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STARS AND STRIPES®

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CONTINGENCY EDITION

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2021

Free to Deployed Areas



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Students are treated at a hospital after an explosion near a school in west Kabul, Afghanistan, on Saturday.

Children killed, hurt in blast near girl's school in Kabul

Students among dead after latest explosion in Afghan capital

By RAHIM FAIEZ
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A bomb exploded near a girls' school in a majority Shiite district of west Kabul on Saturday, killing at least 30 people, many of them young pupils between 11 and 15 years old. The Taliban condemned the attack and denied any responsibility.

Ambulances evacuated the wounded as relatives and residents screamed at authorities near the scene of the blast at Syed Al-Shahda school, in the Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood, Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Arian said. The death toll was expected to rise further.

SEE BLAST ON PAGE 4

UNCERTAIN FUTURE

This latest attack comes days after the remaining 2,500 to 3,500 American troops officially began leaving the country. They will be out by Sept. 11 at the latest. The top U.S. military officer said Sunday that Afghan government forces face an uncertain future and some "bad possible outcomes" against Taliban insurgents as the withdrawal accelerates.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Most Pentagon funds moved to border wall unrecoverable

By JOHN M. DONNELLY
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — Most of the nearly \$10 billion that the Trump administration diverted from the armed services to build barriers on the U.S.-Mexico border will never be seen again, Pentagon and congressional officials confirmed Friday.

That includes some of the money diverted from military construction funds and all the money former President Donald Trump had reprogrammed from a variety of other Pentagon initiatives, such as National Guard equipment, a new amphibious assault ship for the Navy, F-35 fighter jets for the Marine Corps, Osprey tilt-rotors for carrying forces to battle and C-130J transport planes.

Betty McCollum, the Minnesota Democrat who chairs the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, told panel members at the end of a hearing Friday that they are "not going to be getting any money returned" from Defense subcommittee appropriations that were diverted to border projects in fiscal 2019 and 2020.

SEE FUNDS ON PAGE 4



MATT YORK/AP

Government contractors erect a section of Pentagon-funded border wall in Yuma, Ariz.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Stocks rally to records despite grim jobs data

Associated Press

Stocks rallied to more records on Wall Street Friday as a stunningly disappointing report on the nation's job market signaled to investors that interest rates will likely stay low.

The S&P 500 rose 0.7%, topping the previous all-time high set last month. The Dow Jones Industrial Average set a record high for the third straight day.

Technology companies accounted for a big share of the broad rally, which included solid gains by stocks in the energy, industrial, and con-

sumer discretionary sectors. The gains helped the S&P 500 notch its eighth weekly gain in the last 10 weeks.

Voices up and down Wall Street acknowledged that Friday morning's jobs report was a massive disappointment. It's usually the market's most anticipated economic data of each month, and it showed employers added just 266,000 jobs in April. That was far fewer than the 975,000 jobs that economists expected and a steep slowdown from March's hiring pace of 770,000.

The weak report jolted the bond market and initially sent yields tumbling. The yield on the 10-year Treasury briefly dropped below 1.49%, toward its lowest level in two months before recovering. By the market's close it was unchanged from 1.56% late Thursday.

The S&P 500 index rose 30.98 points to 4,232.60, its third straight gain. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 229.23 points, or 0.7%, to 34,777.76. The Nasdaq composite picked up 119.39 points, or 0.9%, to 13,752.24.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 10)	\$1.18
Dollar buys (May 10)	0.8047
British pound (May 10)	\$1.36
Japanese yen (May 10)	107.00
South Korean won (May 10)	1093.00

South Korea (Won)	1116.07
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9045
Thailand (Baht)	31.11
Turkey (NewLira)	8.2406

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

Commercial rates	
Bahrain(Dinar)	0.3770
Britain (Pound)	1.3941
Canada (Dollar)	1.2157
China(Yuan)	6.4379
Denmark (Krone)	6.1344
Egypt (Pound)	15.6701
Euro	0.8249
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7667
Hungary (Forint)	295.12
Israel (Shekel)	3.2568
Japan (Yen)	108.71
Kuwait(Dinar)	0.3012
Norway (Krone)	8.2516
Philippines (Peso)	47.83
Poland (Zloty)	3.76
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3276

INTEREST RATES

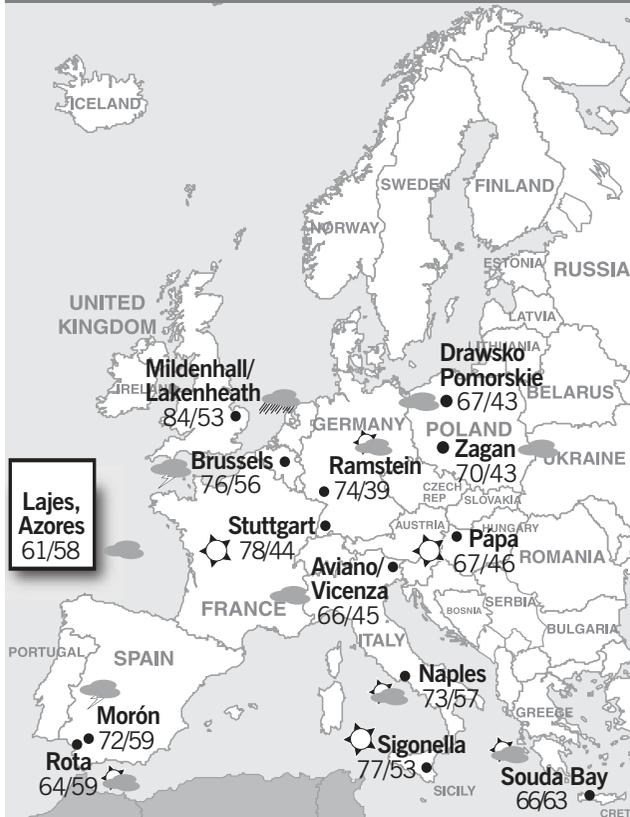
Prime rate	3.25
Interest Rates Discountrate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.02
30-year bond	2.23

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SUNDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SUNDAY IN EUROPE



MONDAY 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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ADVERTISING
 CustomerService@stripes.com | +49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
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MIDDLE EAST

ADVERTISING
 CustomerService@stripes.com | +49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
 DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC

ICHIRO KATAYANAGI | PacificAdvertising@stripes.com | CML +81 (42) 552.2511 ext. 77313
 DSN: 227.7313

PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

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MILITARY

General: Pandemic helped USAF retain 200 pilots

By SARAH CAMMARATA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force's chief of staff told House lawmakers on Friday that the service has slightly reduced its deficit in pilots, following initial concern that a reduction in flight training due to the coronavirus pandemic could exacerbate the Air Force's long-standing pilot shortage.

"We've made some progress over the course of the past year, where we shortened the gap by about 200," Gen. Charles "CQ" Brown said at an Air Force and Space Force budget hearing of the House Appropriations Committee's subpanel on defense.

The coronavirus pandemic has led some pilots to look to the service for employment. Historically, some pilots have left the military to enjoy benefits that the commercial airline industry offers, such as more stable work hours, better pay and more flight time.

Early last year, the former Air Force chief of staff, Gen. David Goldfein, told lawmakers that the service remained about 2,000 pilots short of the 21,000 that the service believes are needed to meet requirements laid out in the 2018 National Defense Strategy. The

strategy puts great-power competitors China and Russia at the forefront of national security concerns over issues such as global terrorism.

Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, pressed service officials on Friday about how the Air Force is addressing the issue that has plagued the service for several years, pointing out the 2,000-pilot deficit last year.

"We got to have something to address that issue of the pilot shortage. We have been talking about it for a long time, and we got to see some sort of change on that," Cuellar said.

While the pandemic forced airlines temporarily to pause hiring as global travel slowed, Cuellar pointed out that it also hampered pilot training.

At the onset of the pandemic, Goldfein said the service had to cut back the size of its undergraduate pilot training courses and cut the amount of time pilot-trainees spend in the cockpit.

Brown said Friday that the service maintained the same rate of pilot production this year. The Air Force previously wrote in its fiscal year 2021 budget request that its goal is to grow by about 1,500 avia-

tors per year by fiscal year 2024.

That is a "real testament to our airmen, and our operators and our maintainers to maintain the capacity and not slide back due to [the coronavirus]. It's a combination of production and retention and we're working both sides of that," the general said.

Brown also said the service is working to increase introductory flight training and looking at ways to increase collaboration with civilian simulator instructors to free up more uniform members to increase production.

The service is also examining some commercial options, but Brown did not explain what those options are because they are still working out specifics.

Acting Air Force Secretary John Roth said the new Undergraduate Pilot Training 2.5 program, an initiative to modernize pilot instruction, aims to improve specialized skills. Ten Air Force pilots received their wings in March at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph in Texas after graduating from the first leg of the program.

The program uses digital learning through virtual instruction and immersive training devices,



SERGIO GAMBOA/U.S. Air Force

Gen. Charles "CQ" Brown informed House lawmakers that due to the coronavirus pandemic the service has slightly reduced its shortage in pilot after concerns of continued loss in Air Force pilots.

in addition to hands-on learning, according to the Air Force.

"We're also trying to take a look at leveraging things like simulators ... are there some ways that we can leapfrog the system in terms of bringing in pilots from the civilian world, and not making them go through every step and perhaps getting them into a cock-

pit sooner," Roth said.

Brown said the service also wants to strengthen relationships with universities that have aviation programs to accelerate the time that service members go through Air Force pilot training.

Cammarata.Sarah@stripes.com
@sarahjcam

Navy calls for shipyard changes in pursuit of 355-ship goal

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The United States must repair and modernize its four public shipyards and advance its shipbuilding and maintenance capabilities to maintain its strategic advantage against a growing Chinese navy, the vice admiral who oversees Navy shipyards told lawmakers Thursday.

"Our ability to deploy combat ready ships and submarines starts in our public and private sector shipyards and ship-repair facilities around the globe," Vice Adm. William Galinis, who leads the Naval Sea Systems Command, told members of the House Armed Services Committee subpanel on readiness during a hearing on ship and submarine maintenance.

Since releasing its Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Plan in 2018, the Navy has been asking to repair and update the nation's four aging shipyards, which would assist in its pursuit of its congressionally mandated goal of a 355-ship fleet.

The plan calls for dry dock repairs, restoring and moving shipyard facilities, and replacing aging and deteriorating equipment at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Virginia, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Maine, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Washington and Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in Hawaii, according to Naval Sea Systems Command.

Originally built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, "the Navy's public ship-



SARAH MEAD/U.S. Navy

The aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis gets underway from Naval Station Norfolk as it transits to Newport News Shipbuilding for Refueling and Complex Overhaul in Newport News, Va., on Thursday.

yards are not efficiently configured to maintain and modernize nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and submarines," according to the command's website.

The 355-ship goal was made law in the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act to help the Navy maintain its global presence, especially as China becomes increasingly aggressive at sea. For instance, since 2012, China has been claiming and militarizing small islands and reefs in the Western Pa-

cific in attempts to further its South China Sea territorial claims, which are not recognized by international law.

Adm. Mike Gilday, the chief of naval operations, said last week that the Navy must maintain its presence overseas because the Chinese navy might be "beginning to treat Taiwan like Hainan island — as if it's actually theirs."

"At what point will they think that they are in a position for advantage to potentially move?" Gilday said. "We have to have forward forces forward in order to cause enough doubt in the minds of [Chinese] President Xi [Jinping] that today is not the day."

A fleet of 355 ships would about match the current size of the Chinese navy, which the Pentagon estimates to be about 350 ships compared to the U.S. fleet of 296.

China has "long had much more shipbuilding capacity than we have," Galinis said, which helped the nation surpass the U.S. as the largest navy in the world.

But that goal might not be attainable without increasing the U.S. shipbuilding and maintenance capacity — both in the public and private sectors, said Rep. John Garamendi, D-Calif.

"The Navy has operated at an untenable pace, sustaining the global presence it maintained 25 years ago with a much smaller fleet today. Rigorous and timely maintenance means we can have more ships at sea at any given time," the congressman said.

"As the administration contemplates a larger fleet of naval vessels, we must consider whether an already struggling shipyard enterprise has the capacity to sustain them."

The testimony Thursday came a week after lawmakers in the House and Senate introduced the Supplying Help to Infrastructure in Ports, Yards, and America's Repair Docks Act of 2021, or SHIPYARD Act, which would provide \$21 billion in 20 years to support the Navy's 2018 plan and another \$4 billion to private shipyards that support the Navy's fleet.

Updating the shipyards would benefit the construction of new ships and also help the Navy maintain its ships throughout their service lifetimes, Galinis said.

"Nearly 70% of our fleet at sea today will still be in service in 2030," he said. "Our ability to effectively maintain these ships and submarines is critical to delivering on Navy our nation needs."

Though the fate of the SHIPYARD Act remains undecided, Garamendi said Congress would write "certain timeframes in which we expect you to achieve goals" into the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act, which sets annual spending and policy priorities for the Pentagon. He also asked Galinis to provide five-year plans on the service's needs to update the shipyards.

Doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com
Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos

WAR/MILITARY

Drone attacks Iraqi base hosting US troops

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A drone strike early on Saturday targeted a military base in Iraq that hosts U.S. troops, causing only minor damage and no casualties, Iraq's military and the U.S.-led coalition said.

The pore-down attack damaged a hangar, tweeted coalition spokesman Col. Wayne Marotto. He said the attack was under investigation. An Iraqi military

statement also said no losses were reported.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. The U.S. has blamed Iran-backed militia groups for previous attacks, most of them rocket attacks that have targeted the American presence in Baghdad and military bases across Iraq.

Drone strikes are less common. In mid-April, an explosive-laden drone targeted

the military section of the international airport in Irbil, in Iraq's northern Kurdish-run region, causing no casualties or damages. The base also hosts U.S. troops.

The attacks have been frequent since a U.S.-directed drone strike killed Iranian General Qassem Soleimani near the Baghdad airport last year. Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis was also killed in the attack.

The strike drew the ire of mostly Shiite Iraqi lawmakers and prompted parliament to pass a non-binding resolution to pressure the Iraqi government to oust foreign troops from the country.

The Biden administration has resumed strategic talks with Baghdad, initiated under President Donald Trump, in which the future of U.S. troop presence in Iraq is a central point of discussion.

Blast: No one claims attack on Afghan school

FROM PAGE 1

The bombing, apparently aimed to cause maximum civilian carnage, adds to fears that violence in the war-wrecked country could escalate as the U.S. and NATO end nearly 20 years of military engagement.

Residents in the area said the explosion was deafening. Naser Rahimi told The Associated Press he heard three separate explosions, although there was no official confirmation of multiple blasts. Rahimi also said he believed that the sheer power of the explosion meant the death toll would almost certainly climb.

Rahimi said the explosion went off as the girls were streaming out of the school at around 4:30 p.m. local time. Authorities were investigating the attack but have yet to confirm any details.

While no one has claimed responsibility for the bombing, the Afghan Islamic State affiliate has targeted the Shiite neighborhood before.

The radical Sunni Muslim group has declared war on Afghanistan's minority Shiite Muslims. Washington blamed ISIS for a vicious attack last year in a maternity hospital in the same area that killed pregnant women and newborn babies.

In Dasht-e-Barchi, angry crowds attacked the ambulances and even beat health workers as they tried to evacuate the wounded, Health Ministry spokesman Ghulam Dastigar Nazari said. He implored residents to cooperate and allow ambulances free access to the site.

Images circulating on social media purportedly showed bloodied school backpacks and books strewn across the street in front of the school, and smoke rising above the neighborhood.

At one nearby hospital, Associated Press journalists saw at least 20 dead bodies lined up in hallways and rooms, with dozens of wounded people and families of victims pressing through the facility.

Outside the Muhammad Ali Jinnah Hospital, dozens of people lined up to donate blood, while family members checked casualty posted lists on the walls.

Both Arian and Nazari said that at least 50 people were also wounded, and that the casualty toll could rise. The attack occurred just as the fasting day came to an end.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, and Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told reporters in a message that only ISIS could be responsi-



RAHMAT GUL/AP

An injured student is transported to a hospital after a bomb explosion near a school in west of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Saturday.

le for such a heinous crime. Mujahid also accused Afghanistan's intelligence agency of being complicit with ISIS, although he offered no evidence.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani issued a statement condemning the attack, blaming the Taliban even as they denied it. He offered no proof.

Even as the ISIS has been degraded in Afghanistan, according

to government and US officials, it has stepped-up its attacks particularly against Shiite Muslims and women workers.

Earlier the group took responsibility for the targeted killing of three women media personnel in eastern Afghanistan.

The attack comes days after the remaining 2,500 to 3,500 American troops officially began leaving the country. They will be out by

Sept. 11 at the latest. The pullout comes amid a resurgent Taliban, who control or hold sway over half of Afghanistan.

The top U.S. military officer said Sunday that Afghan government forces face an uncertain future and possibly some "bad possible outcomes" against Taliban insurgents as the withdrawal accelerates in the coming weeks.

Funds: Money for border routed through counterdrug account expired

FROM PAGE 1

McCullum did not elaborate at the hearing. She said the panel's members will soon be receiving a memo from the staff director explaining the situation.

But a House aide and a Pentagon official told CQ Roll Call why so few of the diverted defense dollars are still available.

All told, about \$14 billion was spent on the border barriers through the budgets of the Pentagon and the departments of Homeland Security and Treasury.

Most of it was not appropriated by Congress but was instead redi-

rected from other programs that had been enacted into law.

Of that \$14 billion, fully \$9.9 billion came from the Pentagon through two funding streams in fiscal 2019 and 2020.

In the first stream, \$3.6 billion was moved from military construction projects at home and abroad, including many in Eastern European countries facing down threats from Russia.

In the second, \$6.3 billion was moved from other defense projects — including several high-profile weapons favored by lawmakers and supported by the brass.

The \$6.3 billion was routed through a Pentagon counterdrug account under a law that allowed money to be moved from that account to other agencies that are deemed to be fighting the drug trade.

Of course, to the extent money has already been spent on border projects, it would not be available anyway. That is the case with most of the projects funded by the counterdrug money, the Pentagon official said. So not much money from that funding stream is likely to be left over for that reason alone.

The second reason the \$6.3 bil-

lion is no longer accessible, he and the House aide said, is that the counterdrug funds expired after one year, meaning they have not been available since September to be used for any other purpose.

As for the \$3.6 billion that was taken from military construction programs, only about half the border construction work that was planned to be completed with that money was done before President Joe Biden froze the work in January, the Pentagon official said.

So approximately half or more of that money may still be available.

But that does not amount to

much, relatively speaking.

In sum, of the \$9.9 billion taken from the Pentagon for the border, none of the money overseen by the congressional appropriations subcommittees on defense is still available. And only a few billion in military construction funds overseen by the Subcommittee on Milcon-VA is left.

On April 30, the Pentagon and White House announced that unspent border money would be recouped. But the details about how few dollars were available was not explained. And the exact figures are still being worked out, officials said.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Southern India sees rise, spurs more lockdowns

By KRUTIKA PATHI
Associated Press

BENGALURU, India — Two southern states in India became the latest to declare lockdowns, as coronavirus cases surge at breakneck speed across the country and pressure mounts on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to implement a nationwide shutdown.

At over 300,000, Karnataka's capital of Bengaluru has the highest active caseload of any Indian city. But experts warn the worst is still ahead as India's third-largest city buckles under oxygen shortages, overrun hospitals and crowded crematoriums. In Tamil Nadu state, the lockdown announcement followed a daily record of more than 26,000 cases on Friday.

Infections have swelled in India since February in a disastrous turn blamed on more contagious

variants as well as government decisions to allow massive crowds to gather for religious festivals and political rallies.

On Saturday, India reported 401,078 confirmed cases, including a record high of 4,187 deaths. Overall, India has more than 21.8 million confirmed infections and nearly 240,000 deaths. Experts say even those dramatic tolls are undercounts.

One doctor in Bengaluru said he's had to reject patients "left, right and center" as his hospital struggled to find more oxygen.

"The problem is the demand is so high that we need constant oxygen," said Dr. Sanjay Gururaj, the medical director at Shanti Hospital and Research Center. The hospital is sending a truck twice a day to oxygen plants on the outskirts of the city to bring back 12 jumbo oxygen cylinders. "In



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH/AP

Indians cover their faces as a precaution against the coronavirus line up to receive the vaccine for COVID-19 at a medical college in Prayagraj, India, on Saturday.

normal times, this would have lasted over two weeks — now, it lasts just over a day," he added.

The state's oxygen shortages prompted the high court on Wednesday to order the federal government to increase the daily liquid medical oxygen supplied to Karnataka. The ruling came after 24 virus patients died in a government hospital on Monday. It's un-

clear how many of them died due to the lack of oxygen, but an investigation is ongoing.

It's clear infections are rapidly rising across the south, but there has been "less visible outcry" than in the north because of relatively better health infrastructure and government initiatives that address problems at the community level, said Jacob John, professor

of community medicine at Christian Medical College, Vellore.

But while the virus has ripped through large cities in waves, smaller towns and villages where health care is less accessible are now exposed.

"These places are quickly getting affected, which means we may not have sustained the worst yet in south India," he said.

NYC refrigerated trucks still used to store victims

Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City is still using refrigerated trucks to store bodies of coronavirus victims, more than a year after they were first set up as temporary morgues as deaths surged at the height of the pandemic.

The city's medical examiner's office said Friday that 750 bodies are being kept in long-term storage in refrigerated trailers at a Brooklyn pier while family members sort out plans for their final resting places.

Dina Maniotis, a deputy commissioner with the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, told a city council committee on Wednesday that many of the bodies held at the 39th Street Pier could end up buried in the city's potter's field on Hart Island.

In April 2020, the city shortened the amount of time it would hold unclaimed remains to 14 days before burying them on Hart Island. At the time, officials said, they were exploring the option of interring unclaimed remains on the island temporarily so they could be moved later on.

Mark Desire, a spokesperson for the medical examiner's office, said permanent burial on Hart Island is an option for the next-of-kin of COVID-19 victims whose bodies remain in refrigerated trucks.

"Long term storage was created at the height of the pandemic to ensure that families could lay their loved ones to rest as they see fit," Desire said. "With sensitivity and compassion, we continue to work with individual families on a case by case basis during their period of mourning."

The non-profit news website The City reported on the matter this week. The website noted that between 500 and about 800 bodies have been kept in cold stor-



TED SHAFFREY/AP

The Statue of Liberty is visible above refrigerator trucks intended for storing corpses that are staged in a lot at the 39th Street pier, in the Brooklyn borough of New York, on May 6, 2020.

age at any given time since April 2020.

Those figures were based on estimates by the medical examiner's office compiled by the website and Columbia University's Stabile Center for Investigative Reporting.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency sent 85 refrigerated trucks to serve as temporary morgues last year as COVID-19 deaths overwhelmed the city's permanent morgues and filled storage spaces in many hospitals to capacity.

Many were parked outside hospitals and workers in protective gear used forklifts to place bodies inside in what became a grim, daily ritual.

Officials: Calif. bar sold fake vaccination cards

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The owner of a Northern California bar where authorities say made-to-order fake COVID-19 vaccination cards were sold to undercover state agents for \$20 each was arrested in what officials call the first such foiled operation they are aware of nationwide.

The plainclothes agents from California's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control said they were told at the Old Corner Saloon in Clements to write their names and birthdates on Post-it notes and then watched as employees cut the cards, filled in identifying information and bogus vaccination dates and laminated the finished products.

"On the back where they put the two dates when you were vaccinated, they used two different color pens to make it look like it was two different times," supervising agent Luke Blehm said Friday. "So they went to some effort to make it look authentic."

Vaccination cards are being used in some places as a pass for people to attend large gatherings. The European Union is considering allowing in tourists who can prove they have been vaccinated.

In California, officials have al-

lowed venue operators to offer easier access to people with proof of vaccination. That includes preferential access to large events such as concerts and sporting events and allowing venues to create vaccinated-only sections where social distancing requirements are not as strict.

Acting on an anonymous tip to the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office, four undercover agents went to the bar several times in April and bought four fake laminated vaccination cards, officials said.

They also reported seeing at least eight others buy fake cards, but haven't uncovered how many were sold.

They returned to the small-town bar this week and arrested its owner. Agents said they found another two completed cards and 30 additional blank cards along with a laminator and cutting device.

Fake cards have been advertised on social media and online sales platforms, he said, prompting the California attorney general's office to send cease and desist warnings to those entities.

But it's the first example he's found of someone selling cards out of a bar.

NATION

Weak job report spurs new fight for big spending

By JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden insists an unexpected slowdown in companies' hiring is clear new proof the U.S. needs the multitrillion-dollar federal boost he's pushing. But his sales effort is challenged by critics who say Friday's jobless figures show his earlier aid legislation — successfully rushed through Congress — is actually doing more harm than good.

Biden's promised economic comeback hardly stalled on Friday. But it seemed to sputter a bit with a report that found merely modest April job gains of 266,000 and complicated his new \$4 trillion push for infrastructure, education and children.

The employment report failed to show that the U.S. economy was accelerating so much as stuttering along as the unemployment rate ticked up to 6.1%. Economists had projected roughly one million added jobs last month, and the modest hiring indicated that the earlier \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package has provided an uneven boost so far.

The figures present Biden with a fresh challenge at a critical moment in his presidency. He is betting that an open embrace of massive government spending will help resolve the nation's public health and financial turmoil —

and lift the political prospects for Democrats heading into next year's elections. But the disappointing jobs numbers could also embolden his critics and stiffen the Republican resistance to the infrastructure package Biden is trying to push through Congress.

Addressing the report, Biden sought to ease concerns.

"We knew this wouldn't be a sprint—it'd be a marathon," he said. The pandemic relief package "was designed to help us over the course of a year, not 60 days. A year. We never thought that after the first 50 or 60 days everything would be fine. Today, there's more evidence our economy is moving in the right direction. But it's clear we have a long way to go."

Biden's opponents say the legislation actually worsened problems in at least one way, with expanded unemployment benefits that gave the jobless a reason to stay at home instead of seeking work.

The president said the jobs data don't show that. And advocates for his plans argue that the report shows more spending is needed to sustain the economy.

There are also issues of supply shortages — for computer chips, lumber and more — that are holding back growth, a reminder that the world's largest economy seldom bends perfectly to the wishes



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

President Joe Biden waves as he walks to Marine One on the Ellipse near the White House, on Friday, in Washington.

of lawmakers.

The fate of the president's agenda may depend on how the public processes and understands the April jobs report in the coming weeks, said Jon Lieber, a managing director at the Eurasia Group, a political risk advisory and consulting firm.

"Are the Republicans able to seize on this as, 'This is what happens when the government gets involved in the economy and screws things up?' Or, does the public see this as the need for more government support?" Lieber said. "That's the argument for the next month."

One clear takeaway across partisan lines was a need for caution in interpretation. A single monthly report can be volatile. The three-month average of job gains is still a healthy 524,000.

Michael Strain, an economist at

the conservative American Enterprise Institute, noted that many businesses have said they cannot find workers to hire despite increases in hourly pay. Strain said he plans to monitor upcoming reports to see if that pattern holds in what could be a troubling sign for Biden's vision of how to generate growth through government spending.

"If we continue to hear a growing chorus of businesses complaining about worker shortages and if wages continue to rise, then it will be tempting to conclude that a lot of the 8 million jobs we are currently missing aren't coming back," Strain said.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which represents businesses, put the blame squarely on the relatively generous unemployment benefits that Biden extended as part of his relief pack-

age. The group said the checks prevent people from accepting jobs.

"One step policymakers should take now is ending the \$300 weekly supplemental unemployment benefit," said Neil Bradley, chief policy officer at the Chamber. "Based on the Chamber's analysis, the \$300 benefit results in approximately one in four recipients taking home more in unemployment than they earned working."

Jared Bernstein, a member of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, said he has heard companies say they're struggling to find workers, but he didn't see those concerns reflected in the jobs report. For example, restaurants and bars added 187,000 jobs last month even though workers in that relatively low-wage sector would, in theory, have an incentive to just collect unemployment.

Prospects dim for passage of LGBTQ rights bill in Senate

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Controlling Congress and the White House for the first time in a decade, Democrats were hopeful that this would be the year they finally secured civil rights protections for LGBTQ Americans.

Then came a new debate over women's and girls' sports.

Legislation that would add sexual orientation and gender identity to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is running aground in the Senate, partly knocked off course by the nationwide conservative push against transgender participation in girls and women's athletics that has swept state legislatures and now spilled into the halls of Congress.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said the House-passed legislation would "in effect repeal Title IX" by making it easier for transgender women to play on girls teams.

Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, R-Miss., said that allowing "male-bodied athletes" to compete against females would "totally undermine" girls basketball. Rep. Vicky Hartzler, R-Mo., said the bill would "decimate" female athletic competition.

Democrats are frustrated by the shift in the debate, saying there's ample evidence that the Republican claims are false and overblown.

The International Olympic Committee has allowed transgender athletes to compete for years under specific parameters, and, to date, there have been no known transgender women compete in the Olympics. Only one known transgender woman has competed at the Division I level in the NCAA. And though legislators in around 30 states have introduced legislation to ban or limit transgender athletes from competing

on teams that align with their gender identity, few lawmakers have been able to cite specific cases in their home states where it became an issue.

"We are waiting for this avalanche of problems," said the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, characterizing the Republicans' argument. "They haven't really surfaced."

But Republicans are unyielding in their opposition to the legislation, spurred on by conservative groups who are pushing anti-transgender laws nationwide. With no Republicans signed on, for now, Democrats are unlikely to win the 60 votes needed to pass the Equality Act, potentially putting the issue in limbo indefinitely.

"It's very discouraging, but in many ways not surprising, that Republicans are so focused on the

trans community to build up opposition," said Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I. He called the GOP arguments over sports a solution in search of a problem.

Sports are just the latest front in the decadeslong GOP culture war over LGBTQ rights that has focused increasingly on transgender Americans since 2015, when the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage. Conservative groups including The Heritage Foundation, Family Policy Alliance and the Christian legal network Alliance Defending Freedom have been engaged for much of the past two decades in advocacy against the LGBTQ rights movement. An earlier push by those groups to enact laws requiring transgender people to use public bathrooms corresponding to the sex on their birth certificate sputtered amid backlash.

Republicans contend the

Equality Act would open the floodgates for transgender girls and women to play on female sports teams and hurt others' chances to compete. While the bill does not explicitly mention sports or touch Title IX protections against sex-based discrimination, they say extending the protections to gender identity would eliminate "private spaces" for cisgender women, including sports teams.

They have repeatedly pointed to one example in Connecticut, where two transgender high school runners in Connecticut won several championships. A lawsuit filed by the runners' teammates was recently thrown out.

Christiana Holcomb, a lawyer with Alliance Defending Freedom, contends that the Equality Act would supersede Title IX "and force vulnerable girls to share intimate spaces with men who identify as female."

NATION

Gaetz, Greene take mantle of GOP populism

Associated Press

THE VILLAGES, Fla. — Reps. Matt Gaetz and Marjorie Taylor Greene, two of the Republican Party's most controversial figures, kicked off their "America First Rally" roadshow Friday with a Trump-centric revival of sorts for the MAGA faithful at a Florida retirement community.

The gathering appeared to be an attempt to position the two conservatives as successors to the former president's populism.

"Tell me, who is your president?" Greene shouted after walking out onto a ballroom stage in front of hundreds of supporters wearing "Trump" T-shirts and "Make America Great Again" red ballcaps.

"Trump!" the mask-less crowd of retirees wearing MAGA red yelled back.

Joking that he was a "marked man in Congress ... but a Florida man," Gaetz called former President Donald Trump "the undisputed leader of the Republican Party."

"Today, we send a strong message to the weak establishment in both parties: America First isn't going away. We are going on tour," Gaetz said. "It's no longer the red team against the blue team. It's the establishment against the rest of us."

Gaetz held up himself and Greene as challengers to the establishment and successors to Trump's populism.

"They lie about us because we tell the truth about them," Gaetz said of the establishment.

The indoor rally took place with just a week until Gaetz associate Joel Greenberg faces a deadline to enter a plea deal that could lead to damaging information against the Florida congressman. Gaetz alluded to the investigation by referencing what he said were distorted descriptions of himself as someone who has wild parties with beautiful women.

Both Republican members of the House of Representatives have come under fire in recent months, though for different reasons.

What began as an inquiry into sex trafficking allegations and whether Gaetz paid women and an underage girl in exchange for sex has grown into a larger review of public corruption. Federal investigators are looking at whether Gaetz and his associates tried to secure government jobs for some of the women. They are also scrutinizing Gaetz's connections to the medical marijuana sector.

Greenberg, a former local tax collector, has been accused of



PHELAN M. EBENHACK / AP

Reps. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., and Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., address a rally Friday in The Villages, Fla.

trafficking a minor for sex and faces a May 15 deadline to strike a plea deal with prosecutors. If he does, Greenberg may be pressed to cooperate with federal investigators and deliver damaging information against Gaetz.

Greene, a congresswoman from Georgia, was stripped of her congressional assignments last February for incendiary social media posts expressing racist views, pushing absurd conspiracy

theories and endorsing threats of violence against elected officials

The controversies made no difference to the 300 supporters, mostly retirees, who packed into a hotel ballroom to listen to them. A long line trailed outside the hotel with people who couldn't get in once the ballroom reached capacity. The Villages, which was the fastest growing U.S. metro area last year, has been a Republican bastion for decades and is often a

must-stop destination for Republican presidential candidates.

Inside the ballroom, the supporters danced and clapped to Laura Branigan's "Gloria" and other 1980s hits and waved their arms, loudly chanting the lyrics of Queen's "We Are the Champions," before the politicians took the stage.

At least a half dozen muscled security guards in identical olive shirts stood around the room.

Stefanik's rise toward No. 3 job irks some conservatives

BY ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Conservatives in and out of Congress are expressing opposition to Rep. Elise Stefanik's rise toward House Republicans' No. 3 leadership job, grumbling that's unlikely to derail her but serves notice that the right wing is battling again to affect the party's future.

House Republicans plan to meet privately this week, probably Wednesday, and seem certain to oust Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., from that top post. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., seems likely to postpone a vote on replacing Cheney until sometime later, according to two House GOP aides who discussed the delay on condition of anonymity, giving restive conservatives a chance to coalesce behind an alternative.

It's unlikely any challenger would defeat Stefanik, who has the backing of former President Donald Trump, McCarthy and No. 2 House GOP leader Steve Scalise of Louisiana. That triumvirate — especially the former president, whose grip on the party seems as firm as ever — virtually assures

victory for Stefanik, 36, a onetime Trump critic who evolved into his strident ally.

But with the hard right distrustful of Stefanik, owner of one of the House GOP's most moderate voting records, conservatives say forcing her to face a challenge would signal she's not universally accepted and will have to contend with them moving forward.

"We must not rush into a de-facto coronation of any handpicked replacement whose voting record does not reflect the views of the conference," first-term conservative Rep. Bob Good, R-Va., said in a statement. "We must select someone who will wholeheartedly support the conservative membership."

Good said Republicans should be allowed to "work through the process" of replacing Cheney. The conservative Club for Growth, wary of Stefanik's past opposition to tax cuts and easing environmental regulations, is also pushing for time so a Stefanik rival can emerge, a view Republicans say is widely shared among conservatives.

The hard-right House Freedom

Caucus has taken no public position on Stefanik. But its members, said to number around 40, are known to be uncomfortable with her.

As she works to secure her election, Stefanik has told colleagues she'd serve as No. 3 leader only through the 2022 election year, said a GOP lawmaker and an aide speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal conversations. She's said she'd take the top GOP slot on the House Education and Labor Committee the following year. The scenario was first reported by Politico.

Delaying the Stefanik vote could also help McCarthy, who hopes to be elected speaker should Republicans win House control in the 2022 elections. There's no need for him to risk support from conservatives, long skeptical of him, by denying them a chance to advance a Stefanik challenger.

The dustup is underscoring the disconnect that sometimes exists between Trump and the party's ideological right wing. It also poses a test of conservatives' clout when they don't have the former president behind them — a battle



JACQUELYN MARTIN / AP

Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., aims to take the House Republicans' No. 3 leadership job from Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo.

they seem likely to lose this time.

Conservatives have tussled for years for influence within the GOP. They've won some fights, like forcing the early retirement of Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, but lost many others.

"Leadership elections are always an opportunity for discussions about the future" of House Republicans, said Michael Steel, who was a top aide to Boehner and other leading GOP figures.

Ex-acting defense chief to testify

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller is scheduled to testify next week about the Pentagon's role in responding to the deadly Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol, the latest in a series of high-profile congressional hearings on the incident.

Miller is expected to appear Wednesday before the House Oversight Committee. Miller will almost certainly be asked to respond to complaints raised at previous hearings that the Defense Department took too long to dispatch the National Guard to the Capitol despite pleas for extra assistance from the Capitol Police.

Army and Pentagon leaders have repeatedly denied any efforts to delay or deny the Guard response, and say the movement of the troops was approved quickly but took time to actually complete. Guard members were scattered around the city posted at intersections, and they had to return to the armory, get riot gear and other equipment, get their new orders and explanation of their new mission before they were sent to the Capitol.

NATION

Pipeline firm halts business after cyber hit

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A company that operates a major U.S. energy pipeline says it was forced to temporarily halt all pipeline operations following a cybersecurity attack.

In a statement, Colonial Pipeline said the attack took place Friday and also affected some of its information technology systems. The company describes itself as the largest refined products pipeline in the United States and transports roughly 45% of all fuel, including gasoline, diesel fuel and home heating oil, that is consumed on the East Coast.

The Alpharetta, Ga.-based company said it hired an outside cybersecurity firm to investigate the nature and scope of the attack and has also contacted law enforcement and federal agencies.

“Colonial Pipeline is taking steps to understand and resolve this issue,” the company said in a late Friday statement. “At this time, our primary focus is the safe and efficient restoration of our service and our efforts to return to normal operation. This process is already underway, and we are working diligently to address this matter and to minimize disruption to our customers and those who rely on Colonial Pipeline.”

The precise nature of the incident was unclear, including who launched the attack and what the motives were.

Mike Chapple, teaching professor of IT, analytics and operations at the University of Notre Dame’s Mendoza College of Business and a former computer scientist with the National Security Agency, said

systems that control pipelines should not be connected to the internet and vulnerable to cyber intrusions.

“The attacks were extremely sophisticated and they were able to defeat some pretty sophisticated security controls, or the right degree of security controls weren’t in place,” Chapple said.

Colonial Pipeline said it transports more than 100 million gallons of fuel daily, through a pipeline system spanning more than 5,500 miles between Texas and New Jersey.

The FBI and the White House’s National Security Council did not immediately return messages seeking comment. The federal Cybersecurity Infrastructure and Security Agency referred questions about the incident to the company.

A hacker’s botched attempt to poison the water supply of a small Florida city raised alarms about how vulnerable the nation’s critical infrastructure may be to attacks by more sophisticated intruders.

Anne Neuberger, the Biden administration’s deputy national security adviser for cybersecurity and emerging technology, said in an interview with The Associated Press in April that the government was undertaking a new effort to help electric utilities, water districts and other critical industries protect against potentially damaging cyberattacks. She said the goal was to ensure that control systems serving 50,000 or more Americans have the core technology to detect and block malicious cyber activity.



SAUL LOEB, POOL/AP

Former U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, nominee for administrator of NASA, speaks during a Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation confirmation hearing, on Capitol Hill in Washington, on April 21.

NASA’s new chief big on dealing with climate, hedges moon date

By MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA’s new administrator is big on tackling climate and diversifying the agency’s workforce, but hedging on whether the U.S. can put astronauts on the moon by 2024.

In his first interview since becoming NASA’s top official this week, former Sen. Bill Nelson told The Associated Press on Friday that tracking climate change is a top issue. He also wants to diversify the space agency’s workforce so it reflects America.

His underlying vision for NASA: “to explore the heavens with humans and machines.”

For landing astronauts on the moon, Nelson said the goal remains 2024, a deadline set by the Trump administration. But he said he needs more time to review the matter, especially with challenges to the contract for the astronauts’ lunar lander.

“That is the intended schedule,

but I think we have to put a dose of sobering reality into our analysis,” he said from NASA headquarters in Washington.

The lunar expeditions will benefit the Martian crews, according to Nelson. Whether the 2030s is still feasible for human Mars missions, “all of that is being discussed,” he said.

Nelson commended Elon Musk’s SpaceX for its achievements over the past year — flying astronauts to and from the International Space Station for NASA, and just this week successfully launching and landing a full-scale Starship prototype for the first time. Starship is what NASA intends to use to land astronauts on the moon; that \$3 billion contract, however, is being protested by the two losing companies.

He’s also in support of all the private flights coming up, first by Jeff Bezos’ Blue Origin to the fringes of space in July and then by SpaceX all the way to orbit in September.

Might the 78-year-old Nelson — who flew on space shuttle Columbia in 1986 — be interested in a commercial space ride?

“I double-dare them to offer me the opportunity,” he said, laughing. He quickly clarified, “It’s time for the young ones.”

But he noted: “I’m still doing my pushups and I’m still doing my pullups and I’m still jogging — so don’t tempt me.”

Nelson said he did not seek the NASA administrator job, and had recommended three women. He said he told the Biden administration he would accept the nomination only if one of the women could serve as his deputy. Selected for the job: former space shuttle commander Pam Melroy.

Nelson is NASA’s 14th administrator, the third to fly in space. He was sworn in Monday by Vice President Kamala Harris, who will head the National Space Council. In a show of bipartisan space support, the two previous administrators took part.

NASA Mars helicopter heard humming through thin air

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — First came the amazing pictures, then the video. Now NASA is sharing sounds of its little helicopter humming through the thin Martian air.

NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California released this first-ever audio Friday, just before Ingenuity made its fifth test flight, a short one-way trip to a new airfield.

During the fourth flight a week earlier, the low hum from the helicopter blades spinning at more than 2,500 revolutions per minute is barely audible. It almost sounds like a low-pitched, faraway mosquito or other flying insect.

That’s because the 4-pound helicopter

was more than 260 feet from the microphone on the Perseverance rover. The rumbling wind gusts also obscured the chopper’s sound.

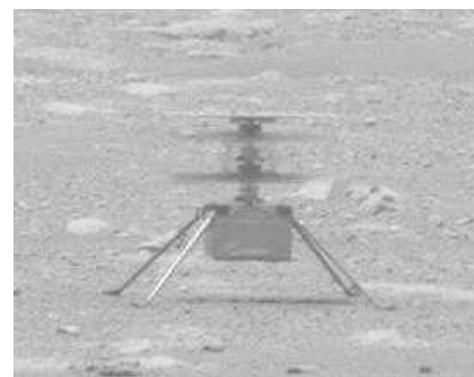
Scientists isolated the sound of the whirring blades and magnified it, making it easier to hear.

Ingenuity — the first powered craft to fly on another planet — arrived at Mars on Feb. 18, clinging to Perseverance’s belly. Its first flight was April 19; NASA named the takeoff and landing area Wright Brothers Field in honor of Wilbur and Orville, who made the world’s first airplane flights in 1903. A stamp-size piece of wing fabric from the original Wright Flyer is aboard Ingenuity.

The \$85 million tech demo was supposed to end a few days ago, but NASA extended the mission by at least a month to get more flying time.

For Friday afternoon’s 108-second test flight, the helicopter traveled southward in the same direction the rover is heading. Once over its new airfield, the chopper soared to twice its previous altitude — 33 feet — took pictures, then landed. The two airfields are 423 feet apart.

With the helicopter’s first phase complete, the rover can now start hunting for rocks that might contain signs of past microscopic life. Core samples will be collected for eventual return to Earth.



NASA, JPL-CALTECH, ASU, MSSS/AP

The Mars Ingenuity helicopter on the surface of the planet, on April 29.

NATION

California's population declines for first time

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California's population fell by more than 182,000 last year, the first yearly loss ever recorded for the nation's most populous state that halted a growth streak dating to its founding in 1850 on the heels of a gold rush that prompted a flood of people to seek their fortune in the West.

The figures released Friday followed last week's announcement from the U.S. Census Bureau that California would lose a congressional seat for the first time because it grew more slowly than other states over the past decade. Still, California's population of just under 39.5 million and soon-to-be 52-member congressional delegation remain by far the largest.

California's population has surged and slowed in the decades since its founding, with notable increases following World War II and the tech boom of the 1980s and '90s that put Silicon Valley on the map.

In recent years, more people have left California for other states than have moved there, a trend Republicans say is a result of the state's high taxes and progressive politics. The average sale price of a single-family home in California hit a record \$758,990 in March, a 23.9% increase from a year ago.

"The numbers don't lie. People are leaving our state because it's



JEFF CHIU/AP

A person walks in front of the skyline on Bernal Heights Hill in San Francisco in December. State officials announced Friday that the nation's most populous state lost 182,083 people in 2020.

not affordable to live here," tweeted Kevin Faulconer, the former mayor of San Diego and one of the Republican candidates hoping to unseat Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom in this year's expected recall election.

But the Newsom administration says California's population decline is an outlier, blaming it on the coronavirus pandemic that

turned everything upside down in 2020.

California has been steadily losing people to other states for years. From 2010 to 2020, about 6.1 million people left for other states and only 4.9 million arrived from other parts of the country, according to an analysis of census data by the Public Policy Institute of California.

But the influx of international immigrants and births outpacing deaths have always been enough to overcome that loss. That changed in 2020.

In a normal year, California might have between 140,000 and 150,000 people move in from other countries. In 2020, it was just 29,000 people — a direct impact, state officials say, of the Trump

administration halting new visas for much of the year.

Global lockdowns because of the coronavirus prompted a 29% decline in international students coming to California, or about 53,000 people.

Births continued their steady decline, mirroring a national trend. But deaths soared as the coronavirus killed 51,000 people in California last year, accounting for a 19% increase of the state's death rate compared to the previous three-year average.

"If it were not for the pandemic last year, we might be having a very different conversation today," said Walter Schwarm, California's chief demographer.

The deaths were more pronounced in the state's most populated cities, including Los Angeles, which saw a 27% increase over its three-year average. Overall, Los Angeles lost nearly 52,000 people, the third straight year of decline that has put its population at just over 3.9 million.

Eric McGhee, a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, said the state's population decline is "largely a function of the pandemic." He says the state will likely return to its trend of slow growth this year as things return to normal.

But he said the underlying issues causing that slow growth will remain, including a housing shortage that is driving prices to an all time high.

With civil rights charges, Justice Dept. signals priorities

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department is sending a strong message about its priorities these days.

In just over the past two weeks, it has opened investigations of police in Louisville, Kentucky, and Minneapolis. Federal prosecutors have charged four former Minneapolis police officers with civil rights violations in George Floyd's death, and accused three men of hate crimes in the death of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia. In both criminal cases, authorities moved forward with federal charges before most of the defendants have gone to state trial.

Attorney General Merrick Garland is making good on his confirmation promise to refocus the department around civil rights after four years of tumult during the Trump administration, when such investigations waned and the focus was on curbing immigration and the Russia probe.

"What we couldn't get them to do in the case of Eric Garner, Michael Brown in Ferguson, and countless others, we are finally seeing them do," the Rev. Al

Sharpton said Friday after the charges were announced in Floyd's death.

Former Minneapolis officer Derek Chauvin has already been convicted of murder and manslaughter charges in state court and is scheduled to be sentenced June 25. The federal case could be insurance against a successful state appeal or a lenient sentence.

Separately, federal officials accused Chauvin in a 2017 case involving Chauvin's arrest of a 14-year-old boy. Chauvin hit the boy, who is Black, with a flashlight and pinned him to the ground, putting his knee on the boy's neck and back.

Chauvin's lawyer, Eric Nelson, has filed a request for a new trial in Floyd's death, citing a host of reasons, including publicity that was "so pervasive and so prejudicial ... that it amounted to a structural defect in the proceedings."

He also argued that the trial judge, Peter Cahill, abused his discretion when he denied earlier requests to move the trial. Cahill has not said when he would rule on Nelson's request for a new

trial.

Nelson had no comment on the federal charges.

The three other officers brought up on civil rights charges, Thomas Lane, J. Kueng and Tou Thao, haven't been tried yet in state court on charges of aiding and abetting



Garland

both second-degree murder and manslaughter in the Floyd case.

Usually, federal prosecutors hold off on any charges until local investigations are completed. But when they do, it's often seen a safety net against the difficulty of prosecuting law enforcement locally.

According to a person familiar with the investigation, that happened during the case against former officer Michael Slager in South Carolina. In 2015, Slager shot to death Walter Scott, an unarmed Black man who ran from a traffic stop.

Local prosecutors worried they could not win a conviction, this

person said, so federal prosecutors stepped in and brought charges, working out a plea deal to resolve both the federal and state cases. Slager was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison.

The person was not authorized to publicly discuss those internal deliberations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The federal charge is limited in its scope and has been rarely used. According to Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, or TRAC, federal prosecutors have used it an average of 41 times a year between 1990 and 2019.

In the 1960s, federal authorities successfully prosecuted eight men involved in the 1964 disappearances and murders of civil rights workers Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner in Neshoba County, Mississippi, after local authorities said they did not have enough evidence to prosecute anyone.

One of the most high profile uses of the federal statutes came in the 1992 Rodney King case in Los Angeles. Federal authorities charged four law enforcement of-

ficers with violating King's constitutional rights in his videotaped beating. That decision came after a jury in Simi Valley acquitted the officers in the state case, prompting several days of riots in Los Angeles.

It's not clear whether Garland was stepping in to aid local prosecutors in Minneapolis with the three officers, but it's likely they are communicating about the cases. And the same in Georgia, where federal hate crime charges were announced against Travis McMichael and his father, Gregory, and a third man, William "Roddie" Bryan, in the death of 25-year-old Ahmaud Arbery. The three are jailed on state murder charges and are due in court next week. No trial date has been set.

Arbery was killed on Feb. 23, 2020 by three close-range shotgun blasts after the McMichaels pursued him in a pickup truck. Arbery was dead more than two months when a cellphone video of the shooting was leaked online, leading to a national outcry. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation took over the case and arrested the men.

WORLD

Hundreds of Palestinians injured in clashes

Associated Press

JERUSALEM—A night of heavy clashes between Palestinians and Israeli police at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound and elsewhere in Jerusalem left more than 200 Palestinians wounded, medics said Saturday, as the city braced for even more violence after weeks of unrest.

Nightly protests broke out at the start of the holy month of Ramadan over police restrictions at a popular gathering place and have reignited in recent days over threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinians from their homes in east Jerusalem, which is claimed by both sides in the decades-old conflict.

It was unclear what set off the violence at Al-Aqsa, which erupted when Israeli police in riot gear deployed in large numbers as thousands of Muslim worshippers were holding evening prayers at the sprawling hilltop esplanade.

Throughout the night large groups of protesters could be seen hurling rocks as Israeli police fired rubber bullets and stun grenades. At one point, the police entered one of the buildings in the complex, which includes the Al-Aqsa mosque and the iconic golden Dome of the Rock.

The Palestinian Red Crescent emergency service said 88 of the



MAHMOUD ILLEAN/AP

Israeli police use a water cannon to disperse Palestinian protesters from the area near the Damascus Gate to the Old City of Jerusalem after clashes at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound Friday.

wounded were hospitalized. The Palestinian Health Ministry said 83 people were wounded by rubber-coated bullets, including three who were shot in the eye, two with serious head injuries and two with bro-

ken jaws.

The Israeli police said protesters hurled stones, fireworks and other objects at them, wounding 17 officers, half of whom were hospitalized. "We will respond with a heavy

hand to all violent disturbances, riots and attacks on our forces," it said in a statement late Friday.

The Al-Aqsa mosque compound is the third holiest site in Islam. It is also the holiest site for Jews, who re-

fer to it as the Temple Mount because it was the location of the biblical temples. It has long been a flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and was the epicenter of the 2000 Palestinian intifada, or uprising.

Some 70,000 worshippers had attended the final midday Friday prayers of Ramadan at Al-Aqsa, the Islamic endowment that oversees the site said. Thousands protested afterwards, waving the green flags of the Islamic militant group Hamas and chanting pro-Hamas slogans.

At the beginning of Ramadan in mid-April, Israel blocked off a popular gathering spot where Palestinians traditionally socialize at the end of their daylong fast. The move set off two weeks of clashes before Israel lifted the restrictions.

But in recent days, protests have grown over Israel's threatened eviction in Sheikh Jarrah in east Jerusalem of dozens of Palestinians embroiled in a long legal battle with Israeli settlers trying to acquire property in the neighborhood.

The United States said it was "deeply concerned" about both the violence and the threatened evictions, and was in contact with leaders on both sides to try and de-escalate tensions.

Scotland's pro-independence government close to a majority

Associated Press

LONDON — Counting resumed Saturday in Scotland's parliamentary election with the governing Scottish National Party very close to securing a majority that would see it make a push for another independence referendum.

With 49 constituencies counted, the SNP had won 40 seats and is clearly on course to win its fourth straight term in office. However, given the country's electoral system, which also allocates some seats by a form of proportional representation, it may fall short of the 65 seats it would need in the Edinburgh-based parliament to have a majority.

Ballots also continue to be counted in the Welsh parliamentary election and a swath of local elections in England. But it's the Scottish election that could have the biggest U.K.-wide implications as it could fast-track another referendum on its future within the U.K.

Were the SNP to win a majority, its leader, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, would argue that she has a mandate to call another referendum. Were the party to fall short, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who has the ultimate power to allow a referendum,



JANE BARLOW/AP

Votes are counted for the Scottish Parliamentary Elections at the Emirates Arena, in Glasgow, Scotland, on Saturday.

could argue that she didn't. On Saturday, he wrote in the Daily Telegraph newspaper that another referendum would be "irresponsible and reckless" in the "current context" as Britain emerges from the coronavirus crisis.

Speaking after winning her seat in Glasgow on Friday, Sturgeon said her immediate priority would be to deal with the pandemic and "then when the time is right to offer this country the choice of a better future."

Scotland has been part of the U.K. since 1707 and the issue of Scottish independence appeared settled when Scottish voters rejected secession by 55%-45% in a 2014 referendum. But the U.K.-wide decision in 2016 to leave the European Union ran against the wishes of most Scots — 62% voted in favor of staying within the bloc while most voters in England and Wales wanted to leave. That gave the Scottish nationalist cause fresh legs.

Ukraine says 2 soldiers killed amid Russia tensions

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — The Ukrainian military said Friday two soldiers were killed and another was wounded under fire from Russia-backed separatist rebels in the country's east, where hostilities have increased sharply in recent months.

According to Ukraine's military, 36 soldiers have been killed in the east this year. Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed separatists have been fighting in eastern Ukraine since 2014. More than 14,000 people have died in the conflict and efforts to negotiate a political settlement have stalled.

Russia, which claims it has no military presence in eastern Ukraine, fueled new tensions this year by massing troops and conducting large-scale military exercises near its border with Ukraine. The Russian troop buildup raised alarms in the West.

On Thursday, foreign ministers from Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg visited the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine in a show of support and on Friday met with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv.

"Dialogue is a way forward because nobody has any interest to see ... the situation escalating in

Donbas. And the Benelux and the EU are convinced that dialogue are the way to a solution and conflict resolution," Sophie Wilmes, Belgium's deputy prime minister, told a news conference after the meeting with Kuleba.

Zelenskyy, according to a statement released by his office, thanked the foreign ministers for starting their visit to Ukraine with a trip to the east.

"I think it's important not to know what is happening there in words, but to see everything with your own eyes. I know that you were in the town of Shchastia in the Luhansk region. You saw for yourself our attitude towards Donbas. We are investing in infrastructure," Zelenskyy was quoted as saying.

The foreign ministers' meeting with Zelenskyy comes a day after U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with the Ukraine president in Kyiv and reaffirmed Washington's support for Ukraine in the wake of the heightened tensions with Russia.

Both Zelenskyy and Blinken noted that while Russia has pulled back some of its forces from the border with Ukraine, a significant number of troops and equipment is still there, posing a threat.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Worker finds human foot on freeway

CA SAN BERNARDINO — Authorities are investigating after a human foot was found on a Southern California freeway.

The foot was discovered by a Caltrans employee who was working on the center median of Interstate 210 in San Bernardino, California Highway Patrol Officer Ivan Sandoval said.

The appendage, which was not in a sock or shoe, may have belonged to a woman, and appeared to have been there for several days, he said.

No other human remains or clues were found after an extensive search of the area, the San Bernardino Sun reported. No patients missing a foot were reported at nearby hospitals, the newspaper said.

The body part was turned over to the San Bernardino County coroner's office.

Missing woman found living in tent at campsite

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah woman who disappeared in November was discovered alive in a tent at a campsite near Provo, Utah County officials said.

The woman, 47, who authorities did not identify, was first reported missing after a U.S. Forest Service employee found her car abandoned in a trailhead parking lot about 50 miles southeast of Salt Lake City on Nov. 25.

According to Utah County Sheriff's Sgt. Spencer Cannon, authorities found her during an aerial search of the area, which they conducted alongside volunteers in hopes of finding evidence she was still alive. While looking for a drone that crashed during the search, the sergeant and drone pilot came upon a tent, which the woman unzipped as they approached.

Cannon said the woman had no physical injuries besides being weak and underweight, having reportedly subsisted off of grass, moss and water from a nearby river for more than five months.

The investigation into her disappearance revealed she may have struggled with mental health challenges and chose to stay in the area for several months, according to a statement from the sheriff's office.

Info sought after gator's eyes, snout found taped

FL ORLANDO — Gatorland is offering a \$1,000 reward for information that leads to the person who taped shut an alligator's eyes and snout, leaving it for dead.

The incident happened when Barbara and Jack Thornton found the bound gator near the Wekiwa River in Seminole County. They



FRANCIS GARDLER, LINCOLN (NEB.) JOURNAL STAR/AP

Furry high-five

Lincoln, a 2-year-old pure bred German shepherd, gives a water-soaked high-five to owner Sydney Otto, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student, before she throws a rubber toy into the water at Holmes Lake Park in Lincoln, Neb.

called the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the neighborhood also offered up a \$500 reward for information, WESH reported.

The agency is continuing to investigate. It is a felony to kill, capture or possess an alligator in Florida.

Gatorland's Savannah Boan told WKMG that people who handle reptiles often cover their eyes to make them feel safe, especially if they are moving large gators. But she said it's not OK to tape a gator's eyes and mouth shut.

Pizza man paints street to save people dough

MI DETROIT — A Detroit pizzeria owner who was upset over people getting \$150 tickets for unwittingly parking in a handicap zone got a bucket of blue paint and marked the street himself.

"People come to Detroit, try to support our city and walk away with a \$150 ticket, and they feel like they were tricked into it and

they kind of were tricked into it," Tony Sacco, co-owner of Mootz Pizzeria and Bar, told WDIV-TV.

There is a single sign along the Library Street curb indicating that parking is reserved for drivers with a handicap tag. But Sacco said it's confusing because parking enforcers consider the street space reserved for as many as four vehicles. He wanted to warn drivers.

The TV coverage and the blue paint got the city's attention. Public works director Ron Brundidge apologized for any confusion and acknowledged that the "signage could have been more clear." He said sign changes would be made.

The paint, meanwhile, was power-washed away by a city crew.

Workers dig through landfill for wedding ring

NJ EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP — Four Atlantic County Utilities Authority employees helped a New Jersey woman find her wedding ring after it was accidentally thrown

away.

Ruth Watson's son, 10, thought he was being helpful when he threw a plastic bag out with the trash, NJ Advance Media reported. However, inside that bag was Watson's wedding ring, wallet, and some other items.

By the time Watson realized the ring was gone the trash had already been collected.

She called the Atlantic County Utilities Authority and explained what the bag looked like and all that was inside.

Landfill supervisor Jovani Quiles, along with three workers — Ramon Nazario, Alfredo Perez and Paul Deola — spent an hour-and-a-half searching the landfill until they found the bag.

City unveils wood-carved statue of Colonel Sanders

KY CORBIN — A southeast Kentucky city has unveiled a statue honoring one of its most famous figures — Colonel Sanders.

The image of the iconic busi-

THE CENSUS

1400 The number of cell phones Bryan C. Kirkendoll II, 31, of Kansas City, Mo., was convicted of conspiring to steal and then reselling during 48 burglaries in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Illinois and Oklahoma, according to federal prosecutors. The loss was estimated at more than \$1 million. The burglaries occurred between Nov. 21, 2018, and June 14, 2019.

nessman, the founder and symbol of the fast food chain Kentucky Fried Chicken, will stand outside Corbin's tourism office to "attract tourists off of the interstate" and "bring people inside the welcome center to learn a little bit more about Corbin," according to Maggy Kriebel, the executive director of the city's tourism commission.

The pine statue, which stands beside three carved chickens, was chiseled with a chainsaw over more than 40 hours by artist duo Jerry and Kim Eaton, WKYT-TV reported.

Sanders had roots in Corbin, opening up Harland Sanders Café in 1940 and developing what would go on to be the secret KFC recipe at the roadside restaurant, according to Kentucky's tourism agency.

The restaurant was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

Official: Lightning strike kills 15 cows

AL TUSKEGEE — Fifteen cows were killed when lightning struck a family farm in Alabama as severe weather moved through the area, according to an emergency management director.

The cattle were struck at a farm in Macon County, news outlets quoted Emergency Management Agency Director Frank Lee as saying.

Lee said his office forwarded a report on the incident to the National Weather Service in Birmingham.

10 arrested in 5-county drug-trafficking scheme

NH CONCORD — Ten people have been arrested following a monthslong, multi-agency drug trafficking investigation in five counties, the New Hampshire attorney general's office said.

The investigation resulted in the seizure of about 6 pounds of fentanyl and 11 firearms. It covered the counties of Coos, Carroll, Belknap, Merrimack and Rockingham.

The men and women arrested lived in northern New Hampshire and Lawrence, Mass. Two people also were arrested on outstanding warrants.

MUSIC

Southern comfort

Grammy-winning artist Travis Tritt returns, discovers his influence on a younger generation of artists

BY MELISSA RUGGERI
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Amid framed gold records and concert posters celebrating a Ray Charles tribute show at the Grand Ole Opry in 2006 and the 2014 opening of the Earl Scruggs Center in Shelby, N.C., there hangs a drawing of Charles. A fan had created the artwork, and it looms as a spiritual music guide in this cozy studio room otherwise filled with racks of acoustic and electric guitars, including a customized Dale Earnhardt Gibson.

“Ray has more to do with what comes out of my mouth when I sing than anybody, probably. He influenced me so much.”

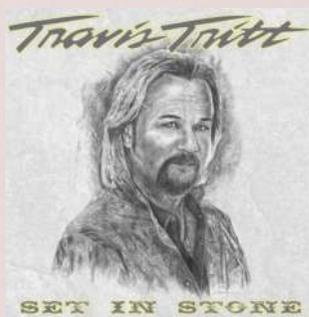
Travis Tritt is looking at the depiction of Charles with a crinkle-eyed smile as he relays his everlasting awe of the Georgia soul titan, and in that fleeting moment, the nearly 32-year history of Tritt crystallizes.

A member of the vaunted class of 1989 — which includes Garth Brooks, Alan Jackson and Clint Black and is widely recognized as the year that turbocharged the popularity of mainstream country music — Tritt and his amalgamation of country, Southern rock, blues and soul is still vital.

From his first top 10 country hit in 1989 — “Country Club” — through a spate of No. 1s including “Anymore,” “Can I Trust You With My Heart,”

“Foolish Pride” and “Best of Intentions” and dozens of other fan favorites, Tritt has been a defining voice in country music. His No. 2 hit from 1991, “Here’s a Quarter (Call Someone Who Cares),” remains a signature as well as an apt kiss-off.

On May 7, Tritt releases “Set in Stone.” Tritt co-wrote eight of the 11 songs, and all feature musical muscularity and plainspoken lyrics that will appeal to old-timers (“Smoke in a Bar,” “They Don’t Make ‘Em Like That No More”), fresh-faced fans (“Stand Your Ground”) and those



“Set in Stone,” Travis Tritt’s first studio album since 2007, was produced by the always-in-demand Dave Cobb, who grew up hearing Tritt’s blend of country, soul and Southern rock on the radio.



SEE SOUTHERN ON PAGE 13

MUSIC REVIEWS

Southern: Tritt returning to attract new fans, serve longtime audience

FROM PAGE 12

who appreciate the loyalty that the Marietta, Ga.-born Tritt professes to his roots (“Southern Man,” “Way Down in Georgia”).

For his first new studio album since 2007’s “The Storm,” Tritt teamed with super-producer — and fellow Georgia native — Dave Cobb for the first time, an arrangement suggested by Tritt’s manager, Mike “Cheez” Brown. Cobb had produced an album for The Dirty Heads, whom Brown also manages, and the timing fit after Brown encouraged Tritt to consider recording new music.

“He got me to thinking that you’re at a point in your career that you don’t have anything to prove, but have the opportunity to draw in new people and feed your audience who has been with you a long, long time by just providing content,” Tritt said.

The news of Tritt, 58, signing a recording contract with Big Noise Label Group arrived the week in March 2020 that the coronavirus was deemed a pandemic. Imminent plans to record in Nashville were shuffled to Castle Recording Studios in nearby Franklin, Tenn., last April, where Tritt recorded several albums throughout his three-decade career.

Cobb, who has produced work for artists ranging from Chris Stapleton to Lady Gaga to Brandi Carlile, quickly agreed to work with the music veteran.

“I didn’t listen to a lot of country music growing up. Whatever we heard was the most commercial at the time, and Travis was one of those artists I connected with because he had so much more to his sound — the rock ’n’ roll, the Ray Charles soul. I connected with it. It was like the (Rolling) Stones and Southern rock, and it hit everything on the head,” Cobb said recently from Nashville. “I didn’t want to reinvent anything, but to make the best Travis Tritt record we could make, and I think we pulled that off. I wanted to capture the essence of what he is — real, proper Southern music.”

Cobb suggested that Tritt collaborate with other writers, including Cobb’s cousin, Brent, a noted country-folk singer-songwriter who recently released his fourth album, “Keep ’Em on They Toes.”

Brent Cobb came to Tritt’s studio room to work, and birthed what became the title track, as well as the song, “Ain’t Who I Was.” Tritt also worked with longtime Zac Brown partner Wyatt Durrette, Ashley Monroe and Channing Wilson, among others, on the album.

“The cool thing I discovered writing with them all — who are a good bit younger than me — is they all were telling me how much they were influenced by my music in one way or another,” Tritt recalled. “Brent said, ‘I can’t tell you how many times I rode around as a teenager listening to your music and coming to see you play live and what an inspiration that was to me.’ He said, ‘I started thinking about your legacy, and in my view, your legacy is already

“I didn’t want to reinvent anything, but to make the best Travis Tritt record we could make, and I think we pulled that off. I wanted to capture the essence of what he is — real, proper Southern music.”

Dave Cobb

Prodcer of Tritt’s “Set in Stone”

Thoughts from Tritt

About the songs on “Set in Stone”: “The last thing I would want is to hype people on a new album and then for some reason to do something different than I’ve always done. It’s been pretty consistent, and the last thing you want anyone to do is listen to a new album and go, ‘Really? What is this? This is not you. We know who you are, and this is not you.’ So, I think that when people hear this album, (those) who are already fans of mine will recognize all those same influences mixed in together and they’re going to relate to a lot of the songs. It all goes back to my favorite quote in music, which came from Dan Fogelberg: I write music to move me honestly and objectively because I know that if I can honestly move myself, I can move other people.”

About the role of country radio: “I’m at a point in my career to try to chase after radio just doesn’t make sense. If I can be so bold to say it: it really doesn’t play the part it used to play. When I started my career, radio was the gatekeepers for everything. They’re no longer that. The thing that everybody is looking at now is your streaming numbers ... I’m gonna take the same approach to this album that I’ve always had, and that is if radio plays it, great; I consider that to be gravy. But if they don’t play it, that doesn’t bother me, either.”

About the more you play, the more you learn: “Before I got signed, I was a human jukebox and playing everything from everybody. For whatever reason, if I did a Hank (Williams) Jr. cover or Waylon (Jennings) or Willie (Nelson); people accepted that from me. I tried doing George Strait songs and for whatever reason, my audience never would accept George Strait from me. That was extremely helpful. That made me realize right away, I need to gravitate more in this direction. It helps define you as an artist ... I always tell (young musicians); every time you get an opportunity to entertain in front of an audience, you should do it. My oldest son (Tristan) has done it the right way. He’s been out there hustling with his band (Pale Moon Creek). They are playing clubs all over the place. They’re trying to establish a following and a reputation based on playing music in front of people. They’ve done some really cool gigs and some really small, terrible ones. For all of the bad experiences I had from those early days, I would never take them away.”

set in stone; you don’t have anything to prove to anybody.’ First of all, it was a huge compliment, but I also thought it was a great idea (for a song). He said, you can apply it to anybody who works with their hands for a living, has a little bit of age on them. He had part of the first verse and chorus written and I said, ‘Man, we’ve got to finish that.’”

Tritt is back on the road and will share his new material on dates throughout the summer and into fall, though he likely won’t hit his standard 130-ish annual concerts.

Norah Jones

‘Til We Meet Again (Blue Note)

Norah Jones has dipped into many genres during her career. She’s played electric guitar in Puss N Boots, done an Everly Brothers tribute album with Green Day’s Billie Joe Armstrong (2013’s “Foreverly”), and sung with the Foo Fighters, Outkast, Belle and Sebastian, Willie Nelson and many others (compiled on 2019’s “... Featuring Norah Jones”).

On “‘Til We Meet Again,” her first live album, Jones focuses on the jazz-pop sweet spot that made her famous. It’s a lovely, comforting album that favors thoughtful ballads like “After the Fall” and her debut hit, “Don’t Know Why.”

Recorded on tours between 2017 and 2019, it showcases Jones’ impressive talents as a singer and piano player. Her voice is intimate and slightly husky, with occasional hints of her Texas drawl. She’s leading small bands, often just a bass player and a drummer, which allows her to stretch out her piano playing. She shines on soul jazz numbers such as “Those Sweet Words” and “Flipside,” which call to mind ’60s great Les McCann.

Ten of the 14 songs come from either her first two albums or the singles she released between 2016’s “Day Break” and 2020’s “Pick Me Off the Floor.” The one surprise is a cover of Soundgarden’s “Black Hole Sun,” recorded shortly after Chris Cornell’s death. Jones, alone at the piano, turns the grunge classic into a seven-minute elegy; it’s a captivating transformation.

— Steve Klinge
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Sharon Van Etten

epic Ten (Rough Trade)

In 2010, Sharon Van Etten was finding her way as a solo artist, working as an intern for Brooklyn’s Ba Da Bing records and recording “Epic.” Working with A-list Philly musicians such as Dave Hartley of the War On Drugs, Brian Christinzio of BC Camplight and Meg Baird of Espers, she used her fulsome voice to fill up songs of open-hearted possibility and thwarted romance.

Now, “Epic” feels like a classic. Van Etten — whose recent triumphs include 2019’s “Remind Me Tomorrow” — is celebrating its 10th anniversary. The original set has been reissued, and the package includes a second volume that features Van Etten’s admirers covering her songs. It’s an impressive list, starting with Big Red Machine (recent Taylor Swift collaborators Aaron Dessner and Justin Vernon of Bon Iver) who dive into the strummy “A Crime.” Also here are Lucinda Williams, Fiona Apple and the British post-punk band IDLES.

It’s a model mini-tribute, with contributors paying homage while delivering distinct versions. Standouts include Williams’ drawing out “Save Yourself” into an accusatory blues, and Courtney Barnett and Vagabon turning up the volume on “Don’t Do It” as a ragged Neil Young-style jam.

— Dan DeLuca
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Steve Cropper

Fire It Up (Provogue Records)

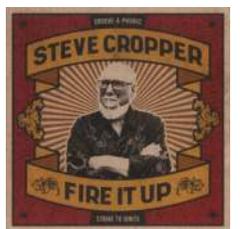
Perhaps no guitarist has carved out more great grooves than Memphis soul man Steve Cropper, and his new album is all about the beat.

The songs on “Fire It Up” mix it up in finding different ways to fill the dance floor, from the toe-tapper “One Good Turn” and hip-shaker “I’m Not Havin’ It” to the foot-stomper “Far Away,” finger-snapper “Heartbreak Street” and palate-cleanser “Bush Hog.”

Cropper has made his career in a supporting role, and even on his own album, he’s a team player. His rhythm guitar work serves as a master class in elegant simplicity, with overdubs allowing Cropper to work his magic in multiple parts. He plays only brief, occasional solos that will keep shoulders swaying.

Lead singer Roger C. Reale’s husky tenor is a good fit for the material, most of which he helped Cropper write. Longtime Cropper collaborator Jon Tiven also co-wrote and co-produced, and the Rascals’ Felix Cavaliere is among the guest artists. The set was recorded in Nashville but is rooted in Memphis, echoes of Cropper’s glorious 1960s work with the Stax label evident in every greasy, delicious riff.

— Steven Wine
Associated Press



BOOKS

Courtroom smarts, center-court passion

Grisham discusses his new college hoops novel, 'Sooley,' as well as his writing process

By JOHN FEINSTEIN
The Washington Post

John Grisham's new book, "Sooley," is his 36th novel — and his 45th book in all — but it's his first about basketball.

The novel, which came out April 27, tells the story of Samuel Sooleymon, a South Sudanese teen who comes to the United States to play college ball and hopes to make it to the NBA so he can help the family he left behind. The book is not a thriller, but it shows Grisham's passion for a sport he's loved since his days playing on his high school team in Mississippi.

In a phone interview, Grisham, a season ticket-holder for the Virginia men's and North Carolina women's basketball teams, was happy to gush about the Cavaliers' 2019 national championship but reluctant to talk about the previous year, when the team became the first — and only — No. 1 seed to lose to a No. 16 seed in NCAA tournament history. He was, however, happy to discuss other matters: "Sooley," why he loves basketball and more.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

The Washington Post: Where did the idea for "Sooley" come from?

Grisham: Last March, when there was no NCAA tournament because of the pandemic, it was like a kick in the gut. I knew I wanted to write a basketball book. I needed to write one to make up for missing the tournament. I wanted to have it out for March Madness this year, but it took me longer than I expected. My other sports books have been about 50,000 words. It took me closer to 100,000 to tell this story.

How did you come up with the plot?

There were three things involved. I read a magazine story about a team that came over here from South Sudan to play in a summer showcase tournament a few years back. They were from a war-torn country with horrors happening every day, but



Michael Lionstar

they became the darlings of the tournament with their skill and charisma. They played with so much joy in spite of where they'd come from.

Second was Mamadi Diakite, a kid from Africa who became a very good player at Virginia after not playing much at all when he first got there. And third was Len Bias. He could have been another Michael

Jordan, but died so tragically in 1986.

When you write legal thrillers, you have expertise on the subject because you were a trial lawyer. Did you feel you had that sort of expertise on basketball?

No. I'm a fan and I see a lot of games, but I'm not an expert. So, I leaned on people like [Virginia coach] Tony Bennett, [former Virginia star] Barry Parkhill and

some of the guys who played recently at Virginia. I called people I knew who know basketball.

What was your thinking using North Carolina Central as a key part of the story?

Well, it had to be a small school, given that Sooley wasn't considered much of a prospect at first. But I also liked the idea that Central is the "other" school in Durham ... In my family, we don't like Duke at all.

When you're creating a plot, do you start writing and figure out where you're going as you get deeper into the book? Or do you know your ending right from the start?

I never write the first sentence of a book until I know the last sentence. I made the mistake of not doing that with "A Time to Kill," and I got halfway through and was completely lost. I learned that lesson the hard way. Now, I finish an outline before I start writing. Sometimes, I get halfway through the outline and realize I'm lost and start over. But at least I haven't written half a book already.

You have been remarkably prolific since "A Time to Kill." How do you turn out books so quickly?

I think I'm very disciplined. I'm up and writing by 7 a.m. five mornings a week. I work four or five hours and write at least 1,000 words most days. I have a process. I start a new legal thriller every year on Jan. 1 with the goal of writing about 100,000 words to produce a first draft by July 1. Sometimes, like with "Sooley," I work on a different schedule, but I'm still writing every morning. Then, in the afternoons, I'm free to relax, maybe play golf.

Do you ever sit back and wonder at your success?

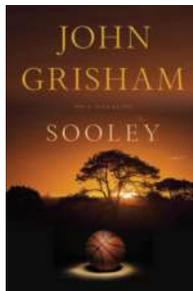
All the time. I started writing because I was looking for a way to make some extra money. I was a small-town lawyer in Mississippi not making a lot of money. But I never thought for a second that "The Firm" would have the success it had or become the huge moneymaking movie that it became. I've often said I haven't worked a real 40-hour workweek in more than 30 years. I love working on the books I write. It's never felt like a job.

'Sooley' features Grisham's trademark short chapters, rapid-fire prose

By ROB MERRILL
Associated Press

When you've written 35 novels and are working on a streak of 43 consecutive No. 1 New York Times bestsellers, you can write about whatever you want. That's probably the simplest way to explain why John Grisham's latest is a basketball story and doesn't feature a single courtroom scene.

It's not the first sports book for Grisham, of course, but it's the first set in the big-time world of college hoops. Samuel Sooleymon, nicknamed Sooley, is a 17-year-old playing on dirt courts in his native South Sudan when we first meet him. Growing like a



stars, showcasing his skills for college coaches.

The joy of a Grisham novel is turning the pages as the plot propels you forward, so I'll avoid revealing too much. Suffice it to say "Sooley" follows the familiar Grisham playbook — short chapters, plenty of foreshadowing and

weed and with an infectious passion for the game, soon he's in Orlando playing on a team of traveling Sudanese all-

a rapid-fire prose that's easy to read and hard to put down.

Grisham seems to enjoy moonlighting as a sportswriter. There are entire paragraphs that read like AP game recaps: "Central ripped off a 14-0 run and led by 15 at the half ... Sooley grabbed 11 rebounds, for his first double-double ... Sooley, still coming off the bench but playing 29 minutes, scored 31 and blocked four shots."

He relishes putting words in the mouth of Sooley's fictional coach, who tells his team before their first-ever NCAA tournament game: "Men, we don't deserve respect. Yet. Respect is out there on the floor, just waiting for

us to go get it." If they can get the casting right, it'll make an action-packed sports movie.

Harder to re-create in a film adaptation will be the secondary plot of the novel, which focuses on the family Sooley leaves behind in Sudan. When a rebel group burns their village, they join millions of fellow refugees fleeing the country, eventually finding food and shelter in a Ugandan camp. They're never far from Sooley's mind as his basketball career takes flight in America. The juxtaposition of his fame and celebrity with his family's plight back home is the heart of the story.

When Sooley's college team,

North Carolina Central, qualifies for March Madness, Grisham has a little fun with his fiction and history, writing, "Never in the tournament's storied history had a No. 16 beaten a No. 1." The novel is set in 2016, two years prior to Grisham's favorite team, No. 1-ranked Virginia, losing to No. 16-ranked University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

It's not spoiling too much to say that Sooley's team makes history in Grisham's world and their dream season continues. The pages turn even more quickly after that, building to a climax that won't leave readers doubting whether this is a John Grisham novel.

CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

STRETCHING EXERCISES

BY JEREMY NEWTON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Jeremy Newton, of Austin, Texas, is a software engineer who makes mobile games. Titles he has worked on include Crosswords With Friends, Zynga Poker, Dragon Academy and many others. He has been a puzzle enthusiast since he was a child, when a grandmother got him hooked on Jumble. As a crossword constructor, Jeremy says he likes "wacky themes" (as a glance at today's grid might suggest). This is Jeremy's 14th Sunday and 21st Times puzzle overall. — W.S.

ACROSS

- 1 Muhammad Ali's "Me! Whee!," e.g.
- 5 "S.N.L." alum Hartman
- 9 Start off on the wrong foot, maybe?
- 13 Contaminate
- 19 What may be in a star's orbit
- 21 Throw with power
- 22 Alleviate
- 23 Sheep's milk product that's often grated
- 25 Classic name for the land north of England
- 26 Course taken in shorts, often
- 27 "Ya don't say!"
- 28 765-foot-long "water coaster" on Disney cruises
- 30 Countertenor
- 31 SWAT team or Navy SEAL group, e.g.
- 34 Name that sounds like two letters of the alphabet
- 37 Epitome of smoothness
- 39 "Roots" author Haley
- 40 Shocker, at times
- 41 & 44 It goes around every hour
- 46 Gaming novice, slangily
- 48 Secured skates, with "up"
- 50 Float component

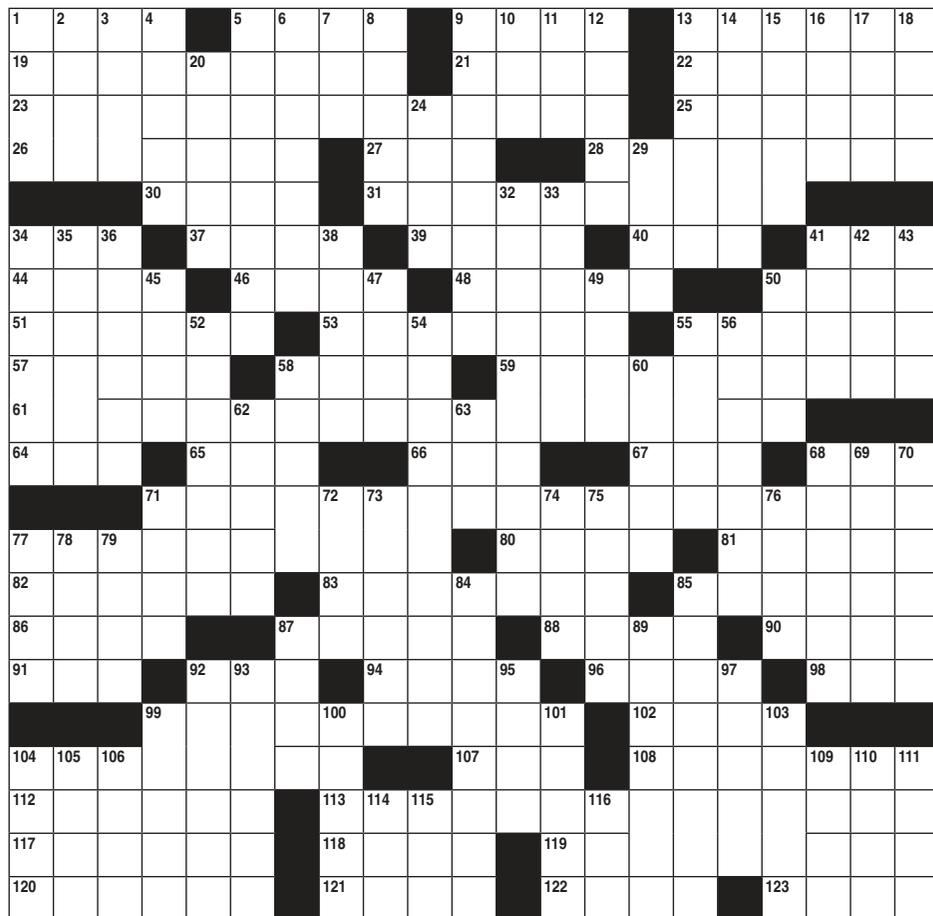
- 51 Act as a blueprint for, as DNA for proteins
- 53 Brawled, in the backwoods
- 55 "Howdy, everybody!"
- 57 Withstand
- 58 Fly off the shelves
- 59 Like bread made from almond flour
- 61 "Oh, hell yes!"
- 64 Turn red, say
- 65 Certain formal duds
- 66 Nice round number?
- 67 Bollywood megastar Aishwarya ____
- 68 "My dear man"
- 71 Grammy category won multiple times by Kendrick Lamar
- 77 Racy selfie posted for likes on social media, in modern lingo
- 80 Not a problem
- 81 Kennel club category
- 82 Makeup table
- 83 "Dead serious!"
- 85 "And, uh, that about covers it"
- 86 Supporting role
- 87 New students at Princeton or Yale in 1969
- 88 There's a famous "half" one in Yosemite National Park
- 90 Vessel protected by Hera
- 91 Uninteresting
- 92 Encouraging cry
- 94 Bottom
- 96 Saves, with "away"
- 98 "Ain't dead ____!"

- 99 They often come to professors with excuses
- 102 Hoodwink
- 104 Get snake eyes, say
- 107 Lacking experience
- 108 Aligns, in a wood shop
- 112 Set straight
- 113 Oscar winner for his role as a Mexican narc in "Traffic"
- 117 Price to pay, informally
- 118 Major piece
- 119 Miniature for a World War II buff
- 120 Were running mates?
- 121 Quite a jerk
- 122 Make an appearance
- 123 Recess for prayer

DOWN

- 1 Verve
- 2 It's 50/50
- 3 "That kinda stuff": Abbr.
- 4 Buckaroos
- 5 Mint
- 6 Fictional pilot with the line "You like me because I'm a scoundrel"
- 7 "Here ____ again"
- 8 Milk for un café
- 9 Onetime MTV reality series filmed near Hollywood
- 10 Recall regretfully
- 11 Auditing org.
- 12 Courtroom statements
- 13 Bone to pick

- 14 Lighter than lite
- 15 Word after soul or solid
- 16 "You, too?!" playfully
- 17 Smart
- 18 Wood that's resistant to warping
- 20 Mountain chain that stretches from Kazakhstan to the Arctic
- 24 Do a waving motion by the ocean, say
- 29 "That proves it"
- 32 Shade similar to verdigris
- 33 Distinguish oneself
- 34 Positioned to win
- 35 Shared with for quick feedback
- 36 Cut into
- 38 Region with a Unification Flag for sporting events
- 41 Pen pa?
- 42 Just hanging out
- 43 It really blows
- 45 Knucklehead
- 47 Flinch (at)
- 49 Ending for a dean's address
- 50 Cable network with movies like "Sharktopus" and "Mansquito"
- 52 Least klutzy
- 54 Made a boo-boo
- 55 "I won't ____ it!"
- 56 Pending
- 58 Risqué communiqué
- 60 Ancient home to Priam's Treasure
- 62 Out of practice



- 63 Quick refresher
- 68 Visibly scornful
- 69 Cold that just won't go away?
- 70 Superpopular
- 71 Goopy spread
- 72 Where gymnast Simone Biles won four golds
- 73 One-celled organism
- 74 Enter unannounced, in a way
- 75 Photog's setting
- 76 Name of the girl on "Game of Thrones" who said "A girl has no name"
- 77 Spot between programs, e.g.
- 78 Beehive material
- 79 Annual May race, informally
- 84 One of three characters in "M*A*S*H"
- 85 Ones behind the scenes
- 87 Consider, with "on"
- 89 High-priority item
- 92 Vocalist's asset
- 93 Directly criticized on Twitter with an "@"
- 95 Gillette razor name
- 97 Literature Nobel Bellow
- 99 Bit of faulty logic
- 100 Sandwich supposedly named after low-income New Orleans workers
- 101 Begins a triathlon
- 103 Like the clue for 103-Down?
- 104 Teased incessantly
- 105 Kind of cavity
- 106 Hard vehicle to park
- 109 Telenovela, e.g.
- 110 Some drink dispensers
- 111 Extend (out)
- 114 Org. with lots of money to waste?
- 115 Order member
- 116 "Ver-r-ry interesting!"

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and online at gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



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GADGETS & TECHNOLOGY

Up for the challenge

Startups look to 3D printing to solve housing shortage

By **TERENCE CHEA**
Associated Press

A new generation of startups wants to disrupt the way houses are built by automating production with industrial 3D printers.

3D printing, also known as additive manufacturing, uses machines to deposit thin layers of plastic, metal, concrete and other materials atop one another, eventually producing three-dimensional objects from the bottom up. In recent years, 3D printers have mostly been used to create small quantities of specialized items such as car parts or prosthetic limbs, allowing consumers or businesses to produce just what they need using the machines at home or work.

Now a small number of startups around the world are applying 3D printing to home construction, arguing that it's faster, cheaper and more sustainable than traditional construction. They say these technologies could help address severe housing shortages that have led to soaring home prices, overcrowding, evictions and homelessness across the U.S.

But 3D home construction is still in the early stage of development. Most startups in this field are developing new technologies and not building homes yet. And two of the highest profile and best-financed companies — Mighty Buildings and ICON — have delivered fewer than 100 houses between them.

To move beyond a niche market, construction firms will need to significantly ramp up production and persuade home buyers, developers and regulators that 3D printed houses are safe, durable and pleasing to the eye. They'll also need to train workers to operate the machines and install the homes.

"To the extent that 3D printing can offer a faster, cheaper way to build even single family housing units or small units, it can address a portion of the problem," said Michelle Boyd, who directs the Housing Lab at the University of California, Berkeley's Turner Center for Housing Innovation. But the sheer magnitude of the housing shortage demands many types of solutions, from loosening zoning restrictions to building more high-rise apartment buildings, she said.

Proponents note that printing houses rather than nailing them together could save huge quantities of scrap wood, metal and other discarded construction materials that are dumped into landfills every year.

Backers say 3D printing reduces the need for human labor at a time when home builders are struggling to find enough skilled workers to meet housing demand. Many construction workers left the trades after the housing-fueled financial crisis more than a decade ago, and fewer young people are entering the field.

Jason Ballard, CEO and co-founder of a 3D printing construction startup called ICON, said its 3D printing system can do the work of 10 to 20 workers in five or six differ-



REGAN MORTON, ICON/AP

A 3D home created by ICON in Austin, Texas. A new generation of startups wants to disrupt the way houses are built by automating production with industrial 3D printers.



TERRY CHEA/AP

Mighty Buildings production manager Yonah Naftaly shows a machine that fills 3D-printed wall panels with insulating foam March 17 in Oakland, Calif.

ent trades. And unlike humans, the machines can work up to 24 hours a day, saving developers time and money.

"With 3D printing, we're able to print exactly what we need," said Sam Ruben, the company's co-founder and chief sustainability officer at Mighty Buildings. The process can eliminate nearly all construction waste, he said, which can add up to savings of two to three tons of carbon per housing unit.

In Mighty Buildings' factory warehouse in Oakland, Calif., a 3D printer deposits thin layers of a stone-like material that quickly hardens under ultraviolet light and resists fire and water. Wall panels are printed one layer at a time and then filled with an insulating foam. Robotic arms finish the surfaces into various designs.

The printer can produce the entire exterior shell of a studio home or individual wall panels that can be easily assembled with simple tools, the company said. Mighty Buildings is now producing 350-square-foot backyard studios, known in the industry as "accessory dwelling units," that can be used as extra bedrooms, playrooms, gyms or home offices.

So far the company has delivered six units and has another 30 under contract, starting at \$115,000 each, which doesn't include the cost of installation and site work. Two units can be combined to make a 700-square-foot dwelling. The company's home construction costs are about 40 percent lower than that of traditional homes in California, Ruben said.

Most of the modules are assembled in the factory, transported by truck to the owner's property, then put into place using a crane. The unit size is limited by the dimensions of



MIGHTY BUILDINGS/AP

Most of the modules built by Mighty Buildings are assembled in a factory, transported by truck to the owner's property, then put into place using a crane.

the truck bed and the clearance heights of tunnels and overpasses.

Backed by more than \$70 million in venture capital, Mighty Buildings is planning to build more factories with a goal of producing 1,000 housing units next year. It's also creating software that allows developers to custom design printed buildings. Ultimately, the company plans to produce townhouses and multistory apartment buildings, Ruben said.

Austin, Texas-based ICON has used 3D printing technology to produce low-cost housing. It's printed homes for the chronically homeless in Austin as well as poor families in Nacajuca, Mexico. Instead of producing homes in factories, it brings its Vulcan printer to work on-site, squeezing out long tubes of concrete layer by layer that dry quickly to form the walls of a house.

"The factory comes to you, imprints the house right where it intends to be. We chose that method to eliminate a lot of the shipping costs and then also to give ourselves a lot of design freedom," said Jason Ballard, ICON's CEO and co-founder.

Its current technology can reduce construction costs by up to 30 percent and build a house twice as fast as traditional methods because the 3D printer does nearly all the work, Ballard said.

"The benefits that automation and digitization had brought to so many other industries with regard to speed and affordability were completely missing from the construction industry," Ballard said. 3D printing, he said, "was like the most powerful automation of all the automations we could discover."

GADGETS

High-quality sound from bookshelf speakers

By **GREGG ELLMAN**
Tribune News Service

Audioengine's HD4 Powered Bluetooth aptX HD system is a great-looking pair of Bluetooth speakers that are easy to set up and sound even better.

One of my favorite parts about reviewing products is getting them up and running without having to read instructions or quick-start guides. If I succeed quickly, this scores points with me. In the case of the \$449 Audioengine HD4 Bluetooth bookshelf speakers, I had my Jimmy Buffet playlist blasting in less than five minutes.

I've delayed testing these speakers for way too long, but with "Margaritaville" playing at high volume levels, I can say that they were worth the wait. I am talking about zero distortion with the volume cranked up using the speakers' volume control.

The setup time included opening the box, taking the speakers out of nice cloth bags, locating the power cord and installing the speaker cable. While I was plugging in the 7-foot speaker wire to the main speaker, I noticed a connection for a Bluetooth antenna. Audioengine included one in the box. Once everything was connected, and the backside power switch flipped, Audioengine HD4 appeared in my iPhone 12 Pro Bluetooth preferences.

The product offers a variety of connection methods. Among them are cables for direct connection that include 3.5 mm stereo mini-jack, micro-USB and RCA L/R. The latest Bluetooth 5 is used for simple and robust wireless. There are even output options with RCA variable line-out and 3.5 mm mini-jack headphone out.

I used the speakers with connected devices, streaming music, movie night and even listening to a live baseball broadcast. All methods produced great sound, with perfect clarity at any volume. The three setups were in different environments and the Audioengine HD4 Powered Bluetooth speaker system was great.

Each speaker is 9-by-5.5-by-6.5 inches, and since these are bookshelf speakers, the looks count. These have a pleasing walnut finish, and are constructed with real wood veneer. Audioengine has built the speaker cabinets with thick high-resin MDF walls with extensive internal bracing.

Online: audioengineusa.com; \$449

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com

Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com

Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stripes.com

Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com

Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.erik@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

Washington

Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief
cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com
(+1)(202)886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast

Robert Reismann, Mideast Circulation Manager
robert.w.reismann.naf@mail.mil
xsscirculation@stripes.com
DSN (314)583-9111

Europe

Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager
lewis.karen@stripes.com
memberservices@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9090; DSN (314)583.9090

Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com
+81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

Washington

tel: (+1)202.886.0003
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

The wizards of Armageddon may be back

By DAVID IGNATIUS

Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON

Nuclear weapons are probably the last thing the Biden administration wants to worry about right now. But given aggressive Chinese and Russian efforts to build new systems, and America's aging strategic force, the wizards of Armageddon may be back.

Chinese and Russian advances were highlighted in last month's annual "Threat Assessment" by the U.S. intelligence community. It said China was planning to double its arsenal of nuclear weapons over the next decade in "the most rapid expansion . . . in its history." And it warned that Russia remains America's closest strategic rival as it "expands and modernizes its nuclear weapons capabilities."

Unpack this bland language and you see some genuinely scary new threats. China is deploying a truck-based mobile intercontinental ballistic missile, called the Dongfeng-41, that could strike targets in the United States. China also has an intermediate-range mobile missile, the Dongfeng-26, that's "capable of rapidly swapping conventional and nuclear warheads," according to Austin Long, a Pentagon strategic planner, in a recent article in War on the Rocks.

What this means for U.S. commanders is that in a crisis, China would have hundreds of hard-to-detect trucks roaming its highways, some carrying nukes and some not — and if the missiles were fired, the United States probably wouldn't know which were which. That, as the Cold War strategists used to say, would be "destabilizing."

Russia is tweaking the nightmare scenarios, too. President Vladimir Putin boasted in

his April 21 address to the federal assembly that Russia now has a new Avangard hypersonic ICBM, a Tsirkon hypersonic anti-ship missile and a Poseidon nuclear torpedo capable of devastating coastal cities. All these weapons have very short delivery times to defeat U.S. missile defenses. They, too, would destabilize the balance of terror.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon is deliberating how to replace its 50-year-old Minuteman missiles technology, one leg of the "triad" of U.S. strategic forces. Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, who chairs the Senate subcommittee that oversees strategic forces, told me he came away from a visit to a missile silo in North Dakota last weekend wondering, "How would you feel if your survival depended on a car you bought in 1970?"

The Pentagon's tentative answer is a new silo-based missile known as the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent. "I would say I'm convinced but not fully convinced" that this new ICBM is the answer, King told journalists after the visit. Some other analysts argue that the United States should instead emulate the Chinese with a mobile ICBM system of our own, though it's doubtful any state would welcome this nuclear caravan now any more than when it was first proposed in the 1980s.

The Biden administration's main interest in nuclear weapons so far has been limiting them. After just six days in office, Biden agreed to extend for another five years the New START treaty with Russia, which limits each country's warheads. But the treaty doesn't cover China, and that's the problem. Beijing doesn't want to talk about curbing its nuclear forces until it reaches parity with the United States and Russia.

"The Chinese are modernizing their nucle-

ar deterrent, and ours is aging. That's the big story," argues David Finkelstein in an interview. He directs China and Indo-Pacific security studies at CNA, an independent research institute in Arlington, Va.

Why is China moving so quickly to jettison its old doctrine of a "limited deterrent" and double its nuclear forces? U.S. analysts aren't sure, but some judge that the Chinese may want to make any U.S. effort to defend Taiwan militarily exceptionally costly. Beijing wants a low-cost walkover in Taipei, not a bloody assault.

"The last thing on China's mind is a D-Day style invasion" of Taiwan, contends Christopher Johnson in an interview. He's a former top CIA China analyst who's now the chief executive of China Strategies Group, a political risk consulting firm. He notes that China has halved its number of short-range missiles opposite Taiwan but boosted deployments of missiles for striking U.S. bases in Guam and Japan.

China's accelerating nuclear program vexes American analysts. During the Cold War, the United States and Russia developed a language for thinking about nuclear weapons and deterrence. Leaders of both countries understood the horrors of nuclear war and sought predictability and stability in nuclear policy. China lacks such a vocabulary for thinking about the unthinkable.

Russia and America have some severe problems these days, but they know how to talk about arms control. Even as the Biden administration thinks about building a new generation of doomsday weapons, it needs to sit down and begin a conversation with China about strategic forces that's becoming more urgent every day.

Europe starts to feel the vaccine effect at last

By LIONEL LAURENT

Bloomberg Opinion

The European Union's COVID-19 vaccination rollout had looked like a cross between a bad joke and a bad dream. Almost everything that could go wrong did: Logistical failures, supply delays, the odd diplomatic incident and an ugly bust-up with AstraZeneca. The euro-area economy, battered by successive virus waves, fell into a double-dip recession earlier this year.

Yet the bloc has turned a corner in recent days. A concerted effort to get needles into people's arms, helped by an expanded supply of doses and the pressure to escape society-crushing lockdowns, is paying off. The EU daily average rate of jobs is currently around 7 doses per 1,000 people, fully closing the gap with the U.S. and U.K. last week. Germany recently broke records with 1.1 million jobs in one day; France is about halfway there. There are already signs suggesting a newfound optimism is feeding through to the economy.

The early tics of the EU's characteristic bureaucratic caution have been replaced with a more can-do attitude: French soccer stadiums and Italian museums now serve as vaccination centers, while family doctors and pharmacists have been roped in to jab patients. Despite some clumsy safety U-turns on AstraZeneca's shot, which slowed take-up, vaccine hesitancy is ebbing as newly regained freedoms in Israel and Britain are viewed with envy. Vaccine manufacturing is ramping up, with the EU eyeing an annual production capacity of 3 billion doses by the end of 2021.

The early tics of the EU's characteristic bureaucratic caution have been replaced with a more can-do attitude.

More than 70 million Europeans have now received at least one dose, equivalent to about one-fifth of the EU's population. Even if the bloc is several months away from its target coverage of 70% of adults, that's having a direct impact on the virus. New cases and deaths are on a downward trajectory in France, Germany, Spain and Italy, after a third wave that saw hospitals overloaded and businesses shuttered. Lockdowns are once again tentatively being lifted, hopefully for good this time.

A lot is riding on getting the next phase right. The coming summer is Europe's best chance at something close to normality for a region that's been starved of tourism, consumer spending and nightlife for months. Leaders are projecting confidence: Mario Draghi has told the world to book vacations to Italy, France's Emmanuel Macron is broadening job eligibility to all adults ahead of schedule and Spain's Pedro Sanchez told his country that it had reached the "beginning of the end" of the pandemic.

What's needed is to ensure both vaccine logistics and basic pandemic management stay

on track. Caution is still warranted: France is lifting restrictions with daily case levels at around 300 per million people, twice the U.S.'s current level and 10 times the U.K.'s. And judging by other countries' experiences, the pace of vaccinations may slow as younger, less vulnerable people become eligible as they may be more reluctant to get the jab. It remains to be seen whether the nudges being tried, such as Germany's offer of relaxing restrictions specifically for the vaccinated, will change that dynamic.

If the summer does bring brighter days, consumers will need confident signals to ensure the reopening leads to the spending rebound economists and investors expect. That means checking any temptation to withdraw government support too quickly amid a rise in prices and weakness in the job market.

It also means delivering on the promise of the EU's 750 billion-euro (\$905 billion) stimulus plan, due to pay out its first round of grants this summer. Barclays economists reckon the euro region's real gross domestic product won't return to pre-crisis levels until around the middle of next year, and the pandemic's scars will run deep.

No country or region is an island in this crisis, and this is no time to feel overly triumphant when India is going through a devastating wave of infections. But it's still heartening to see the EU learning from past mistakes and giving itself a chance to make up for lost time. It won't get many more.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Lionel Laurent covers the EU and France. He worked previously at Reuters and Forbes.

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EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New England	2	0	1	7	5	3
NYCFC	2	1	0	6	8	2
Orlando City	1	0	2	5	4	1
Montreal	1	0	2	5	6	4
Atlanta	1	1	1	4	4	3
Inter Miami CF	1	1	1	4	4	4
New York	1	2	0	3	5	5
D.C. United	1	2	0	3	3	6
Nashville	0	0	3	3	4	4
Columbus	0	0	2	2	0	0
Toronto FC	0	1	1	1	4	6
Philadelphia	0	2	1	1	1	4
Chicago	0	2	1	1	3	7
Cincinnati	0	2	1	1	2	10

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	3	1	0	9	10	5
Seattle	2	0	1	7	8	1
Real Salt Lake	2	1	0	6	6	4
Austin FC	2	1	0	6	4	3
LA Galaxy	2	1	0	6	6	7
LAFC	1	0	2	5	4	2
FC Dallas	1	1	1	4	5	4
Houston	1	1	1	4	4	4
Vancouver	1	1	1	4	3	3
Sporting KC	1	1	1	4	4	5
Colorado	1	1	1	4	2	3
Portland	1	2	0	3	3	6
Minnesota	0	3	0	0	1	7

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

Friday's game

San Jose 2, Real Salt Lake 1

Saturday's games

Philadelphia at Chicago
 Toronto FC at New York
 D.C. United at Columbus
 New England at Nashville
 Montreal at Vancouver
 Houston at FC Dallas
 New York City FC at Orlando City
 Los Angeles FC at LA Galaxy
 Minnesota at Colorado

Sunday's games

Atlanta at Miami
 Seattle at Portland
 Austin FC at Sporting Kansas City
Wednesday, May 12
 Columbus at Toronto FC
 New England at Philadelphia
 Montreal at Miami
 Sporting Kansas City at Houston
 Vancouver at Minnesota
 Seattle at San Jose

Friday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Optioned RHP Isaac Mattson to Norfolk (Triple-A East).
BOSTON RED SOX — Place INF/OF Kike Hernandez on 10-day IL. Recalled INF Michael Chavis from Worcester (Triple-A East).
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Activated LHP Garrett Crochet from the 10-day IL. Optioned RHP Alex McRae to Charlotte (Triple-A Southeast).
DETROIT TIGERS — Designated RHP Buck Farmer for assignment. Placed C Wilson Ramos on the 10-day IL. Selected the contract of RHP Erasmo Ramirez from Toledo (Triple-A Midwest). Recalled C Jake Rogers from Toledo (Triple-A Midwest).
HOUSTON ASTROS — Signed RHP Brandon Lawson to a minor league contract.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Acquired C Drew Butera from the Texas in exchange for a cash considerations. Designated C Jack Kruger for assignment.
MINNESOTA TWINS — Placed OF Byron Buxton on the 10-day IL. Selected the contract of OF Trevor Larnach from St. Paul (Triple-A Midwest). Designated LHP Brandon Waddell for assignment.
NEW YORK YANKEES — Optioned RHP Albert Abreu to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (Triple-A Northeast). Recalled INF/OF Miguel Andujar from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (Triple-A Northeast).
TEXAS RANGERS — Named Daren Williams senior director, research and development/applications for baseball operations.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Placed INF Joe Panik on the 10-day IL, retroactive to May 6. Recalled INF Rowdy Tellez from Buffalo (Triple-A Northeast).
National League
ATLANTA BRAVES — Selected the contract of RHP Carl Edwards Jr. from Gwinnett (Triple-A Southeast). Designated RHP Nate Jones for assignment. Optioned RHP Edgar Santana to Gwinnett (Triple-A Southeast).
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Optioned 1B Wyatt Mathisen to Reno (Triple-A West). Activated RHP Merrill Kelly from the 10-day IL.
CHICAGO CUBS — Placed CF Ian Happ on the 10-day IL. Selected the contract of OF Nick Martini from Iowa (Triple-A Midwest). Recalled RHP Jason Adam from Iowa (Triple-A Midwest). Designated LHP Kyle Ryan for assignment.

Madrid Open

Friday
At Caja Magica Madrid
Purse: Euro 2,614,465
Surface: Red clay
Men's Singles Quarterfinals

Dominic Thiem (3), Austria, def. John Isner, United States, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
 Alexander Zverev (5), Germany, def. Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, 6-4, 6-4.
 Casper Ruud, Norway, def. Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 7-5, 6-1.
 Matteo Berrettini (8), Italy, def. Cristian Garin (16), Chile, 5-7, 6-3, 6-0.

Men's Doubles Quarterfinals

Nikola Pietrangeli and Mate Pavic (2), Croatia, def. Lukasz Kubot, Poland, and Wesley Koolhof (7), Netherlands, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 10-7.
 Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen, Belgium, def. Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Filip Polasek (4), Slovakia, 6-3, 3-6, 10-5.
 Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Horacio Zeballos (3), Argentina, def. Nicolas Mahut and Pierre-Hugues Herbert (6), France, 7-6 (3), 6-2.
 Tim Puetz and Alexander Zverev, Germany, def. Rohan Bopanna, India, and Denis Shapovalov, Canada, 6-4, 3-6, 10-5.

Women's Doubles

TENNIS

Semifinals

Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada, and Demi Schuurs (3), Netherlands, def. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, and Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia, 5-7, 6-4, 10-6.

L'Open 35 De Saint-Malo

Friday
At Tennis Club J.A. Saint-Malo
Saint-Malo, France
Purse: Euro 92,742
Surface: Red clay
Women's Singles Quarterfinals

Jasmine Paolini, Italy, def. Anna-Karolina Schmiedlova, Slovakia, 6-3, 7-5.
 Viktorija Golubic (5), Switzerland, def. Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, 6-1, 6-0.
 Varvara Gracheva, Russia, def. Rebecca Peterson (2), Sweden, 6-4, 6-0.
 Harmony Tan, France, def. Aliona Bolsova Zadoinov, Spain, 7-6 (3), 6-0.

Women's Doubles Semifinals

Hayley Carter, United States, and Luisa Stefani (1), Brazil, def. Elixane Lechemia, France, and Julia Wachaczyk, Germany, 6-2, 6-2.
 Sabrina Santamaria and Kaitlyn Christian (2), United States, def. Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, and Clara Tauson, Denmark, 1-6, 6-4, 10-8.

GOLF

Wells Fargo Championship

PGA Tour
Friday
At Quail Hollow Club Charlotte, N.C.
Purse: \$8.1 million
Yardage: 7,521; Par: 71
Second Round

Matt Wallace	69-67-136	-6
Gary Woodland	67-69-136	-6
Patrick Rodgers	68-68-136	-6
Kramer Hickok	68-69-137	-5
Scott Piercy	70-68-138	-4
Rory McIlroy	72-66-138	-4
Keith Mitchell	67-71-138	-4
Carlos Ortiz	70-68-138	-4
Scott Stallings	69-69-138	-4
Luke List	67-72-139	-3
Phil Mickelson	64-75-139	-3
Bubba Watson	70-69-139	-3
Abraham Ancer	69-70-139	-3
Joel Dahmen	68-72-140	-2
Stewart Cink	71-69-140	-2
Patrick Reed	71-69-140	-2
Matt Jones	69-71-140	-2
Ben Martin	69-71-140	-2
Emiliano Grillo	74-66-140	-2
Roger Sloan	76-64-140	-2
Brian Harman	68-72-140	-2
Satoshi Kodaira	68-72-140	-2
Vincent Whaley	72-68-140	-2

Honda Thailand

LPGA Tour
Friday
At Siam Country Club-Old Course Chonburi, Thailand
Purse: \$1.6 million
Yardage: 6,576; Par: 72
Second Round

Patty Tavatanakit	64-64-128	-16
Atthaya Thitikul	64-67-131	-13
Caroline Masson	66-66-132	-12
Gaby Lopez	69-64-133	-11
Lydia Ko	66-67-133	-11
Nanna Koerstz Madsen	65-68-133	-11
Amy Yang	69-65-134	-10
Hee Young Park	68-66-134	-10

Regions Tradition

Champions Tour
Friday
At Greystone Golf and Country Club Birmingham, Ala.
Purse: \$2.5 million
Yardage: 7,249; Par: 72
Second Round

Alex Cejka	68-69-137	-7
Jerry Kelly	67-70-137	-7
Steve Stricker	68-69-137	-7
Darren Clarke	66-71-137	-7
Dicky Pride	69-69-138	-6
Ernie Els	69-69-138	-6
Stephen Ames	67-71-138	-6

DEALS

CINCINNATI REDS — Placed 1B Joey Votto on the 10-day IL, retroactive to May 6.
COLORADO ROCKIES — Selected the contract of INF Connor Joe from Albuquerque (Triple-A East). Optioned RHP Jose Mujica to Albuquerque (Triple-A East).
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Signed 2B Hernan Perez to a minor league contract.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Optioned CF Mickey Moniak to Lehigh Valley (Triple-A Northeast).
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Reinstated LHP Jarlin Garcia and OF Mike Yastrzemski from 10-day IL. Placed OF Alex Dickerson on the 10-day IL retroactive to May 6.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Assigned 1B John Nogowski to Memphis (Triple-A East).

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association
NEW ORLEANS PELICANS — Signed F Najj Marshall to a remainder-of-the season contract.
HOUSTON ROCKETS — Signed G Khyri Thomas to a 10-day contract.
Womens National Basketball Association
CHICAGO SKY — Placed F Gabby Williams on full-season suspension.
LAS VEGAS ACES — Signed G Arella Guirantes to a contract.
MINNESOTA LYNX — Waived G Japreece Dean.
NEW YORK LIBERTY — Waived F Janelle Bailey.

FOOTBALL

National Football League
DENVER BRONCOS — Placed OT Ja'Wuan James on the NFL List.
DETROIT LIONS — Signed OL Frank Ragnow to a contract extension through the 2026 season.
HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed LB Neville Hewitt to a one-year contract.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed LB Dylan Moses.
LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Signed WR Dillon Stoner, RB Garrett Groshok, Darius Stills, LB Max Richardson, TE Matt Bushman, RB Trey Ragas, DB T.J. Morrison, WR D.J. Turner and CB Shaun Crawford.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed DB Jason McCourty.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed TE Shane Zylstra.
NEW YORK JETS — Signed OTs Parker Ferguson, Grant Hermanns, DE/LB Hamilar Rashed, LBs Milo Eifler, Brandon White, CB Isaiah Dunn, S Jordyn Peters, K Chris Naggar, Teton Saltes, G Tristen Hoge and DT Michael Dwumfour. Released WRs Jaleel Scott, Josh Doctson, CB Kyrion

Brown, TE Connor Davis, OL Leo Koloamatangi and K Chase McLaughlin. Signed CB Jason Pinnock, S Michael Carter II, LB Hamsah Nasirildeen, DT Jonathan Marshall and CB Brandin Echols to four-year contracts.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Claimed RB Kerryon Johnson off waivers from Detroit.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed CB Arthur Maulet to a three-year contract. Released DB Trevor Williams. Waived DB John Battle.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League
NHL — Suspended Vancouver Canucks F Zack MacEwen for one game for kneeling an Edmonton defenseman May 6.
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Reassigned C Mikael Hakkarainen to Indy (ECHL).
COLORADO AVALANCHE — Reassigned Kyle Burroughs to Colorado (AHL).
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Recalled G Matiss Kivlenieks from minor league taxi squad.
DETROIT RED WINGS — Recalled LW Givani Smith on loan to Grand Rapids (AHL). Recalled C Joe Veleno and LW Mathias Brome from minor league taxi squad.
LOS ANGELES KINGS — Recalled C Rasmus Kupari and G Jacob Ingham on loan to Ontario (AHL). Reassigned G Matthew Vilalta to Ontario (AHL).
NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Reassigned C Brett Seney and D Colton White to Birmingham (AHL).
NEW YORK RANGERS — Returned RW Jonny Brodzinski on loan to Hartford (AHL).
OTTAWA SENATORS — Recalled D Cody Goloubeff on loan to Belleville (AHL).
PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Recalled D Cam York from minor league taxi squad.
TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS — Optioned G Frederik Andersen and D Mac Hollowell to Toronto (AHL). Designated D Timothy Liljegren and C Semyon Der-Arguchintsev for assignment.
WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Optioned D Michal Kempny to Hershey (AHL).
WINNIPEG JETS — Optioned LW Joonas Luoto to Manitoba (AHL). Designated Kristian Vesalainen for assignment.
SOCCER
Major League Soccer
MLS — Suspended Philadelphia M Jose Martinez for two additional matches and fined him an undisclosed amount for violent conduct in a match against New York on May 1.
TORONTO FC — Signed D Kemar Lawrence through 2024.

AUTO RACING

LiftKits4Less.com 200

NASCAR Gander Outdoor Truck Series
Friday
At Darlington Raceway Darlington, S.C.
Lap length: 1.37 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

- (15) Sheldon Creed, Chevrolet, 147 laps, 49 points.
- (4) Ben Rhodes, Toyota, 147, 35.
- (14) Carson Hocevar, Chevrolet, 147, 42.
- (9) Matt Crafton, Toyota, 147, 38.
- (17) Grant Enfinger, Toyota, 147, 34.
- (6) Johnny Sauter, Toyota, 147, 31.
- (26) Timmy Hill, Chevrolet, 147, 35.
- (1) John H. Nemechek, Toyota, 147, 48.
- (12) Austin Wayne Self, Chevrolet, 147, 28.
- (31) Jordan Anderson, Chevrolet, 147, 27.
- (18) Ryan Truex, Chevrolet, 147, 26.
- (19) Ryan Reed, Chevrolet, 147, 25.
- (2) Austin Hill, Toyota, 147, 33.
- (16) Tyler Ankrum, Chevrolet, 147, 24.
- (5) Todd Gilliland, Ford, 147, 36.
- (3) Zane Smith, Chevrolet, 147, 29.
- (22) Erik Darnell, Chevrolet, 147, 20.
- (27) Danny Bohn, Toyota, 147, 19.
- (21) Timothy Peters, Chevrolet, 147, 19.
- (10) Hailie Deegan, Ford, 147, 17.
- (38) Bayley Currey, Chevrolet, 146, 16.
- (34) Spencer Boyd, Chevrolet, 144, 15.
- (13) Corey Heim, Toyota, garage, 142, 26.
- (37) Jennifer Jo Cobb, Chevrolet, overheating, 139, 13.
- (7) Stewart Friesen, Toyota, garage, 131, 18.
- (36) Parker Kligerman, Chevrolet, accident, 130, 11.
- (8) Chandler Smith, Toyota, garage, 126, 21.
- (35) David Gilliland, Ford, accident, 117, 9.
- (28) Spencer Davis, Toyota, accident, 117, 8.
- (33) Tate Fogleman, Chevrolet, accident, 117, 7.
- (32) Dawson Cram, Chevrolet, accident, 117, 6.
- (39) BJ McLeod, Chevrolet, accident, 117, 5.
- (11) Tanner Gray, Ford, accident, 110, 4.
- (23) Akinori Ogata, Toyota, accident, 110, 3.
- (20) Derek Kraus, Toyota, 109, 2.
- (24) Chase Purdy, Chevrolet, accident, 80, 1.
- (40) Norm Benning, Chevrolet, garage, 61, 1.
- (25) Codie Rohrbaugh, Chevrolet, accident, 26, 1.
- (30) Kris Wright, Chevrolet, accident, 25, 1.
- (29) Cory Roper, Ford, accident, 13, 1.

Race statistics were not available.

NASCAR driver rating formula

A maximum of 150 points can be attained in a race.
 The formula combines the following categories: Wins, Finishes, Top-15 Finishes, Average Running Position While on Lead Lap, Average Speed Under Green, Fastest Lap, Led Most Laps, Lead-Lap Finish.

Goodyear 400 lineup

NASCAR Cup Series
After Saturday qualifying; race Sunday
At Darlington Raceway Darlington, S.C.
Lap length: 1.37 miles
(Car number in parentheses)

- (2) Brad Keselowski, Ford, .000 mph.
- (4) Kevin Harvick, Ford, .000.
- (18) Kyle Busch, Toyota, .000.
- (19) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, .000.
- (24) William Byron, Chevrolet, .000.
- (9) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, .000.
- (11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, .000.
- (21) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, .000.
- (3) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, .000.
- (8) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet, .000.
- (17) Chris Buescher, Ford, .000.
- (22) Joey Logano, Ford, .000.
- (34) Michael McDowell, Ford, .000.
- (5) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, .000.
- (99) Daniel Suarez, Chevrolet, .000.
- (12) Ryan Blaney, Ford, .000.
- (1) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, .000.
- (42) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, .000.
- (48) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, .000.
- (6) Ryan Newman, Ford, .000.
- (20) Christopher Bell, Toyota, .000.
- (22) Chase Briscoe, Ford, .000.
- (23) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, .000.
- (41) Cole Custer, Ford, .000.
- (38) Anthony Alfredo, Ford, .000.
- (43) Erik Jones, Chevrolet, .000.
- (10) Aric Almirola, Ford, .000.
- (47) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, .000.
- (37) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, .000.
- (7) Corey Lajoie, Chevrolet, .000.
- (77) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, .000.
- (78) BJ McLeod, Ford, .000.
- (51) Cody Ware, Chevrolet, .000.
- (53) JJ Yeley, Chevrolet, .000.
- (50) Quin Houff, Chevrolet, .000.
- (15) James Davison, Chevrolet, .000.
- (52) Josh Billicki, Ford, .000.

AP SPOTLIGHT

May 9

1930 — Gallant Fox, ridden by Earl Sande, wins the Preakness Stakes by three-quarters of a length over Crack Brigade. Gallant Fox becomes the only Triple Crown winner to win the Preakness a week before the Kentucky Derby.
1932 — Burgoo King, ridden by Eugene James, withstands a strong drive by Tick On to win the Preakness Stakes by a head.

BRIEFLY

NHL relaxing protocols for vaccinated teams

The NHL is relaxing virus protocols for teams that reach a threshold for vaccination, just in time for the playoffs.

The changes are outlined in a memo viewed by The Associated Press that the league sent to teams and players Friday night. The new protocols take hold once 85% or more of the traveling party has been fully vaccinated. For a team with 56 members in its traveling party, 48 would need to be fully vaccinated.

“It could be really big, I think, just for the mindset of the players, more than anything, just to get back to some sort of normalcy,” Carolina Hurricanes coach Rod Brind’Amour said Saturday. “The playoffs are a grind, just like this season has been, so any type of getting your mind away from it by being around the guys I think will help.”

The changes include loosened restrictions on indoor and outdoor dining, testing frequency and mask-wearing and quarantine requirements.

According to the memo, fully vaccinated individuals can dine outdoors or inside (in a private section or room with masked servers), visit each other’s hotel rooms, go golfing and have other social gatherings without masking or distancing requirements. They also won’t have to quarantine for potential exposure or be subject to testing on off days, and in some cases rapid tests prior to games.

Source: NFL teams can't cut unvaccinated players

An NFL team can't release a player simply because he is not vaccinated for COVID-19, a person with direct knowledge of the league's directive told The Associated Press on Friday.

Buffalo Bills general manager Brandon Beane hypothetically suggested this week that he'd do so if it would provide more freedom within the team facilities for meetings and offseason programs.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the league did not make the directive public. The NFL currently is formulating further plans and protocols for the offseason programs and training camp.

“A team may not release a player solely due to vaccination status,” the person said.

The league also is allowing vaccinated players to gather and interact with other such players away from club facilities.

The same is true for staff members. But players and staff, including coaches, may not do so at this time, according to an NFL memo obtained by the AP.

NHL

Flyers hand Capitals costly loss

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Falling flat after an emotional week, the Washington Capitals cost themselves their easiest path to a division title and showed worrying signs with the playoffs approaching.

The Capitals lost to the Philadelphia Flyers 4-2 Friday night, missing their chance to reclaim first place in the East Division. They trail the Pittsburgh Penguins by two points with two games left on their regular-season schedule.

A victory in their regular-season finale against last-place Buffalo on Saturday and another Washington loss to Philadelphia hours later would clinch the division for Pittsburgh.

“They’re big points for us that we let get by here, so there can’t be any excuses,” Capitals coach Peter Laviolette said. “We needed to be better. I just thought we were just on our heels too much.”

Long since eliminated from playoff contention, the Flyers nevertheless outplayed the Capitals, who were again without captain Alex Ovechkin and defenseman Justin Schultz because of lower-body injuries and top center Evgeny Kuznetsov, who's on the NHL COVID protocol list. Rookie goaltender Vitek Vanecek allowed three goals on 28



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Capitals right wing Daniel Sprong, right, watches the puck roll off the helmet of Philadelphia Flyers goaltender Brian Elliott during the third period of Friday's game in Washington. The Flyers won 4-2.

shots in his third consecutive start with Ilya Samsonov also out for protocol reasons.

“There were times in the game where we were the better team and there were times where we put out

foot off the gas and they had their chances,” said Washington's Daniel Sprong, who scored his sixth goal in his past six games and has 13 this season. “We know playoffs is coming up, and that’s not how we want to

play.” Capitals winger T.J. Oshie scored his fourth goal in the past two games since the death of his father, but the Capitals' comeback bid from a 3-1 deficit fell short.

ROUNDUP

Dallas wins, keeps playoff hopes alive

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Joe Pavelski had two goals and two assists to help keep the Dallas Stars' post-season hopes alive with a 5-2 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Friday night.

The win moved Dallas within two points of Nashville heading into the final weekend of the regular season. The Stars play Chicago on Sunday and Monday, while the Predators host Carolina, which clinched its first division title since 2006 on Friday with Tampa Bay's loss, on Saturday and Monday.

Roope Hintz added a goal and two assists for Dallas, which ended a five-game winless streak. Joel Kiviranta and Jamie Oleksiak also scored, and Anton Khudobin made 26 saves.

“Obviously, we had to be desperate tonight,” Pavelski said. “We did a lot of good things. Early on, we got pucks behind them, forechecked, we controlled the play that way. It gave us a boost, I think, for sure.”

The Lightning, which had a seven-game point streak (6-0-1) stop-

ped, are locked into a first-round playoff matchup with in-state rival Florida, with a two-game set Saturday and Monday at BB&T Center to determine the division's Nos. 2 and 3 seeds.

Blake Coleman and Alex Barre-Boulet scored for Tampa Bay. Curtis McElhinney finished with 26 saves.

Golden Knights 4, Blues 3 (OT): Jonathan Marchessault scored with 17 seconds left in overtime to lift host Vegas over St. Louis.

Reilly Smith, Alec Martinez, and Nic Roy scored in regulation for Vegas. The Golden Knights also inched closer to winning their third division title in four seasons since joining the NHL in 2017. Robin Lehner stopped 22 shots.

Avalanche 3, Kings 2: Mikko Rantanen scored his 30th goal of the season, Cale Makar had a goal and an assist and visiting Colorado beat Los Angeles.

Tyson Jost also scored, Philipp Grubauer made 15 saves and the Avalanche remained four points behind first-place Vegas in the West Division.



JASON BEHNKEN/AP

Lightning defenseman Victor Hedman, left, and Dallas Stars left wing Roope Hintz fight for position during Friday's game in Tampa, Fla.

Wild 4, Ducks 3 (OT): Kirill Kaprizov scored 17 seconds into overtime to lift host Minnesota past Anaheim.

Kaprizov, the rookie sensation with 27 goals this season, snapped a quick shot that was stopped by goalie John Gibson, but drove the net and found the puck on a rebound and easily scored with Gibson unable to recover.

Red Wings 5, Blue Jackets 2: Thomas Greiss made 22 saves and visiting Detroit scored three goals in the second period to beat Columbus.

Jakub Vrana had a goal and an assist, and Joe Veleno and Danny DeKeyser also scored in the sec-

ond period for the Red Wings, who are dueling with the Blue Jackets to stay out of the Central Division basement as they play out the final weekend. Detroit leads Columbus by one point in the standings.

Coyotes 5, Sharks 2: Phil Kessel scored the go-ahead goal for his 900th career point and Victor Soderstrom scored his first NHL goal to lead visiting Arizona past San Jose.

Conor Garland added a goal and two assists for the Coyotes, who also benefited from an overturned San Jose goal that would have tied it in the third. Michael Bunting and Jan Jenik also scored for Arizona, and Darcy Kuemper had 26 saves.

Scoreboard

East Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
x-Pittsburgh	55	36	16	3	75	195	156		
x-Washington	54	34	15	5	73	187	161		
x-Boston	53	32	14	7	71	160	127		
x-N.Y. Islanders	54	31	17	6	68	149	124		
N.Y. Rangers	55	26	23	6	58	172	153		
Philadelphia	54	24	23	7	55	158	197		
New Jersey	54	19	28	7	45	142	185		
Buffalo	55	15	33	7	37	138	198		
Central Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
y-Carolina	54	36	10	8	80	178	128		
x-Tampa Bay	54	36	15	3	75	180	138		
x-Florida	54	35	14	5	75	180	152		
Nashville	54	29	23	2	60	148	153		
Dallas	54	22	18	14	58	151	146		
Chicago	54	23	25	6	52	153	179		
Detroit	55	19	27	9	47	123	166		
Columbus	55	17	26	12	46	132	183		
West Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
x-Vegas	53	38	13	2	78	180	121		
x-Colorado	52	35	13	4	74	181	129		
x-Minnesota	53	34	14	5	73	174	146		
St. Louis	52	24	19	9	57	155	162		
Arizona	55	23	26	6	52	148	172		
Los Angeles	52	21	25	6	48	139	154		
San Jose	54	21	27	6	48	147	188		
Anaheim	55	17	30	8	42	123	175		
North Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
x-Toronto	53	34	13	6	74	179	138		
x-Edmonton	52	32	18	2	66	170	141		
x-Winnipeg	52	28	21	3	59	158	145		
Montreal	53	24	20	9	57	151	157		
Calgary	51	22	26	3	47	132	148		
Ottawa	53	21	27	5	47	148	179		
Vancouver	48	20	25	3	43	129	159		

x-clinched playoff spot

Thursday's games

New Jersey 2, N.Y. Islanders 1
Pittsburgh 8, Buffalo 4
Toronto 5, Montreal 2
Boston 4, N.Y. Rangers 0
Vancouver 6, Edmonton 3
Chicago 2, Carolina 1, OT

Friday's games

Detroit 5, Columbus 2
Philadelphia 4, Washington 2
Dallas 5, Tampa Bay 2
Minnesota 4, Anaheim 3, OT
Colorado 3, Los Angeles 2
Vegas 4, St. Louis 3, OT
Arizona 5, San Jose 2

Saturday's games

Buffalo at Pittsburgh
N.Y. Rangers at Boston
Detroit at Columbus
Montreal at Toronto
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders
Ottawa at Winnipeg
Philadelphia at Washington
Tampa Bay at Florida
Anaheim at Minnesota
Carolina at Nashville
Colorado at Los Angeles
St. Louis at Vegas
Vancouver at Edmonton
Arizona at San Jose

Sunday's games

Dallas at Chicago
Ottawa at Calgary

Monday's games

Edmonton at Montreal
N.Y. Islanders at Boston
New Jersey at Philadelphia
Tampa Bay at Florida
Carolina at Nashville
Dallas at Chicago
Vancouver at Winnipeg
Colorado at Vegas
St. Louis at Los Angeles

Tuesday's games

Boston at Washington
Vancouver at Winnipeg

Scoring leaders

Through Friday

	GP	G	A	PTS
Connor McDavid, EDM	52	31	65	96
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	52	28	49	77
Mitchell Marner, TOR	53	19	47	66
Nathan MacKinnon, COL	47	20	45	65
Brad Marchand, BOS	51	27	38	65
Patrick Kane, CHI	54	15	49	64
Auston Matthews, TOR	49	40	24	64
Sidney Crosby, PIT	54	24	38	62
Jonathan Huberdeau, FLA	54	19	40	59
Mark Stone, LV	51	21	38	59
Mikko Rantanen, COL	47	29	30	59
Artemi Panarin, NYR	42	17	41	58
Jake Guentzel, PIT	55	23	34	57
Sebastian Aho, CAR	54	24	33	57

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Philadelphia	46	21	.687	—
x-Brooklyn	43	24	.642	3
New York	37	30	.552	9
Boston	35	32	.522	11
Toronto	27	40	.403	19
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	37	31	.544	—
Miami	36	31	.537	½
Charlotte	33	34	.493	3½
Washington	31	36	.463	5½
Orlando	21	46	.313	15½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Milwaukee	43	24	.642	—
Indiana	31	35	.470	11½
Chicago	28	39	.418	15
Cleveland	21	46	.313	22
Detroit	20	47	.299	23
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	39	28	.582	—
Memphis	33	33	.500	5½
San Antonio	32	34	.485	6½
New Orleans	30	37	.448	9
Houston	16	51	.239	23
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Utah	49	18	.731	—
x-Denver	44	23	.657	5
Portland	38	29	.567	11
Oklahoma City	21	46	.313	28
Minnesota	20	47	.299	29
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Phoenix	48	19	.716	—
x-L.A. Clippers	45	22	.672	3
L.A. Lakers	37	30	.552	11
Golden State	34	33	.507	14
Sacramento	29	38	.433	19

x-clinched playoff spot

Friday's games
 Philadelphia 109, New Orleans 107
 Chicago 121, Boston 99
 Milwaukee 141, Houston 133
 Charlotte 122, Orlando 112
 Miami 121, Minnesota 112
 Dallas 110, Cleveland 90
 Utah 127, Denver 120
 San Antonio 113, Sacramento 104
 Phoenix 128, New York 105
 Portland 106, L.A. Lakers 101

Saturday's games
 Detroit at Philadelphia
 Washington at Indiana
 Memphis at Toronto
 Brooklyn at Denver
 Houston at Utah
 Oklahoma City at Golden State
 San Antonio at Portland

Sunday's games
 Miami at Boston
 New York at L.A. Clippers
 Dallas at Cleveland
 Minnesota at Orlando
 New Orleans at Charlotte
 Chicago at Detroit
 Oklahoma City at Sacramento
 Phoenix at L.A. Lakers

Monday's games
 Indiana at Cleveland
 Washington at Atlanta
 New Orleans at Memphis
 Milwaukee at San Antonio
 Houston at Portland
 Utah at Golden State

Tuesday's games
 Denver at Charlotte
 Minnesota at Detroit
 L.A. Clippers at Toronto
 Miami at Boston
 Brooklyn at Chicago
 Dallas at Memphis
 Philadelphia at Indiana
 Orlando at Milwaukee
 New York at L.A. Lakers
 Oklahoma City at Sacramento
 Phoenix at Golden State

Leaders Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Curry, GS	59	610	330	1863	31.6
Beal, WAS	58	643	393	1803	31.1

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Capela, ATL	60	283	573	856	14.3
Gobert, UTA	66	220	657	877	13.3

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Westbrook, WAS	60	685	11.4
Young, ATL	59	560	9.5

Blazers beat Lakers, secure tiebreaker

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Damian Lillard had 38 points to lead Portland to a 106-101 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday night that gave the Trail Blazers the tiebreaker over their Western Conference foe as the regular season winds to a close.

Lillard had five three-pointers for the Blazers, who were back at home after going 5-1 on a six-game trip. They were welcomed back to Portland with fans allowed at the Moda Center for the first time this season.

Anthony Davis had 36 points and 12 rebounds for the Lakers, who were without LeBron James for the third straight game. Los Angeles has lost eight of its last 10 games.

"It's tough, man," Davis said. "It's a tough loss for us. We wanted to get that one."

The Lakers and the Blazers were both 37-29 heading into the game but the Lakers held sixth in the Western Conference because the series between the two teams was tied 1-1 and Los Angeles had the tiebreaker with a better record against conference teams.

With the win, Portland moved



CRAIG MITCHELDDYER/AP

Portland Trail Blazers forward Norman Powell, center, shoots over Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis during the second half of Friday's game in Portland, Ore. The Blazers won 106-101.

into sixth, a game up on Los Angeles, and also secured the tiebreaker. Both teams are trying to earn a playoff spot outright — and avoid play-in games — with just five games left in the regular season.

The Blazers knew what was at

stake.

"I think we've played in enough important games, we know how to prepare going into those games, how to give ourselves a chance to be successful," Lillard said.

Los Angeles was coming off a 118-94 loss to the rival Clippers on

Thursday. Davis did not play after the first quarter because of back spasms but he started against the Blazers.

But the Lakers remained without four-time league MVP James, who has missed two games while he recovers from a high ankle sprain.

Lakers coach Frank Vogel said all his team can do is try to win the games that are left.

"Wherever we land we're confident," Vogel said. "Obviously we still want to finish in the top six. We still have five games to make up some ground, if that's possible."

Boosted by cheering fans, the Blazers went up 34-20 after the opening quarter. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope hit a three-pointer late in the first half to get the Lakers to 55-53 but Portland led 59-55 at the break.

Lillard had 19 points in the opening quarter alone and the Blazers were 9-for-9 from the free-throw line.

Jusuf Nurkic finished with 10 points and 13 rebounds for Portland, while McCollum added 21 points.

Alex Caruso had a season-high 18 points for the Lakers.

ROUNDUP

Bogdanovic's 48 points rally Jazz past Nuggets

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Bojan Bogdanovic scored a career-high 48 points to rally the Utah Jazz past the Denver Nuggets 127-120 on Friday night.

Bogdanovic went 16-for-23 from the field — making a career-high eight three-pointers — to lead the NBA-leading Jazz to their fourth straight victory. He also had eight rebounds.

Jordan Clarkson added 21 points and eight assists. Rudy Gobert had 14 points and nine rebounds, and Georges Niang chipped in 13 points — all in the second half.

Michael Porter, Jr. scored 31 points for Denver. Nikola Jokic added 24 points, 13 assists, and nine rebounds, Paul Millsap had 20 points and Austin Rivers 18.

Suns 128, Knicks 105: Deandre Ayton scored 26 points, a feisty Chris Paul added 17 points and 11 assists and Phoenix beat visiting New York to stay in the hunt for the top record in the NBA.

The Suns stunned the Knicks by taking a 90-88 lead into the fourth quarter after scoring four points in less than a second. Torrey Craig tipped in Devin Booker's miss with 0.8 seconds left and Cameron Payne stole the in-bounds pass and made a layup.

Julius Randle led New York with 24 points and 11 rebounds. R.J. Barrett had 23 points.

76ers 109, Pelicans 107: Joel Embiid had 37 points and 13 rebounds to the tune of "MVP! MVP!" chants and host Philadelphia beat New Orleans to inch closer toward securing the top

spot in the East.

The 76ers won their season-high seventh straight game and have a three-game lead over Brooklyn and Milwaukee in the Eastern Conference.

Bucks 141, Rockets 133: Brook Lopez had 24 points and Khris Middleton scored 21 of his 23 in the second half to help host Milwaukee beat short-handed Houston for its fifth consecutive victory.

The Bucks tied Brooklyn for second place in the Eastern Conference standings. The Bucks also have the tiebreaker advantage over Brooklyn because they won two of their three regular-season meetings.

Mavericks 110, Cavaliers 90: Luka Doncic scored 24 points in 23 minutes and Dallas kept the prime spot in a tight race to avoid the Western Conference play-in tournament with a breezy victory over visiting Cleveland.

Dallas guaranteed it would remain in fifth place in the West, a game ahead of either the Los Angeles Lakers or Portland with five games remaining.

Bulls 121, Celtics 99: Zach LaVine and Coby White each scored 25 points and host Chicago overcame a big effort by Kemba Walker to beat Boston.

Heat 121, Timberwolves 112: Tyler Herro returned after a six-game absence and scored 27 points, Jimmy Butler had 25 and Miami beat visiting Minnesota to move back into the No. 6 spot in the Eastern Conference.

The win, combined with a loss at Chicago by



RICK BOWMER/AP

Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell pours water over forward Bojan Bogdanovic as they celebrate the team's 127-120 win over the Denver Nuggets on Friday in Salt Lake City.

Boston, allowed the Heat to pass the Celtics in the standings. Miami opens a two-game series in Boston on Sunday, the teams battling to avoid having to be part of the play-in tournament that awaits the teams finishing between Nos. 7 and No. 10 in each conference.

Hornets 122, Magic 112: Terry Rozier scored 28 points, LaMelo Ball added 27 points and host Charlotte beat Orlando to inch closer to a spot in the play-in tournament.

Spurs 113, Kings 104: Dejounte Murray scored 10 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter and visiting San Antonio beat Sacramento to end a five-game losing streak and strengthen its hold on the final playoff spot in the West.

FOOTBALL/MLB

Dream: Dungey didn't have much time to learn

FROM PAGE 24

ference with Russell Wilson, and also ranks sixth in ACC annals in career yardage (11,333).

And he accomplished that basically in three seasons when the 10 games he missed because of injuries are factored in. He also had two head coaches and four offensive coordinators and never was able to redshirt, getting thrown into the starting role as a freshman by coach Scott Shafer when senior starter Terrel Hunt was injured in the season opener and never returned.

"Not having a redshirt year was tough just because I basically came to campus in the summer, got about a month and a half or two months of camp in, and then I was thrown into a starting position and went from there," said Dungey, who grew up in Oregon.

Listed at 6-foot-4 and 195 pounds when he first stepped on the Syracuse campus in 2015, Dungey added more than 30 pounds of muscle to morph into a bruising runner as a senior (754 yards and 15 touchdowns), sometimes leaving defensive backs dazed in his wake. And when he made a mistake, he usually tried to make amends, as he did against Miami when Demetrius Jackson intercepted a pass from Dungey that was tipped at the line and he was quickly hit by the Orange's determined quarterback, who ripped the ball out of Jackson's grasp to keep Syracuse's drive alive.

Even though he fits the mold of today's NFL quarterback, all of those attributes faded into the background at NFL Draft time, likely because of the hit. Dungey

suffered a concussion on a cheap shot against Central Michigan in the third game of his freshman season, and other head-hunting hits that he absorbed the rest of his college career are a part of his résumé that he can't erase.

"My former agent would tell me just basically that they had concerns about my past in college," Dungey said. "He wouldn't tell me specifics because they wouldn't release too much, but apparently there was something about that."

And he wants to put it in the rearview mirror once and for all.

"I'm healthy. That's the biggest thing I've been trying to say. I'm ready to go," Dungey said. "I think there's a bad stigma around me about the injuries. It was just kind of blown out of proportion, and it's very frustrating, especially as a football player. If you have that stigma around you, teams won't even touch you."

The Spring League still awaits regardless of what happens with the Bengals, and Blues coach Ted Cottrell said there's still a spot.

"He was doing very well, and he got a call," Cottrell said. "He's got a strong arm. Good leader. We're wishing the best for him. The object of The Spring League is to afford guys the opportunity to get contracts with the NFL. Somebody must have liked the guy I chose in the draft. That's the thing. You never know what's going to happen. We'll do what's best for him."

Added Dungey: "You want people to believe in you and I'm very loyal to people that do, and I'll give them everything I can."

"That's all I want — just a chance."



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Quarterback Eric Dungey wasn't drafted out of college, but signed as an undrafted free agent with the New York Giants, who later cut him.



JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

The Mets' Francisco Lindor, right, celebrates with Tomas Nido, center, and Michael Conforto after hitting a two-run home run off Arizona pitcher Caleb Smith during the seventh inning Friday in New York.

MLB ROUNDUP

Lindor leads Mets' rally after dustup in dugout

Associated Press

NEW YORK—Francisco Lindor blamed his apparent dugout dustup with Jeff McNeil on a runaway rodent. One saw a rat, he claimed, and the other a raccoon.

The story stunk like a skunk, but either way, the night ended in a New York Mets victory.

Lindor gathered himself and hit a tying, two-run homer in the seventh inning, setting up the Mets' extra-innings rally to beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 5-4 Friday night. New York walked off with a victory when designated runner Pete Alonso scored on pinch-hitter Patrick Mazeika's fielder's choice.

A day after snapping an 0-for-26 slide with a ninth-inning single in St. Louis, Lindor produced his biggest moment since signing a \$341 million, 10-year deal with the Mets. He tied the game by hitting a 2-2 changeup from left-hander Caleb Smith.

The drive came a half-inning after he and second baseman McNeil combined to misplay a grounder. Moments later, after the inning ended, Mets players rushed into the tunnel adjacent to their dugout, sensing a commotion.

Lindor acknowledged after the game that he and McNeil were having a disagreement, but he claimed it had nothing to do with baseball.

"It was funny, I told him, I was like, 'I've never seen a New York rat,'" Lindor said, grinning widely. "So we went down sprinting. I

wanted to go see a New York rat, and (McNeil) got mad at me and was like 'It's not a rat, it's a raccoon.'"

McNeil's story matched Lindor's, and he added the Mets "just like to have fun." As for anyone else:

"They can believe whatever they want," he said.

Giants 5, Padres 4: Austin Slater hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning and host San Francisco beat San Diego.

Athletics 2, Rays 1: Sean Manaea's bid to pitch baseball's second no-hitter of the night ended on a leadoff double in the eighth inning by high school teammate Mike Brosseau, then Seth Brown hit a game-ending homer as host Oakland beat Tampa Bay.

Red Sox 6, Orioles 2: Bobby Dalbec snapped an 0-for-27 skid with a single and a three-run homer, powering visiting Boston over Baltimore.

Cardinals 5, Rockies 0: Jack Flaherty (6-0) hit his first career home run in his 117th at-bat and became the major leagues' first six-game winner, allowing three hits in seven innings to lead host St. Louis past Colorado.

Nationals 11, Yankees 4: Washington burst ahead in a six-run eighth inning that included three errors and Josh Harrison's three-run homer in a victory over host New York.

Angels 9, Dodgers 2: David

Fletcher drove in three runs on three hits, Shohei Ohtani had two RBI doubles and the Angels snapped their five-game losing streak.

Phillies 12, Braves 2: Odúbel Herrera hit a three-run homer in his team's six-run first inning and visiting Philadelphia set season highs for runs and hits (16) as it won its fifth straight.

Marlins 6, Brewers 1: Isan Díaz hit his first career grand slam, a third-inning drive off Patrick Weigel, as host Miami beat Milwaukee.

Cubs 3, Pirates 2: Zach Davies (2-2) allowed five hits in seven scoreless innings, and Rex Brothers retired Bryan Reynolds on a bases-loaded flyout for his first save since Sept. 29, 2013 as host Chicago beat Pittsburgh.

Astros 10, Blue Jays 4: Yuli Gurriel homered and tied a career high with four hits while driving in four runs, leading host Houston to a rout of Toronto.

Mariners 5, Rangers 4: Mitch Haniger had a tiebreaking RBI single in the seventh inning and visiting Seattle bounced back from being no-hit in its last game.

Twins 7, Tigers 3: Matt Shoemaker (2-3) pitched five scoreless innings and Kyle Garlick, Jorge Polanco and Max Kepler homered to lift visiting Minnesota over Detroit.

White Sox 3, Royals 0: Carlos Rodón (5-0) struck out eight and allowed five hits in six innings to lead visiting Chicago past Kansas City.

MLB

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	20	13	.606	—
Tampa Bay	18	16	.529	2½
Toronto	16	15	.516	3
New York	16	16	.500	3½
Baltimore	15	17	.469	4½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	17	13	.567	—
Cleveland	17	14	.548	½
Kansas City	16	15	.516	1½
Minnesota	12	19	.387	5½
Detroit	9	24	.273	9½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	20	14	.588	—
Seattle	18	15	.545	1½
Houston	17	15	.531	2
Texas	16	18	.471	4
Los Angeles	14	17	.452	4½
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	18	15	.545	—
New York	14	13	.519	1
Miami	15	16	.484	2
Atlanta	15	17	.469	2½
Washington	13	15	.464	2½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	19	14	.576	—
Milwaukee	17	16	.515	2
Chicago	16	16	.500	2½
Cincinnati	15	15	.500	2½
Pittsburgh	13	18	.419	5
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	19	13	.594	—
San Diego	18	15	.545	1½
Los Angeles	17	16	.515	2½
Arizona	15	17	.469	4
Colorado	12	20	.375	7

Friday's games

Washington 11, N.Y. Yankees 4
 Boston 6, Baltimore 2
 Minnesota 7, Detroit 3
 Seattle 5, Texas 4
 Cincinnati 3, Cleveland 0
 Chicago White Sox 3, Kansas City 0
 Houston 10, Toronto 4
 Oakland 2, Tampa Bay 1
 Chicago Cubs 3, Pittsburgh 2
 Miami 6, Milwaukee 1
 Philadelphia 12, Atlanta 2
 St. Louis 5, Colorado 0
 N.Y. Mets 5, Arizona 4, 10 innings
 L.A. Angels 9, L.A. Dodgers 2
 San Francisco 5, San Diego 4

Saturday's games

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

Sunday's games

Boston (Pivetta 4-0) at Baltimore (Kremers 0-2)
 Washington (Ross 2-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Germán 2-2)
 Cincinnati (Mahle 1-1) at Cleveland (Hentges 1-0)
 Minnesota (Maeda 2-2) at Detroit (Boyd 2-3)
 Chicago White Sox (Giolito 1-3) at Kansas City (Minor 2-1)
 Toronto (TBD) at Houston (Greinke 2-1)
 Seattle (Sheffield 2-2) at Texas (Dunning 1-2)
 L.A. Dodgers (Bauer 3-1) at L.A. Angels (Quintana 0-3)
 Tampa Bay (McClanahan 0-0) at Oakland (Irvin 3-3)
 Arizona (Smith 1-1) at N.Y. Mets (deGrom 2-2)
 Milwaukee (Lauer 1-1) at Miami (Alcantara 1-2)
 Colorado (Márquez 1-3) at St. Louis (Wainwright 1-3)
 Pittsburgh (Anderson 2-3) at Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 2-3)
 San Diego (TBD) at San Francisco (Cueto 2-0)
 Philadelphia (Nola 3-1) at Atlanta (Ynoa 3-1)

Monday's games

Boston at Baltimore
 L.A. Angels at Houston
 Texas at San Francisco
 Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
 San Diego at Colorado
 Miami at Arizona



PHOTOS BY TONY DEJAK/AP

Cincinnati Reds teammates mob Wade Miley (22) after he pitched a no-hitter in a 3-0 win over the Indians on Friday in Cleveland.

Reds' Miley throws no-hitter

Earliest in a calendar year there have been four no-hitters since 1917

BY TOM WITHERS
 Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Wade Miley's 4-year-old son, Jeb, convinced him to put a temporary tattoo of the Hulk on his right forearm for his start against the Indians.

He might need to get some permanent ink. "I got no muscles at all," Miley said, smiling. "Maybe this gave me some strength."

Miley pitched like a superhero. The Cincinnati left-hander tossed baseball's second no-hitter in three days — and fourth already this season — leading the Reds to a 3-0 win Friday night over the Cleveland Indians, who were no-hit for the second time in a month.

Miley (4-2) relied on breaking pitches and his experience of 11-plus major league seasons to baffle the Indians and throw Cincinnati's 17th no-hitter and first since Homer Bailey in 2013.

"It's so far-fetched," the 34-year-old said. "I'm speechless. It still hasn't sunk in."

The easy-going Miley said he shook off an 83-minute rain delay to start the game by "goofing off" in the clubhouse and then followed Baltimore's John Means, who no-hit Seattle on Wednesday, to continue an early run of pitching gems in 2021 — quickly becoming the Year of the No-No.

Miley's joined the '21 no-hitter club that was started by San Diego's Joe Musgrove, who threw the first in Padres' history on April 9. Five days later, Chicago White Sox left-hander Carlos Rodón blanked the Indians, just missing a perfect game when he hit a batter in the ninth inning.

Arizona's Madison Bumgarner pitched a seven-inning no-hitter against Atlanta on April 25, but that one isn't recognized as official because it didn't go nine innings.

This is the earliest in a calendar year there have been four no-hitters since 1917, when the fourth was thrown on May 5 and the fifth on May 6. It's no wonder, with hitters entering Friday batting a record-low .233 this season.

Miley was in control from the start. He coasted through five innings and carried a perfect game into the sixth, when he began to realize history could be made.

One of the team's most popular players, Miley said the zeros on the scoreboard quickly made him an outcast in Cincinnati's dugout.

"All my buddies left me," he said with a laugh. "I don't like that. I don't like thinking about pitching. I want to talk about something else, talk about fishing, talk about hitting. There was nobody to talk to."

In the ninth, Miley retired pinch-hitter René Rivera on a lazy fly to right, struck out César Hernández and then retired Jordan Luplow on a grounder to third before he was mobbed by the Reds, who encircled him and danced across the grass.

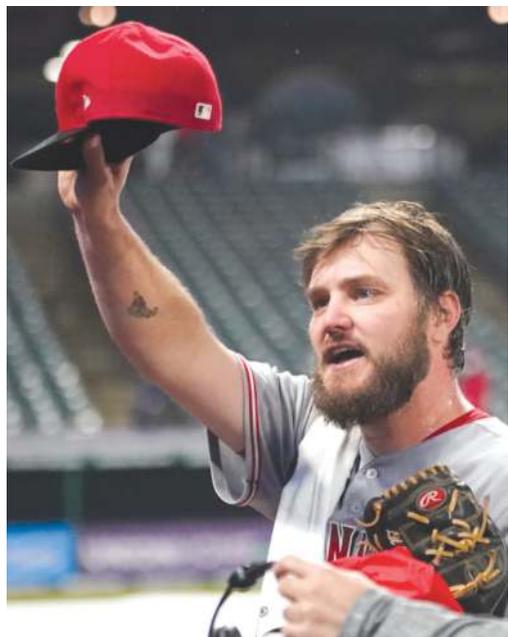
"I will never forget that," Reds manager David Bell said. "I will never forget the look on Wade's face. I'm so glad he's enjoying every moment."

For their part, the Indians joined a dubious list by becoming the 17th team to be no-hit twice in the same season. It most recently happened to Seattle in 2019.

Miley walked one and struck out eight on 114 pitches.

"He kept us off balance," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "He touched 90 (mph) once tonight, but he put on a clinic. I mean he cut the ball in on the righties, threw a change-up, threw a four-seamer in, he just went back and forth."

Cleveland curse: Not only have the Indians been no-hit twice this season, they've yet to



Left-hander Miley tossed baseball's second no-hitter in three days — and fourth already this season.

throw a no-hitter in Progressive Field, which opened in 1994.

Cleveland also has the longest current drought between no-hitters as the club's last one was Len Barker's perfect game in 1981.

Ervin Santana pitched the other no-hitter at Progressive Field in 2011 for the Angels.

Hey, Albert: With the Reds missing Joey Votto, and the Indians getting little production from their Yu Chang-Jake Bauers platoon at first base, Albert Pujols would seem like a possibility for either club.

The slugger was released earlier this week by the Los Angeles Angels.

However, Bell said Pujols "is not something we've discussed. We believe in the guys that we have."

SPORTS

Another no-hitter

Reds' Miley throws fourth of season, second in three days » MLB, Page 23



Following his dream

Former Syracuse QB Dungey still hoping to play football in a professional league

BY JOHN KEKIS
Associated Press

Former Syracuse quarterback Eric Dungey has been on an emotional ride that would test the mettle of most.

Not selected in the NFL Draft despite a record-setting college career. Cut as a free agent by the Giants and Browns. Saying goodbye to his father, who lost his life to cancer just over a year ago. The demise of the XFL before he could take a snap, a victim of the pandemic. Working part time in medical device sales to keep money coming in so he could train and stay in shape.

"It's been a crazy journey," Dungey said. "I was very grateful going to the New York Giants right out of college. Unfortunately, it was a little different than what I expected."

In spite of it all, Dungey hasn't given up on his dreams of playing pro ball and is hoping for another chance.

Drafted into The Spring League, an eight-team developmental circuit formed in 2017 to give players a place to showcase their talent, he was psyched for the season opener.

"It's an opportunity and a great opportunity, and I'm excited," said Dungey, who was set to lead the Blues against the Sea Lions in Houston on Friday night before the Cincinnati Bengals offered an invitation for a minicamp tryout, putting that start on hold. "I just can't wait to play some football finally after all this and everything I've been through."

Dungey's college credentials are impressive. He's the all-time leader at Syracuse in career yards passing (9,340), is tied for sixth in career touchdowns (93) in the Atlantic Coast Con-

SEE DREAM ON PAGE 22

Top: Syracuse quarterback Eric Dungey throws a pass against West Virginia during the first half of the Camping World Bowl on Dec. 28, 2018 in Orlando, Fla. Left: Still hoping to get a chance at playing professionally, Dungey has been invited to the Cincinnati Bengals' minicamp.

JOHN RAOUX, TOP, AND JULIO CORTEZ, LEFT/AP

Trail Blazers get key tiebreaker with win over Lakers » NBA, Page 21