed a criminal complaint against him, the Albany County Sheriff's office said Friday.

The complaint, filed Thursday with the sheriff's office, is the first known instance where a woman has made an official report with a law enforcement agency over alleged misconduct by Cuomo.

Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple told the New York Post it is possible the Democratic governor could be arrested if investigators or the county district attorney determine he committed a crime.

"The end result could either be it sounds substantiated and an arrest is made and it would be up to the DA to prosecute the arrest," he told the newspaper. "Just because of who it is we are not going to rush it or delay it," Apple said.

The Cuomo aide who filed the

report has accused him of reaching under her shirt and fondling her when they were alone together at the Executive Mansion last year.

The woman also told investigators with the attorney general's office that Cuomo once rubbed her rear end while they were posing together for a photo.

The sheriff's office didn't immediately provide a copy of the complaint. A request for comment was sent to Cuomo's lawyer, Rita Glavin.

The Albany County district attorney would not confirm that they received a complaint, saying they had no plans to release any information because "this is an ongoing matter that is under review," spokesperson Cecilia Walsh said in an email.

Cuomo has denied touching anyone inappropriately. His lawyers have acknowledged that Cuomo and the woman met together on the day of the alleged encoun-

ter, but said he never groped her.

Calls for Cuomo's resignation or impeachment soared this week after an independent investigation overseen by the state attorney general's office concluded that Cuomo sexually harassed 11 women and worked to retaliate against one of his accusers.

Prosecutors in several New York counties have said they are interested in investigating claims of inappropriate touching by Cuomo, but all had said they needed the women involved in the allegations to make a formal report.

The Albany Police Department had been informed of the woman's allegations regarding the encounter at the mansion several months ago and had spoken to her lawyer, but didn't open an investigation at the time because she didn't make a report.

The criminal investigation comes as lawmakers were moving toward a likely impeachment proceeding over the allegations.

WORLD

Hezbollah says rockets fired in retaliation

Associated Press

BEIRUT — The militant Hezbollah group said it fired a barrage of rockets near Israeli positions close to the Lebanese border on Friday, calling it retaliation for Israeli airstrikes on southern Lebanon a day earlier.

Israel said it was firing back after 19 rockets were launched from Lebanon, and Prime Minister Naftali Bennett swiftly convened a meeting with the country's top defense officials.

The attacks were a significant escalation between Israel's new government and Iran-backed Hezbollah, and comes amid rising tensions between Israel and Iran

that has played out in the Persian Gulf.

Israel's defense minister warned Thursday that his country is prepared to strike Iran, issuing the threat against the Islamic Republic after a fatal drone strike on an oil tanker at sea that his country blamed on Tehran.

The U.N. peacekeeping force deployed along the Lebanese-Israeli border said it has detected rocket launches from Lebanon on Friday, and return artillery fire by Israel.

"This is a very serious situation and we urge all parties to cease fire," the force known as UNIFIL said. Force commander Gen. Ste-

fano Del Col, said the force was coordinating with the Lebanese army to strengthen security measures in the area and called on the parties to cease fire immediately.

Sirens blared across the Golan Heights and Upper Galilee near the Lebanon border Friday morning. Hezbollah said in a statement that it hit "open fields" near Israeli positions in the disputed Shebaa farms area, with "dozens" of rockets. No casualties were reported.

The group said it fired 10 rockets, calling it retaliation for Israeli airstrikes the day before. Those strikes were in retaliation to rocket fire from south Lebanon, which was not claimed by any group.

Shebaa Farms is an enclave where the borders of Israel, Lebanon and Syria meet. Israel says it is part of the Golan Heights, which it captured from Syria in 1967. Lebanon and Syria say Shebaa Farms belong to Lebanon, while the United Nations says the area is part of Syria and that Damascus and Israel should negotiate its fate.

The escalation comes at a sensitive time in Lebanon, which is mired in multiple crises including a devastating economic and financial meltdown and political deadlock that has left the country without a functional government for a full year.

Hezbollah's response, rocketing open fields in a disputed area rather than Israel proper, appeared calibrated to limit any response.

Israeli army Lt. Col. Amnon Shefler told reporters Friday that 19 rockets had been fired into Israel, of which three fell within Lebanese territory. Ten of the remaining 16 rockets were intercepted by the defense system known as the Iron Dome.

It is also a politically sensitive time in Israel. Israel's new eight-party governing coalition is trying to keep peace under a fragile cease-fire that ended an 11-day war with Hamas' militant rulers in Gaza in May.

Thousands flee fires in Greece and Turkey

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece—Thousands of people fled wildfires burning out of control in Greece and Turkey on Friday, as a protracted heat wave turned forests into tinderboxes and flames threatened populated areas, electricity installations and historic sites.

On the Greek island of Evia, the coast guard mounted a major operation to evacuate hundreds of people by sea, using patrol boats as well as fishing and private vessels to rescue residents and vacationers from encroaching flames overnight and into Friday. Dozens of other villages and neighborhoods were emptied in the southern Peloponnese region and just north of the Greek capital as blazes raced through pine forests.

"We're talking about the apocalypse, I don't know how to describe it," Sotiris Danikas, head of the coast guard in the town of Aidipos on Evia, told state broadcaster ERT, describing the sea evacuation.

Coast guard spokesman Nikos Kokkalis told ERT that 653 people had been evacuated from beaches in northeast Evia after all other means of escape were cut off by the fires.

Fires have raged in many parts of Greece as the country has been baked by a prolonged heat wave that sent temperatures soaring to 113 degrees Fahrenheit. Thousands of people have fled their homes or holiday accommodation, while at least 20 people, including four firefighters, have been treated for injuries. Two of the firefighters were in intensive care in Athens, while another two were hospitalized with light burns, the Health Ministry said.

In neighboring Turkey, wildfires described as the worst in decades have swept through swaths of the southern coast for the past 10 days, killing eight people.

More than 1,000 firefighters and nearly 20 aircraft are now battling major fires across Greece. Several European countries are sending



THANASSIS STAVRAKIS/AP

Homeowners arrive to a burnt house after a wildfire in Drosopigi, a village about 27 miles north of Athens, Greece, on Friday.

or already sent firefighters, planes, helicopters and vehicles to help.

In Turkey, authorities evacuated six more neighborhoods near the town of Milas, in Mugla prov-

ince, Friday as a wildfire fanned by winds burned some 3 miles from a power plant. At least 36,000 people were evacuated to safety in Mugla province alone, officials said.

Meanwhile, several excavators cleared strips of land to form firebreaks in a bid to stop flames from reaching the Yenikoy plant, the second such facility to be threatened by wildfires in the region.

Iran swears in new hard-line president amid regional tension

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — The protégé of Iran's supreme leader, Ebrahim Raisi, was sworn in as the country's new president during a ceremony in parliament on Thursday, an inauguration that completes hard-liners' dominance of all branches of government in the Islamic Republic.

The former judiciary chief known for his distrust of the West takes the reins at a tense time. Iran's indirect talks with the U.S. to salvage Tehran's landmark 2015 nuclear deal have stalled, as Washington maintains crippling sanctions on the country and regional hostilities simmer.

"The sanctions must be lifted," Raisi said during his half-hour inauguration speech. "We will support any diplomatic plan that supports this goal."

Wearing the traditional black turban that identifies him in the Shiite tradition as a direct descendant of Islam's Prophet Muhammad, Raisi recited the oath of office with his right hand on the Quran.

In his address, Raisi stressed his embrace of diplomacy to lift U.S. sanctions and mend rifts with neighbors, a subtle reference to Sunni rival Saudi Arabia. But he also signaled that Iran seeks to expand its power as a



Raisi

counterbalance to foes across the region. "Wherever there is oppression and crime in the world, in the heart of Europe, in the U.S., Africa, Yemen, Syria, Palestine ... we will stand by the people," he said, referring to Iran-backed militias like Yemen's Houthis rebels and Lebanon's Hezbollah. His voice rose with emotion, eliciting a clamor of approval from the audience. "The message of the election was resistance against arrogant powers."

Raisi, who won a landslide victory in an election that saw the lowest voter turnout in the nation's history, faces a mountain of problems — what he described on Thursday as "the highest level of hostilities by Iran's enemies, unjust economic sanctions, widespread psychological warfare and the difficulties of the coronavirus pandemic."

Amid ongoing sanctions, Iran is grappling with runaway inflation, diminishing revenues, rolling blackouts and water shortages that have sparked scattered protests. Barred from selling its oil abroad, Iran has seen its economy crumble and its currency

crash, hitting ordinary citizens hardest.

Without offering any specific policies, Raisi pledged to resolve the country's mounting economic crisis, improve the spiraling currency and "empower poor people."

Former President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from Iran's nuclear deal in 2018 has led Tehran to abandon over time every limitation the accord imposed on its nuclear enrichment. The country now enriches a small amount of uranium up to 63%, a short step from weapons-grade levels, compared to 3.67% under the deal.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Crop-dusting plane crashes in yard of home

OH WOOSTER — A crop-dusting plane struck some power lines and trees before it crashed in the front yard of a northeastern Ohio home, leaving the pilot with minor injuries.

The crash in Wooster occurred as the plane dusted a farmer's field, according to the Wayne County Sheriff's office. No one on the ground was injured in the crash, and authorities have not said if anyone was in the home at the time.

Authorities said the plane just missed hitting the home. It eventually ended nose up against a tree in the yard, not far from the home's driveway.

The pilot, Tyler James Vold, 24, of Breckenridge, Minn., suffered undisclosed minor injuries but was able to walk away from the wreck.

Judges uphold beach town's topless ban

VA FALLS CHURCH — A federal appeals court affirmed a Maryland beach town's right to ban women from topless sunbathing.

A three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., ruled unanimously that Ocean City's law, which allows men to be topless but not women, is constitutional.

Ocean City passed its law in 2017 after one of the plaintiffs in the case, Chelsea Eline, contacted Ocean City police and asserted a right to go topless.

The panel's ruling notes that courts across the country have upheld laws banning women from topless sunbathing on public beaches. While the law imposes a restriction on women that is not imposed on men, Judge A. Marvin Quattlebaum Jr. wrote that Ocean City's elected leaders are within their rights to enact laws that protect public sensibilities.

Man arrested for baseball bat attack on home

KS GARDEN CITY — Authorities said a 36-year-old man is under arrest after breaking into a Garden City home and chasing people inside while wielding a baseball bat.

Police said they received a report about a man outside a home who was hitting a tree with a wooden bat, the Wichita Eagle reported. He then started beating it on an unlocked door of the home.

Police said in a news release that he then smashed the bat into a large window, climbed into the residence and chased two people, threatening them.

When the people ran outside, he followed and began hitting two vehicles, causing extensive damage, authorities said.



BEN GARVER, THE (PITTSFIELD, MASS.) BERKSHIRE EAGLE/AP

Family outing

A family finishes a round of mini-golf at Bakers Golf Center in Lanesborough, Mass., on Wednesday. The Berkshires region is experiencing a much needed stretch of comfortable weather.

He refused police instructions to drop the bat, walked closer to the officers, and attempted to swing the bat, police said.

Hunters take aim at feral pigs during the night

AL MONTGOMERY — More than 500 Alabama hunters have bought licenses to hunt feral pigs and coyotes at night, authorities said.

It's a new approach to try to control the destructive animals in Alabama, Al.com reported.

State lawmakers passed a bill last year to allow the nighttime hunting. It's aimed at targeting the wild pigs, which cause more than a billion dollars in damage annually, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Experts say that nighttime hunting could help control the population, but that trapping and killing is the best way to do so.

Native American woman statue stolen from park

MO KANSAS CITY — A statue of a Native American woman has been stolen from a Kansas City park, The Kansas City Star reported.

A Kansas City parks spokeswoman told the newspaper that officials are searching for more details about the \$80,000 statue's disappearance from Northland Park.

The statue was one of several at

THE CENSUS

50 The number of years later a library book was anonymously returned to a Pennsylvania library. The Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice reported that the 1967 copy of "Coins You Can Collect" by Burton Hobson arrived at the Plymouth Public Library in Luzerne County along with a \$20 bill. An accompanying unsigned letter, written as if by the book itself, said "Fifty years ago (yes 50!), a little girl checked me out of this library in 1971. At this time, she didn't know they were going to move from Plymouth." Both letter and book will soon be on display at the library, library director Laura Keller said.

the François Chouteau and Native American Heritage Fountain. The site honors American Indians and French trader François Chouteau for their roles in founding Kansas City.

Passenger charged with assaulting flight crew

FL MIAMI — An Ohio man was arrested in Florida after being accused of groping two female flight attendants and punching a male flight attendant during a flight from Philadelphia to Miami, officials said.

Maxwell Berry, 22, of Norwalk, Ohio, was arrested at Miami International Airport and charged with three counts of misdemeanor battery, according to a Miami-Dade police report.

Berry had two drinks while on the Frontier Airlines flight and ordered another drink, police said. Berry brushed an empty cup against the backside of a flight attendant, who then told him not to touch her, officials said. At some

point, Berry spilled a drink on his shirt, went to the bathroom and came out shirtless, the report said. A flight attendant helped him get another shirt from his carry-on.

Police said that, after walking around for 15 minutes, Berry allegedly grabbed the chests of two female flight attendants. They called a male flight attendant over to watch Berry, who punched the other man in the face, officials said. The flight attendant and nearby passengers restrained Berry in a seat with tape and a seatbelt extender, the report said.

Man sentenced 18 years for firebomb plot

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A California man who plotted to firebomb the homes of people on his personal "enemies list" was sentenced to 18 years in federal prison.

David Jah, 47, of Concord, was sentenced for conspiracy to commit arson.

Prosecutors said Jah had made

a list of six people he thought had wronged him, including attorneys involved in the sale of his childhood home in San Francisco; a lawyer who was involved in removing him from the home; the home's buyer; a former neighbor and a deputy city attorney who had represented police in an excessive force suit filed by his son.

"When Mr. Jah was unable to achieve his objectives in court, he turned to violence," said Stephanie M. Hinds, acting U.S. attorney for the Northern District of California, said in a statement.

New 'slow zone' made to protect rare whales

MA NANTUCKET — The federal government has announced a new voluntary speed restriction zone to try to protect rare whales off the Massachusetts coast.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said the new "slow zone" is located southeast of Nantucket and began on Aug. 1. It's in effect through Aug. 16.

The zone is designed to protect North Atlantic right whales, which number only about 360.

The agency is asking mariners to route around the area entirely or transit through it at 11.5 mph or less.

HEALTH & FITNESS

When traditional medicine isn't enough

COVID-19 renews interest in radiation, but doctors, environmental and health groups caution against pilgrimages to radon-filled mines

BY KATHERYN HOUGHTON
Kaiser Health News

Twice a year, Brian Tichenor makes the 1,200-mile drive each way from his home in Kansas to a defunct uranium mine in Montana, where he takes an elevator 85 feet below the surface to sit amid radioactive radon gas to ease the pain from his chronic eye condition.

"I found it like I think a lot of people do," said Tichenor, 67. "It's a point of desperation with conventional treatment."

While radon is commonly known as a hazardous gas removed from basements, people in pain travel to Montana and pay to breathe, drink and bathe in its radioactive particles. The travelers view the radon exposure as low-dose radiation therapy for a long list of health issues. But the Environmental Protection Agency and the World Health Organization, among others, blame the gas as the second-leading cause of lung cancer. Although cancer doctors use radiation as a front-line treatment to destroy dangerous cells, its role in the U.S. in low doses for other ailments is disputed. The pandemic has recharged that debate as clinical trials across the world test whether low doses of radiation can help treat COVID-19 patients.

But radon gas isn't the same radiation U.S. doctors use, radiation experts caution. Radon is just one of the radioactive chemical elements and, because it's a gas, it can be inhaled, making it particularly dangerous.

Sitting in a radon-filled room and targeted radiation treatment in a medical facility are as different as "chalk and cheese," said Brian Marples, a professor of radiation oncology at the University of Rochester.

"In clinical therapy, we know exactly what the dose is; we know exactly where it's going," he said.

Marples said much of the argument for radon's therapeutic use relies on historical reports, unlike evidence-based research on clinical radiation. Still, some radiation experts are split on what level of radon should be deemed dangerous and whether it could have positive health effects.

Another concern: The radon

treatment in the mines is largely unregulated. The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services doesn't have the authority to permit or license the mines, though department spokesperson Jon Ebelt said the adverse health risk from exposure is well known. The EPA also doesn't have the power to mandate limits on radon.

Nonetheless, each year travelers head to western Montana, where four inactive mines flush with radon are within 11 miles of one another near the rural communities of Basin and Boulder. Day passes range from \$7 to \$15. The gas naturally forms when radioactive elements in the mountains' bedrock decay.

"I'd rather take my chances with radon in terms of living with arthritis than with other Western medication."

Monique Mandali, 74
Helena, Mont.

Outside the Merry Widow Health Mine, a billboard-like banner announces "Fountain of Youth. FEEL YOUNG AGAIN!" Inside its tunnels, water seeps from the rock walls. Those who want full immersion can slip into a clawfoot tub filled with radon-tainted water. People can soak their feet and hands in the water or simply sit and work on a puzzle. On a bench sits a printout of a Forbes article on clinical trials that show low-dose radiation could be a treatment for COVID-19.

To owner Chang Kim, 69, his business is a mission, especially for those with chronic medical conditions such as arthritis or diabetes. Those who swear by radon therapy say that, in low doses, a little stress on the body triggers the immune system to readapt and reduces inflammation.

"The people coming to the mines, they're not stupid," Kim said. "People's lives are made better by them."

He learned about the mines 14 years ago when he and his wife, Veronica Kim, lived in Seattle and a connective tissue disease crumpled Veronica's hands and feet. Traditional medicine wasn't working. After two sessions a year in the mines ever since, Veronica smiles when she shows her hands.

"They're not deformed anymore," she said, adding she's been able to cut down on her use of meloxicam, a medication to reduce pain and swelling.

Tichenor said he's been going to a mine with radon for over six years and it has been one of the few things to calm his scleritis, a disorder that causes pain he describes as ice picks stabbing his eyes. As for its potential danger, he said radon treatment is just like any medication: Too much can cause harm.

He and other radon users point to European countries such as Germany, where the therapy may be controversial but doctors still can prescribe radon treatments for various conditions that insurance may even cover.

In the U.S., the EPA maintains that no level of radon exposure is risk-free even though everyone encounters the element in their lives. The agency notes radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year. It recommends that homeowners with radon levels of 4 picocuries per liter or more should add a radon-reduction system. By contrast, the owners of Montana's oldest radon therapy mine, Free Enterprise Radon Health Mine, said their mine averages around 1,700.

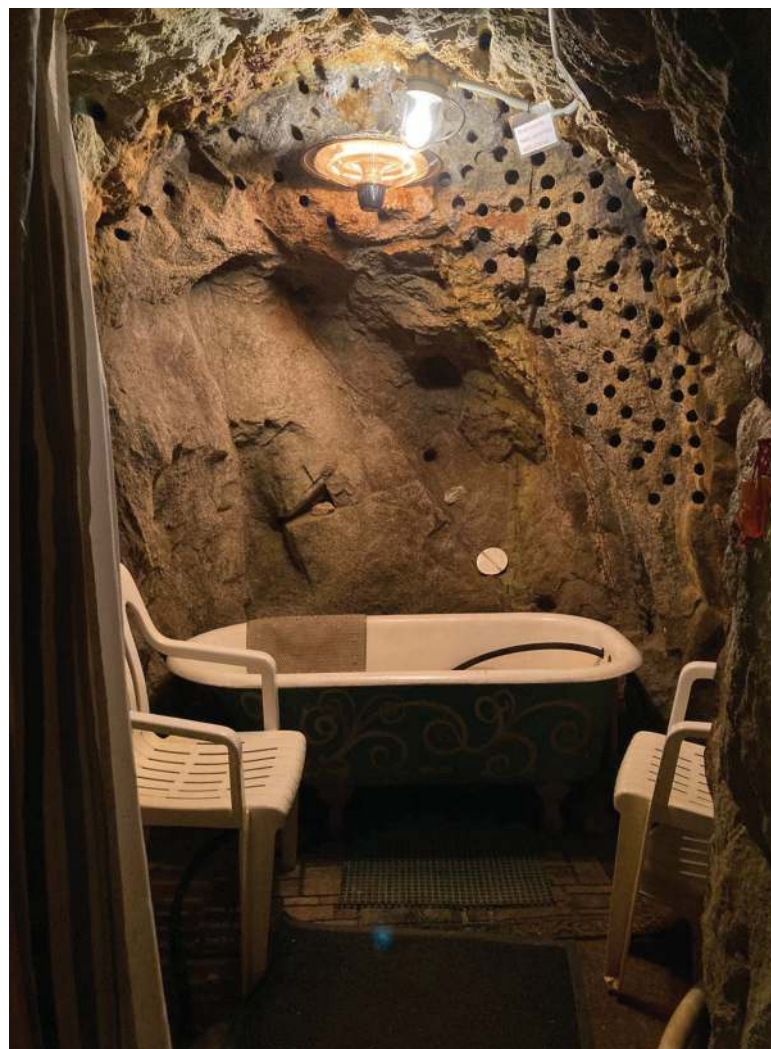
Monique Mandali said the federal guidelines are "a bunch of baloney." Mandali lives in Helena, about 40 minutes from the mines, and tries to fit in three sessions at Free Enterprise a year — 25 hours of exposure spread out over 10 days for arthritis in her back.

"People say, 'Well, you know, but you could get lung cancer.' And I respond, 'I'm 74. Who cares at this point?'" she said. "I'd rather take my chances with radon in terms of living with arthritis than with other Western medication."



PHOTOS BY KATHERYN HOUGHTON, KHN/TNS

Free Enterprise Radon Health Mine, just outside Boulder in western Montana, is the state's oldest mine that offers exposure to radioactive radon gas as a therapeutic treatment.



Inside the defunct Merry Widow Health Mine in Basin, Mont., water seeps from the rock walls. People who want full immersion in its radon-laced waters can slip into this clawfoot tub as part of unregulated radiation therapy touted by the mine's owners but deemed potentially dangerous by some radiation experts.



Hak (left) and Ung Shin spend time in a tunnel at the Merry Widow Health Mine in Basin, Mont., June 30 piecing together a puzzle. For more than 10 years, the California couple have visited to expose themselves to radioactive radon, which they say keeps them healthy.

VIDEO GAMES



Photos by Lizardcube

Mr. X Nightmare downloadable content upgrade for *Streets of Rage 4* allows players to earn special power-up items that give their characters enhanced special skills and introduces three new fighters for players to choose from. The DLC can be added for an additional \$8.

Improving on perfection

New *Streets of Rage 4* update turns fighters into gods, making a great game even better

BY GENE PARK

The Washington Post

While playing the new content for *Streets of Rage 4*, my fighter, Cherry Hunter, picked up a new power-up item during a break between matches. Sadly, it was obscured by the scattered weapons, so I didn't see what power I received. No matter, I thought, I would just see what the next round entails.

Turns out, it infused Cherry's punches with lightning. My favorite fighter in last year's exceptional beat-'em-up game had been gaining god-like powers for a few rounds now. Her electric guitar now also shot flames, her heavy punches could poison people, and now every last punch or kick of hers was going to be super-charged with lightning.

Cherry and I jammed our way through 22 rounds of ever-escalating goon mobs and environmental challenges before we were finally beaten down by the inevitable overwhelming swarm of other similarly supercharged enemies. But it wasn't for naught. Besides having a total blast, Cherry also gained enough experience to unlock a new version of her dash attack, letting her slide across the floor on her knees like a rock star paying homage to The Who.

The new mode in the Mr. X Nightmare DLC, released last month, seems a bit thin in concept. It's just an endless horde mode. But LizardCube, Dotemu and GuardCrush Games have created an insidious gameplay loop that will be familiar to any fans of Hades or recent hits in the rogue-like genre.

As your chosen fighter progresses through each wave, you're given the option to pick one of either two or three pow-



The Mr. X Nightmare update makes the beat-'em-up gameplay of *Streets of Rage 4* even more playable with power-ups that can turn a player's fighters into virtual gods.

er-up items. These are almost uniformly a net positive for you, like the aforementioned lightning kicks and poison punches. There's a small sense of risk and reward. Some of these powers will increase your damage output by 100 percent, but you also take damage by that same amount. However, it's all but guaranteed that by the end of your run, your street fighter is going to feel as powerful as the Doom Slayer.

Even if you fail, and you inevitably will in an infinitely replayable mode, it's not a waste of time. All 15 characters get new special moves, unlockable by using the characters in this new Survival mode. Even if you lose quickly, it'll add to each character's small experience meter. The base game's initial cast of four, as well as the three new additions, each get a whopping six new moves, while the *Streets of Rage 1, 2* and *3* Sega Genesis versions get between one or three new moves each.

This adds a new reward feedback loop for what would otherwise be a side content distraction, all of which feeds into the main gameplay experience. Beyond this motivation to unlock more permanent abilities, these moves somewhat address a smaller complaint about the otherwise excellent 2020 brawler. Because of its adherence and reverence to old-school beat-'em-up gameplay, many of the characters didn't have more "modern" abilities like rolling, dodging or running. My favorite fighter, Cherry, was the only character from the main game who could run.

But now with these unlockable moves, the bearlike brute Axel can do a forward roll that sets the ground aflame. It's not only a debilitating attack that combos easily with his base move set, but it gives him more maneuverability around each stage. And all of these moves can be used to improve your Survival run, too.

All of this adds a surprising new layer of

customization, depth and strategy to a game that already felt complete when it released last year. *Streets of Rage 4* was not only one of the greatest games of 2020, but it's perhaps the finest example in the genre to date. That's no small feat considering the franchise history and the genre pedigree. Now these indie studios have improved upon what was already a near-perfect product. There are also new music tracks and Survival-only levels that evoke the past games to a remarkable degree, often bringing back long-lost enemy characters from the original Genesis trilogy.

It's to this new content's credit that I am only now talking about its stars, the three new fighters: Estel, the noble and powerful police captain; Max Thunder, the classic wrestler; and Shiva, the martial artist with long reach but who can't use weapons. Each fighter comes with a base set of new moves, along with the unlockable ones from Survival. All three characters have been requested by fans since the game released, particularly Estel, who debuted in the fourth installment as an antagonist.

The beautiful thing about beat-'em-up games is that the genre's appeal is immediate: Walk right, punch everyone along the way and feel great about it. The beauty of Mr. X Nightmare for *Streets of Rage 4* is less apparent, because the original game was already packed with value. But at \$8, this trio of indie studios somehow made a far more robust and replayable package. There's little else to say besides the fact that *Streets of Rage 4*, as a now-complete package, has my highest possible recommendation.

Platforms: PC, Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 4, Xbox One

Online: streets4rage.com

MOVIES



Warner Bros. Pictures photos

Director James Gunn has gathered a perfectly ragtag bunch of supervillains to save the world in Warner Bros. Pictures' superhero action adventure "The Suicide Squad."

The more unlikely, the better

Director James Gunn assembles a motley 'Suicide Squad' crew

BY LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Could a scoundrel DC Comics character like Peacemaker ever be on the same level as Superman? How about Polka-Dot Man? Or Ratcatcher?

The man who made Rocket Raccoon, Groot and Star-Lord household names thinks so. James Gunn can't help it: He loves an outsider. It's the reason why when offered the chance to make a movie with any DC character he wanted, he chose not Superman but the misfits of "The Suicide Squad."

Never mind that there was a terribly reviewed "Suicide Squad" movie released just five years ago. Gunn, a life-long fan of the good-for-nothing supervillains, had his own vision: It would be a mash-up of genres and pay homage to 1960s war capers. He'd dust off some obscure, deep-cut DC supervillains that no casual moviegoer would ever be expected to know and get a giant alien starfish villain named Starro in the mix.

Warner Bros. said yes. And it wouldn't have to be PG-13, either.

Though bold, it's not entirely surprising: Not only had Gunn turned the "Guardians of the Galaxy" into A-list Avengers, he was also at the time (suddenly and briefly) a free agent. While David Ayer's 2016 "Suicide Squad" might have been a critical disaster, it was still a financial hit. In other words, a second movie, regardless of whether it was a sequel, a reboot, a re-do, or none of those things (which this is) was not out of the question.

Yes, it features some of the same actors playing the same characters, like Margot Robbie's Harley Quinn, Joel



Idris Elba and writer/director James Gunn confer on the set of "The Suicide Squad." Gunn had a vision for what he wanted the movie to look like and from start to finish was able to see that vision fulfilled.

SEE SQUAD ON PAGE 15

MOVIES

A delightful do-over

There's life after 'Suicide Squad' for Gunn's unruly, murderous band in 'The Suicide Squad'

By JUSTIN CHANG
Los Angeles Times

There's a lesson to be learned from "The Suicide Squad," a movie otherwise blissfully devoid of lessons. Emerging from this scuzzy cinematic joy-bomb from the DC Extended Universe, I found myself marveling — ahem, wondering — at how you can take one of the worst movies of its kind, jettison most of the key players, jack up the violence to R-rated levels, add a definite article to the title, throw in a giant extraterrestrial starfish and wind up with something that, if not a masterpiece, certainly feels like one by comparison. After 2016's ugly, bludgeoning "Suicide Squad," I couldn't imagine liking — and could barely stomach the idea of seeing — another movie called "Suicide Squad." I'm delighted to be proven wrong.

Less a sequel than a do-over, "The Suicide Squad" is the latest film written and directed by James Gunn, crossing over to the DC side of the superhero cosmos after having churned out two "Guardians of the Galaxy" movies for Marvel. Those pictures, with their trippy colors, surreal misadventures and goofy intergalactic misfits, turned out to be a useful warm-up

for a story about a much more unruly and murderous band of outsiders. Or perhaps I should say insiders, since most of them — like the ironically named Peacemaker (John Cena), the less ironically named Bloodsport (Idris Elba) and the cheerfully deranged Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie) — are behind bars when they're coerced into joining a top-secret U.S. government operation so dangerous that only the worst of humanity need apply.

That fight-evil-with-evil strategy is a holdover from the earlier movie, though the final makeup of this movie's Task Force X is a bit of a mystery at first. Without divulging too much, I'll just note that Gunn's use of misdirection is the kind of sly joke that cuts to the heart of this movie's flippant, borderline-obnoxious charm. In a film about a bunch of ultra-violent super-baddies, it's only right that some of them should be treated as genuinely expendable.

And speaking of expendable: Yes, those are Sylvester Stallone's grunts emanating from the jaws of King Shark (played by Steve Agee), an enormous human-selachimorph hybrid who proves a crucial addition to the task force. The likelihood that he'll chomp down on his comrades is



WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

From left: Margot Robbie, Daniela Melchior, Idris Elba and David Dastmalchian are supervillains tasked with defeating evil in a scene from "The Suicide Squad."

one of those pesky logistical hurdles the movie breezily kicks aside as it rounds up its dirty not-quite dozen, starting with a (relatively) level-headed leader, Col. Rick Flag (Joel Kinnaman, making more of an impression than in the first "Squad"). There's also a soulful rodent whisperer named Ratcatcher II (a luminous Daniela Melchior) and a walking Twister board named Polka-Dot Man (David Dastmalchian), who kills people by pelting them with tiny, bright-colored explosives.

The team's destination is the South American island nation of Corto Maltese, where they must take down a modern-day Mengele figure (Peter Capaldi) who's carrying out some hideous, potentially world-threatening human experiments. They'll also have to join forces with a brave rebel insurgency (led by Alice Bra-

ga) in order to take down the island's staunchly anti-American government.

Mostly, they'll have to grapple with their own team dynamics, which — thanks to a terrific ensemble and a deft balance of brains, heart and other viscera — turn out to be rather more involving than expected.

Psychotic, battle-weary and devoid of compassion as they may be, these merry professional killers aren't entirely dead inside. By the same token, Gunn's insouciant swagger isn't entirely devoid of warmth or sentimentality, and the bonds of kinship that emerge between comrades — warm little cracks in the movie's nihilistic facade — can't help but sneak their way into your own affections.

"The Suicide Squad" is rated R for strong violence and gore, language throughout, some sexual references, drug use and brief graphic nudity. Running time: 132 minutes. Now playing in select theaters and streaming on HBO Max.

Squad: Gunn brings his superhero vision to life

FROM PAGE 14

Kinnaman's Rick Flag, Viola Davis' Amanda Waller and Jai Courtney's Boomerang. But as Robbie said, Gunn's "The Suicide Squad," now in theaters and streaming on HBO Max, is "just a different thing," even if it does essentially bear the same name.

Otherwise, the similarities are few. Gunn's vision is irreverent, sincere, bombastic, vibrant, unexpectedly emotional and very R-rated.

"This movie is not a family film," Gunn said. "My dad would take me to see this movie if I was 12 or 13, and I don't think it would be a big deal. But if you get younger than that, it's kind of weird."

And already it has one big advantage over Ayer's: The reviews are stellar.

"The Suicide Squad" is something no one's ready for, but everybody needs," said John Cena. "Everyone will leave the theater satisfied."

The WWE star plays Peacemaker, a deranged Captain America type who will proudly "kill any man, woman or child" to maintain the peace.

Part of that might have to do with the fact that Gunn, who wrote and directed, had free reign to do whatever he wanted, which included killing off any character he wanted.

"James really knew what he wanted to make, and from the pitch to the script to the pre-production, it never deviated," said producer Charles Roven.

That involved assembling both characters and actors that didn't make immediate sense together.

"It does have this postmodern vibe," Gunn said. "Each of these superheroes came from a different genre. Bloodsport is sort of a grim, dark thing and Polka-Dot Man is from some goofy old cartoon and Peacemaker's from a dumb '70s TV show and Ratcatcher is from almost like a 'Saw' type of movie or something. And they're all coming together. The actors were like that, too. They all have their own styles and different ways of going about it. And it really is my job as a director to make them all on the same page."

He called on some of his mainstays, like Nathan Fillion, with whom he's been friends since Gunn's debut "Slither," and Michael Rooker, with whom he clicked on "Guardians." Even Sylvester Stallone (also in "Guardians") agreed to voice the dim-witted, flesh-eating King Shark. But Gunn didn't just go with safe choices. He also cast an unknown Portuguese actor in her first American film, Daniela Melchior, as an unknown villain: Ratcatcher II. And already she's

being singled out as making a breakthrough.

For Bloodsport, a sharpshooter character that would require not just action know-how but comedic acumen, he enlisted Idris Elba. And it was a welcome departure for the actor.

"I was a fan of his and he was a fan of my potential. He wanted me to play a character that he hadn't seen me play," Elba said. "I've been trying to do some comedy for years and never get a shot. I don't know what it is about me. I'm really goofy. I dad-joke everyone to death."

Cena came aboard as Peacemaker, who spars frequently with Bloodsport. Their banter, Cena said, "came naturally."

"He's extremely witty," Cena said. "He has that kind of a UK flavor, and I'm so much more over the top that it really does go together well."

Everyone got along famously. It's part of Gunn's process to ensure he's enlisting a group of decent humans. He even called his ex-wife, Jenna Fischer, who'd worked with Elba briefly on "The Office" to make sure the actor wasn't a jerk. (Fischer had only lovely things to say about Elba).

"It's an interesting thing when you have a big group of often big personalities put together to see how that balances out," Robbie said. She described their dynam-



Warner Bros. Pictures

From left: David Dastmalchian, John Cena, Idris Elba and Daniela Melchior are part of the overstuffed cast of "The Suicide Squad," now in theaters and streaming on HBO Max.

ic as "a lot of laughing, joking."

"I think that's why a lot of those scenes feel so real and fun. It was also like that in between takes and when we weren't shooting. It was a really, really good group," she said.

"The Suicide Squad" was an epic production, too, boasting the biggest sets in Warner Bros. history. (This from the studio behind modern epics like "Harry Potter" and "The Dark Knight.")

They even finished on time and under budget. And, over the pandemic, Gunn squeezed in a Peacemaker spin-off miniseries for HBO Max.

It's why Gunn has gotten so much freedom from some of the biggest shops in the movie busi-

ness. He was even rehired on "Guardians 3" (which he's been working on nonstop on the weekends). He doesn't mind if there's some extra pressure now because of the successes.

"I love taking actors that people don't know — people like Daniela Melchior or even Chris Pratt back when that was happening, or Pom Klementieff — and putting them on the worldwide stage, getting people to see how great they are. I love taking songs by people ... like K. Flay and Grandson ... and putting it on a grand stage," Gunn said. "I love the idea that everybody has purpose and everybody has meaning, no matter how insignificant you feel."

STARS AND STRIPES

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Ernie Gates

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Microwaves' directed energy joins the fight

BY DAVID IGNATIUS

Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON

The video, prepared by a defense startup called Epirus, shows a swarm of eight drones advancing across a government test range in Nevada. As they come nearer, a mobile ground station fires a high-powered microwave pulse toward the attackers. The drones tumble from the sky like dead birds.

Welcome to two of the most powerful new trends in warfare. Small, cheap, lightweight drones are the new "improvised explosive devices" that can threaten military or civilian targets anywhere in the world. But Epirus is among the leaders in a promising defense technology that uses the directed energy of microwaves to disable the drones' electronics.

What's potentially revolutionary about this approach is that using artificial intelligence, it can target precise frequencies with a densely concentrated pulse of energy. In the video demonstrations I watched, the Epirus system, known as Leonidas, can disable an adversary drone but leave untouched a friendly one a few feet away. It can take down big, fixed-wing drones as well as tiny quadcopters. Epirus executives say their system can disable a drone's rotor, or its camera, or its GPS navigation system, or even implant code to manipulate its movements.

The Pentagon has been slow to embrace this new microwave technology, which China has been developing for more than a decade. But it's finally getting serious attention. Former Defense Secretary Mark Esper just joined the Epirus board, and the Pentagon plans to start deploying the company's counter-drone systems to U.S. forces around the world this year. Skeptics argue that the Epirus approach won't

be proved until it's been shown to work in complex, real-world battlefield environments.

A new Air Force study explains the urgency. "We are approaching or have passed the tipping point for the criticality of Directed Energy capabilities as applied to the successful execution of military operations," argues the study, "Directed Energy Futures 2060."

The Pentagon had been focusing on lasers as its directed energy weapon of choice. But lasers are heavy, require lots of power, can't penetrate clouds, and can take as long as five seconds to zap a target. Adm. James Winnefeld, a former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, argued for the alternative microwave approach in a recent article titled, "Don't Miss the Boat on High-Power Microwave Defense."

Some versions of this technology present significant potential dangers. U.S. officials believe that the "Havana syndrome" that has afflicted U.S. diplomats abroad may be caused by adversaries' use of microwave radiation. But Leigh Madden, the chief executive of Epirus, says that his company's approach can't harm humans because, unlike other systems, it doesn't emit any harmful ionizing radiation. The "radiation" from its solid-state chips is comparable to what's emitted by a cellphone, he says.

Like so many technology breakthroughs, this one involves some colorful characters. The co-founder of Epirus, Grant Verstandig, dropped out of Brown as a sophomore in 2009, taught himself coding and artificial intelligence, and the next year founded a health care company that was eventually acquired by the giant UnitedHealth, which named him chief digital officer in 2017.

Verstandig, whose mother Toni Verstandig had been a prominent State Department offi-

cial, meanwhile joined the National Security Agency as an unpaid adviser in 2014, specializing in developing jamming technology against IEDs and then drones. As he focused on national security, his investing partner was John Tenet, son of former CIA director George Tenet.

Verstandig and Tenet recruited Bo Marr, a top specialist in directed energy research at Raytheon, to help found Epirus in July 2018. Marr, now the company's chief technology officer, remembers the "eureka" moment in 2019 when they realized that the breakthrough for anti-drone microwaves was what they call "SmartPower" — using super-dense Gallium Nitride chips and AI algorithms to stabilize, focus and direct energy to precise frequencies.

It's complicated technology, for sure. But you sense the youthful exuberance of a startup in a video Verstandig showed me of a January 2019 backyard test in suburban Los Angeles that disabled three test drones.

As with so many defense technologies, the Epirus approach has some dazzling (if still unproved) potential spinoffs. Verstandig explained that the high-powered microwaves could burn the carbon out of carbon dioxide emissions, an approach more than 10 times cheaper than sequestration. He explained how his "SmartPower" technology for directing electrons could reduce charging times for electric vehicles from hours to minutes.

"Whoever owns directed energy will own the 21st century," Verstandig told me. That's an audacious boast, but it's shaking up the Pentagon. If microwaves can disable drones from a distance, they can overwhelm computers, too. If they can take down a quadcopter, why not a missile? For the military, it's a brave new world, and a dangerous one, too.

This school year can't be a repeat of the last

BY TYLER COWEN

Bloomberg Opinion

As the delta variant of COVID-19 spreads, many parents are worried that their public schools will not fully reopen this fall. That would be a serious unforced error — and the mere possibility of it is evidence that America is not thinking rationally about risk.

Granted, the issue is complicated, with different risk factors and behavioral expectations for kindergartners compared to high-school students. And there are options between a pre-pandemic status quo ante and complete remote learning.

Still, it may be helpful to focus on one simple question (which does not yield a simple answer): How many student deaths are you willing to accept to have schools open again and operating at full capacity?

Is it 100? 300? 1,000? Or maybe zero? Might a few dramatic cases of "long COVID" be enough to halt reopening?

It is hard for a politician or school board member to raise their hand and say: "I am willing to let [fill in the number] of children die to get schools fully reopened." In other words, the very act of debating the question makes it hard to answer. And given the prominence of COVID as a news story, the question will invariably be considered in explicit and emotional terms.

Of course, with or without COVID, some number of children die at school. But it is surprisingly difficult to find out how many. In 2020, there were more than 50 million stu-

dents in public elementary, middle or high schools, yet there is no systematic national database of student deaths at school. School shootings have claimed up to 75 deaths annually in recent years, and there are many other possible causes of death, such as traffic or sports accidents.

It's entirely plausible that a few hundred students die each year for reasons directly related to school attendance. If suicides induced by school bullying but occurring off campus are included, the number could be higher still. Some 4,400 young people in America commit suicide in a typical year, and surely many of those deaths are attributable, at least partially, to events at school.

Adding up all these admittedly indirect chains of causation, it's possible that school attendance leads to at least 2,000 deaths every year in the U.S. And those have nothing to do with COVID.

Fortunately, it is not customary in normal times to debate whether it is worth opening schools knowing that it could result in the death of perhaps 2,000 students. The true toll of opening schools is unknown, much less debated, and if there is a discussion it is over school shootings, which ought to be preventable (or at least limited) by measures other than closing schools.

This "head in the sand" approach is highly imperfect. Still, it is preferable to panicking and closing the schools every year.

It is difficult to calculate how many children have died of COVID, but perhaps the best estimate comes from England, where it

caused 25 deaths of people younger than 18 in the year ended in March. The final tally is certainly higher in the more populous U.S., but as of July seven states still were reporting zero COVID deaths among children. This recent estimate suggests 358 deaths, though it is based on only 43 states.

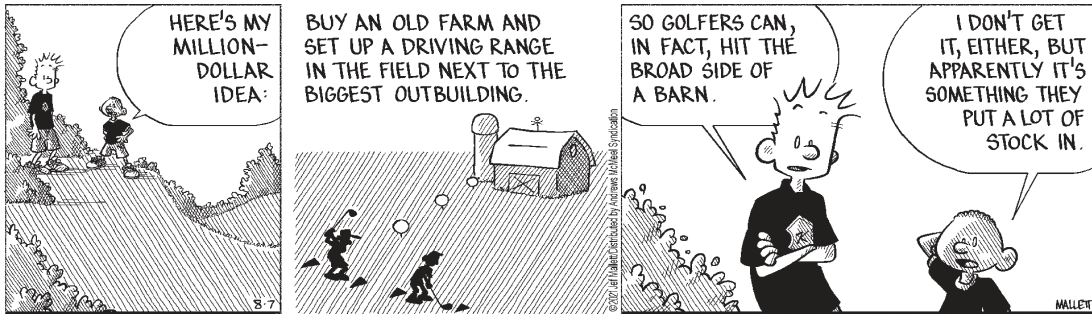
Yes, it is worth considering whether school reopenings will lead to unacceptably high levels of COVID in the nonschool population. It is also worth pointing out that COVID is spreading very rapidly in states with low vaccination rates — without the schools playing a role. In any case, it does not justify focusing solely on the safety of children in discussions of school reopening.

Economists have long studied the tendency of people to assign more value to a "known life" than to a "statistical life." When a baby is trapped down a well, for example, many millions of dollars will be spent trying to save her. Her photo will appear on the evening news and on social media. Yet when it comes to saving lives in the aggregate, such as by installing more and better smoke detectors, there is only modest interest.

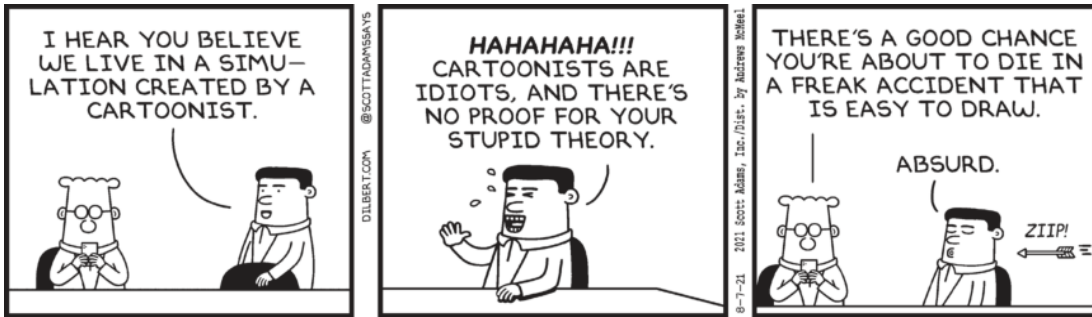
Right now too many Americans are trapped: Because the pandemic has been so dramatic for so many, every life looks like a known life rather than a statistical life. We all need to start working our way back to a bit more emotional distance.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Tyler Cowen is a professor of economics at George Mason University. His books include "Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero."

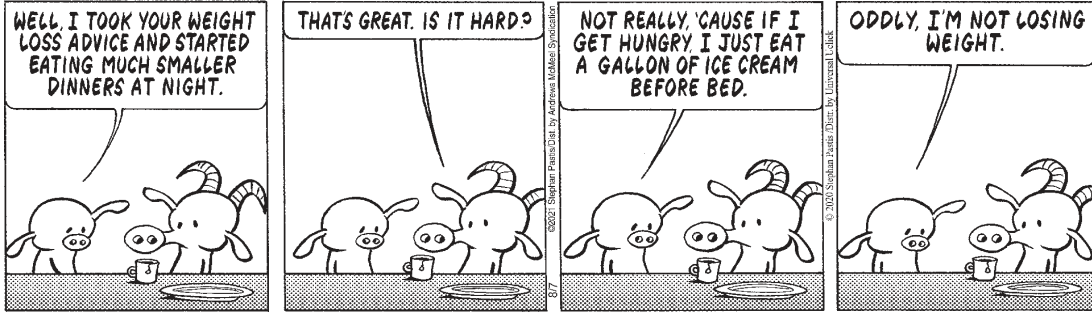
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



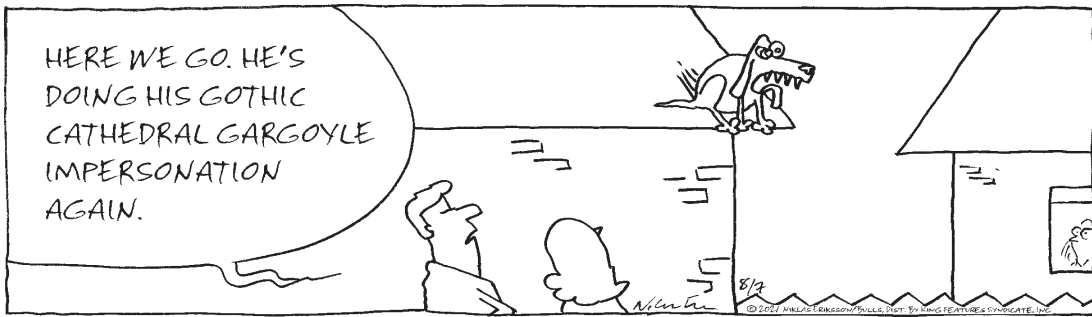
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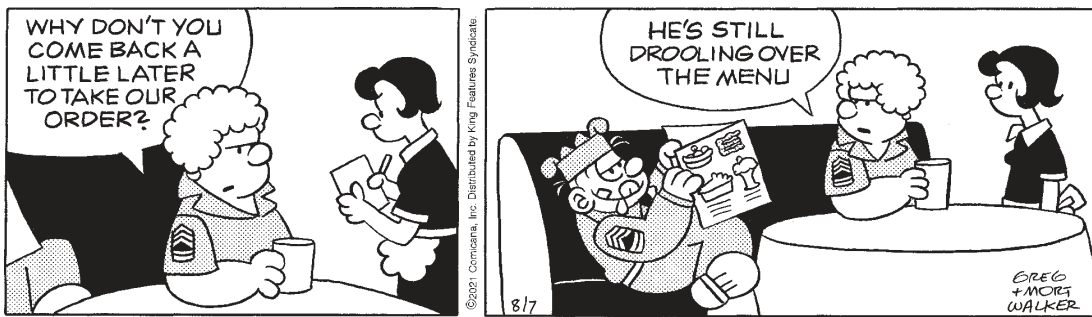
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
12							13					
14							15					
16					17	18				19		
			20	21				22	23			
24	25	26		27			28		29		30	31
32			33					34				
35					36					37		
		38		39		40			41			
42	43			44	45				46	47	48	49
50			51					52	53			
54								55				
56								57				

ACROSS

- 1 — Gras
- 6 Andre of tennis
- 12 Baseball's Cabrera
- 13 Cook gently
- 14 Nail polish
- 15 Concert bonus
- 16 Basil or thyme
- 17 Infamous tsar
- 19 W. Hemisphere gp.
- 20 Skin breakout
- 22 Still
- 24 Schlep
- 27 "Downton Abbey" countess
- 29 Counterfeit
- 32 Maverick
- 35 Gusto
- 36 Pre-college exams
- 37 Heart chart (Abbr.)
- 38 "— -haw!" (oater cry)
- 40 Yuletide tune
- 42 "Ben-Hur" studio
- 44 Campus mil. group
- 46 Slightly
- 50 Egg-whisking utensil
- 52 Ages, as cheese
- 54 Capers
- 55 Green light

- 56 Handles
- 57 "— Foolish Things"

DOWN

- 1 Ore source
- 2 Petri dish gel
- 3 Ballroom dance
- 4 Ruby or Sandra
- 5 Prairie State
- 6 Cruising
- 7 Harry Potter's love
- 8 "Mad Men" network
- 9 Blended beverage
- 10 Antitoxins
- 11 Angry states
- 12 "I'm not impressed"
- 18 Green
- 21 Roman 205
- 23 Immigrant's subj.
- 24 Actress Taylor
- 25 French article
- 26 Casual greeting in Sydney
- 28 Dictator
- 30 Request
- 31 PTA session
- 33 — -de-France
- 34 Enzyme ending
- 39 Upright
- 41 Expire
- 42 New corp. hires
- 43 Actor Hackman
- 45 Roughly
- 47 Golf props
- 48 Diarist Frank
- 49 "Spring ahead" hrs.
- 51 McCourt memoir
- 53 "Kinda" suffix

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

8-7

CRYPTOQUIP

N J R I N H E K X B H L D P H X C
 S R K K Y H H X I J R I R S Z D X Q I H Z
 J H K X B R S K R Q L H V Y Z H L R
 X D P I H Z ? K Q D V S E Q B Q V D.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EUROPEAN COUNTRY
 BOASTING A HIGHER POPULATION OF BIRDS
 THAN ANY OTHER: THE FEATHERLANDS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals L

SCOREBOARD/MMA

PRO SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New England	11	3	4	37	33	21
Orlando City	8	4	5	29	27	22
Philadelphia	7	4	7	28	24	17
Nashville	6	1	10	28	25	15
NYCFC	8	5	3	27	30	16
D.C. United	7	7	3	24	25	20
Columbus	6	5	6	24	19	20
CF Montréal	6	6	5	23	23	22
New York	5	7	4	19	20	20
Cincinnati	3	7	6	15	17	29
Atlanta	2	6	9	15	18	23
Chicago	3	9	5	14	18	28
Toronto FC	3	9	5	14	21	36
Inter Miami CF	3	8	4	13	13	25

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Sporting KC	10	4	3	33	33	20
Seattle	9	3	6	33	26	14
LA Galaxy	10	6	1	31	28	27
Colorado	8	4	3	27	22	16
LAFC	6	6	5	23	23	23
Minnesota	6	5	5	23	19	21
Real Salt Lake	5	5	6	21	24	17
Portland	6	8	2	20	20	27
FC Dallas	4	7	6	18	21	25
San Jose	4	7	6	18	19	26
Houston	3	5	9	18	19	23
Austin FC	4	8	4	16	13	18
Vancouver	3	7	6	15	18	27

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

Saturday's games

Atlanta at Columbus
Orlando City at Cincinnati
Houston at Minnesota
New York City FC at Toronto FC
Austin FC at FC Dallas
Sporting Kansas City at Colorado
Real Salt Lake at Portland

Sunday's games

New York at Chicago
Philadelphia at New England
Nashville at Miami
Los Angeles FC at San Jose
CF Montréal at D.C. United
Vancouver at LA Galaxy

Friday, Aug. 13

Vancouver at San Jose

Saturday, Aug. 14

LA Galaxy at Minnesota
Miami at New York City FC
New England at Toronto FC
New York at CF Montréal
Philadelphia at Cincinnati
Colorado at Houston
Sporting Kansas City at FC Dallas
Austin FC at Real Salt Lake

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Portland	8	3	1	25	19	7
Gotham FC	5	1	5	20	13	7
Chicago	6	5	2	20	15	18
Washington	5	4	3	18	15	14
North Carolina	5	4	3	18	16	9
Houston	5	5	2	17	14	13
Orlando	4	4	5	17	15	16
Reign FC	5	6	1	16	12	13
Louisville	3	6	2	11	7	17
Kansas City	0	8	4	4	5	17

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

Saturday's games

North Carolina at Gotham FC
Portland at Washington
Houston at Reign FC

Sunday's games

Kansas City at Louisville
Orlando at Chicago

Friday, Aug. 13

Washington at Houston

Saturday, Aug. 14

Portland at Orlando
Reign FC at Kansas City

Winners Open

Friday
At Arenele BNR
Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Purse: \$235,238
Surface: Red clay
Women's Singles
Quarterfinals

Mayar Sherif, Egypt, def. Kristina Kucova (8), Slovakia, 6-3, 6-1.

Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic

Thursday
At San Jose State University
San Jose, Calif.
Purse: \$565,530
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Women's Singles
Round of 16

Yulia Putintseva (8), Kazakhstan, def. Ajla Tomljanovic, Australia, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.
Elise Mertens (1), Belgium, def. Kristina

Thursday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball
American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Sent LHP Bruce Zimmermann to Norfolk (Triple-A East) on a rehab assignment. Claimed RF Jorge Mateo off waivers from San Diego. Designated 2B Pat Valaika for assignment.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Sent LHP Daniel Tillo to Northwest Arkansas (Double-A Central) on a rehab assignment.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Returned OF Rob Refsnyder from his rehab assignment in St. Paul (Triple-A East) and reinstated him from the 10-day IL. Optioned SS Nick Gordon to St. Paul.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Optioned CF Greg Allen to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (Triple-A East). Reinstated LHP Wandy Peralta from the 10-day IL. Sent RHP Clarke Schmidt to Somerset (Double-A Northeast) on a rehab assignment.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Sent OF Dillon Thomas outright to Tacoma (Triple-A West).

TEXAS RANGERS — Placed OF Eli White on the 10-day IL, retroactive to August 4. Selected the contract of INF Yonny Hernandez from Round Rock (Triple-A West). Transferred OF Willie Calhoun from the 10-day IL to the 60-day IL. Traded OF Delino DeShields to Boston in exchange for cash considerations.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Reinstated RHP Taylor Clarke and RF Pavin Smith from the 10-day IL. Designated OF Josh Reddick for assignment. Optioned RHPs Riley Smith and J.B. Bukauskas to Reno (Triple-A West). Sent RHP Ty Tice outright to Reno.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Sent RHP Ian Anderson to Gwinnett (Triple-A East) on a rehab assignment.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Reinstated RHPs Yency Almonte and Antonio Senzateola from the COVID-19 list. Returned LHP Zac Rosscup to Albuquerque (Triple-A West). Optioned INF Rio Ruiz to Albuquerque.

CINCINNATI REDS — Optioned 3B Max Schrock to Louisville (Triple-A East). Reinstated RF Nick Castellanos from the 10-day IL.

MIAMI MARLINS — Recalled LHP Braxton Garrett from Jacksonville (Triple-A East). Designated RHP Austin Pruitt for assignment. Sent RHP Eliaser Hernandez to Jacksonville on a rehab assignment.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Reinstated LHP Anthony Banda from the 10-day IL. Optioned RHP Shea Spitzbarth to Indianapolis (Triple-A East).

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Reinstated INF Brandon Belt from the 10-day IL. Placed RHP Kevin Gausman on the paternity list. Sent 3B Evan Longoria to Sacramento (Triple-A West) on a rehab assignment.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

ATLANTA HAWKS — Signed F Jalen Johnson. Signed G Sharife Cooper to a two-way contract. Re-signed F Solomon Hill.

BROOKLYN NETS — Signed G Cam Thomas.

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS — Signed G Moses Moody.

INDIANA PACERS — Signed G Duane Washington Jr. to a two-way contract.

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES — Signed G Jaden Springer.

SACRAMENTO KINGS — Signed G Davion Mitchell.

WASHINGTON WIZARDS — Waived G Caleb Homesley.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Activated CB Lo-

DEALS

renzo Burns from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Released CB Tae Hayes.

ATLANTA FALCONS — Signed WR Trevor Davis. Placed TE Jaeden Graham on the reserve/injured list.

BUFFALO BILLS — Activated G Ike Boettger from the reserve/COVID-19 list.

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed RB Rod Smith. Waived P Oscar Draguicevich.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Claimed DE

Chauncey Rivers off waivers from Baltimore. Waived LS Joe Fortunato. Released LS Joe Fortunato.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Activated TEs Cethan Carter and Adam Shaheen and WR Preston Williams from the COVID-19 list. Released TEs Gabe Holmes, Sal Cannella and Kalif Jackson.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Activated QBs Kirk Cousins and Nate Stanley from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Waived QB Case Cookus.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Activated LB Reggie Ragland from the non-football injury list.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Waived CB Shakial Taylor.

WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM — Activated G Brandon Scherff and DT Daron Payne from the COVID-19 list.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Signed D Dante Fabbro to a two-year contract.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Named Mark Dennehy chief scout, amateur scouting. Re-signed F Yegor Sharangovich to a two-year contract. Signed F Tomas Tatar to a two-year contract.

WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Signed F Michael Vecchione to a one-year, two-way contract.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

AUSTIN FC — Named Ryan Madden vice president of communications and media.

COLORADO RAPIDS — Acquired D Sam Vines from Belgian side Royal Antwerp F.C. Traded F Nicolas Benezet to Seattle in exchange for \$50,000 general allocation money (GAM) and an additional \$50,000 in GAM if certain conditions are met.

LA GALAXY — Acquired F Dejan Joveljic from Bundesliga side Eintrach Frankfurt and signed him to a contract through the 2025 season, pending receipt of his international transfer certificate (ITC) and P-1 visa.

MINNESOTA UNITED FC — Announced the use of its one offseason buyout on D Ike Opara, who will no longer occupy a spot on the team's roster but his contract will remain active through December 2021.

NEW YORK RED BULLS — Traded F Florian Valot to FC Cincinnati in exchange for \$50,000 and an additional \$50,000 in 2022 in general allocation money (GAM). Acquired D Lucas Monzon from Uruguay Under-20 national team, pending receipt of his international transfer certificate and P-1 visa.

SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES — Acquired F Jeremy Ebobisse from Portland in exchange for \$667,000 of general allocation money in 2022 and \$500,000 in 2023, then signed him to a contract through the 2024 season.

SEATTLE SOUNDERS — Acquired F Leo Chu from Brazilian side Gremio, pending receipt of his international transfer certificate and P-1 visa.

SPORTING KANSAS CITY — Signed F Jose Mauri with an option for 2023, pending receipt of his international transfer certificate and P-1 visa. Transferred M Gianluca Busio to Venezia FC in the Italian Serie A.

VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC — Acquired F Pedro Vite from Independiente del Valle, pending receipt of his international transfer certificate and P-1 visa.

GOLF

FedEx St. Jude Invitational

PGA Tour
Thursday
At TPC Southwind
Memphis, Tenn.
Yardage: 7,230; Par: 70
Purse: \$10.5 Million
First Round

Harris English	28-34-62	-8
Jim Herman	31-33-64	-6
Carlos Ortiz	32-32-64	-6
Matthew Wolff	33-31-64	-6
Ian Poulter	31-33-64	-6
Bryson DeChambeau	33-32-65	-5

Barracuda Championship

World Golf Championships
Thursday
At Tahoe Mountain Club - Old Greenwood
Truckee, Calif.
Yardage: 7,425; Par: 71
Modified Stableford scoring
Purse: \$3.5 Million
First Round

Joel Dahmen	16
Stephan Jaeger	14
Scott Harrington	13
Michael Thompson	12
Emiliano Grillo	12

TENNIS

Mladenovic, France, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.
Elena Rybakina (2), Kazakhstan, def. Claire Liu, United States, 2-6, 6-0, 6-2.
Danielle Collins (7), United States, def. Sloane Stephens, United States, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Citi Open

Thursday
At William H.G. FitzGerald Tennis Center
Washington
Purse: \$1,895,290
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Men's Singles
Round of 16

Steve Johnson, United States, def. Ricardas Berankis, Lithuania, 6-2, 6-1.
Jannik Sinner (5), Italy, def. Sebastian Korda (12), United States, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (3).
Denis Kudla, United States, def. Brandon Nakashima, United States, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4.
John Millman (11), Australia, def. Reilly Opelka (8), United States, 6-3, 7-6 (4).
Jenson Brooksby, United States, def. Fe-

lix Auger-Aliassime (2), Canada, 6-3, 6-4.
Kei Nishikori, Japan, def. Cameron Norrie (7), Britain, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Mackenzie McDonald, United States, def. Ilya Ivashka, Belarus, 6-4, 6-4.
Lloyd Harris (14), South Africa, def. Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, 6-4, 1-6, 6-4.

Concord 125

Thursday
At The Thoreau Club
Concord, Mass.
Purse: \$115,000
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Women's Singles
Round of 16

Renata Zarazua, Mexico, def. Grace Min, United States, 6-1, 6-3.
Vera Zvonareva (4), Russia, def. Varvara Lepchenko, United States, 6-3, 6-4.
Magdalena Frech, Poland, def. Storm Sanders (9), Australia, 6-3, 6-2.
Katrina Scott, United States, def. Caroline Dolehide, United States, 1-6, 6-0, 7-5.



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Derrick Lewis, right, punches Bulgaria's Blagoy Ivanov during the second round of a heavyweight mixed martial arts bout on Nov. 2, 2019, at UFC 244 in New York. Lewis won the fight.

Lewis fights for interim UFC title

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

Derrick Lewis is among the few universally beloved figures across mixed martial arts. The veteran UFC heavyweight's violent fighting style and likable, funny personality have made his bouts must-see events for several years. Well, for everybody except his three kids.

They won't even be at Toyota Center in Houston on Saturday night when Lewis (25-7) fights for the interim UFC heavyweight title in their hometown at UFC 265.

"My kids don't give a damn if I'm fighting," Lewis said with a grimace. "They don't care about that. They don't care. They always say, 'Who cares?' Even the neighbor kids that say, 'Your dad is famous!' They say, 'We know. We don't care.' All they care about is playing video games on YouTube and stuff like that."

His kids might not be in his corner, but the 36-year-old Lewis will have the backing of essentially everybody else in the building when he attempts to reach the pinnacle of his career against France's Cyrille Gane (9-0), a muay thai champion who has rocketed to the top of MMA in just three years.

Lewis has been in the UFC for seven of his 11 years in the sport, but has never been a champion. He lost to Daniel Cormier in his only previous title shot three years ago, and he maturely realized he might have to settle for a well-paid career headlining secondary fight nights when the UFC needs a popular name to draw eyeballs.

The heavy-handed Lewis is on a four-fight winning streak, but he wasn't chasing this title shot. In fact, he had to be reminded re-

cently that his next bout could end with a strap around his waist.

"I'm still really not even thinking about that," Lewis said. "My mind still isn't really on the title, because I'm still getting paid. I had forgot all about it."

That's probably a good thing, because this interim belt has drawn much derision around the MMA world.

The UFC curiously decided to award an interim title only four months after Francis Ngannou captured the real heavyweight strap by beating Stipe Miocic in Las Vegas. The UFC had mildly bickered with Ngannou over the timing of his next title shot, but the promotion was clearly eager to promote UFC 265 with any sort of championship designation to the millions of casual fight fans who don't understand the sketchiness of the whole affair.

If he claims the belt, Lewis will be more excited about a unifying rematch with Ngannou. Lewis infamously beat an inept version of Ngannou by decision at UFC 226 in July 2018, only to watch Ngannou resurrect his career with five straight wins and a belt.

Gane will fight for a title in just his seventh UFC bout, and he's a bit more excited about the strap than Lewis. The Frenchman said it was "not possible for me to say no when the UFC called," even though his wife is due to give birth to their second daughter Aug. 20.

UFC 265 also features former featherweight champion José Aldo in a bantamweight bout against fellow Brazilian Pedro Munhoz. Welterweight title contenders Michael Chiesa and Vicente Luque meet earlier on the pay-per-view portion of the show.

MLB

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	65	44	.596	—
Boston	64	46	.582	1½
New York	59	49	.546	5½
Toronto	57	49	.538	6½
Baltimore	38	69	.355	26
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	63	46	.578	—
Cleveland	52	54	.491	9½
Detroit	53	58	.477	11
Kansas City	47	60	.439	15
Minnesota	46	63	.422	17
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	65	44	.596	—
Oakland	61	48	.560	4
Seattle	58	52	.527	7½
Los Angeles	55	54	.505	10
Texas	39	70	.358	26

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	56	52	.519	—
Philadelphia	56	53	.514	½
Atlanta	55	54	.505	1½
Washington	49	60	.450	7½
Miami	47	62	.431	9½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	65	44	.596	—
Cincinnati	58	51	.532	7
St. Louis	53	55	.491	11½
Chicago	52	58	.473	13½
Pittsburgh	41	68	.376	24
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	69	40	.633	—
Los Angeles	65	44	.596	4
San Diego	62	48	.564	7½
Colorado	48	61	.440	21
Arizona	34	76	.309	35½

Thursday's games
 Detroit 8, Boston 1
 L.A. Angels 5, Texas 0
 Toronto 3, Cleveland 0
 N.Y. Yankees 5, Seattle 3
 Kansas City 3, Chicago White Sox 2
 Minnesota 5, Houston 3
 Miami 4, N.Y. Mets 2
 Colorado 6, Chicago Cubs 5
 San Francisco 5, Arizona 4, 10 innings
 Philadelphia 7, Washington 6
 Cincinnati 7, Pittsburgh 4
 Atlanta 8, St. Louis 4

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

Saturday's games
 Seattle (Flexen 10-5) at N.Y. Yankees (Heaney 6-8)
 Boston (Pivetta 8-5) at Toronto (Ray 9-5)
 Texas (TBD) at Oakland (Irvin 7-10)
 Tampa Bay (McClanahan 5-4) at Baltimore (Watkins 2-2)
 Boston (Houck 0-2) at Toronto (Berríos 8-5)
 Detroit (Alexander 1-1) at Cleveland (Morgan 1-3)
 Minnesota (Pineda 4-6) at Houston (García 7-6)
 Chicago White Sox (Rodón 8-5) at Chicago Cubs (Alzola 4-11)
 N.Y. Mets (Megill 1-1) at Philadelphia (Suárez 5-3)
 Pittsburgh (Keller 3-8) at Cincinnati (Gutierrez 6-3)
 San Francisco (TBD) at Milwaukee (Woodruff 7-6)
 Kansas City (Keller 7-10) at St. Louis (Wainwright 9-6)
 Washington (Gray 0-0) at Atlanta (Morton 10-4)
 Miami (Luzardo 3-4) at Colorado (Gomber 8-6)
 Arizona (Widener 1-1) at San Diego (Darvish 7-6)
 L.A. Angels (Barria 2-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Uriás 13-3)

Calendar
Aug. 12 — New York Yankees vs. Chicago White Sox at Dyersville, Iowa.
Aug. 22 — Los Angeles Angels vs. Cleveland at Williamsport, Pa.

ROUNDUP

Alfaro lifts Marlins past Mets

Associated Press

MIAMI — Jorge Alfaro hit a tie-breaking RBI single in the eighth inning and the Miami Marlins defeated the New York Mets 4-2 on Thursday, taking three of four from the sagging NL East leaders.

New York has lost six of eight overall and is 2-4 since its big trade-deadline acquisition, Javier Báez, made his debut. Báez went 0-for-5 with five strikeouts on Thursday and is hitting .160 (4-for-25) with the Mets.

Miguel Rojas drew a one-out walk against Jeurys Familia (5-2) and advanced to second on Jazz Chisholm's single. Alfaro's line drive to right scored Rojas, whose slide eluded catcher James McCann's tag. Lewis Brinson followed with a two-run double.

Yankees 5, Mariners 3: Joey Gallo hit his first homer with his new team, a go-ahead, three-run blast in the seventh inning, and host New York beat Seattle.

Gallo, who entered 2-for-23 in six games since the Yankees acquired him from the Texas Rangers, lofted a 1-0 slider from Paul Sewald (6-3) just over the short porch in right field.

Phillies 7, Nationals 6: J.T. Realmuto and Rhys Hoskins each hit a two-run double in the ninth inning, and visiting Philadelphia rallied past Washington to complete a four-game sweep.

The Phillies have won five straight overall and moved within one-half game of the NL East-leading New York Mets.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 4 (10): LaMonte Wade Jr. tied it with a two-out single in a four-run ninth inning and Kris Bryant doubled in the winning run in the 10th to complete visiting San Francisco's rally over Arizona.

The Giants moved four games



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

The Marlins' Jorge Alfaro scores on a double by Lewis Brinson during the eighth inning of Thursday's game against the New York Mets in Miami. The Marlins won 4-2.

ahead of the idle Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL West.

Blue Jays 3, Indians 0: Bo Bichette homered and drove in all three runs, Ross Stripling pitched six sharp innings to win his second consecutive start and host Toronto blanked Cleveland.

Toronto won for the sixth time in seven games since returning north of the border last week and moved a season-best eight games above .500.

Angels 5, Rangers 0: Dylan Bundy pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning in the opening day starter's second appearance since returning from a demotion to the bullpen, and visiting Los Angeles beat Texas.

Tigers 8, Red Sox 1: Victor Reyes tripled twice and drove in three runs, Tarik Skubal pitched

five scoreless innings, and host Detroit beat skidding Boston.

The Red Sox lost for the sixth time in seven games and dropped 1½ games behind idle Tampa Bay in the AL East.

Twins 5, Astros 3: Rookie Griffin Jax had a solid outing on the mound and Andrelton Simmons drove in two runs to help visiting Minnesota build a big early lead against Houston,

Jax (2-1) allowed three hits and one run in a career-high 5½ innings for his first career victory as a starter.

Royals 3, White Sox 2: Daniel Lynch and four relievers held host Chicago in check, and Emmanuel Rivera's line drive was misplayed into an early two-run double that helped Kansas City hang on.

Kansas City won its second consecutive game, while the AL Central-leading White Sox lost for the ninth time in their last 14.

Rockies 6, Cubs 5: Trevor Story hit two home runs, including a go-ahead two-run drive in the fifth inning, and host Colorado hung on to beat Chicago.

Reds 7, Pirates 4: Eugenio Suárez and Joey Votto hit three-run homers in a six-run second inning, powering host Cincinnati over Pittsburgh.

Braves 8, Cardinals 4: Austin Riley homered and Ehire Adrianza drove in the go-ahead run with the first of four straight bases-loaded walks as visiting Atlanta scored six times in the eighth inning to complete a three-game sweep of St. Louis.

Former Astros pitcher Richard dies at 71

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
 Associated Press

HOUSTON — J.R. Richard, a huge, flame-throwing right-hander who spent 10 years with the Houston Astros before his career was cut short by a stroke, has died. He was 71.

The team announced his death Thursday but did not provide any further details.

"Today is a sad day for the Houston Astros as we mourn the loss of one of our franchise icons, J.R. Richard," the Astros said in a statement. "J.R. will forever be remembered as an intimidating figure on the mound and as one of the greatest pitchers in club history. He stood shoulder to shoulder with club icons Larry Dierker, Joe Niekro and No-



PAT SULLIVAN/AP

Former Houston pitcher J.R. Richard throws out the ceremonial first pitch before the Astros' game against the Cincinnati Reds on June 1, 2012, in Houston.

lan Ryan, to form a few of the best rotations in club history."

The 6-foot-8 Richard intimidated hitters with an effectively wild delivery, a fastball that often touched 100 mph and an almost unhittable breaking ball. He was selected by the Astros with the second overall pick in the 1969 draft and struck out 15 batters in a complete-game win over the Giants in his major league debut on Sept. 5, 1971.

He pitched for Houston from 1971-80, going 107-71 with a 3.15 ERA and 76 complete games. Richard won a career-best 20 games in 1976, the first of four straight seasons with at least 18 wins.

In 1978 he became the first Astro to strike out 300 batters in a season when he led the majors with 303.

The next year, he led the National League with a 2.71 ERA and fanned 313 to again lead the majors.

Richard was having a great season in 1980, posting a 10-4 record with a 1.96 ERA in the first half of the season and starting for the NL in the All-Star Game on July 30. Less than a month later, Richard suffered a major stroke that ended his career.

Richard, who was just 30 at the time, attempted a comeback, but was never able to make it back to the majors and was released by the Astros in 1984.

Richard left his mark on the Astros' record books and is tied for second in career ERA (3.15), third in strikeouts (1,493), fourth in complete games (76) and fifth in wins (107) and shutouts (19).

SPORTS BRIEFS/OLYMPICS

Bills' Allen agrees to 6-year extension

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — The Buffalo Bills secured their future at quarterback Friday, agreeing with Josh Allen on a six-year contract extension that locks him up through the 2028 season.

The agreement comes a few days after general manager Brandon Beane said he wanted to get a deal done with the fourth-year star before the season or put talks off until next year.

The sides were in no rush. Allen was under contract through the 2022 season after the Bills in May picked up the player's fifth-year option, worth nearly \$23 million.

Allen has earned a significant raise following a breakthrough season in which he set numerous franchise passing and scoring records in leading Buffalo to its first AFC East title since 1995 and deepest playoff run in 27 years. Buffalo's season ended with a loss to Kansas City in the AFC championship game.

In doing so, the 25-year-old Allen solidified a position that had been unsettled in Buffalo since Hall of Famer Jim Kelly retired after the 1996 season.

In other NFL news:

■ At Canton, Ohio, the Pittsburgh Steelers followed a stumbling first half with a strong final 30 minutes to beat the Dallas Cowboys 16-3 in the Hall of Fame Game, the first NFL preseason game in two years.

■ Kirk Cousins returned to practice with the Minnesota Vikings and vowed to go to even greater lengths for social distancing in order to keep the coronavirus away and stay on the field. Cousins gave no indication he would reconsider his decision not to get vaccinated, which he called "a very private health matter."

Bauer's administrative leave extended 7 days

NEW YORK — Trevor Bauer's administrative leave was extended Thursday for seven days through Aug. 13 by Major League Baseball and the players' association while the sport's investigators check into allegations of sexual misconduct against the Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher.

Bauer was placed on seven days' paid leave July 2 under the joint domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse policy adopted by MLB and the players' union in 2015. MLB and the union have agreed to four extensions.

Police in Pasadena, Calif., and MLB are investigating the allegations made against Bauer by a Southern California woman.

From The Associated Press

Long journey leads to record

US sprinter Felix becomes most decorated female track athlete in history of Games

By EDDIE PELLIS
Associated Press

TOKYO — She describes herself as "old." She concedes she wasn't sure she'd make it this far. There were times, though, when "making it" had nothing to do with the Olympics and everything to do with simply climbing out of her hospital bed.

No wonder Allyson Felix came to these, her last Olympics, with little fear of losing.

And it shouldn't surprise anyone by now to learn that instead, on Friday night, she won.

Not the gold medal in the women's 400 meters. But a bronze that might wind up taking center stage in her trophy case. It is medal No. 10, the one that put her all alone at the top of the record book.

On a humid, sticky evening filled with anticipation, Felix — the sprinter, turned mom, turned advocate, turned realist — became the most decorated female track athlete in the history of the Olympics.

The 35-year-old was beaming as she strode through the bottom of the stadium — the new bronze medal standing out against her white, "USA" sweat suit.

"A lot of times, I have tied my own work to what happens in these championships," she said. "And I didn't want to do that this time. I've been through too much. I always run for gold. But I just wanted to have joy no matter what happened tonight."

Felix's 10th Olympic medal broke a tie with Jamaican sprinter Merlene Ottey, and matches Carl Lewis, who was alone as the most



DYLAN MARTINEZ, POOL/AP

Allyson Felix of the United States celebrates with her national flag after winning bronze in the women's 400-meter final Friday in Tokyo.

decorated U.S. athlete in track. Felix could surpass Lewis on Saturday, when she is expected to be part of the U.S. 4x400 relay. Paavo Nurmi of Finland holds the all-time mark with 12 medals from 1920-28.

Felix started Friday's race from the loneliest spot on the track: Lane 9, on the outside, with a phalanx of sprinters — each one younger, each one perhaps wondering if they could be the "Next Allyson Felix" — behind her

where she could not see them.

Felix hasn't spent much time over her storied career, one that spans five Olympics and the better part of two decades, running from Lane 9. It's where the underdogs line up.

"It's hard," she said. "You just kind of feel like you're out there alone."

But when she took off, she avoided the one thing that destroys runners out there. She avoided the urge to take off too

fast, only natural when you have no idea where the other runners are.

She ran a near-perfect race, considering the circumstances. She did not win. Very few expected her to. She finished 1.1 seconds behind Shaune Miller-Uibo, the sprint star from the Bahamas who ripped a gold away from Felix five years ago, when she dove over the finish line in Rio.

Friday's milestone for Felix came nearly three years after she helped spearhead a conversation about the way women are treated in track, and sports in general. She severed ties with Nike, which wrote in pay reductions to women's contracts if they became pregnant.

She raced Friday wearing a shoe she designed for a company she created. (She also wore Nike gear, because that's the company that sponsors the U.S. team).

Felix has spoken candidly about the struggle to come back from a difficult pregnancy that led to an emergency C-section and put the lives of both her and her baby, Cammy, in jeopardy.

She's spoken of the pressure she felt to return quickly, even when her body wasn't responding the way it once did.

She also overcame one of her biggest hurdles — leaving her well-cultivated private image behind to become a spokesperson for something much bigger.

"I feel like it's definitely been a journey for me to get to the point where I guess I had the courage to do so," Felix said.

History: Scioscia credits success to roster blend

FROM PAGE 24

with the Pacific League's Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters before switching this season to the Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks.

Martinez got the opening-round win over South Korea, allowing one run and four hits in five innings with nine strikeouts. He is familiar with Yokohama Stadium from his time in Japan.

"Playing at this field definitely helps," he said. "I feel comfortable."

Japan (5-0), seeking its first baseball gold medal, is batting .288, second to South Korea's .294. The U.S. (4-1) is third at .247 with a tournament-high seven home runs — including three by Boston prospect Triston Casas. American batters have struck out 50 times, far more than the 36 for contact-focused Japan.

U.S. pitchers lead with a 2.18

ERA and Japan is third at 3.65.

Scioscia credited his roster's blend.

"These guys are still very, very good veteran players. Look at Scott Kazmir. Look at Brandon Dickson. Look at Todd Frazier, Edwin Jackson," he said. "We've got a lot of pups here."

Jamie Westbrook, a 26-year-old left fielder, hit a long home run against South Korea for his first RBI and is hitting .389.

An All-Star in the Double-A Southern League in 2018 and 2019, he left the Arizona Diamondbacks organization to sign with San Francisco for the 2020 season. Then, when Major League Baseball canceled its minor-league season due to the coronavirus pandemic, he signed with the Sugar Land Lightning Sloths of the independent Constellation Energy League and wasn't sure whether

he'd have a future in affiliated baseball.

He started this season at Milwaukee's Triple-A Nashville, was demoted to Double-A Biloxi, then returned to Nashville in June. He called it "a whirlwind of emotion."

"COVID kind of messed things up for a lot of minor leaguers," he said. "I found myself in indy ball, a spot most people don't want to be, and I really found myself. I got back into the infield, and it was a chance for me to better myself. ... I started having fun, just like travel ball when you're growing up."

Lasorda, who died in January at age 93, was Scioscia's manager with the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1980-92 and led the U.S. to the 2000 gold medal in Sydney. Ben Sheets pitched a three-hit complete game in a 4-0 win in the final, stopping Cuba's 21-game Olympic winning streak. Mike

Neill hit a first-inning homer, Pat Borders an RBI double and Ernie Young a two-run, bases-loaded single.

Scioscia said managing in the Olympics is akin to the final day of the regular season with a postseason berth at stake or a wild-card playoff, dissimilar to a five- or seven-game postseason series.

"This whole tournament is as intense as anything I've been part of in 19 years of managing with the Angels or playing in I don't know how many playoff games with the Dodgers," he said. "There's an intensity here. There's a focus. And I'm proud of these guys for playing so well under circumstances, of, hey, you have to win. And I hope it moves their career forward and I hope they go out there and they can play at the level to put a gold medal around their necks."

OLYMPICS SCOREBOARD

Medals table

At Tokyo

Friday

47 of 47 events

503 of 511 total events

Nation	G	S	B	Tot
United States	31	36	31	98
China	36	26	17	79
ROC	17	23	22	62
Britain	18	20	20	58
Japan	24	11	16	51
Australia	17	6	21	44
Italy	10	10	18	38
Germany	9	11	16	36
Netherlands	9	10	12	31
France	7	11	9	27
Canada	6	6	10	22
New Zealand	7	6	6	19
South Korea	6	4	9	19
Hungary	5	7	5	17
Brazil	4	4	8	16
Ukraine	1	3	10	14
Cuba	6	3	4	13
Spain	3	5	5	13
Switzerland	3	4	6	13
Poland	4	4	4	12
Taiwan	2	4	6	12
Turkey	1	1	8	10
Czech Republic	4	3	2	9
Denmark	2	3	4	9
Jamaica	4	1	3	8
Croatia	3	3	2	8
Sweden	2	6	0	8
Georgia	2	5	1	8
Serbia	2	1	4	7
Austria	1	1	5	7
Kazakhstan	0	0	7	7
Iran	2	2	2	6
Kenya	2	2	2	6
Belgium	3	1	1	5
Slovenia	3	1	1	5
Norway	2	2	1	5
Belarus	1	2	2	5
Hong Kong	1	2	2	5
Indonesia	1	1	3	5
Colombia	0	4	1	5
India	0	2	3	5
Uganda	2	1	1	4
Bulgaria	2	0	2	4
Uzbekistan	2	0	2	4
Romania	1	3	0	4
Venezuela	1	3	0	4
Bulgaria	1	1	2	4
Portugal	1	1	2	4
Dominican Republic	0	3	1	4
Armenia	0	2	2	4
Azerbaijan	0	1	3	4
Mongolia	0	1	3	4
Egypt	0	0	4	4
Mexico	0	0	4	4
Ecuador	2	1	0	3
Greece	2	0	1	3
Slovakia	1	2	0	3
South Africa	1	2	0	3
Ethiopia	1	1	1	3
Philippines	1	1	1	3
Ireland	1	0	2	3
Israel	1	0	2	3
Kyrgyzstan	0	2	1	3
San Marino	0	1	2	3
Bahamas	2	0	0	2
Kosovo	2	0	0	2
Qatar	2	0	0	2
Tunisia	1	1	0	2
Estonia	1	0	1	2
Fiji	1	0	1	2
Latvia	1	0	1	2
Thailand	1	0	1	2
Argentina	0	1	1	2
Jordan	0	1	1	2
Nigeria	0	1	1	2
Finland	0	0	2	2
Bermuda	1	0	0	1
Morocco	1	0	0	1
Puerto Rico	1	0	0	1
Lithuania	0	1	0	1
Namibia	0	1	0	1
Macedonia	0	1	0	1
Turkmenistan	0	1	0	1
Burkina Faso	0	0	1	1
Ivory Coast	0	0	1	1
Ghana	0	0	1	1
Grenada	0	0	1	1
Kuwait	0	0	1	1
Malaysia	0	0	1	1
Syria	0	0	1	1

Friday's medalists

TRACK AND FIELD

Men's 4 x 100m Relay

GOLD—Italy (Lorenzo Patta, Lamont Marcell Jacobs, Eseosa Fostine Desalu, Filippo Tortu)
SILVER—Britain (Chijindu Ujah, Zharnel Hughes, Richard Kilty, Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake)
BRONZE—Canada (Aaron Brown, Jerome Blake, Brendon Rodney, Andre de Grasse)



VINCENT THIAN/AP

Ryo Kiyuna, of Japan, competes during his men's kata final for karate Friday at the Summer Olympics in Tokyo. Kiyuna, who won the gold medal, is from Okinawa, the birthplace of karate.

Men's 5000m

GOLD—Joshua Cheptegei, Uganda
SILVER—Mohammed Ahmed, Canada
BRONZE—Paul Chelimo, United States

Men's 50km Race Walk

GOLD—Dawid Tomala, Poland
SILVER—Jonathan Hilbert, Germany
BRONZE—Evan Dunfee, Canada

Women's 1500m

GOLD—Faith Kipyegon, Kenya
SILVER—Laura Muir, Britain
BRONZE—Sifan Hassan, Netherlands

Women's 20km Race Walk

GOLD—Antonella Palmisano, Italy
SILVER—Sandra Lorena Arenas, Colombia
BRONZE—Hong Liu, China

Women's 400m

GOLD—Shaunae Miller-Uibo, Bahamas
SILVER—Marileidy Paulino, Dominican Republic
BRONZE—Allyson Felix, United States

Women's 4 x 100m Relay

GOLD—Jamaica (Briana Williams, Natasha Morrison, Elaine Thompson-Herah, Remona Burchell, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, Shericka Jackson)
SILVER—United States (Javianne Oliver, Teahna Daniels, English Gardner, Jenna Prandini, Aleia Hobbs, Gabrielle Thomas)
BRONZE—Britain (Asha Philip, Imani Lansiquot, Dina Asher-Smith, Daryll Neita)

Women's Javelin Throw

GOLD—Shiying Liu, China
SILVER—Maria Andrejczyk, Poland
BRONZE—Kelsey-Lee Barber, Australia

BOXING

Men's Heavy (81-91kg)

GOLD—Julio la Cruz, Cuba
SILVER—Muslim Gadzhimagomedov, ROC
BRONZE—Abner Teixeira, Brazil

SPORT CLIMBING

Women's Combined

GOLD—Janja Garnbret, Slovenia
SILVER—Miho Nonaka, Japan
BRONZE—Akiyo Noguchi, Japan

CYCLING TRACK

Men's Sprint

GOLD—Harrie Lavreysen, Netherlands
SILVER—Jeffrey Hoogland, Netherlands
BRONZE—Jack Carlin, Britain

Women's Madison

GOLD—Britain (Katie Archibald, Laura Kenny)
SILVER—Denmark (Amalie Dideriksen, Julie Leth)
BRONZE—ROC (Gulnaz Khatuntseva, Mariia Novolodskaja)

SOCCER

Women

GOLD—Canada (Stephanie Labbe, Alysha Chapman, Kadeisha Buchanan, Sheilina Zadorsky, Quinn Deanne Rose, Julia Grosso, Jayde Riviere, Adriana Leon, Ashley Lawrence, Desiree Scott, Christine Sinclair, Evelynne Viens, Vanessa Gilles, Nichelle Prince, Janine Beckie, Jessie Fleming, Kailen Sheridan, Jordyn Huitema, Sophie Schmidt, Gabrielle Carle, Erin McLeod)
SILVER—Sweden (Hedvig Lindahl, Jonna Andersson, Emma Kullberg, Hanna Glas, Hanna Bennisson, Magdalena Eriksson, Madelen Janogy, Lina Hurtig, Kosovare Asllani, Sofia Jakobsson, Stina Blackstenius, Jennifer Falk, Amanda Irestedt, Nathalie Bjorn, Olivia Schough, Filippa Angeldal, Caroline Seger, Fridolina Rolfo, Anna Anvegard, Julia Roddar, Rebecka Blomqvist, Zecira Musovic)
BRONZE—United States (Alyssa Naeher, Crystal Dunn, Samantha Mewis, Becky Sauerbrunn, Kelley O'Hara, Kristie Mewis, Tobin Heath, Julie Ertz, Lindsey Horan, Carli Lloyd, Christen Press, Tierna Davidson, Alex Morgan, Emily Sonnett, Megan Rapinoe, Rose Lavelle, Abby Dahlkemper, Adrianna Franch, Catarina Macario, Casey Krueger, Lynn Williams, Jane Campbell)

FIELD HOCKEY

Women

GOLD—Netherlands (Sanne Anne Leonie Koolen, Malou Pheninckx, Laurien Leurink, Xan Gardien de Waard, Marloes Johanna Maria Keetels, Felice Albers, Maria Verschoor, Lidewij Marsia Maria Welten, Caia Jacqueline van Maasakker, Frederique Matla, Pien Sanders, Laura Maria Nunnink, Lauren Lara Jeanette Stam, Josine Koning, Margot van Geffen, Eva Roma Maria de Goede)

SILVER—Argentina (Maria Belen Succi, Sofia Toccalino, Agustina Gorzelany, Valentina Raposo Ruiz de los Llanos, Agostina Alonso, Agustina Albertarrio, Maria Jose Granatto, Delfina Merino, Rocio Sanchez Moccia, Victoria Sauze Valdez, Maria Victoria Granatto, Eugenia Maria Trinchinetti, Micaela Retegui, Maria Emilia Forchero, Sofia Maccari, Maria Noel Barriounevo, Julieta Jankunas, Valentina Isabel Costa Biondi)

BRONZE—Britain (Madeleine Claire Hinch, Laura Unsworth, Anna-Frances Toman, Hannah Martin, Sarah Louise Jones, Susannah Townsend, Sarah Robertson, Elena Sian Rayer, Isabelle Petter, Leah Julia Wilkinson, Giselle Ansley, Hollie Pearne-Webb, Fiona Anne Crackles, Shona McCallin, Lily Owsley, Grace Balsdon)

KARATE

Men's Kumite -75kg

GOLD—Luigi Busa, Italy
SILVER—Rafael Aghayev, Azerbaijan
BRONZE—Stanislav Horuna, Ukraine
BRONZE—Karoly Gabor Harspataki, Hungary

Men's Kata

GOLD—Ryo Kiyuna, Japan
SILVER—Damian Quintero, Spain
BRONZE—Ali Sofuoglu, Turkey
BRONZE—Ariel Torres Gutierrez, United States

Women's Kumite -61kg

GOLD—Jovana Prekovic, Serbia
SILVER—Xiaoyan Yin, China
BRONZE—Merve Coban, Turkey
BRONZE—Giana Lotfy, Egypt

MODERN PENTATHLON

Women's Individual

GOLD—Kate French, Britain
SILVER—Laura Asadauskaitė, Lithuania
BRONZE—Sarolta Kovacs, Hungary

TABLE TENNIS

Men's Team

GOLD—China (Xin Xu, Long Ma, Zhen-dong Fan)
SILVER—Germany (Patrick Franziska, Timo Boll, Dimitrij Ovtcharov)
BRONZE—Japan (Jun Mizutani, Tomokazu Harimoto, Koki Niwa)

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Women

GOLD—United States (April Ross, Alix Klineman)
SILVER—Australia (Mariafe Artacho del Solar, Taliqua Clancy)
BRONZE—Switzerland (Anouk Verge-Depre, Joana Heidrich)

WRESTLING

Men's Freestyle 125kg

GOLD—Gable Dan Steveson, United States
SILVER—Geno Petriashvili, Georgia
BRONZE—Amir Hossein Zare, Iran
BRONZE—Taha Akgul, Turkey

Men's Freestyle 74kg

GOLD—Zaurbek Sidakov, ROC
SILVER—Mahamedkhabib Kadzimahamedau, Belarus
BRONZE—Kyle Douglas Dake, United States

Women's Freestyle 53kg

GOLD—Mayu Mukaida, Japan
SILVER—Qianyu Pang, China
BRONZE—Vanessa Kaladzinskaya, Belarus
BRONZE—Bolortuya Bat Ochir, Mongolia

Friday's scores

BASKETBALL

Women Semifinals

United States 79, Serbia 59
 Japan 87, France 71

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Women

Bronze Medal
 Switzerland 2, Latvia 0 (21-19, 21-15)
Gold Medal
 United States 2, Australia 0 (21-15, 21-16)

FIELD HOCKEY

Women

Bronze Medal

Britain 4, India 3
Gold Medal
 Netherlands 3, Argentina 1

HANDBALL

Women Semifinals

France 29, Sweden 27

ROC 27, Norway 26

SOCCER

Men

Bronze Medal
 Mexico 3, Japan 1
Women
Gold Medal
 Canada 1, Sweden 1, Canada wins 3-2 on penalty kicks

VOLLEYBALL

Women Semifinals

United States 3, Serbia 0 (25-19, 25-15, 25-23)
 Brazil 3, South Korea 0 (25-16, 25-16, 25-16)

WATER POLO

Men Semifinals

Croatia 12, Montenegro 10
 Greece 9, Hungary 6
 United States 7, Italy 6
 Serbia 10, Spain 9

Track and field

Friday

Men

50km Race Walk

Final

1. Dawid Tomala, Poland, 3:50:08.
 2. Jonathan Hilbert, Germany, 3:50:44.
 3. Evan Dunfee, Canada, 3:50:59.
 4. Marc Tur, Spain, 3:51:08.
 5. Joao Vieira, Portugal, 3:51:28.
 6. Masatora Kawano, Japan, 3:51:56.
 7. Bian Tongda, China, 3:52:01.
 8. Rhydian Cowley, Australia, 3:52:01.
 9. Veli-Matti Partanen, Finland, 3:52:39.
 10. Brendan Boyce, Ireland, 3:53:40.
 11. Jose Montana, Colombia, 3:53:50.
 12. Artur Brzozowski, Poland, 3:54:08.
 13. Jorge Ruiz, Colombia, 3:55:30.
 14. Matej Toth, Slovakia, 3:56:23.
 15. Jose Leywer, Mexico, 3:56:53.
 16. Quentin Rew, New Zealand, 3:57:33.
 17. Mate Helebrandt, Hungary, 3:57:53.
 18. Diego Pinzon, Colombia, 3:57:54.
 19. Andres Chocho, Ecuador, 3:59:03.
 20. Bence Venyercsan, Hungary, 3:59:05.
 21. Wang Qin, China, 3:59:35.
 22. Dzmitry Dzubin, Belarus, 4:00:25.
 23. Andrea Agusti, Italy, 4:01:10.
 24. Marius Iulian Cocioran, Romania, 4:01:43.
 25. Maryan Zakalnytsky, Ukraine, 4:02:53.
 26. Jarkko Kinnunen, Finland, 4:04:28.
 27. Jhonatan Javier Amores Carua, Ecuador, 4:05:47.
 28. Luo Yadong, China, 4:06:17.
 29. Alex Wright, Ireland, 4:06:20.
 30. Hayato Katsuki, Japan, 4:06:32.
 31. Artur Mastianica, Lithuania, 4:06:43.
 32. Satoshi Maruo, Japan, 4:06:44.
 33. Carl Dohmann, Germany, 4:07:18.
 34. Bernardo Uriel Barrondo, Guatemala, 4:08:34.
 35. Jesus Angel Garcia, Spain, 4:10:03.
 36. Alexandros Papatimachail, Greece, 4:12:49.
 37. Arnis Rumbeniekis, Latvia, 4:13:33.
 38. Aleks Ojala, Finland, 4:14:02.
 39. Valeriy Litaniuk, Ukraine, 4:14:05.
 40. Marc Mundell, South Africa, 4:14:37.
 41. Michal Morvaj, Slovakia, 4:15:22.
 42. Nathaniel Seiler, Germany, 4:15:37.
 43. Vit Hlavac, Czech Republic, 4:15:40.
 44. Horacio Nava, Mexico, 4:19:00.
 45. Mathieu Bilodeau, Canada, 4:20:36.
 46. Lukas Gdula, Czech Republic, 4:33:06.
 47. Claudio Paulino Villanueva Flores, Ecuador, 4:53:09.
 48. Yohann Diniz, France, DNF.
 49. Luis Angel Sanchez, Guatemala, DNF.
 50. Gurpreet Singh, India, DNF.
 51. Marco de Luca, Italy, DNF.
 52. Teodorico Caporaso, Italy, DNF.
 53. Isaac Palma, Mexico, DNF.
 54. Havard Haukenes, Norway, DNF.
 55. Rafal Augustyn, Poland, DNF.
 56. Luis Manuel Corchete, Spain, DNF.
 57. Ivan Banzeruk, Ukraine, DNF.
 58. Erick Bernabe Barrondo, Guatemala, DQ.
 59. Ruslans Smolonskis, Latvia, DQ.

5000m

Final

1. Joshua Cheptegei, Uganda, 12:58.15.
 2. Mohammed Ahmed, Canada, 12:58.61.
 3. Paul Chelimo, United States, 12:59.05.
 4. Nicholas Kipkorir Kimeli, Kenya, 12:59.17.
 5. Jacob Kiplimo, Uganda, 13:02.40.
 6. Birhanu Balew, Bahrain, 13:03.20.
 7. Justyn Knight, Canada, 13:04.38.
 8. Mohamed Katir, Spain, 13:06.60.
 9. Grant Fisher, United States, 13:08.40.
 10. Milkessa Mengesha, Ethiopia, 13:08.50.
 11. Andrew Butchart, Britain, 13:09.97.
 12. Luis Grijalva, Guatemala, 13:10.09.
 13. Jimmy Gressier, France, 13:11.33.
 14. William Kincaid, United States, 13:17.20.
 15. Dawit Fikadu, Bahrain, 13:20.24.
 16. Oscar Chelimo, Uganda, 13:44.45.

4 x 100m Relay

Final

1. Italy (Lorenzo Patta; Lamont Marcell Jacobs; Eseosa Fostine Desalu; Filippo Tortu), 37.50.
 2. Britain (Chijindu Ujah; Zharnel Hughes; Richard Kilty; Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake), 37.51.
 3. Canada (Aaron Brown; Jerome Blake; Brendon Rodney; Andre de Grasse), 37.70.
 4. China (Tang Xingqiang; Xie Zhenye; Su Bingtian; Wu Zhiqiang), 37.79.
 5. Jamaica (Jevaughn Minzie; Julian Forte; Yohan Blake; Oblique Seville), 37.84.
 6. Germany (Julian Reus; Joshua Hartmann; Deniz Almas; Lucas Ansh-Peprah), 38.12.
 7. Japan (Shuhei Tada; Ryota Yamagata; Yoshihide Kiryu; Yuki Koike), DNF.
 8. Ghana (Sean Safo-Antwi; Benjamin Azamati-Kwaku; Emmanuel Yeboah

OLYMPICS

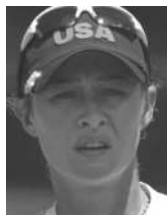
WOMEN'S GOLF

Korda holds onto lead despite swing struggles

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

KAWAGOE, Japan — Seven holes into the third round of Olympic women's golf, Nelly Korda was making it look easy.

She made three birdies, at one point stretching her lead to five shots. The one time she was out of position, the 23-year-old American blasted out of a bunker right of the green on the par-3 seventh and it hit the pin for a tap-in par.



Korda

One hole changed everything but the name atop the leaderboard.

Korda survived a battle with her swing, closed with 12 straight pars for a 2-under 69 and held a three-shot lead going into the final round in her pursuit of a gold medal.

"I didn't have a really good back nine. I was kind of spraying it all over the place. I had some testy par putts," Korda said. "But made all pars and I fought really hard to stay in it really, or ahead of it."

She was ahead by three shots over Aditi Ashok of India, who is nearly last in the 60-player field driving and near the top in sheer determination. She had a 68.

Olympic golf officials plan to

start play as early as possible Saturday at Kasumigaseki Country Club and take advantage of a window they hope is big enough to squeeze in 72 holes before a tropical storm in the forecast arrives.

"I'm just more having fingers, toes and everything crossed to say that the weather gods will allow us to play tomorrow," said Lydia Ko of New Zealand, who was five shots behind. "I feel like the Olympics itself has gone through so much, and Tokyo has gone through so much to host us. For it to be cut short ... I feel like it will sum up the whole situation."

Korda had made birdie on every par-5 for the tournament and had 80 yards to the pin for her third shot at the par-5 eighth. But she hit a clunker that rolled down the ridge 50 feet away, left that some 10 feet short and three-putted for bogey.

From there, it was a grind.

"There's something inside of me when I bogey a par 5 that I just get so frustrated about because I shouldn't be doing that," Korda said.

"But I kept telling myself that there's more opportunities ahead."

Korda was at 15-under 198 as she tries to add a gold medal to a year in which she won her first major and reached No. 1 in the world.



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

U.S. lightweight Keyshawn Davis, right, exchanges punches with Armenia's Hovhannes Bachkov during their match Friday in Tokyo. Davis won a 5-0 decision and will fight for gold Sunday.

half-century. The Tokyo field contained more than 40 boxers with professional experience, and the overall skill level seems remarkably high throughout most of the weight classes.

But Cuba's indefatigable program can add a fourth gold from Tokyo when lightweight Andy Cruz meets Keyshawn Davis of the impressive U.S. team Sunday in the final competition session.

Davis defeated Hovhannes Bachkov of Armenia by unanimous decision Friday.



PHOTOS BY FELIPE DANA/AP

April Ross, right, of the United States, hits a shot as Australia's Taliqua Clancy defends during the women's beach volleyball gold-medal match at the Summer Olympics on Friday in Tokyo. Ross and Alix Klineman beat Clancy and Mariafe Artacho del Solar 21-15, 21-16.

Americans win beach gold as Ross completes the set

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

TOKYO — April Ross won the Olympic gold medal that completes her set, and when she stood on the top step of the podium at the Shiokaze Park beach volleyball venue Friday she had with her the perfect person to hang it around her neck: Alix Klineman.

"I know that was a product of COVID, but it actually feels really special when you're up there," said Ross, who received her third Olympic medal from her third Olympic partner after a masked IOC official presented it on a tray because of pandemic protocols.

"I was like, 'We get to award the medals to each other,'" said Ross, who won silver in London and bronze in Rio de Janeiro. "In my head, I was thinking, 'Thank you, Alix.'"

Playing in 92-degree Fahrenheit temperatures — the U.S. TV broadcast said it felt like 129 on the sand — the Americans beat Mariafe Artacho del Solar and Taliqua Clancy of Australia 21-15, 21-16 in 43 minutes.

Klineman, a first-time Olympian, never let her new prize out of her grasp while talking to reporters. She said she had watched individual sports, where winners put their medals around their own necks, and was excited when she realized she could do that for Ross after working four years together to get to the Olympics, and then win it all.

"I feel like we've both just tried to support each other and give this partnership as much as we have,"



Ross, left, and Klineman display their gold medals. Ross added gold to her silver from London and bronze from Rio de Janeiro.

she said. "And so it was a really special moment."

The silver for Australia was its first beach volleyball medal since Natalie Cook and Kerri Pottharst took gold on Bondi Beach in 2000. They were never really close against the Americans, who tied for the top spot in the Olympic qualification points race and lost one set in seven matches in Tokyo.

Australia survived three championship points before Artacho del Solar served into the net to seal the U.S. victory. After a long hug, Klineman went to the bench to douse herself in water, then she and Ross went over to the stands and posed with an American flag.

"I still can't fathom that it worked out the way it did," said Ross, who played with Jen Kessy in 2012 and Kerri Walsh Jennings in 2016. "It's kind of a fairy tale story, going out there to try and get my gold medal. And the fact that it actually happened feels really special and surreal."

US women to play for indoor gold

TOKYO — Five years after Foluke Akinradewo Gunderson could only watch the end of a crushing five-set loss to Serbia in the Olympic semifinals because of an injured knee, she helped lead her team one step closer to the ultimate prize.

Akinradewo Gunderson provided key blocks at the net, her best attacking match of the tournament, and emotion to help the U.S. make it to the gold medal match for the fourth time ever by avenging a 2016 semifinal loss to Serbia with a 25-19, 25-15, 25-23 victory Friday.

The Americans easily dispatched the team that denied them a chance at their elusive first gold medal in Rio de Janeiro. They will seek gold against Brazil, which beat South Korea in straight sets in the other semifinal.

The U.S. has been one of the top teams in the world for much of the past two decades but has been unable to attain the ultimate prize, losing to Brazil in the final in 2008 and '12.

On the men's side, the Russians will take on France for the gold medal Saturday.

From The Associated Press

Heavyweight joins Cuban 2-gold club

Associated Press

TOKYO — Only six fighters had won gold medals in two weight classes in Olympic boxing before a trio of polished Cuban veterans joined the club over the past four days in Tokyo.

Julio César La Cruz, Roniel Iglesias and Arlen López showed the Cuban domination of this Olympic discipline is far from finished, no matter how much the game changes around them.

La Cruz capped the trifecta Friday with a clear victory over Russian heavyweight Muslim Gadzhimagomedov, putting on a defensive masterclass in his 5:0 win.

La Cruz added the Tokyo heavyweight title to his light heavyweight gold from Rio de Janeiro. His two-time teammates also moved up one weight class from their previous championship divisions to claim their second golds.

Amateur boxing has changed significantly from the sport that the Cuban teams dominated through long stretches of the past

OLYMPICS

Stevenson scores late to nab wrestling gold

By **CLIFF BRUNT**
Associated Press

CHIBA, Japan — With 10 seconds remaining, Gable Stevenson trailed the biggest wrestling match of his life by three points.

When the clock hit zero, he was an Olympic gold medalist.

Stevenson trailed Georgia's Geno Petriashvili 8-5 with time running out. The 21-year-old American remained composed and took control against his more experienced opponent, scoring on a spin-behind takedown with 10 seconds remaining, then another with less than a second remaining to win the men's freestyle 125-kilogram class final 10-8 on Friday night.

Stevenson held up two fingers for two points after the move, but even he couldn't believe what happened.

"I looked at the clock and it was like 0.3," Stevenson said. "And I was like, 'Ain't no way.' And my head just like flushed with everything. And I was like, 'Wow.'"

Georgia challenged the final points, to no avail. Stevenson gained a point on the challenge, giving him five points in 10 seconds.

It looked as if Stevenson might have another easy day. He outscored his opponents 23-0 in the first three rounds and dominated 2016 Olympic gold medalist Taha Akgul 8-0 in the quarterfinals.

Things got tougher in the final. Petriashvili, the No. 1 seed, is a three-time world champion who was an Olympic bronze medalist in 2016.

Stevenson led the final 5-2 before Petriashvili scored on a single leg takedown and two gut wrenches to go up 8-5.

With the pressure on, Stevenson came up with a plan to get the points he needed. It makes sense that he came through — he was named for American Dan Gable, the 1972 Olympic gold medalist and a former longtime college coach.

More gold could be coming for the United States. American Kyle Snyder, the re-

turning Olympic gold medalist in the men's 97kg freestyle class, will go for gold on Saturday. He defeated Turkey's Suleyman Karadeniz 5-0 in a semifinal. He will face the Russian Olympic Committee's Abdulrashid Sadulaev in the final. Sadulaev, the No. 1 seed in this class, won gold at 86kg in 2016 and is a four-time world champion.

American Kyle Dake defeated Italy's Frank Chamizo 5-0 for bronze. Chamizo was the No. 1 seed, and both are two-time world champions. Dake beat 2012 Olympic gold medalist Jordan Burroughs at the Olympic Trials to earn the spot on the team.

American Jacarra Winchester lost her bronze medal match 4-0 to Vanesa Kaladzinskaya in the 53kg freestyle class.

USA's Sarah Hildebrandt led China's Yanan Sun 7-1 at the break in the women's 50kg freestyle semifinal, but Sun rallied in the final seconds to win 10-7. Hildebrandt will wrestle for bronze on Saturday.



AARON FAVILA/AP

The United States' Gable Stevenson celebrates Friday after defeating Georgia's Geno Cudinovic in the men's freestyle 125kg wrestling final at the Summer Olympics in Chiba, Japan.

BASKETBALL

US men take on nemesis in final

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
Associated Press

SAITAMA, Japan — For USA Basketball, some eras will end Saturday. It will be Jerry Colangelo's last game as managing director of the men's national team. It'll mark the end of Gregg Popovich's commitment as the team's coach. Some players will likely be wearing the U.S. jersey for the final time.

Change is coming.

The Americans just don't want it to be atop the medal stand.

France — the new official nemesis of USA Basketball — awaits the Americans in the gold-medal game on Saturday. France has won the last two meetings between the programs, denying the U.S. a chance to play for a medal at the 2019 Basketball World Cup and then winning again in both teams' opener at the Tokyo Olympics.

"We came here with one goal and that's to win a gold medal," U.S. guard Damian Lillard said. "And now we're in a position to do it."

It would be a fourth consecutive gold for the U.S., and if secured that would mark the longest run of American dominance at an Olympics since the program won golds in each of the first seven tournaments from 1936 through 1968. Kevin Durant can join Carmelo Anthony as the only men in U.S. history with three gold medals, and Popovich — who served his country at the United States Air Force Academy and tried to play for his country at the 1972 Olym-

American women roll over Serbia

SAITAMA, Japan — Brittney Griner had 15 points and 12 rebounds to help the U.S. beat Serbia 79-59 on Friday to advance to the gold medal game of the Olympics.

The Americans are now one win away from a seventh consecutive gold medal which would match the U.S. men's team that won seven Olympic titles in a row from 1936-68.

It would also give Sue Bird and Diana Taurasi five gold medals — the most ever by a basketball player in the Olympics. The Americans will face Japan, which beat France 87-71 to advance to its first gold-medal game, on Sunday.

The U.S., which beat both France and Japan in pool play, has won 54 consecutive Olympic games now dating back to the semifinals of the 1992 Barcelona Games.

From The Associated Press

pics but wasn't selected — can only add to his lengthy list of accomplishments by winning gold.

"It's been a tough run for us, and for us to be back is exciting," Durant said.

Later Saturday, Luka Doncic



ERIC GAY/AP

The United States' Devin Booker passes over Australia's Patty Mills during the semifinals Thursday at the Olympics in Saitama, Japan.

and Slovenia will meet Patty Mills and Australia for the bronze, the winning side assured of claiming its first Olympic men's basketball medal.

The summer for the Americans started with two exhibition losses, then the loss to France in the Olympic opener, and the U.S. had to pull off double-digit comebacks — 10 against Spain, 15 against Australia — in each of their last two games just to make the final.

Yet the Americans have clearly gotten better. The French, who have Rudy Gobert and Evan Fournier among others with lengthy NBA experience on their roster, agree.

"This is not the same team we

played two weeks ago," said France's Nicolas Batum, another of the NBA players on that roster.

The only national team that has defeated the U.S. men three consecutive times at the top level of international competition — the Olympics or what is now called the World Cup, formerly the world championships — was the Soviet Union. They garnered the still-debated gold-medal win at the 1972 Olympics and then topped the Americans at worlds in 1974 and 1978.

France is one win from matching that feat.

"I think, I hope, that we will be ready Saturday," France coach Vincent Collet said.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Canadians claim gold in shootout

By **ANNE M. PETERSON**
Associated Press

Julia Grosso converted her kick from the spot and Canada clinched the Olympic gold medal in women's soccer by winning a penalty shootout 3-2 against Sweden after Friday's final ended in a 1-1 draw.

It was the first major tournament title for the Canadians, who were the bronze medalists at London in 2012 and in Rio de Janeiro five years ago.

Canadian goalkeeper Stephanie Labbe stopped Jonna Andersson to make way for Grosso, a 20-year-old player for the University of Texas, who beat Sweden goalkeeper Hedvig Lindahl.

It was the second straight silver medal for the Swedes, who were also aiming for their first title in a major tournament, after falling 2-1 to Germany at Rio in 2016.

Stina Blackstenius gave Sweden the lead in the 34th minute, but Jessie Fleming equalized with a penalty kick in the 67th to tie it for Canada and the game went to extra time.

Sweden had won every match going into the final, opening the tournament with a statement-making 3-0 victory over the United States. Blackstenius had a pair of goals against the Americans.

The Swedes advanced to the gold-medal match with a 1-0 victory over Australia, which finished in fourth place after falling to the United States 4-3 Thursday night in Kashima.

Canada had advanced to the semifinals 4-3 on penalties after a scoreless draw with Brazil.

SPORTS



Astros lose an icon

Flamethrowing right-hander
J.R. Richard dies at 71 » **MLB, Page 19**

OLYMPICS

History on deck

Baseball final will feature Scioscia matching mentor Lasorda or Japan winning its first gold medal in sport

By **RONALD BLUM**
Associated Press

YOKOHAMA, Japan — Mike Scioscia is one win from matching mentor Tommy Lasorda, the only manager to lead the United States to a baseball gold medal.

Host Japan, which stopped its major league season during the Tokyo Olympics, is the favorite in Saturday's gold medal game.

Scioscia's team, a mixture of prospects mostly from Double-A, career minor leaguers and released veterans, overcame a blown ninth-inning lead in a 7-6, 10-inning loss to Japan to reach the final by beating the Dominican Republic 3-1 and South Korea 7-2.



Scioscia

"I think you can look at a lot of the negative things that maybe aren't happening as far as COVID; obviously we're all concerned with that, not having any freedom, not having any fans in the stands, free to go watch some events," Scioscia said. "We can talk about some things in the negative, but the bottom line is, it says USA across our jersey and these guys are playing for a gold medal this weekend. Doesn't get any better than that."

Nick Martinez starts for the U.S. The 31-year-old right-hander pitched for Texas from 2014-17, then spent three seasons

SEE HISTORY ON PAGE 20

Boston Red Sox prospect Triston Casas has hit three home runs for the U.S. in the tournament.

SUE OGRICK/AP



WRESTLING

Stevenson pulls late stunner to claim gold
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BASKETBALL

US prepares to face Olympic nemesis for gold
Page 23

VOLLEYBALL

American Ross adds beach gold to stellar résumé
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GOLF

Korda battles her swing but leads through 3 rounds
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TRACK

US sprinter Felix becomes most decorated woman
Page 20