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STARS AND STRIPES®

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CONTINGENCY EDITION

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022

Free to Deployed Areas

'An attempted coup'

Capitol riot panel lays the blame on Trump for 1/6 attack

BY LISA MASCARO,
MARY CLARE JALONICK
AND FARNOUSH AMIRI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House panel investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol laid the blame firmly on Donald Trump on Thursday night, saying the assault was hardly spontaneous but an "attempted coup" and a direct result of the defeated president's effort to overturn the 2020 election.

With a never-before-seen 12-minute video of extremist groups leading the deadly siege and startling testimony from Trump's most inner circle, the 1/6 committee provided gripping detail in contending that Trump's repeated lies about election fraud and his public effort to stop Joe Biden's victory led to the attack and imperiled American democracy.

"Democracy remains in danger," said Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., chairman of the panel, during the hearing, timed for prime time to reach as many Americans as possible.

"Jan. 6 was the culmination of an attempted coup, a brazen attempt, as one rioter put it shortly after Jan. 6, to overthrow the government," Thompson said. "The violence was no accident."

The hearings may not change Americans' views on the Capitol attack, but the panel's investigation is intended to stand as its public record. Ahead of this fall's mid-term elections, and with Trump considering another White House run, the committee's final report aims to account for the most violent attack on the Capitol since



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

An image of a mock gallows on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6th is shown as the House select committee investigating the attack holds its first public hearing at the Capitol in Washington on Thursday.

US service member is infected with monkeypox

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

An American service member based in Stuttgart, Germany, has been diagnosed with monkeypox, a spokesman for U.S. European Command confirmed to Stars and Stripes on Friday.

Lt. Cmdr. Russ Wolfkiel said he could not confirm the service member's gender or say when the positive test occurred. He added that the risk to the public is very low. Monkeypox is a rare disease from the same virus family as smallpox.

"The individual was seen and treated at the Stuttgart Army Health clinic and is currently in isolation recovering in their quarters," the Army's health clinic at Stuttgart stated on its Facebook page Friday afternoon.

Wolfkiel clarified that the service member is in isolation at an on-base residence.

As a precautionary measure, officials are doing contact tracing for clinic staffers who interacted with the patient and notifying anyone with whom the service member may have been in close contact with recently, Wolfkiel said.

The patient was infected with the West African variant, which is generally mild and has limited human-to-human transmission, according to the health clinic statement.

CNN first reported the Stuttgart case, which is believed to be the first one in the U.S. military. However, EUCOM could not confirm that Friday.

Since early May, about 900 confirmed cases of monkeypox have been reported across 21 European

SEE RIOT ON PAGE 6

SEE MONKEYPOX ON PAGE 3

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Fire at LNG terminal in Texas jolts fuel markets

Associated Press

NEW YORK — An explosion at a liquefied natural gas terminal in Texas is taking a substantial amount of the fuel off the market at a time when global demand is soaring.

Freeport LNG will be offline for at least three weeks, the company said Thursday, following a fire in its export facility. The company said no one was injured, and the cause is under investigation.

Normally, Freeport LNG exports about 2 billion cubic feet of

liquefied natural gas per day, about 15% of the nation's LNG exports. The shutdown comes at a time when global demand for LNG is high because many nations are trying to wean themselves off Russian gas, which is sent into Europe primarily through pipelines. U.S. exports have been soaring.

Most of Freeport LNG's exports were going to Europe, according to Rystad Energy. Europe may be able to offset the lost volume with increases from other facilities, said Emily McClain, vice presi-

dent at Rystad. Europe gets about 45% of its LNG from the U.S.

Freeport LNG sells gas to a mix of buyers including major oil and gas companies, Asian utilities and commodities traders, and "those buyers will no longer be getting deliveries from Freeport until the facility is fixed," said Ross Wyeno, lead analyst at S&P Global Commodity Insights. Wyeno said it's unlikely that other LNG terminals around the world can pick up the slack because "everybody's pretty much maxed out if they can be."

EXCHANGE RATES			
Military rates		South Korea (Won)	
Euro costs (June 13)	\$1.03	Switzerland (Franc)	0.9882
Dollar buys (June 13)	0.9195	Thailand (Baht)	34.79
British pound (June 13)	\$1.22	Turkey (NewLira)	17.0198
Japanese yen (June 13)	130.00	(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.)	
South Korean won (June 13)	1232.00	INTEREST RATES	
Commercial rates		Prime rate	4.00
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769	Interest Rates Discount rate	1.50
Britain (Pound)	1.2368	Federal funds market rate	0.08
Canada (Dollar)	1.2784	3-month bill	1.28
China (Yuan)	6.7154	30-year bond	3.17
Denmark (Krone)	7.0663		
Egypt (Pound)	18.7099		
Euro	0.9500		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8497		
Hungary (Forint)	377.57		
Israel (Shekel)	3.3905		
Japan (Yen)	134.25		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3064		
Norway (Krone)	9.6690		
Philippines (Peso)	53.10		
Poland (Zloty)	4.38		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7513		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3860		

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MILITARY

No deaths in 2nd aircraft crash in 2 days

**BY JULIE WATSON
AND LOLITA C. BALDOR**
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A Navy helicopter crashed Thursday and everyone on board survived near the California desert site where a day earlier a Marine Osprey went down, killing all five people aboard, authorities said.

Four people were aboard the Navy chopper, which went down around 6 p.m. on a training range while conducting a routine train-

ing flight from Naval Air Facility El Centro, according to the base. The helicopter is an MH-60S Seahawk assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 3 based at Naval Air Station North Island.

One crew member received an injury that was not life-threatening and was taken to a hospital, the base said.

The crash site was originally described as being about 35 miles north of Yuma, Ariz.

A day earlier, all five Marines

on board a tiltrotor aircraft were killed when it crashed in the California desert near the Arizona border, the Marine Corps said Thursday.

The MV-22 Osprey went down at 12:25 p.m. Wednesday during training in a remote area in Imperial County near the community of Glamis, about 115 miles east of San Diego and about 50 miles from Yuma.

The aircraft was based at Camp Pendleton with Marine Aircraft

Group 39 and was part of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing headquartered at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego.

“We mourn the loss of our Marines in this tragic mishap,” Maj. Gen. Bradford J. Gering, commanding general of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, said in a statement. “Our hearts go out to their families and friends as they cope with this tragedy.”

The statement said as a matter of policy, the Marine Corps would

be contacting family members before identifying those who were killed. Efforts to recover equipment were underway and an investigation into the cause of the crash has started. No additional details were provided in the Marine Corps statement.

The Marines were participating in a routine live-fire training over their gunnery range in the Imperial Valley desert, said Marine Maj. Mason Englehart, spokesperson for the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

House seeks more oversight on privatized housing amid hazards

BY SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Private military housing companies would be subject to increased congressional scrutiny under draft legislation that House lawmakers approved Thursday for the Pentagon’s annual budget.

A subpanel of the House Armed Services Committee voted to require the Defense Department to provide annual briefings on the health and status of private military family housing projects, adding a layer of oversight to a privatized housing system that has repeatedly exposed service members to poor living conditions.

The measure will be marked up by the full committee on June 22 for the fiscal 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, an annual military policy and spending bill.

Lawmakers have taken an ac-

tive interest in improving the state of privatized housing after persistent complaints of mold, asbestos, roof leaks, rodent infestations, electrical and fire hazards, and other dangerous conditions.

“People are our greatest asset,” said Rep. John Garamendi, D-Calif., the subpanel’s chairman. “We continue our work to ensure that our civilians, service members and their families are well taken care of.”

In April, a Senate investigation revealed a military housing company that pleaded guilty to defrauding the Army, Navy and Air Force continued to provide unsafe housing. An Army captain testifying at a congressional hearing on the report said his young daughter developed a painful skin condition due to black mold in their home.

Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., noted at the hearing in April that such

stories have become commonplace in privatized housing.

“How can we get this under control?” he said. “This seems to be a problem that has just plagued military housing. The military doesn’t want to deal with housing, so they contracted outside. Then you don’t sit at the controls, so the contractors do the type of job that we all expect.”

Problems with privatized housing came to the forefront after a 2019 investigation by Reuters showed the squalid conditions that many American military families lived in. Congress approved sweeping overhaul measures in response, including a tenant bill of rights that gave residents more leverage with their landlords, but advocates have argued more needs to be done.

The Senate Armed Services Committee is expected to address



ALEXANDRIA CRAWFORD/U.S. Air Force

Privatized military housing at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

military housing in its version of the defense authorization bill after voicing funding concerns last month.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., criticized the Army for decreasing its budget request for construction and family housing by 40% from last year while Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., took issue with a lack of progress on replacing aging Army garrison homes in his state.

“We need to fix our shameful military housing problem, and we need to do it as quickly as possi-

ble,” Warren said.

House lawmakers agreed on another housing reform measure Thursday that would standardize housing requirements across military installations by mandating military departments conduct analyses every five years.

The 2020 NDAA directed all service branches to launch independent inspections of more than 200,000 military homes managed by private companies.

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US OKs sale of \$120M in warship parts to Taiwan

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The United States approved a sale of \$120 million in warship parts to Taiwan in a move that drew the ire of China during a Chinese Foreign Ministry news briefing Thursday.

The State Department on Wednesday announced it approved a possible foreign military sale to the independently governed island of Taiwan. The deal would include “ship spare parts, ship system spare parts and related equipment,” according to the announcement.

“This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient’s continuing efforts to maintain a credible defensive capability,” the State Department said. “The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.”

The sale comes as tensions between the U.S. and China over Taiwan simmer. The U.S. continues to support Taiwan’s right to defend itself and adheres to the One China policy, which states the U.S. acknowledges that China claims control over Taiwan but the U.S. considers the island’s sovereignty unsettled.



TAIWAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

The Taiwanese ship ROCS Chi Kuang launches a missile May 27, during an annual training event in the Philippine Sea.

Taiwan split from mainland China in 1949 and has its own democratically elected government.

“China firmly opposes and strongly condemns” the sale, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters Thursday.

“U.S. arms sales to China’s Taiwan region seriously violate the One China principle ... gravely undermine China’s sovereignty and security interests, and severely harm China-U.S. relations, and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait,” he said.

Zhao urged the U.S. to scrap the deal and threatened that China would “take resolute and strong measures to firmly defend its sovereignty and security interests.”

“The U.S. should abide by the One China principle ... revoke the arms sales plan, and stop arms sales to and military ties with Taiwan,” he said.

The State Department in its announcement said the sale “will not alter the basic military balance in the region.”

“The proposed sale will contribute to the sustainment of the recipient’s surface vessel fleet, enhancing its ability to meet current and future threats,” the department said. “The proposed sale will contribute to the recipient’s goal of maintaining its military capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies.”

Interoperability is the government’s term to describe two militaries being able to work together on each other’s systems and platforms.

The equipment will come from the Navy’s stock of parts and approved Navy vendors, according to the announcement.

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Monkeypox: Officials start contact tracing

FROM PAGE 1

countries, according to information from the Army’s Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

In a Facebook post Friday, the hospital advised measures people can take to prevent infection: practice safe sex and good hand hygiene, and don’t touch lesions suspected to be monkeypox or anything that’s come into direct contact with such lesions.

People who come into close contact with someone confirmed to have monkeypox should notify their medical provider and self-monitor for symptoms for 21 days after the last close contact, according to the hospital.

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MILITARY

Immigration enforcement will weigh military service

By SARA SAMORA

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Veterans who are not American citizens and are detained by law enforcement officials will now have their U.S. military service considered before they are deported, according to a new directive from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

“ICE values the incredible contributions of noncitizens who have served in the U.S. military,” ICE Acting Director Tae D. Johnson said. “Through this directive, ICE will consider U.S. military service by a noncitizen or their immediate family members when determining whether to take civil immigration enforcement decisions against a noncitizen.”

ICE and U.S. Border Patrol officials must now ask a noncitizen whether they have served in the U.S. military, including the National Guard and Reserve, or whether they have immediate family members who have served before deciding whether they should detain, deport or release that person.

ICE officials are required to consider a veteran’s employment history, health, community service, deployments to war zones,

military decorations, and years in service. However, a 2019 report by the Government Accountability Office found ICE didn’t follow those policies. Department of Homeland Security agents told the GAO that they were unaware of the policies and didn’t distinguish between veterans and nonveterans. Thus, ICE did not track how many veterans were deported or whether their military service was considered before being deported. ICE is a federal law enforcement agency within the Department of Homeland Security.

ICE officials said the new directive would establish the practice as an official agency policy and improve its training, tracking and reporting requirements. ICE also will be required to develop and carry out a data system to keep track of noncitizen service members and veterans while respecting their civil liberties and privacy interests.

“We are pleased that ICE has formalized its policy to consider military service prior to taking civil immigration enforcement actions, and that the policy applies to immediate family members as well,” said Mario Marquez, director of national security division of The American Legion. “However,

the lack of consideration given to veterans in the past has contributed to the unnecessary deportation of many immigrant veterans.”

The policy is part of a joint initiative by the departments of Homeland Security, Veterans Affairs and Defense launched last July. The Immigrant Military Members and Veterans Initiative supports noncitizen U.S. service members, veterans and their immediate family members.

For the VA’s part, the agency works with Homeland Security and others to identify deported veterans and assist them with the benefits that they might be eligible to receive.

One of the initiative’s primary focuses is recognizing a noncitizen’s military service and tracking the outcomes of all military-associated cases, according to Debra Rogers, director of the Immigrant Military Members and Veterans Initiative. Rogers was set to testify in May before a House subcommittee hearing on immigration and citizenship, but the hearing was postponed.

Rogers also said Homeland Security began reviewing its policies regarding individuals associated with the military last August.



ICE Office of Public Affairs

A U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer patrols a removal flight.

Last year, the VA and Homeland Security organized vaccination clinics at San Ysidro, Calif., and the Bridge of the Americas Port of Entry in El Paso, Texas, to vaccinate deported veterans, their families and caregivers.

In February, the VA, Defense Department and Homeland Security launched two online resources through the Immigrant Military Members and Veterans Initiative. One is a one-stop resource center that consolidates resources and forms from Homeland Security, the VA, Defense Department, and other agencies for noncitizen service members or veterans and their families.

The other resource is a portal on Homeland Security’s website that allows deported veterans to contact the agency for help with their

questions or issues regarding their return to the U.S. or VA benefits.

Marquez said The American Legion is working with Congress to codify policies and programs such as the joint initiative to provide long-term support to immigrant veterans and their families.

“The American Legion applauds the joint initiative to support noncitizen service members, veterans, and their families since ready access to information about resources and their hard-earned benefits is critical,” Marquez said. “We have been in touch with VA and look forward to seeing this new initiative reach all veterans in need of such assistance.”

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Army couple charged with stealing \$2M in military gear

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

Federal prosecutors have charged two soldiers who are married and stationed in North Carolina with netting some \$2 million in a multiyear scheme to sell stolen military equipment, according to an indictment unsealed this week.

The 14-page indictment charges Chief Warrant Officer 3 Christopher Hammond used his position as an armament systems maintenance warrant officer in Fort Bragg’s Group Support Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group to request Army gear including firearms parts, night-vision goggles and all-terrain vehicles, and taking the equipment for himself and selling it illegally to civilian buyers. It also charges his wife, Army Maj. Heather Hammond, an ROTC instructor at North Carolina’s Campbell University, aided and abetted her husband’s scheme.

Prosecutors said the thefts occurred between December 2018 and April 2022. They claim Christopher Hammond used his Army email to request goods from the Defense Logistics Agency and at



TNS

Federal prosecutors have charged two soldiers who are married and stationed in North Carolina with netting some \$2 million in a multiyear scheme to sell stolen military equipment.

least one manufacturer, which he claimed were for his unit. The Hammonds pocketed dozens of items and sold at least some for a profit of at least \$2,011,841, according to the indictment. The pair funneled the money through a bank account and investment accounts, according to prosecu-

tors.

The stolen weapons parts included gun barrels, firearms magazines, firing pins, gun bolts and scopes, prosecutors said. They also said Christopher Hammond wrongfully requested and took tools, gym equipment, electric guitars, bayonets and a

sword. It was not clear whether he sold all the gear that he requested or if he kept some for himself.

A grand jury issued the indictment last month, and it was unsealed Monday after the couple turned themselves into law enforcement, according to Justice Department and Army officials. An initial court hearing for the pair had yet to be scheduled as of Thursday.

A spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina declined comment on the case. Army spokespersons also declined comment Thursday on specific details of the Hammonds’ case, but they confirmed the soldiers had surrendered voluntarily.

“As always, all soldiers are presumed innocent until proven guilty,” said Army Maj. Rick Dickson, a spokesperson for Fort Bragg’s 1st Special Forces Command, which oversees the service’s Special Forces units, including 3rd Special Forces Group.

Lt. Col. Nichole Downs, a spokeswoman for U.S. Army Cadet Command, which oversees ROTC personnel, said the Fort Knox,

Ky.-based command was “aware of the federal indictment against Maj. Heather Hammond and will fully cooperate, if asked.”

Christopher Hammond faces five charges including embezzlement and theft of government property, wire fraud and money laundering. Heather Hammond faces a charge that she knowingly used laundered money and aided her husband’s scheme.

It was not clear Thursday whether the couple had retained lawyers.

Christopher Hammond’s Army biography was not available Thursday, according to the service. Dickson said Hammond had been stationed at 3rd Special Forces Group since 2018, but he was not a Green Beret.

Heather Hammond has served 11 years in the Army and is a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, according to Downs. She is assigned as an assistant professor of military science at Campbell University, a private college located in Buies Creek, N.C., about 20 miles north of Fort Bragg.

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EUROPE



OLEKSANDR RATUSHNIAK/AP

A Ukrainian soldier makes his way amid rubble during heavy fighting at the front line in Severodonetsk, Luhansk region, Ukraine, Wednesday.

Ukraine: Up to 200 soldiers die daily; solicits more arms

By DAVID KEYTON
AND YURAS KARMANAU
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Up to 200 Ukrainian soldiers are being killed every day in Russia’s military onslaught, according to an adviser to Ukraine’s president — and only more and more advanced Western weaponry will turn back the Russian offensive, reduce the casualties and force Moscow to the negotiating table.

Mykhailo Podolyak told the BBC in an interview aired Thursday that the daily loss of between 100 and 200 Ukrainian soldiers is the result of a “complete lack of parity” between Ukraine and Russia, which has “thrown pretty much everything non-nuclear at the front” in its bid to advance in Ukraine’s eastern Donbas region and beyond.

Recently Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy put the daily death toll at up to 100, but Podolyak said it had grown. Ukrainian officials have pointed at the mounting losses to emphasize their demand for more Western weapons, which have been critical to the country’s unexpected success in holding off the larger and better equipped Russian forces.

After a bungled attempt to overrun Kyiv in the early days of the war, Russia shifted its focus to the Donbas region of coal mines and factories. But its progress there has been plodding.

Podolyak said delivery of state-of-the-art artillery systems would not only curb Ukraine’s death toll, it would help its forces reclaim seized territory.

“There’s something really important thing that our partners need to understand, and that’s until Russia suffers a serious military defeat, no form of dialogue will be possible and they will continue to be able to try and take parts of our country,” he said.

Podolyak also addressed Western fears that Western rocket launchers in the hands of Ukraine’s forces would be used to strike targets inside Russia and potentially escalate the conflict to a wider conflagration, saying that “it won’t happen.”

Street battles

The slog in the Donbas continued Friday, with a Ukrainian governor saying forces are fighting “for every house and every street” in Sievierodonetsk, the recent focus of clashes. Sievierodonetsk is in the last pocket of the Luhansk region that has not yet been claimed by Russia.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai told The Associated Press that Ukrainian forces retain control of the industrial zone on the edge of the city and some other sections, and painstaking block-by-block fighting continues.

Zelenskyy said late Thursday that while the situation in the Don-

bas is static, Ukrainian forces had made some progress in the Zaporizhzhia region in the south, where the Ukrainian troops have been able to “spoil the plans of the occupiers.” He gave no specifics.

Britain labels trial ‘sham’

The British government said Russia must take responsibility for the “sham trial” of two Britons and a Moroccan who were sentenced to death for fighting against Russian forces in Ukraine.

Britons Aiden Aslin and Shaun Pinner and Moroccan Brahim Saadoun were convicted by a court run by pro-Moscow separatist authorities in the self-proclaimed Donetsk People’s Republic, which is not recognized internationally.

Separatist authorities argued that the men were “mercenaries” not entitled to the usual protections accorded prisoners of war.

Aslin’s and Pinner’s families have said that the two men were long-serving members of the Ukrainian military. Saadoun’s father told a Moroccan online newspaper that his son is not a mercenary and that he holds Ukrainian citizenship.

Government minister Robin Walker said Friday that it was “an illegal court in a sham government” but that the U.K. would use “all diplomatic channels to make the case that these are prisoners of war who should be treated accordingly.”

Ukraine fears war ‘fatigue’ in West

By COLLEEN BARRY
AND YURAS KARMANAU
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — As Russia’s invasion of Ukraine grinds into its fourth month, officials in Kyiv have expressed fears that the specter of “war fatigue” could erode the West’s resolve to help the country push back Moscow’s aggression.

The U.S. and its allies have given billions of dollars in weaponry to Ukraine. Europe has taken in millions of people displaced by the war. And there has been unprecedented unity in post-World War II Europe in imposing sanctions on President Vladimir Putin and his country.

But as the shock of the Feb. 24 invasion subsides, analysts say the Kremlin could exploit a dragged-out, entrenched conflict and possible waning interest among Western powers that might lead to pressuring Ukraine into a settlement.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy already has chafed at Western suggestions he should accept some sort of compromise. Ukraine, he said, would decide its own terms for peace.

“The fatigue is growing; people want some kind of outcome (that is beneficial) for themselves, and we want (another) outcome for ourselves,” he said.

An Italian peace proposal was dismissed, and French President Emmanuel Macron was met with an angry backlash after he was quoted as saying that although Putin’s invasion was a “historic error,” world powers shouldn’t “humiliate Russia, so when the fighting stops, we can build a way out together via diplomatic paths.” Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said such talk “can only humiliate France and every other country that would call for it.”

Even a remark by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger that Ukraine should consider territorial concessions drew a retort from Zelenskyy that it was tantamount to European powers in 1938 letting Nazi Germany claim parts of Czechoslovakia to curb Adolf Hitler’s aggression.

Kyiv wants to push Russia out of the newly captured areas in eastern and southern Ukraine, as well as retaking Crimea, which Moscow annexed in 2014, and parts of the Donbas under control of Kremlin-backed separatists for the past eight years.

Every month of the war is costing Ukraine \$5 billion, said Volodymyr Fesenko, political analyst with the Penta Center think tank, and that “makes Kyiv dependent



UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE/AP
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, left, listens to a report from service members close to the front line in Donetsk region, Ukraine, Sunday.

on the consolidated position of the Western countries.”

Ukraine will need even more advanced weaponry to secure victory, along with Western determination to keep up the economic pain on Russia to weaken Moscow.

“It is obvious that Russia is determined to wear down the West and is now building its strategy on the assumption that Western countries will get tired and gradually begin to change their militant rhetoric to a more accommodating one,” Fesenko said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The war still gets prominent coverage in both the United States and Europe, which have been horrified by images of the deaths of Ukrainian civilians in the biggest fighting on the continent since World War II.

The U.S. continues to help Ukraine, with President Joe Biden saying last week that Washington will provide it with advanced rocket systems and munitions that will enable it to more precisely strike key targets on the battlefield.

In a New York Times essay on May 31, Biden said, “I will not pressure the Ukrainian government — in private or public — to make any territorial concessions.”

Germany, which had faced criticism from Kyiv and elsewhere for perceived hesitancy, has pledged its most modern air defense systems yet.

“There has been nothing like it, even in the Cold War when the Soviet Union appeared most threatening,” said Nigel Gould-Davies, senior fellow for Russia and Eurasia at the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

While he doesn’t see a significant erosion in the “emphatic support for Ukraine,” Gould-Davies said “there are hints of different tensions over what the West’s goals should be. Those have not yet been clearly defined.”

NATION

Capitol officer recounts 'war scene' in testimony

By FARNOUSH AMIRI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Capitol Police Officer Caroline Edwards described to lawmakers the “war scene” that she and other officers faced when rioters began viciously attacking them on Jan. 6, 2021.

“It was something like I’ve seen in movies. I couldn’t believe my eyes,” Edwards said.

“There were officers on the ground. They were bleeding. I was slipping in people’s blood.”

“It was carnage,” she said. “It was chaos.”

The raw and graphic testimony from Edwards Thursday night played out in the first public hearing on the findings of the House committee investigating the insurrection on the U.S. Capitol.

“Never in my wildest dreams did I think as a police officer, as a law enforcement officer that I would find myself in the middle of a battle,” Edwards said. “I am not

combat-trained. That day it was just hours of hand-to-hand combat.”

Her recollections of the day spotlighted the police officers who fought for hours as a violent mob of pro-Trump rioters, some armed with pipes, bats and bear spray, charged into the Capitol, quickly overrunning the overwhelmed police force. More than 100 police officers were injured, many beaten, bloodied and bruised.

Over her shoulder as Edwards testified sat fellow Capitol Police officers Harry Dunn and Aquilino Gonell and Metropolitan Police Officer Michael Fanone, all of whom testified at a hearing last summer about the violence they endured. There were moments in her testimony that brought Dunn, a 13-year veteran of the force, to tears.

Edwards’ testimony was accompanied by a barrage of never-before-seen footage, testimony

and evidence the committee has gathered in the past 11 months to document how then-President Donald Trump’s words and actions led to the assault on the Capitol. Officers are seen in the footage being pummeled with flagpoles, trashcans and bike racks.

“My literal blood, sweat tears were shed in defending the building I spent countless holidays and weekends working in,” Edwards said.

She said suffered a concussion after rioters forced a bike rack over the top of her head, pushing her backward. “I blacked out,” she said, adding that she experienced fainting spells for months after the insurrection.

But the moment Edwards recalled most vividly was the moment when she saw fellow officer Brian Sicknick turn “ghostly pale.”

Sicknick, who was injured while confronting rioters during the



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

U.S. Capitol Police officer Caroline Edwards testifies Thursday before the House select committee on the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Jan. 6 insurrection, suffered a stroke and died from natural causes the day after the attack. Members of his family sat alongside officers Dunn and Gonell as Edwards described his injuries. Before she could go to help Sicknick, Edwards said, she was pepper-sprayed by the mob.

Committee vice chair Liz Cheney thanked Edwards and the other officers and their families for

being there and assisting in their investigation. The Wyoming Republican noted the sacrifice the officers made that day with the limited resources and equipment they had been given.

“As part of our investigation, we will present information about what the White House and other intelligence agencies knew, and why the Capitol was not better prepared,” Cheney said.

Riot: Testimonies show rioters went to Capitol after Trump’s statement

FROM PAGE 1

1814, and to ensure such an attack never happens again.

Testimony showed Thursday how Trump desperately clung to his own false claims of election fraud, beckoning supporters to the Capitol on Jan. 6 when Congress would certify the results, despite those around him insisting Biden had won the election.

In a previously unseen video clip, the panel played a quip from former Attorney General Bill Barr who testified that he told Trump the claims of a rigged election were “bull—.”

In another, the former president’s daughter, Ivanka Trump, testified to the committee that she respected Barr’s view that there was no election fraud. “I accepted what he said.”

Others showed leaders of the extremist Oath Keepers and Proud Boys preparing to storm the Capitol to stand up for Trump. One rioter after another told the committee they came to the Capitol because Trump asked them to.

“President Trump summoned a violent mob,” said Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., the panel’s vice chair who took the lead for much of the hearing. “When a president fails to take the steps necessary to preserve our union — or worse, causes a constitutional crisis — we’re in a moment of maximum danger for our republic.”

There was an audible gasp in



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Vice Chair Liz Cheney gives her opening remarks at Thursday’s first public hearing of the House select committee on the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

the hearing room when Cheney read an account that said when Trump was told the Capitol mob was chanting for Vice President Mike Pence to be hanged for refusing to block the election results. Trump responded that maybe they were right, that he “deserves it.”

At another point it was disclosed that Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., a leader of efforts to object to the election results, had sought a pardon from Trump, which would protect him from prosecution.

When asked about the White House lawyers threatening to resign over what was happening in the administration, Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner scoffed they were “whining.”

Police officers who had fought off the mob consoled one another as they sat in the committee room reliving the violence they faced on Jan. 6. Officer Harry Dunn teared up as bodycam footage showed rioters bludgeoning his colleagues with flagpoles and baseball bats.

The riot left more than 100 police officers injured, many beaten and bloodied, as the crowd of pro-Trump rioters, some armed with pipes, bats and bear spray, charged into the Capitol. At least nine people who were there died during and after the rioting, including a woman who was shot and killed by police.

Biden, in Los Angeles for the Summit of the Americas, said many viewers were “going to be seeing for the first time a lot of the detail that occurred.”

Trump, unapologetic, dismissed the investigation anew — and even declared on social media that Jan. 6 “represented the greatest movement in the history of our country.”

Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee tweeted: “All. Old. News.”

Emotions are still raw at the Capitol, and security was tight. Law enforcement officials are reporting a spike in violent threats against members of Congress.

Against this backdrop, the committee was speaking to a divided America. Most TV networks carried the hearing live, but Fox News Channel did not.

The committee chairman, civil rights leader Thompson, opened the hearing with the sweep of American history, saying he heard in those denying the stark reality of Jan. 6 his own experience growing up in a time and place “where people justified the action of slavery, the Ku Klux Klan and lynching.”

Republican Rep. Cheney, the daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, outlined what the committee has learned about the events leading up to that brisk January day when Trump sent his supporters to Congress to “fight like hell” for his presidency.

Among those testifying was documentary maker Nick Quested, who filmed the Proud Boys storming the Capitol — along with a pivotal meeting between the group’s then-chairman Henry “Enrique” Tarrío and another extremist group, the Oath Keepers, the night before in nearby parking garage. Quested said the Proud Boys later went to get tacos.

Court documents show that members of the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers were discussing as early as November a need to fight to keep Trump in office. Leaders both groups and some members have since been indicted on rare sedition charges over the military-style attack.

In the weeks ahead, the panel is expected to detail Trump’s public campaign to “Stop the Steal” and the private pressure he put on the

Justice Department to reverse his election loss — despite dozens of failed court cases attesting there was no fraud on a scale that could have tipped the results in his favor.

The panel faced obstacles from its start. Republicans blocked the formation of an independent body that could have investigated the Jan. 6 assault the way the 9/11 Commission probed the 2001 terror attack.

Instead, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi ushered the creation of the 1/6 panel through Congress and rejected Republican-appointed lawmakers who had voted on Jan. 6 against certifying the election results, eventually naming seven Democrats and two Republicans.

House GOP Leader Kevin McCarthy, who has been caught up in the probe and has defied the committee’s subpoena for an interview, called the panel a “scam.”

In the audience were several lawmakers who were trapped together in the House gallery during the attack.

“We want to remind people, we were there, we saw what happened,” said Rep. Dean Phillips, D-Minn. “We know how close we came to the first non-peaceful transition of power in this country.”

The Justice Department has arrested and charged more than 800 people for the violence that day, the biggest dragnet in its history.

NATION

Biden, leaders reached migrant pact at summit

By **ELLIOT SPAGAT**
AND **CHRIS MEGHERIAN**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — President Joe Biden and other Western Hemisphere leaders are set to announce on Friday what is being billed as a roadmap for countries to host large numbers of migrants and refugees.

“The Los Angeles Declaration” is perhaps the biggest achievement of the Summit of the Americas, which was undercut by differences over Biden’s invitation list. Leaders of Mexico and several Central American countries sent top diplomats instead after the U.S. excluded Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

A set of principles to be announced Friday on the summit’s final day includes legal pathways to enter countries, aid to communities most affected by migration, humane border management and coordinated emergency responses, according to a senior U.S. official who briefed reporters ahead of an official announce-

ment. It is a blueprint already being followed to a large extent by Colombia and Ecuador, whose right-leaning leaders were saluted at the summit for giving temporary legal status to many of the 6 million people who have left Venezuela in recent years.

President Guillermo Lasso of Ecuador last week announced temporary status for Venezuelans in his country, estimated to be around 500,000. He said at a panel discussion Tuesday that his country was paying back the generosity of Spain and the United States for welcoming large numbers of Ecuadoreans who fled more than two decades ago.

President Iván Duque of Colombia got standing ovations at an appearance Thursday for describing how his government has granted temporary status to 1 million Venezuelans in the last 14 months and is processing another 800,000 applications.

“We did it out of conviction,” Duque told The Associated Press,



JAE C. HONG/AP

Vice President Kamala Harris, second from left, talks to the media as she is joined by Suriname President Chan Santokhi of Suriname, Guyana President Irfaan Ali and Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne, from left, at the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, on Thursday.

saying he couldn’t be indifferent to Venezuelans who lost their homes and livelihoods and was prepared to suffer in approval ratings.

“They were invisible (in Colombia),” he said. “They couldn’t open bank accounts, they couldn’t work, they couldn’t get health care. They were practically a community with no future.”

While the measures are not universally popular — Duque’s vice president, Marta Lucia Ramirez has

said Colombia has reached its limit and Ecuadoreans notice when a Venezuelan commits a high-profile crime — Venezuelans have generally assimilated without major backlash.

“The two most dangerous phenomena are xenophobia and indifference, and I believe we have managed to conquer both (in Colombia),” Duque said.

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said Thursday

that the summit declaration acknowledged migration’s regional dimensions. He and other U.S. officials applauded efforts of Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica and Panama, among others, for accepting migrants and refugees, and noted that the U.S. has granted refuge from natural disasters and civil strife to hundreds of thousands of Salvadorans, Haitians, Venezuelans and others under what is known as Temporary Protected Status.

DOJ opens probe into Louisiana’s State Police

Associated Press
BATON ROUGE, La. — The U.S. Justice Department is opening a civil rights investigation into the Louisiana State Police amid mounting evidence that the agency has a pattern of looking the other way in the face of beatings of mostly Black men, including the deadly 2019 arrest of Ronald Greene.

The federal “pattern-or-practice” probe announced Thursday followed an Associated Press investigation that found Greene’s arrest was among at least a dozen cases over the past decade in which state police troopers or their bosses ignored or concealed evidence of beatings, deflected blame and impeded efforts to root out misconduct. Dozens of current and former troopers said the beatings were countenanced by a culture of impunity, nepotism and, in some cases, outright racism.

“We find significant justification to open this investigation now. ... We received information of the repeated use of excessive force, often against people suspected of minor traffic offenses, who are already handcuffed or are not resisting,” said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke, who oversees the Justice Department’s civil rights division. She added there were also reports of troopers targeting Black residents in traffic enforcement and using “racial slurs and racially derogatory terms.”

The federal probe, the first such action against a statewide law enforcement agency in more than two decades, comes more than three years after white troopers were captured on long-withheld body-camera video beating, stunning and dragging Greene on a rural roadside near Monroe. Despite lengthy, ongoing



LOUISIANA STATE POLICE/AP

Louisiana State Trooper Jacob Brown slams motorist DeShawn Washington against the hood of a police cruiser during a traffic stop, March 2, 2019, in Ouachita Parish, La., after troopers found marijuana in the trunk of Washington’s car.

ing federal and state criminal investigations into a death troopers initially blamed on a car crash, no one has been charged.

AP’s reporting found troopers have made a habit of turning off or muting body cameras during pursuits. When footage is recorded, the agency has routinely refused to release it. And a recently retired supervisor who oversaw a particularly violent clique of troopers told internal investigators last year that it was his “common practice” to rubber-stamp officers’ use-of-force reports without ever reviewing body-camera video.

Clarke said the civil “pattern-or-practice” probe is aimed at driving needed reforms, if necessary by suing to implement a federal consent decree. She added that Gov. John Bel Edwards and the superintendent of the Louisiana State Police, Lamar Davis, have pledged their cooperation.

Uvalde school police chief defends shooting response

Associated Press
AUSTIN, Texas — The Texas school police chief criticized for his actions during one of the deadliest classroom shootings in U.S. history said in his first extensive comments, published Thursday, that he did not consider himself the person in charge as the massacre unfolded and assumed someone else had taken control of the law enforcement response.

Pete Arredondo, the police chief of the Uvalde school district, also told the Texas Tribune that he intentionally left behind both his police and campus radios before entering Robb Elementary School. An 18-year-old gunman killed 19 children and two teachers behind a locked classroom door that the chief said was reinforced with a steel jamb and could not be kicked in.

Poor radio communications is among the concerns raised about how police handled the May 24 shooting and why they didn’t confront the gunman for more than an hour, even as anguished parents outside the school urged officers to go in.

Separately, The New York Times reported Thursday that documents show police waited for protective equipment as they de-

layed entering the campus, even as they became aware that some victims needed medical treatment.

Arredondo told the Tribune that from the hallway of the school he used his cell phone to call for tactical gear, a sniper and keys to get inside the classroom. He said he held back from the door for 40 minutes to avoid provoking gunfire and tried dozens of keys brought to him, but that, one-by-one, they failed to work.

“Each time I tried a key I was just praying,” he told the Tribune.

In the more than two weeks since the shooting, Arredondo’s actions have come under intensifying scrutiny from both state officials and experts trained in mass shooting responses. Steven McCraw, the head of the Texas Department of Public Safety, has said the school police chief, who he described as the incident commander, made the “wrong decision” to not order officers to breach the classroom more quickly to confront the gunman.

But Arredondo said he never considered himself the scene’s incident commander and did not give any instruction that police should not attempt to breach the building.

NASA to join in the hunt for UFOs

BY CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — NASA is joining the hunt for UFOs, a top space agency official said Thursday, forming a team that would examine “observations of events that cannot be identified as aircraft or known natural phenomena.”

The space agency would bring a scientific perspective to efforts already underway by the Pentagon and intelligence agencies to make sense of dozens of such sightings, Thomas Zurbuchen, the head of NASA’s science mission directorate, said during a speech before the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. He said it was “high-risk, high-impact” research that the space agency should not shy away from, even if it is a controversial field of study.

The announcement comes just weeks after a rare and historic hearing before Congress on sightings of what the Defense Department calls Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, more commonly known as UFOs, and a report issued last year by the director of national intelligence that cataloged more than 140 flying objects that officials were not able to identify.

The nine-page report and the congressional hearing, however, were short on specifics and did not draw any definitive conclusions on what the flying objects were, many of which were spotted by naval aviators. Officials said they did not find any evidence that the objects were some sort of advanced aerospace technology developed by China, Russia or other nations. There was also no evidence that they came from extraterrestrial sources.

The limited number of such observations makes it difficult “to draw scientific conclusions about

the nature of such events,” NASA said in a statement. The agency said it was concerned not just about national security but also the safety of flying in the air. It also said, “There is no evidence UAPs are extra-terrestrial in origin.”

Still, NASA said it wants to apply scientific rigor to a vexing issue that has been a fixation for generations. Studying UAPs fits into the agency’s mission of looking for signs of life beyond Earth, from studying water on Mars to exploring the moons of Saturn and Jupiter, the agency said.

“NASA believes that the tools of scientific discovery are powerful and apply here also,” Zurbuchen said in a statement. “We have the tools and team who can help us improve our understanding of the unknown. That’s the very definition of what science is. That’s what we do.”

At a briefing for reporters after the speech, Zurbuchen said he wanted to push NASA to take on risky projects, even if they may not be considered mainstream by the scientific community.

“It’s clear that in a traditional type of science environment, talking about some of these issues may be considered a kind of selling out, or kind of talking about things that are not actual science,” he said. “I just really vehemently oppose that. I really believe that the quality of science is not only measured by the outputs that come behind it, but also the questions we’re willing to tackle with science.”

The study, to begin in the fall, will last about nine months and be independent from efforts by the Pentagon, he said.

“There are potential national security and counterintelligence [impacts], that that’s not what we do for a living. And we’re not going to get into that at NASA,” Zurbuchen said.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

A 2021 Model 3 sedan is connected to a charger at a Tesla dealership last year, in Littleton, Colo. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it’s upgrading the probe into an engineering analysis.

Teslas with Autopilot now one step closer to getting recalled

BY TOM KRISHER
Associated Press

DETROIT — Teslas with partially automated driving systems are a step closer to being recalled after the U.S. elevated its investigation into a series of collisions with parked emergency vehicles or trucks with warning signs.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Thursday that it is upgrading the Tesla probe to an engineering analysis, another sign of increased scrutiny of the electric vehicle maker and automated systems that perform at least some driving tasks.

Documents posted Thursday by the agency raise some serious issues about Tesla’s Autopilot system. The agency found that it’s being used in areas where its capabilities are limited, and that many drivers aren’t taking action to avoid crashes despite warnings from the vehicle.

The probe now covers 830,000 vehicles, almost everything that the Austin, Texas, carmaker has sold in the U.S. since the start of the 2014 model year.

NHTSA reported that it has

found 16 crashes into emergency vehicles and trucks with warning signs, causing 15 injuries and one death.

Investigators will evaluate additional data, vehicle performance and “explore the degree to which Autopilot and associated Tesla systems may exacerbate human factors or behavioral safety risks, undermining the effectiveness of the driver’s supervision,” the agency said.

A message was left Thursday seeking comment from Tesla.

An engineering analysis is the final stage of an investigation, and in most cases NHTSA decides within a year if there should be a recall or the probe should be closed.

In the majority of the 16 crashes, the Teslas issued collision alerts to the drivers just before impact. Automatic emergency braking intervened to at least slow the cars in about half the cases. On average, Autopilot gave up control of the Teslas less than a second before the crash, NHTSA said in documents detailing the probe.

The agency found that in many cases, drivers had their hands on

the steering wheel as Tesla requires, yet failed to take action to avoid a crash. This suggests that drivers are complying with Tesla’s monitoring system, but it doesn’t make sure they’re paying attention.

In crashes where video is available, drivers should have seen first responder vehicles an average of eight seconds before impact, the agency wrote.

The agency will have to decide if there is a safety defect with Autopilot before pursuing a recall.

In total, the agency looked at 191 crashes but removed 85 of them because other drivers were involved or there wasn’t enough information to do a definite assessment. Of the remaining 106, the main cause of about one-quarter of the crashes appeared to be running Autopilot in areas where it has limitations, or in conditions that can interfere with its operation.

“For example, operation on roadways other than limited access highways, or operation in low traction or visibility environments such as rain, snow or ice,” the agency wrote.

Avian flu arrives in Southwest, kills 3 wild birds in Arizona

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Arizona officials have confirmed the first cases in the Southwest of a bird flu that has led to the deaths of 37 million birds from commercial farms in the central and eastern U.S.

The disease was spotted after tests by federal wildlife officials in three wild cormorants that had been found dead in a park in the Phoenix suburb of Scottsdale, Arizona Game and Fish officials announced this week.

The disease has not yet been found in any domestic birds or in

commercial operations, the agency said.

But it is a concern, according to Glenn Hickman, president and CEO of Hickman Family Farms, one of the largest egg producers in the Southwest. Hickman operates four chicken ranches in Arizona, one in California and two in Colorado.

The company has stopped any visits to its farms and double-checked its biosecurity program, which is designed to prevent its approximately 2 million chickens from being infected. Its chickens

are kept in barns that are secured so that wild birds can’t enter, and any people or tools that enter are disinfected.

The company dodged a scare recently when the avian flu was found in a flock 3 miles from one of its Colorado farms, Hickman said Thursday. And while he’s concerned about the Scottsdale find, its not anywhere near as concerning as if a nearby commercial operation had an outbreak.

“Those are a lot scarier because the massive amount of virus that is potentially produced when you

have a large population is much more than the relatively small amount of virus per bird in the wild bird population,” he said. None of his farms were affected.

Arizona Game and Fish officials have been closely monitoring for the disease, which had been no closer than Colorado before this week’s announcement, by responding to all calls of dead birds.

The first U.S. detection of the new strain of highly contagious avian flu in domestic poultry was in February in Indiana. More than 37 million birds have been killed

to prevent the infection from spreading since then.

As of June 3, it had been detected in wild birds in 40 states, but not in California, Arizona, Nevada or New Mexico. Commercial flocks in 19 states have been infected.

The outbreak has not only killed domestic fowl. It has also had a heavy toll on bald eagles and other wild bird species, much more so than the nation’s last bird flu outbreak detected in 2014. That outbreak cost more than 50 million domestic poultry.

NATION



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Travelers pass a sign near a COVID-19 testing site in Terminal E at Logan Airport, in December in Boston. The Biden administration is lifting its requirement that international air travelers to the U.S. take a COVID-19 test within a day before boarding their flights.

COVID-19 test requirement lifted in US for international travelers

By ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is lifting its requirement that international air travelers to the U.S. take a COVID-19 test within a day before boarding their flights, easing one of the last remaining government mandates meant to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

A senior administration official said the mandate expires Sunday at 12:01 a.m. EDT, saying the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that it's no longer necessary. The official, speaking Friday on the condition of anonymity to preview the formal announcement, said that the agency would reevaluate the need for the testing requirement every 90 days and that it could be reinstated if a troubling new variant emerges.

The Biden administration put in place the testing requirement last year, as it moved away from restrictions that banned nonessential travel from several dozen countries — most of Europe, China,

Brazil, South Africa, India and Iran — and instead focuses on classifying individuals by the risk they pose to others. It came in conjunction with a requirement that foreign, non-immigrant adults traveling to the United States need to be fully vaccinated, with only limited exceptions.

The initial mandate allowed those who were fully vaccinated to show proof of a negative test within three days of travel, while unvaccinated people had to present a test taken within one day of travel.

In November, as the highly transmissible omicron variant swept the world, the Biden administration toughened the requirement and required all travelers, regardless of vaccination status, to test within a day of travel to the U.S.

Airline and tourism groups have been pressing the administration for months to eliminate the testing requirement, saying it is discouraging people from booking international trips. Many other countries have lifted their testing re-

quirements for fully vaccinated and boosted travelers in a bid to increase tourism.

In February, the groups argued the testing requirement was obsolete because of the high number of omicron cases already in every state, higher vaccination rates and new treatments for the virus.

"I'm glad CDC suspended the burdensome coronavirus testing requirement for international travelers, and I'll continue to do all I can to support the strong recovery of our hospitality industry," Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev., said in a statement.

The lifting of the requirement comes six weeks after a federal judge ended the CDC's mask requirement for mass transit, saying the agency exceeded its authority. The Biden administration is appealing that ruling, saying it aims to protect the CDC's ability to respond to future health emergencies.

The official said the CDC will continue to recommend testing prior to air travel as a precaution.

US inflation hit 40-year high in May with 8.6%

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The costs of gas, food and most other goods and services jumped in May, raising inflation to a new four-decade high and giving American households no respite from rising costs.

Consumer prices surged 8.6% last month from 12 months earlier, faster than April's year-over-year surge of 8.3%, the Labor Department said Friday. The new inflation figure, the biggest yearly increase since December 1981, will heighten pressure on the Federal Reserve to continue raising interest rates aggressively.

On a month-to-month basis, prices jumped 1% from April to May, much faster than the 0.3% increase from March to April. Behind that surge were much higher prices for food, energy, rent, airline tickets and new and used cars.

The widespread price increases also elevated so-called "core" inflation, a measure that excludes volatile food and energy prices. In May, core prices jumped a sharp 0.6% for a second straight month and are now 6% above where they were a year ago.

America's rampant inflation is imposing severe pressures on families, forcing them to pay much more for food, gas and rent and reducing their ability to afford discretionary items, from haircuts to electronics. Lower-income and Black and Hispanic Americans, in particular, are struggling because, on average, a larger proportion of their income is consumed by necessities.

Some evidence in recent weeks had suggested that inflation might be moderating, particularly for

long-lasting goods that were caught up in supply chain snarls and shortages last year. But that trend appeared to reverse itself in May, with used car prices rising 1.8% after having dropped for three straight months.

New car prices also rose, a consequence of auto production remaining hamstrung by shortages of semiconductors. And clothing prices increases after having declined in April.

In light of Friday's inflation reading, the Fed is all but certain to carry out the fastest series of interest rate hikes in three decades. By sharply raising borrowing costs, the Fed hopes to cool spending and growth enough to curb inflation without tipping the economy into a recession. For the central bank, it will be a difficult balancing act.

The Fed has signaled that it will raise its key short-term rate by a half-point — double the size of the usual hike — next week and again in July. Some investors had hoped the Fed would then dial back its rate increases to a quarter-point increase when it meets in September or perhaps even pause its credit tightening.

But with inflation raging hot, investors now increasingly expect a third half-point Fed hike in September.

In the coming months, goods prices are expected to finally drop. Many large retailers, including Target, Walmart and Macy's, have reported that they're now stuck with too much of the patio furniture, electronics and other goods that they ordered when those items were in heavier demand and will have to discount them.

Mortgage rates jump again, buyers head to the sideline

By MATT OTT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Average long-term U.S. mortgage rates jumped back up ahead of next week's Federal Reserve meeting where it's expected to announce another big increase to its main borrowing rate.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac reported Thursday that the 30-year rate jumped to 5.23% this week from 5.09% last week. A year ago at this time, the average rate was 2.96%. Until April, the average rate hadn't exceeded 5% in

more than a decade.

The brisk jump in rates, along with a sharp increase in home prices, has been pushing potential homebuyers out of the market.

Mortgage applications decreased 6.5% from one week earlier, the Mortgage Bankers Association reported Wednesday. The group's composite index, a measurement of mortgage loan application volume, is at its lowest level in 22 years. Its refinance index is 75% lower than a year ago.

Last month, the Federal Reserve intensified its fight against

the worst inflation in 40 years by raising its benchmark interest rate by a half-percentage point and signaling more big rate hikes to come. The Fed's move, its most aggressive since 2000, means higher costs for mortgages as well as credit cards, auto loans and other borrowing for individuals and businesses.

Higher borrowing rates appear to be slowing the housing market, an important part of the economy. In April, sales of both existing homes and new homes showed signs of faltering, worsened by

sharply higher home prices and a shrunken supply of available properties.

However, some economists expect that the tapering of demand could benefit the more determined home shoppers.

"The material decline in purchase activity, combined with the rising supply of homes for sale, will cause a deceleration in price growth to more normal levels, providing some relief for buyers still interested in purchasing a home," said Freddie Mac's Chief Economist Sam Khater.

Homeownership has become increasingly difficult lately, especially for first-time buyers. Besides staggering inflation, rising mortgage rates and soaring home prices, the supply of homes for sale continues to be scarce.

The average rate on 15-year, fixed-rate mortgages, popular among those refinancing their homes, rose to 4.38% from 4.32% last week.

Economists expect the Fed to raise its main borrowing rate by another half-point when it meets next week.

WORLD

Erdogan warns Greece should disarm islands

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday warned Greece to demilitarize islands in the Aegean Sea, saying he was “not joking” and posting tweets in Greek and English, in a marked harshening of rhetoric against Turkey’s neighbor and historic regional rival.

Turkey says Greece has been building a military presence in violation of treaties that guarantee the unarmed status of the Aegean islands. It argues the islands were ceded to Greece on the condition they remained demilitarized.

Athens counters that the islands, which have been garrisoned for decades and lie within close striking distance of a large Turkish landing fleet, can’t be left undefended.

“We invite Greece to stop arming the islands that have non-military status and to act in accordance with international agreements,” Erdogan said on the final day of military exercises taking place near Izmir, on Turkey’s Aegean coast. “I’m not joking, I’m speaking seriously. This nation is determined.”

Greece and Turkey are NATO allies, but have a history of disputes over a range of issues, including mineral exploration in the eastern Mediterranean and rival claims in the Aegean Sea.

The two countries came close to war three times in the past half century, the last being in 1996 over ownership of an uninhabited eastern Aegean islet. But Ankara has recently been questioning Greece’s sovereignty over large, inhabited Greek islands — Rhodes, Kos and Lesbos, for example, would meet

the description of “militarized” islands.

“We warn Greece to stay away from dreams, statements and actions that will lead to regret, as it did a century ago, and to return to its senses,” the Turkish leader said. A hundred years ago, Turkey defeated Greece after a three-year war that saw Greek armies invade western Turkey.

Greece maintains Turkey has deliberately misinterpreted the treaties and says it has legal grounds to defend itself following hostile actions by Ankara, including a long-standing threat of war if Greece extended its territorial waters.

Later Thursday, Erdogan made the rare move of tweeting in Greek and English, saying: “As Turkey will not resign its rights in the Aegean, it will not hesitate either to make use of its rights arising from international treaties on the issue of the islands’ demilitarization.”

Greek government spokesman Giannis Oikonomou commented that Erdogan’s choice of Greek was “notable.”

“Greek is known as the language of reason, freedom and justice,” he said. “The tactics Turkey has chosen do not fall under any of these categories.”

Earlier, Oikonomou said Greece was dealing with Turkish “provocations” with “calm and determination.”

“It is clear to everyone that our country has upgraded its geostrategic and geopolitical footprint as well as its deterrent capacity to be able at any time to defend its national sovereignty and sovereign rights,” he said.



TSVANGIRAYI MUKWAZHI/AP

Street vendors take off their shoes to show their toes on the streets of Harare, Zimbabwe, on Thursday.

New toes-for-cash hoax reflects Zimbabwe fears of soaring prices

BY FARAI MUTSAKA

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Battling rampant inflation, Zimbabweans are counting their toes as they struggle to buy food for their families.

An internet rumor blazed through the country that desperate people were selling their toes for cash. The false report became so widespread that the country’s Deputy Minister of Information Kindness Paradza visited street vendors in central Harare earlier this month to debunk it.

One by one the traders took off their shoes to show that they had all 10 toes, as Zimbabwe’s state media recorded the digital investigation.

Paradza declared the toes-for-money story a hoax, as did local and foreign fact-checkers. Police later arrested a street vendor who now faces a fine or 6 months in jail on charges of criminal nuisance for allegedly starting the story.

It’s starkly true, however, that

Zimbabweans are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. Since the start of Russia’s war in Ukraine, Zimbabwe’s inflation rate has shot up from 66% to more than 130%, according to official statistics. The war is blamed for rising fuel and food prices.

In Zimbabwe, the impact of the Ukraine war is heaping problems on the already fragile economy. The war “coupled with our historical domestic imbalances, has created challenges in terms of economic instability seen through the currency volatility and spilling over into price volatility,” Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube told Parliament in May.

Teachers “can no longer afford bread and other basics, this is too much,” tweeted the Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe in early June. The three largest teachers’ unions are demanding the government pay their salaries in U.S. dollars because their pay in local currency is “eroded overnight.”

“Because of high inflation, the local currency is collapsing,” economic analyst Prosper Chitambara told The Associated Press. “Individuals and companies no longer trust the local currency and that has put pressure on the demand for U.S. dollars. The Ukraine war is simply exacerbating an already difficult situation.”

Promising better days ahead, Ncube said the government “will not hesitate to act and intervene to cushion against price increases and exchange rate volatility.”

Many are skeptical of such vows from the government, saying nothing short of a miracle will pull Zimbabwe out of its economic crisis. Even while coping with constantly rising prices, many can’t help making grim jokes about the situation.

“I still have all my toes intact but it wouldn’t hurt selling one,” chuckled Harare resident Asani Sibanda. “I could still walk without it, but my family would at least get some food.”

US official says diplomatic push in Asia paying dividends

Associated Press

BANGKOK — The American diplomatic push aimed at countering China’s increasing influence in the Asia-Pacific region appears to be paying dividends, with many nations showing a willingness to partner with the United States, a top State Department official said Friday.

U.S. State Department Counselor Derek Chollet told The Associated Press it was noteworthy that 13 nations representing 40% of the world’s economy had signed on to the Indo-Pacific Eco-

nomic Framework that President Joe Biden launched in Japan at the end of May. He said that China at around the same time failed in its attempt to get a group of Pacific islands to endorse a sweeping agreement with Beijing.

China had broken from its traditional approach of negotiating one-on-one with countries behind the scenes to send Foreign Minister Wang Yi on an island-hopping trip last month to try and rally 10 Pacific nations behind the agreement, which covered a broad range of areas including security

and fisheries.

But he was unable to find consensus on the deal at a meeting in Fiji, and instead had to settle for smaller bilateral agreements with some of them.



Chollet

“I think the fact that the Chinese foreign minister’s trip, where they tried to roll out this very bold ‘take it or leave it’ initiative or partnership cooperation, wasn’t really well re-

ceived, indicates to me that the Pacific island countries want to have an engagement with us,” Chollet said in an interview in Bangkok.

Chollet is in the middle of a trip to Thailand, Brunei and Singapore, as U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman is concurrently visiting the Philippines, South Korea, Laos and Vietnam.

In addition, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin is a featured speaker on the weekend at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Asia’s premier defense and

security forum, and will visit Thailand next week.

The in-person outreach is part of an approach that U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in May meant putting “diplomacy back at the center of American foreign policy.”

“We are determined ... to be present, be engaged — not just as visitors from Washington but on a permanent basis,” Chollet said.

The push in Asia comes amid growing concerns over China’s own efforts to expand its influence in the area.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Fed up gas station owner has stopped selling fuel

MA AMHERST — A Massachusetts gas station owner fed up with what he considers attempts by oil companies to fleece customers with outrageously high prices at the pump has stopped selling gas as a protest.

Reynold Gladu, who has run Ren's Mobil Service in downtown Amherst for nearly 50 years, drained his tanks earlier this month and has no current plans to refill them.

"I don't want to be part of it anymore," Gladu told The Daily Hampshire Gazette. "This is the biggest ripoff that ever has happened to people in my lifetime."

Gasoline in Massachusetts is averaging more than \$5 per gallon, according to AAA New England.

The business will continue to do oil changes and other repairs, but Gladu acknowledges it is unlikely he will be able to remain open for long without selling gas.

Orchid not seen in state since 1902 is found

VT MONTPELIER — A federally threatened species of orchid that hasn't been confirmed in Vermont since 1902 has been found, the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife said.

Department botanists confirmed that a population of small whorled pogonia has been documented on Winooski Valley Park District conservation land in Chittenden County. To protect them, officials won't say exactly where the orchids were found.

The small whorled pogonia is a globally rare orchid historically found across the eastern states and Ontario. Populations in Maine and New Hampshire are found in areas of partial sun, including forest edges and openings.

Previous searches for the species in Vermont have been unsuccessful.

Tech boot camps have surpassed 1K graduates

TN NASHVILLE — Vanderbilt University's tech boot camps recently surpassed 1,000 graduates since they began enrolling students in 2019.

The camps are a project of the Vanderbilt School of Engineering, the Owen Graduate School of Management and Trilogy Education Services. They teach coding, data analytics, cybersecurity and digital marketing. Participants also have access to career-planning assistance, according to a news release from Vanderbilt.

The part-time, 24-week camps are helping to fill a need in Tennessee for employees with technical skills, said Philippe Fauchet, the engineering school dean.

"Through these boot camps, we help significantly increase Nash-



KRISTOPHER RADDER, THE BRATTLEBORO REFORMER/AP

Monumental task

A team installs a new monument with a plaque on the Brattleboro Common on Wednesday in Brattleboro, Vt., to correct the incomplete information on the Civil War statue. The new monument was created by Abbiati Monument.

ville's homegrown population of skilled workers, who will sustain our economic development through higher quality and higher paying jobs," he said.

Jail birds leave behind \$3,000 mess at lockup

IN ANGOLA — A family of jail birds has left behind a nearly \$3,000 mess at the historic Steuben County Jail in northeastern Indiana.

The Steuben County Commissioners have approved spending that amount of money to clean up the waste left behind by a family of starlings, mainly in duct work at the old jail that's now used by Northeast Indiana Community Corrections in Angola.

Community Corrections Director Bret Hays told commissioners a female starling entered the building through the attic and ended up in the duct work, where she hatched a brood of chicks, the Herald Republican reported Wednesday.

'Unburnable' copy of book auctioned for \$130,000

NY NEW YORK — A specially commissioned, unburnable edition of Margaret Atwood's "The Handmaid's Tale" has been auctioned for \$130,000, Sotheby's announced Tuesday.

Proceeds will be donated to PEN America, which advocates for free expression worldwide.

The 384-page book consists mainly of Cinefoil, a specially treated aluminum product, and was announced last month at PEN's annual fundraising gala. To help promote the initiative, Atwood agreed to be filmed attempting — unsuccessfully — to incinerate a prototype with a flame thrower.

The fireproof book was a joint project by PEN, Atwood, Penguin Random House and two companies based in Toronto, where Atwood is a longtime resident: the Rethink creative agency and The Gas Co., a graphic arts and book-binding specialty studio.

Motorcyclist flies off freeway onto lanes below

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Two drivers were arrested on suspicion of DUI after a motorcyclist went flying off a San Francisco freeway overpass and landed on top of a moving car below before being run over by another vehicle early Tuesday, authorities said.

The unidentified motorcyclist died at the scene, the California Highway Patrol said in a statement describing the extraordinary series of events that occurred at the Interstate 80/U.S. 101 interchange around 3:30 a.m.

The motorcyclist swerved to avoid a disabled Nissan sedan on an elevated connector ramp and struck a concrete wall, the highway patrol said.

The rider was ejected from the motorcycle and plummeted 50

feet down onto the roof of a Honda sedan traveling in lanes below, the statement said.

Police: Woman poured hot oil on disabled cousin

NC THOMASVILLE — A North Carolina woman poured hot cooking oil on her cousin while he was sleeping, leaving him severely burned, police said.

Andrew Kirby, 32, called the Thomasville Police Department early Monday, the High Point Enterprise reported. Officers arrived at a house to find Kirby sitting outside in his wheelchair pleading for help, police said, adding that he had third-degree burns on his head and upper torso.

Police said Kirby was taken to a hospital in Winston-Salem, where he was listed in serious but stable condition on Wednesday.

Keava Dawn Carlton, 41, left the house before police arrived, but police found her at a shopping center and arrested her. She was charged with assault on a disabled person inflicting serious injury.

Man accused of killing delivery man over sauce

NY NEW YORK — A condiment-obsessed Queens murder suspect hoarded sweet-and-sour duck sauce in his refrigerator — but not enough to stop him from killing a Chinese food delivery worker in a feud over his wish for more, a police source said Tuesday.

When police opened accused

killer Glenn Hirsch's refrigerator, they found it full of items to flavor up his food — including lots of duck sauce of the kind given away by Chinese restaurants in little plastic packets.

"His whole refrigerator was filled with duck sauce," the source said. "And other condiments."

"He's a hoarder. And when you open the refrigerator, it's like, condiments — there's duck sauce, soy sauce, ketchup."

Hirsch, 51, was busted last week on charges of shooting dead Zhiwen Yan, 45, on April 30 in Forest Hills after stalking Yan's restaurant for weeks over his demand for more duck sauce in what the Queens DA called an "obsessive point of contention."

Police said they had been building a case against Hirsch ever since learning he had been involved in ongoing tensions with the manager at the Great Wall restaurant, starting last Nov. 30 when he was furious there wasn't enough duck sauce for him to take home with his meal.

Indeed, after Hirsch was indicted and busted police searched his apartment in Jamaica they found in his refrigerator evidence of just how obsessed he is with condiments.

"I guess in some pathology people like that take that stuff very seriously — you didn't give him enough duck sauce," said the police source.

MOVIES

Let chaos reign

Jeff Goldblum takes last bite out of 'Jurassic World'

BY JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

There is only one person who, in the middle of a massive dystopic dinosaur movie, can utter a line like “That’s bananas” with just the right timing and inflection.

For almost three decades, off and on, Jeff Goldblum has played Dr. Ian Malcolm with particular Goldblumian panache. As the stylish chaos theorist of the “Jurassic Park” and “Jurassic World” films, Goldblum is the voice of reason and comedy relief in one, an augur of nature’s unpredictability who can’t help marveling at seeing his theories in action, even if that poses immediate danger to himself.

It’s one of the 69-year-old actor’s best-known characters. Yet in even big movies like “Jurassic Park” and “Independence Day,” Goldblum has such a singular manner and much-intimated tempo that he’s never been particularly defined by those roles. It’s more that Goldblum, in putting his own idiosyncratic spin on them, marks the characters, rather than the other way around. Life finds a way in “Jurassic Park,” and so does Goldblum.

In Colin Trevorrow’s “Jurassic World Dominion,” now in theaters, Goldblum — along with original cast members Laura Dern and Sam Neill — returns to close out the franchise’s second trilogy of films in a sprawling adventure set in a near future where dinosaurs have spread across the world, as has ecological imbalance and a plague of giant locusts.

For Goldblum, the son of a doctor and host of the Disney+ series “The World According to Jeff Goldblum,” the subjects and themes of the movie dovetail with some of his own curiosities and interests in how we might, he says, “upgrade our stewardship of the planet.” What does Goldblum, the movies’ resident chaotician, think of our increasingly tumultuous times?

“I don’t know anything about what I’m talking about. But let’s utter the word ‘entropy’ and ‘systems’ and how things break down,” Goldblum says, speaking from London. “Before the butterfly comes out of the chrysalis, the caterpillar has some convulsions, chaotic convulsions. But it’s not death, necessarily. It’s the onset of transformation.”

Satisfied that he’s perhaps arrived at a kernel of truth, Goldblum concludes, “Hey, what about that?”

Chaos and harmony feature prominently in most conversations with Goldblum, an ever-riffing, cosmically attuned raconteur. He tends to speak as if narrating his brain’s inner workings in real time, arriving now and then at ideas worth pausing to savor and existential epiphanies that delight him.

One question, for example, about whether his sons’ names — River Joe and Charlie Ocean — suggest some ecological bent sends Goldblum on a jag about ocean environmental health, fundraising for Oceana, the song “Moon River” (which Goldblum, an accomplished pianist,

says his band might soon record), Carly Simon’s “Let the River Run,” the movie “Working Girl,” Mark Harris’ Mike Nichols biography and a whitewater rafting trip on the Kern River.

“Water is life, isn’t it?” says Goldblum. “If they ever wanted to drop the Goldblum and just go with River Joe, that sounds evocative to me, that sounds like a good character. Or Charlie Ocean. I like both of those. Nothing wrong with Goldblum, but if they want to change it, fine with me.”

Either through experience (Goldblum’s early films included two with the improvisational Robert Altman, “a dippy doodle of an artist,” he says), or practice (Goldblum credits acting teacher Sandy Meisner with instilling in him “a continuity of digging”), Goldblum has arrived at his unique cadence and perpetual state of curiosity.

“At the beginning of the day, I remind myself: free association, stream of consciousness, perceptual readiness and then openness,” says Goldblum. “This whole business of acting and music seems to be, if nothing else, an invitation toward opening up. Opening yourself up in both directions. Not only to what’s around you in reception but then in your giving back, reacting and offering something.”

After co-starring in “Jurassic Park” and its 1997 sequel, “The Lost World,” Goldblum returned to Ian Malcolm in 2018’s “Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom” during which his character testifies to the U.S. Congress. Malcolm recommends letting the exploding volcano determine the fate of the dinosaurs on Isla Nublar. Goldblum relished it.

“I was full of juice,” he says. “I was in this froth of fun, which I sometimes get in.”

Trevorrow, who has co-written the trilogy and directed the first and third installments, first worked with Gold-

blum on a “Jurassic World” Super Bowl ad for Jeep. Goldblum wasn’t what he expected.

“You think that he’s purely improvisational and maybe even a loose cannon,” says Trevorrow. “But on this movie, I’d just see him walking out on the garden at the hotel we were staying in going over his lines again and again and coming in and delivering a very precise, considered performance.”

Production on “Jurassic World Dominion” was halted in 2020 due to the pandemic. When shooting restarted, the studio rented out a hotel in England near Pinewood Studios for cast and crew. Goldblum would sometimes play the piano there with his castmates and Trevorrow — “musicales and hootenannys of one kind or another,” Goldblum says. Dern posted one video of her, Neill and Goldblum singing the Beatles’ “Blackbird.”

“He’s a beautiful man,” says Trevorrow. “We would have really thoughtful conversations about his perspective on where we’re at. There was a depth to it all, honestly, when it comes to the experience of making the film and going through pandemic together.”

For the “Jurassic World Dominion” cast and filmmakers, making a movie about nature’s resistance to humankind’s meddling during the pandemic took on real-world resonance. As in the movie, the world might be ending, but Goldblum is still there, keeping the spirits up.

“What else can we do?” says Goldblum. “Being a Sandy Meisner devotee, I’m a romantic about the ensemble credo and synergy and, like this movie depicts, what educated, smart and deeply caring people can do — even a few of them — together at a crucial moment. They can even sometimes defeat the forces of ignorance, corruption and greed, and keep the homo sapiens ball moving along a little more. Maybe.”

Jeff Goldblum poses for a portrait to promote the film “Jurassic World Dominion” on May 10 at the Universal Studios Lot in Los Angeles.

WILLY SANJUAN/AP

MOVIES



PHOTOS BY UNIVERSAL PICTURES, AMBLIN ENTERTAINMENT/AP
From left, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Bryce Dallas Howard, Chris Pratt, Isabella Sermon and DeWanda Wise appear in “Jurassic World Dominion.” Goldblum, Neill and Dern last appeared together in the original “Jurassic Park” series in the 1990s.

A new ‘Dominion’ for the dinos

‘Jurassic World’ trilogy ends with nostalgia-stuffed finale

BY KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

It’s the end of an era — the Jurassic Era. After six “Jurassic Park” and “Jurassic World” movies and almost 30 years, it’s apparently the end of the line for the creature feature franchise that left an oversize footprint on pop culture. “Jurassic World” director Colin Trevorrow returns to helm “Jurassic World Dominion,” the final film of the legacy trilogy, and a trio of favorite actors from the “Jurassic Park” movies have returned to bid adieu to the dinosaurs as well. It’s laden with nostalgia, made up of nods to the original films and other action-adventure classics, and as a goodbye note to the franchise, it’s heartfelt, if a bit limp, giving preference to references over storytelling.

If Steven Spielberg’s “Jurassic Park” was a slasher movie where Michael Myers was a velociraptor, “Jurassic World Dominion” is a swashbuckling action-adventure picture in the style of “Indiana Jones,” but with huge, murderous reptiles. After the dip into gothic haunted house horror that was J.A. Bayona’s “Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom,” the dinosaurs are officially free of the park and out into the world, and we’ve been promised a film about dinosaurs inhabiting the same space humans and other animals do: stampeding across the prairies, invading city parks, rampaging through the oceans, etc.

There is some of that, to be sure, but “Dominion,” written by Trevorrow, Derek Connolly and Emily Carmichael, quickly brings the story back into “Park” mode, after a couple of international detours in the style of Indy or James Bond or even



Chris Pratt in a scene from “Jurassic World Dominion.” The film’s best, and most innovative, set piece is a motorcycle chase through the streets of Malta with some weaponized murder-saurs.

Jason Bourne. Owen Grady (Chris Pratt) and Claire Dearing (Bryce Dallas Howard) find themselves plunged into the dinosaur black market in Malta while tracking down their adoptive daughter, Maisie (Isabella Sermon), a human clone of a brilliant genetic scientist who has been kidnapped for her very valuable DNA.

With the help of a swaggering pilot-for-hire, Kayla (DeWanda Wise), cut from the same cloth as Han Solo, Owen and Claire head for the the Dolomite Mountains in Italy, the headquarters of Biosyn, a genetics research company/dinosaur sanctuary headed up by oddball tech mogul Lewis Dodgson (Campbell Scott). Already at Biosyn are “Jurassic” fan favorites Dr. Ellie Sattler (Laura Dern), Dr. Alan Grant (Sam Neill) and Dr. Ian Malcolm (Jeff

Goldblum), who are looking to investigate a plague of locusts that suspiciously don’t eat Biosyn crops. Yep, things are getting biblical.

The film’s best, and most innovative, set piece is a motorcycle chase through the streets of Malta with some weaponized murder-saurs, but once things converge on the contained location of Biosyn, it starts to follow the “Jurassic” blueprint faithfully, and consciously, delivering what we all expect. The humans interface with the dinosaurs up close, Ripley and Xenomorph style, and enjoy a front row seat to the kaiju big battle that is T. rex vs. Giganotosaurus.

If it all sounds like a lot of references to a lot of other movies, well, that’s exactly what “Jurassic World Dominion” is, and there are some pleasures to be found in remembering the greatest hits of the major action-adventure and monster movies of the past 40 years. But all of those other films were groundbreaking, inventive and original, while “Dominion” merely rides their coattails, or, perhaps, more nefariously, steals their valor, offering up a rewarmed version of “Jurassic Park” jazzed up with nods to “Godzilla,” “Apocalypse Now” and “Raiders of the Lost Ark.”

Sometimes leftovers can hit the spot — the cast is game, the new additions like Wise and Mamoudou Athie are great, and Howard gets a chance to shine. But while “Jurassic World Dominion” offers up some lightweight summer fun, it’s not exactly satisfying, lacking in true suspense, tension and the kind of thrilling spectacle that Spielberg so effortlessly mastered in the first “Jurassic Park,” a cinematic high that we’ll be chasing forever.

“Jurassic World Dominion” is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of action, some violence and language. Running time: 146 minutes. Now playing in select AAFES theaters.

Bases airing a sneak peek of ‘Elvis’ film

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is offering free exclusive military screenings of “Elvis” at Air Force and Army bases worldwide Saturday, nearly two weeks before the new release hits theaters stateside.

The film captures the life and career of Elvis Presley, the king of rock ‘n’ roll, including his brief stint in the Army. Presley was stationed at Ray Barracks in Friedberg, Germany, from October 1958 to March 1960.

AAFES is partnering with Warner Bros. to screen the film at more than 20



Army and Air Force bases.

“The King” is likely the most famous singer to have served our nation, so this free screening should be especially meaningful,” Tom Shull, director and CEO of AAFES, said in a statement.

Directed by Baz Luhrmann, the film stars Austin Butler as Elvis, Tom Hanks as Elvis’ longtime manager Col. Tom Parker and Olivia DeJonge as Elvis’ ex-wife, Priscilla Presley.

Elvis met Priscilla while stationed in Germany, where her stepfather was serving in the Air Force.

Early reviews by film critics have been mostly favorable. “Elvis” currently scores at 81% on Rotten Tomatoes based on 42 reviews. The U.S. release date for it is June 24.

The free showings will take place at the following exchange theater locations:

- Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar
- Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait
- Aviano Air Base, Italy
- F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.
- Fort Huachuca, Ariz.
- Fort Irwin, Calif.
- Fort Jackson, S.C.
- Fort Knox, Ky.
- Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
- Fort Polk, La.
- Fort Rucker, Ala.
- Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas
- Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.
- Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan
- Kaiserslautern Military Community, Germany
- West Point U.S. Military Academy, N.Y.
- Lackland Air Force Base, Texas
- Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont.
- Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Belgium
- U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Family and Troop locations, South Korea
- U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, Germany
- Vilseck (Rose Barracks), Germany
- Yokota, Japan

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VIDEO GAMES



Rebellion photos

Sniper Elite 5 sends OSS operative Karl Fairburne to France during the run-up to D-Day. Along the way, he uncovers a Nazi plot.

Only slightly off the mark

Sniper Elite 5 expands its WWII-set formula, but could use more polish

BY GIESON CACHO
Bay Area News Group

Sniper Elite is a franchise with an unusual history. It's a World War II-set franchise that didn't feel like it started until the third game, which was a prequel in Africa. That's when the developer, Rebellion, established a viable foundation. Since then, the studio has taken OSS operative Karl Fairburne and players through a variety of European WWII theaters. Along the way, the team has expanded the formula that has made the series such a compelling game. The "X-ray cam" that shows how Fairburne's bullets pierce Nazi skulls and organs is a gimmick that made the franchise stand out from the crowd, but with each sequel, Rebellion has added substance.

A mission in occupied France

With Sniper Elite 5, the team takes Fairburne to France during the run-up to D-Day. The OSS operative has to help the French resistance prepare for the invasion, and during the process, he stumbles upon Operation Kraken. Over the course of the game's eight main missions and an epilogue, players will try to foil the plans of Abelard Möller, a top Nazi leader. The Fairburne whom players meet in this fifth chapter is already experienced. Players have access to mines, grenades and decoys that can be used to kill patrolling foes or set booby traps in dead bodies. Is that an ethical thing to do? Probably not, but then again, Fairburne is fighting Nazi Germany. The fact that the protagonist is already so skilled and has so many tools at his disposal means that Rebellion had to look at alternative ways to improve its formula. Those tweaks come in the form of level design, flexibility and evolving gameplay.

Different play styles

Sniper Elite 5 caters to several play styles. Players can customize their weapons and push the limits of raw firepower. They can then go loud into the fray tossing grenades while blasting enemies with a submachine gun. It's

a viable strategy, though the game is harder this way as the Nazis will call for reinforcements, and players will need to know the maps well in order to escape when they're overwhelmed. Although it can be tempting to go Rambo through the campaign, the series is actually geared more toward methodical stealth gameplay. It's better for Fairburne to scout with his binoculars and tag enemies before exploring the map. When they venture along dirt paths and corridors, it's better to crouch and creep slowly instead of running through because the Germans will pick up on Fairburne's footsteps and investigate. In Sniper Elite 5, the enemies seem more sensitive to sounds compared to previous versions, and that makes sound masking even more important. One of the signature elements of the franchise, this tactic requires players to time their gunfire to loud sounds in the area. Those can include a plane buzzing overhead or a generator that's on the fritz. It hides a player's location and keeps them undetected while they snipe adversaries from afar.

Hitman-type elements

In each level, there's a special mark whom players can terminate with bullets or explosives, but to earn special weapons, players have to go through a Hitman-like sequence. They'll have to set up a condition where targets are eliminated via a V2 rocket or by having a foe fall into a pit of cement. The influence of IO Interactive's Hitman franchise seems to be growing. The big difference, though, is that the Hitman games fill their levels with dozens of NPCs in a condensed space while Rebellion creates massive levels in Sniper Elite 5 with a majority of them geared toward long-range combat. Diving deeper into this design aspect, the wide-open levels reward exploration and that comes in the form of optional objectives that Fairburne uncovers. It also leads players to hidden workbenches that unlock gun upgrades. Players will have to adjust their routes or change their loadouts for each task or collectible, but these side missions are well worth the trouble because they reward players with more experience points and they add depth and lore to the levels.



Sniper Elite 5 rewards methodical stealth gameplay.



The Sniper Elite games' "X-ray cam" shows how bullets pierce enemies' skulls and organs.

The big flaw

The scope and breadth of each Sniper Elite 5 level is ambitious, but there are notable flaws. One of the big problems is the artificial intelligence, which feels too robotic and sluggish at times. It sometimes takes a while for characters to notice distractions. Other times they have laughable blind spots that players can abuse. Side missions sometimes glitch out and players won't be able to finish them properly. Regardless, Rebellion should be praised for trying to introduce more online elements into Sniper Elite 5. Being able to invade another player's game creates some heart-stopping tension. The opportunity for co-op is welcome, and it's more integrated this time around. These online additions and the collectibles give players more reasons to stick with an imperfect but enjoyable game. **Platforms:** PlayStation 5, PlayStation 4, Xbox Series X and Series S, Xbox One, PC **Online:** rebellion.com/games/sniper-elite-5

HEALTH & FITNESS

Night cap therapy

Researchers developing device to nudge brain into deeper sleep, boosting its waste cleaning process

By PETER KENDALL
Special to The Washington Post

As he gets ready for sleep each night, Don Tucker slips on an electrode cap and checks a little computer on his bedside table. Many workers at the private lab, run by the professor emeritus at the University of Oregon, follow the same routine.

The experimental device monitors the nightly voyage through sleep. After sensing light sleep for a few minutes, it pulses electric current through the scalp and skull, nudging the brain into that nirvana known as deep sleep.

The goal is not just a more restful slumber. Groundbreaking discoveries made in the past decade have revealed that the brain has a power-washing system that switches into high gear during deep sleep, flushing away harmful waste. This nightly cleanup is part of the restorative power of sleep and revives concentration, memory and motor skills.

As we age, however, this cleansing system gets sloppier, and it can begin to leave behind some of the metabolic detritus of the day, including the amyloid beta proteins found in the plaque that characterize Alzheimer’s disease and other devastating neurological disorders.

The stunning revelation in 2012 of this previously unknown brain infrastructure — dubbed the glymphatic system — has ushered in a new age of research and invention not only about sleep but also aging, dementia and brain injuries. Nearly 300 research papers were published last year on the glymphatic system.

One of those research paths leads to Tucker’s lab and the invention on his bed stand, called AugNOD for Augmented Neural Oscillation Driver. In prototype, it looks like a particularly severe orthodontic apparatus with a toll-road transponder strapped to the top. Refined, slighter versions are in the works.

By stretching the length of deep sleep, Tucker’s device aims to boost that overnight wash cycle. Someday soon, he hopes, something like it will be widely used by people to clear their heads — literally.

“It’s a way of keeping the brain young,” Tucker, 75, said.

The U.S. Army has taken interest. In October, the Department of Defense awarded Tucker, the University of North Carolina and several partner universities \$4.25 million to explore a possible military application of the device to restore mental sharpness to sleep-deprived soldiers on the battlefield.

Jeffrey Iliff, a member of the research

team from the University of Washington School of Medicine, said that, within five years, consumer devices may allow anyone to track their brain-cleansing deep sleep.

“And I think within the next seven years we are going to start to see approaches — like maybe this device, maybe some pharmacological approaches — that can begin to modulate it, that can maybe turn it up if you want to try to turn it up,” Iliff said. “I think things are starting to move very quickly in this field as work starts to move out into human populations.”

Iliff holds a significant place in the history of sleep science. He was lead author of several papers that in 2012 began describing the brain-scrubbing glymphatic system, based on work done at the University of Rochester with principal investigator Maiken Nedergaard.

“We think that this is relevant not just to Alzheimer’s disease, but we actually think this is probably relevant to all sorts of neuroimmunological conditions like multiple sclerosis, and neurovascular disorders like traumatic brain injury and stroke,” Iliff said.

“There is evidence that it is involved in headaches. There is evidence it may be involved in mood disorders and other neuropsychiatric conditions like depression or bipolar disorder.”

Sleep — particularly the electrical score the brain plays through each night — is at the heart of the process.

Each kind of sleep — from the lighter stages,

through deep sleep, to rapid eye movement or REM — is marked by a distinct pattern of brain waves, which scientists have been eavesdropping on for almost a century with electroencephalography (EEG).

The deepest sleep, just before REM, produces slow brain waves that help organize and store away memories of the day and kicks the glymphatic washing cycle into high gear.

EEG tests show that as people age, they spend less time in deep sleep and more in lighter sleep.

“Many people, after age 30, their deep sleep goes to hell,” Tucker said. “We think that can explain much of the memory decline in older people, and it starts at age 30 — it’s not like you have to get old and decrepit.”

Tucker has been working on these problems for decades, founding a company in 1992 that pioneered a high-definition EEG worn like a wired-up hairnet. That company, Electrical Geodesics, was bought for



PHOTOS BY LEAH NASH/For the Washington Post

Brain Electrophysiology Lab test research assistant Ander Hersh wears a prototype that monitors sleep and improves slumber by sending electrical impulses into the brain.

nearly \$37 million by Philips in 2017.

His new company, Brain Electrophysiology Lab, in Eugene, Ore., seeks not just to monitor the brain’s electrical activity but also to influence it. The work emulates findings from labs around the world that have begun to coax the brain from one stage of sleep to another with minuscule doses of current.

These artificial impulses mimic the ones produced in the head during deep sleep, and the brain follows their lead and also begins producing these slower brain waves, plunging itself into the deepest realms of sleep.

“If you change the electrical current going through the head, the neurons naturally synchronize with that,” Tucker said.

Tucker and others published last May a small, peer-reviewed study where by administering tiny pulses of electricity for five minutes at a time to snoozing test subjects, they increased time in deep sleep by an average of 13%. He said that is enough to begin making the brain more effective at organizing memory and clearing waste.

Applying small amounts of electricity to the brain, called transcranial electrical stimulation, is not new. A sweeping 2017 review determined that it appears to be safe, noting no serious side effects in more than 18,000 sessions included in the survey. It has been touted for providing a host of possible neurological benefits, many of which remain unproven.

“Given the amount of research and the amount of promise and the amount of media attention dedicated to transcranial electrical stimulation, that hasn’t really translated into home devices that are FDA-approved for various indications,” cautioned Anna Wexler, a bioethicist at the University of Pennsylvania and one of the authors of the safety study.

For the DOD, “the glymphatic system presents an opportunity to understand how chronic stressors might build over



Shijing Zhou, research lab manager at the Brain Electrophysiology Lab, wears a geodesic head web device that does high-definition EEG collection.

time, but also may provide insight into more rapid recovery from some types of brain injuries,” said Christopher Steele, a director at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command.

The Army is funding a parallel project that also is trying to develop a brain-clearing device, led by Rice University, Baylor College of Medicine and Houston Methodist Hospital.

As the military research project proceeds, a separate company founded by Tucker is working to begin a Food and Drug Administration trial of a consumer version of his cap to increase deep sleep. (Others on the research team have no financial interest in Tucker’s device or his companies, they said.)

“I want to be a consumer of this sleep therapy device,” Tucker said. “I want to be sure for the next decade I can maintain the best function I can for an increasingly old guy.”



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OPINION

Long war in Ukraine could bring global chaos

BY HAL BRANDS
 Bloomberg Opinion

The war in Ukraine has become a brutal, grinding contest of attrition. As the conflict drags on, the question becomes, which side does time favor? Kyiv is betting that its leverage will increase as an isolated Russia comes face to face with economic and military ruin. Russian President Vladimir Putin’s wager is that he can devastate Ukraine even with a weakened army, while using the threat of global economic chaos to sever Kyiv’s lifeline to the outside world. Each side is trying to bleed and batter the other into submission, a dynamic that will fuel far-reaching instability — and present the United States with nasty challenges.

In recent weeks, the fighting has occurred primarily in eastern Ukraine. Russia is using hellacious artillery barrages and methodical attacks to slowly seize more territory, in hopes of fully “liberating” the Donbas region. Ukraine is hanging on, inflicting terrible casualties while also suffering, by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s own admission, heavy losses.

Notwithstanding Russian territorial gains, Ukraine still has reason for optimism. Its military power is, in important respects, increasing, as Kyiv receives longer-range artillery and other sophisticated weapons from Western countries. Some of the world’s top intelligence services are also effectively working for Kyiv, providing information that helps Ukrainian military leaders anticipate the enemy’s blows and strike plenty of their own.

Russia’s military power, in contrast, will probably atrophy in a long war, because Russia’s economy and defense industry are subject to harsh sanctions, and the morale of its forces will fade as casualties mount. As long as Ukraine has most of the world’s advanced

democracies behind it, it can plausibly hope to weaken and ultimately break the Russian army — and then perhaps recapture some of the territory Moscow has stolen.

Yet there are crucial caveats. One is the threat of “Zelenskyy fatigue” — the danger that Western leaders will tire of Kyiv’s requests for money and guns at a time when their own economies are weakening and their own arsenals are being depleted. A recent \$40 billion U.S. support package for Ukraine drew Republican criticism on these grounds. If the costs of the war keep rising, and if Zelenskyy keeps insisting that Ukraine will liberate all the territory Russia has taken since 2014, his foreign backers may come to see him as not an inspiration but a burden.

That prospect will interact with Putin’s strategy, which involves riding out sanctions while turning Ukraine into a disaster zone. The blockade of Ukraine’s Black Sea ports, especially Odesa, is making it prohibitively difficult to export wheat and other goods. The ongoing brutalization of the country has caused a catastrophic economic contraction. Russia may not be able to defeat Ukraine militarily, but it can wreck the economy and force Kyiv to make enormous demands on its international supporters for years to come.

Moreover, Putin is using the prospect of global economic carnage as a means of geopolitical coercion. If Ukraine can’t export wheat, countries around the world will suffer. High energy prices are exacerbating recessionary pressures in developed and developing economies alike. By inflicting enough pain, perhaps Putin can peel away reluctant members, such as Germany, from the democratic coalition and make Ukraine sue for peace. Global chaos could help Putin in other ways, too: The longer the war lasts, the higher the chance a major crisis over Iran or Taiwan will pull U.S. attention elsewhere.

Indeed, whether or not this strategy succeeds, it will test Washington. In response to Moscow’s economic strangulation campaign, the United States could use Russian state assets it has frozen to sustain and rebuild Ukraine. Yet that would unavoidably increase global fears about the weaponization of American financial dominance. The U.S. could try to turn the tables on Putin by dialing up economic coercion of Russia. But this would probably require greater use of secondary sanctions — penalizing third parties that do business with Moscow — which would in turn cause greater friction with countries that rely on Russian oil or other exports.

Perhaps most ticklish is the issue of restoring Ukraine’s ability to export (especially wheat) to the world. This is crucial to easing the economic shocks the war has caused. Yet it might require taking steps such as escorting Ukrainian ships, “re-flagging” them as American, or forcibly opening a secure land or maritime corridor — actions that would project U.S. power into the heart of an ongoing war.

Rather than aiming primarily to deter Russia from attacking NATO countries, the U.S. would then be trying to compel Russia to stop impeding Ukraine’s trade with the world. This could lead to a perilous moment, as success in relieving economic pressure from Russia could amount to the failure of Putin’s strategy for winning the war.

The conflict in Ukraine may seem to have settled into a violent equilibrium. But the turmoil that war produces, and the global dilemmas it presents, have only begun.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Hal Brands is the Henry Kissinger Distinguished Professor at Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies and co-author of “Danger Zone: The Coming Conflict with China.” This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

AI could help brick-and-mortars rebound, thrive

BY BRIAN ONORIO
 Special to the Chicago Tribune

Before COVID-19, financial pundits were busy predicting the inevitable death of brick-and-mortar retail stores. But two years later, we Americans are emerging from the pandemic, remembering that in-person shopping is actually something we enjoy doing, and are heading back to the brick-and-mortar stores in droves. Is it possible to reconcile this behavior with the recent phenomenal rise of online shopping?

It actually is. These two trends point to an exciting, lucrative reconciliation that could reward consumers, entrepreneurs and investors — the arrival of artificial intelligence in retail shopping. AI is promising to transform the way Americans shop.

According to a study by RetailWire and Brain Corp, almost half of all retailers have plans to start experimenting with in-store robotics in the near future. Machines can take over simple, repetitive tasks, saving consumers time and businesses money and creating new models of retail work. Even at a time of labor shortages in many retail fields, the U.S. consumer could see a much-enhanced shopping experience.

For instance, Amazon Fresh stores enable shoppers to leave without stopping at a checkout register. Through the company’s “Just Walk Out” technology, groceries are scanned as they are dropped into Amazon’s

Dash Carts, and customers’ accounts are charged when they leave. Amazon is bringing cashier-free tech to its Whole Foods stores in 2022, too, starting with one in California and one in Washington, D.C.

Automated checkout technology is only one of the more obvious improvements offered by AI. Many other applications of AI technology are well along in development. Robots and scanners can track inventory, stock shelves and find misplaced or mislabeled products.

AI can also increase store security and not just by deterring shoplifters when products are closely tracked. AI monitoring of spaces for trespassing, loitering or overcrowding can help direct security staff to solve problems. And AI will be able to tell when parking lot lamps need repair or scan unfrequented places like self-storage facilities and stockyards, where full-time, in-person security is uneconomical.

But that’s only the beginning of the story. AI-powered shopping can create a much more personalized experience for each shopper, making it as refined to your tastes as clicking into Amazon or eBay.

Clothing chain Uniqlo is already using AI-powered kiosks in some stores to gauge customers’ reactions to certain looks or outfits by analyzing their facial expressions to help them find the styles that suit them best. North Face has used IBM’s Watson technology to help customers select the right coats

for their adventures. Beauty product stores such as Sephora are using AI to conduct skin analysis and make precise recommendations about colors, products and application techniques. Lowe’s is helping lost customers locate the right items with its roaming LoweBots.

Imagine other applications that could allow the retailer to offer you coupons and promotions via your electronic device as you move around the store looking at products. Remark Holdings, an AI industry leader, has developed AI-powered tools with retail applications marketing to your personal tastes and floor plan optimization for more appealing displays.

The lockdowns gave us a sneak preview of what a post-brick-and-mortar economy would look like. Shopping online became a way of life, but the experience of personal isolation left us less healthy and triggered a global crisis of anxiety and depression.

Today, people are looking to go shopping again, ready to spend. While the convenience of e-commerce will never lose its value, neither will the need for human contact. AI has the potential to support the return to the stores, transforming the way Americans shop. As a result, American retailers could be looking at another golden age.

Brian Onorio is a tech executive from the Research Triangle in North Carolina.

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



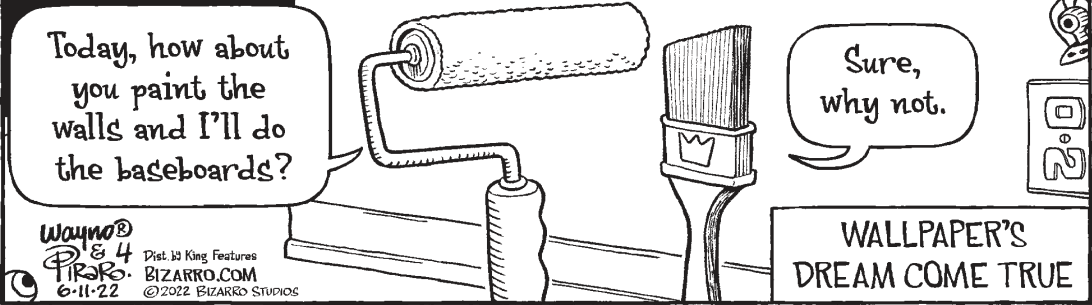
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

- ACROSS
- DOWN
- 25 Ruin the veneer
- 26 Burner locale
- 28 Seder time
- 30 Altar in the sky
- 31 AOL rival
- 33 Recipe abbr.
- 34 Speed (up)
- 39 Hide
- 41 Cheap novels
- 42 Salt Lake City squad
- 43 Video game giant
- 45 Analogy words
- 47 Venetian blind part
- 48 Ballpoints
- 49 Pink Floyd's Barrett
- 51 Shred
- 53 Chopper
- 1 Gold or silver
- 6 Confuses
- 12 Alaskan capital
- 13 "Piece of cake!"
- 14 Like native llamas
- 15 Sikh headgear
- 16 Laugh-a-minute
- 17 Early bed
- 19 Rock's Ocasek
- 20 "Funny!"
- 22 La-la lead-in
- 24 Type squares
- 27 "Chocolat" actor
- 29 Dutch cheese
- 32 Body art facilities
- 35 Love god
- 36 Proboscis
- 37 Scooted
- 38 Corp. execs
- 40 Answer an invite
- 42 Employ
- 44 Bandleader Puente
- 46 Priority Mail org.
- 50 Aquarium favorites
- 52 Dale
- 54 Vain person
- 55 Broaden
- 56 Ancient Greek poet
- 57 Takes five
- 1 City bond, for short
- 2 Within (Pref.)
- 3 Pearly whites
- 4 Bond rating
- 5 Noontime meal
- 6 Wine region
- 7 Uncertainty
- 8 Aachen article
- 9 Retriever variety
- 10 Morales of "Ozark"
- 11 Harmonization
- 12 Honey holder
- 18 Friendly relationship
- 21 Commotion
- 23 Seminary subj.
- 24 Tours season

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

6-11 CRYPTOQUIP

QFAP U TGLLZA AUVJACP EGJU

VUPLQGMF MSTEZGAV QGJF

TNVZGT LGAJUCB MSLAV,

GJ'V U ZUQKNZ KUZUKAZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE I HAVE ATTEMPTED EVERY OPENING CHESS PLOY THAT I'VE LEARNED, HAVE I RUN THE GAMBIT?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals F

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SCOREBOARD/SPORTS BRIEFS

PRO SOCCER

MLS							
EASTERN CONFERENCE							
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
NYCFC	8	3	2	26	25	10	
Philadelphia	6	1	7	25	19	10	
CF Montréal	7	5	2	23	28	26	
New York	6	3	5	23	24	15	
Orlando City	6	5	3	21	17	20	
Cincinnati	6	7	1	19	21	25	
Inter Miami CF	5	6	3	18	15	22	
Charlotte FC	5	8	1	16	13	18	
Columbus	4	5	4	16	17	16	
Atlanta	4	5	4	16	20	20	
New England	4	5	4	16	22	23	
Toronto FC	4	7	3	15	21	27	
D.C. United	4	7	2	14	17	23	
Chicago	2	7	5	11	13	20	

WESTERN CONFERENCE							
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
LAFC	9	3	2	29	29	16	
FC Dallas	7	3	4	25	24	13	
Real Salt Lake	7	4	4	25	18	19	
Austin FC	7	4	3	24	28	18	
LA Galaxy	7	5	2	23	17	15	
Nashville	6	4	4	22	18	16	
Houston	5	6	3	18	17	17	
Minnesota	5	6	3	18	15	15	
Colorado	5	6	3	18	16	17	
Vancouver	5	7	2	17	16	24	
Seattle	5	6	1	16	15	16	
Portland	3	6	6	15	21	25	
San Jose	3	6	5	14	25	32	
Sporting KC	3	8	4	13	13	26	

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

Saturday, June 4
Vancouver 2, Real Salt Lake 1
Saturday's games
New York at Charlotte FC
San Jose at Nashville
Sunday's games
New England at Sporting Kansas City
Tuesday's game
Vancouver at Seattle
Wednesday's game
Orlando City at New England
Saturday, June 18
Los Angeles FC at Seattle
Portland at LA Galaxy
Toronto FC at New York
Charlotte FC at Columbus
Austin FC at CF Montréal
Houston at Orlando City
Cincinnati at Philadelphia
D.C. United at Chicago
Vancouver at FC Dallas
San Jose at Real Salt Lake
Sunday, June 19
Miami at Atlanta
Colorado at New York City FC
Sporting Kansas City at Nashville
Minnesota at New England

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
SD Wave FC	4	2	2	14	12	7
Houston	3	1	3	12	11	3
Chicago	3	1	3	12	11	8
Portland	2	1	4	10	11	7
Angel City FC	3	3	1	10	4	6
Gotham FC	3	2	0	9	5	5
OL Reign	2	2	3	9	5	5
Washington	1	2	5	8	6	7
Louisville	2	3	2	8	6	9
Orlando	2	3	2	8	9	17
Kansas City	1	4	2	5	5	11
North Carolina	1	3	1	4	6	6

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

Saturday, June 4
Chicago 1, OL Reign 0
Gotham FC 1, Washington 0
North Carolina 3, Louisville 0
San Diego Wave FC 2, Kansas City 2, tie
Tuesday, June 7
Houston 0, Angel City FC 0, tie
Wednesday, June 8
Washington 0, Chicago 0, tie
Portland 2, San Diego Wave FC 2, tie
Saturday's games
North Carolina at Washington
Angel City FC at Louisville
Gotham FC at Kansas City
Sunday's games
OL Reign at San Diego Wave FC
Orlando at Chicago
Portland at Houston
Friday's game
Louisville at Washington
Saturday, June 18
Chicago at Kansas City
Angel City FC at OL Reign
Sunday, June 19
Orlando at Portland
San Diego Wave FC at Gotham FC
Houston at North Carolina

TENNIS

Valencia International
Thursday
At Club de Tennis Sporting Club de Tennis Valencia
Valencia, Spain
Purse: Euro 92,742
Surface: Red clay
Women's Singles
Round of 16
Arantxa Rus (4), Netherlands, def. Ekaterine Gorgodze, Georgia, 6-2, 7-5.
Zheng Qinwen (3), China, def. Irina Bara, Romania, 4-6, 6-3, 6-0.
Reka Luca Jani, Hungary, def. Leyre Romero Gormaz, Spain, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-4.
Nuria Parrizas Diaz (1), Spain, def. Katarina Zavatska, Ukraine, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-1.
Women's Doubles
Quarterfinals
Anastasia Detiuc and Miriam Kolodziejova, Czech Republic, def. Yu-Chieh Hsieh, Taiwan, and Beatrice Gumulya, Indonesia, 6-3, 6-3.
Arantxa Rus, Netherlands, and Alexandra Panova (2), Russia, def. Yana Sizikova and Anastasia Potapova, Russia, 7-5, 6-4.

Libema Open
Thursday
At Autotron Rosmalen Den Bosch, Netherlands
Purse: Euro 648,130
Surface: Grass
Men's Singles
Round of 16
Tim van Rijthoven, Netherlands, def. Taylor Fritz (3), United States, 6-7 (9), 7-5, 6-4.
Brandon Nakashima, United States, def. Sam Querrey, United States, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (6).
Adrian Mannarino, France, def. Alex de Minaur (4), Australia, 6-2, 6-3.
Felix Auger-Aliassime (2), Canada, def. Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (5).
Ilya Ivashka, Belarus, def. Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, 6-4, 6-2.
Daniil Medvedev (1), Russia, def. Gilles Simon, France, 7-5, 6-4.
Karen Khachanov (5), Russia, def. Kamil Majchrzak, Poland, 5-7, 7-5, 7-6 (5).
Women's Singles
Round of 16
Alison van Uytvanck, Belgium, def. Elise Mertens (8), Belgium, 6-2, 6-3.
Veronika Kudermetova (6), Russia, def. Anna Blinkova, Russia, 5-7, 5-2, ret.
Caty McNally, United States, def. Tamar Zidansek (4), Slovenia, 6-1, 6-1.
Kirsten Flipkens, Belgium, def. Ann Li, United States, 6-1, 6-1.
Belinda Bencic (2), Switzerland, def. Anna Kalinskaya, Russia, 7-6 (2), 6-4.
Shelby Rogers, United States, def. Elena Rybakina (3), Kazakhstan, 6-2, 6-4.
Ekaterina Alexandrova (7), Russia, def. Anhelina Kalinina, Ukraine, 6-4, 6-2.
Men's Doubles
Round of 16
Marcelo Melo, Brazil, and Raven Klaasen, South Africa, def. Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen, Belgium, 7-6 (13), 6-4.
Nicolas Mahut and Pierre-Hugues Herbert (1), France, def. Tim van Rijthoven and Gijs Brouwer, Netherlands, 7-6 (7), 6-4.
Matthew Ebden and Max Purcell (4), Australia, def. Luke Saville and Alex de Minaur, Australia, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 10-7.

DEALS

Thursday's transactions
BASEBALL
Major League Baseball American League
BOSTON RED SOX — Reinstated RHP Hansel Robles from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Phillips Valdez to Worcester (IL).
MINNESOTA TWINS — Agreed to terms with C Gary Sanchez on a one-year contract.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Recalled RHP Adam Oller from Las Vegas (PCL). Optioned LHP Sam Selman to Las Vegas.
National League
CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with C Willson Contreras on a one-year contract.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Reinstated INF Max Muncy from IL. Optioned INF/OF Zach McKinstry to Oklahoma City (PCL).
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Reinstated RHP Stephen Strasburg from the 10-day IL and a rehab assignment. Optioned LHP Sam Clay to Rochester (IL).
BASKETBALL
Women's National Basketball Association
CHICAGO SKY — Announced G Julie Allemand was set to arrive.
INDIANA FEVER — Announced C Alaina Coates cleared waivers.
LOS ANGELES SPARKS — Announced F Amy Atwell cleared waivers.
NEW YORK LIBERTY — Signed G Crystal Dangerfield to a rest-of-season hardship contract.
PHOENIX MERCURY — Signed G Jennie Simms to a hardship contract.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
BALTIMORE RAVENS — Signed TE Charlie Kolar.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Announced LB Devante Bond suffered a season ending knee injury.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed DT Caeveon Patton. Waived LB Jordan Glasgow and DT McKinley Williams III.
HOUSTON TEXANS — Waived DB Kolby Harvell-Peel with an injury designation.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Announced OLB Jordan Smith suffered a season-ending knee injury.

Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, and Brandon Nakashima, United States, def. Denys Molchanov, Ukraine, and Roman Jebavy, Czech Republic, 6-3, 3-6, 10-7.
Robin Haase and Matwe Middelkoop, Netherlands, def. Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, and Daniil Medvedev, Russia, 6-4, 6-4.
Women's Doubles
Round of 16
Suzan Lamens and Isabelle Haverlag, Netherlands, def. Kaitlyn Christian, United States, and Giuliana Olmos (3), Mexico, 7-5, 6-3.
Veronika Kudermetova, Russia, and Elise Mertens (1), Belgium, def. Renata Voracova, Czech Republic, and Julia Lohoff, Germany, 6-2, 6-4.
Anna Kalinskaya, Russia, and Caty McNally, United States, def. Elixane Lechemia, France, and Paula Kania-Chodun, Poland, 6-4, 7-6 (1).
Demi Schuur, Netherlands, and Desirae Krawczyk (2), United States, def. Yanina Wickmayer, Belgium, and Lesley Pattinama Kerkhove, Netherlands, 6-1, 6-3.
Shelby Rogers, United States, and Alexa Guarachi, Chile, def. Kirsten Flipkens and Alison van Uytvanck, Belgium, 6-4, 7-5.

Rothesay Open Nottingham
Thursday
At Nottingham Tennis Centre Nottingham, Great Britain
Purse: \$239,477
Surface: Grass
Women's Singles
Round of 16
Beatriz Haddad Maia (7), Brazil, def. Yuriko Lily Miyazaki, Britain, 6-2, 7-6 (4).
Maria Sakkari (1), Greece, def. Rebecca Marino, Canada, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3.
Alison Riske (6), United States, def. Caroline Garcia, France, 6-4, 7-5.
Ajla Tomljanovic (5), Australia, def. Katie Boulter, Britain, 6-3, 6-4.
Women's Doubles
Round of 16
Zhang Shuai, China, and Beatriz Haddad Maia (1), Brazil, def. Viktorija Golubic, Switzerland, and Maria Camila Osorio Serano, Colombia, 6-2, 6-3.

Mercedes Cup
Thursday
At Tennis Club Weissenhof Stuttgart, Germany
Purse: Euro 692,235
Surface: Grass
Men's Singles
Round of 16
Oscar Otte, Germany, def. Denis Shapovalov (4), Canada, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (4).
Andy Murray, Britain, def. Alexander Bublik (7), Kazakhstan, 6-3, 7-6 (4).
Marton Fucsovics, Hungary, def. Hubert Hurkacz (3), Poland, 7-5, 6-7 (7), 6-3.
Stefanos Tsitsipas (1), Greece, def. Dominic Stephan Stricker, Switzerland, 6-3, 6-4.
Nick Kyrgios, Australia, def. Nikoloz Basilashvili (5), Georgia, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-3.
Men's Doubles
Quarterfinals
Michael Venus, New Zealand, and Tim Puetz (1), Germany, def. Arthur Rinderknech and Benjamin Bonzi, France, 7-6 (6), 3-6, 10-7.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed CB Brandon Flowers to a one-day contract for him to retire with the team. Signed DB Joshua Williams to a rookie contract.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed LB Porter Gustin. Released CB Jarvis Davis and DE Daeshon Hall.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed CB Jack Jones to a rookie contract.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS — Signed P Jake Camarda to a rookie contract.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
DETROIT RED WINGS — Signed C Elmer Soderblom to a three-year, entry-level contract.
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Signed F Markus Nurmi to a one-year, entry-level contract.
SOCCER
Major League Soccer
MLS DISCIPLINARY — Fined Sporting Kansas City D Kayden Pierre an undisclosed amount for simulation/embellishment in the match on May 28 against Vancouver. Fined Atlanta United head coach Gonzalo Pineda an undisclosed amount for exhibiting unacceptable conduct and using inappropriate language directed towards match officials on May 28 against Columbus. Suspended Atlanta United MF Thiago Almada for two additional matches (three matches total) and fined him an undisclosed amount for exhibiting aggressive behavior toward and making unwanted physical contact with a match official after a match on May 28 against Columbus.
HOUSTON DYNAMO — Announced designated player M Hector Herrera is eligible for play on July 9.
SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC — Loaned F Sam Adeniran to San Antonio FC (USL) for the remainder of the USL 2022 season.
National Women's Soccer League
NJ/NY GOTHAM FC — Announced D Estelle Johnson has been invited to the Cameroon National team for the Africa Cup of Nations tournament in Morocco.
COLLEGE
MICHIGAN ST. — Announced assistant coach Mike Garland is retiring from men's basketball.
UT-MARTIN — Named Maddie Waldrop assistant coach of women's basketball.

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	10	3	.769	—
Chicago	7	4	.636	2
Washington	8	5	.615	2
Atlanta	7	5	.583	2½
New York	4	8	.333	5½
Indiana	3	11	.214	7½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Las Vegas	10	2	.833	—
Dallas	6	5	.545	3½
Seattle	6	5	.545	3½
Los Angeles	5	7	.417	5
Phoenix	3	8	.273	6½
Minnesota	3	9	.250	7

Wednesday's games
Connecticut 88, Indiana 69
Washington 84, Chicago 82
Thursday's games
No games scheduled.
Friday's games
Chicago at Connecticut
New York at Indiana
Seattle at Dallas
Washington at Minnesota
Atlanta at Phoenix
Saturday's games
Las Vegas at Los Angeles
Sunday's games
Chicago at New York
Seattle at Dallas
Phoenix at Washington
Indiana at Minnesota

GOLF

RBC Canadian Open		
Thursday		
At St. George's G&CC		
Toronto		
Purse: \$8.7 million		
Yardage: 7,014; Par: 70		
First Round		
Wyndham Clark	32-31-63	-7
Matt Fitzpatrick	32-32-64	-6
Doug Ghim	32-33-65	-5
Harold Varner III	31-34-65	-5
Tony Finau	31-35-66	-4
Lee Hodges	32-34-66	-4
Mackenzie Hughes	32-34-66	-4
Rory McIlroy	32-34-66	-4
Jonas Blixt	32-35-67	-3
Sam Burns	33-34-67	-3
Mark Hubbard	33-34-67	-3
Jim Knous	34-33-67	-3
Shane Lowry	33-34-67	-3
Keith Mitchell	33-34-67	-3
Carlos Ortiz	33-34-67	-3
Patrick Rodgers	34-33-67	-3
Alex Smalley	33-34-67	-3
Luke Donald	32-36-68	-2
Nick Hardy	33-35-68	-2
Kramer Hickok	34-34-68	-2
Charley Hoffman	32-36-68	-2
Danny Lee	34-34-68	-2
Brandt Snedeker	33-35-68	-2
Vaughn Taylor	33-35-68	-2
Jason Bohn	33-36-69	-1
Jonathan Byrd	33-36-69	-1
Bill Haas	34-35-69	-1
Adam Hadwin	34-35-69	-1
J.J. Henry	34-35-69	-1

LIV Invitational-London		
Thursday		
At Centurian Club		
St. Albans, England		
Purse: \$20 million		
Yardage: 7,047; Par: 70		
a-amateur		
First Round		
Charl Schwartzel, Stinger GC	30-35-65	-5
Hennie Du Plessis, Stinger GC	33-33-66	-4
P. Khongwatmai, Crushers GC	33-34-67	-3
Scott Vincent, Smash GC	32-35-67	-3
Brandon Grace, Stinger GC	35-33-68	-2
Justin Harding, Hy Flyers GC	34-34-68	-2
Phil Mickelson, Hy Flyers GC	33-36-69	-1
Dustin Johnson, 4 Aces GC	34-35-69	-1
Sam Horsfield, Majesticks GC	32-37-69	-1
Laurie Canter, Majesticks GC	33-36-69	-1
Oliver Bekker, 4 Aces GC	36-34-70	E
Adrian Otaegui, Tourque GC	37-33-70	E
Hideoto Tanihara, Iron Heads GC	34-36-70	E
Peter Uihlein, Crushers GC	34-36-70	E
Chase Koepka, Hy Flyers GC	36-34-70	E
Talor Gooch, Torque GC	36-35-71	+1
Sergio Garcia, Fireballs GC	36-35-71	+1
Wade Ormsby, Punch GC	35-36-71	+1
Viraj Madappa, Iron Heads GC	37-34-71	+1
Ian Snyman, Cleeks GC	35-36-71	+1
James Piot, Fireballs GC	33-38-71	+1
Louis Oosthuizen, Stinger GC	35-37-72	+2
Pablo Larrazabal, Gleeks GC	34-38-72	+2
Kevin Na, Iron Heads GC	35-38-73	+3
Richard Bland, Crushers GC	34-39-73	+3
Shawn Norris, 4 Aces GC	36-37-73	+3
Ryosuke Kinoshita, Punch GC	37-36-73	+3
Jinichiro Kozuma, Smash GC	37-36-73	+3
Jediah Morgan, Fireballs GC	37-36-73	+3
a-R. Chantnuwrt, Hy Flyer GC	36-37-73	+3
Oliver Fisher, Niblicks GC	38-35-73	+3

BRIEFLY

Commanders deal with fallout of Del Rio's post

ASHBURN, Va. — The NFL's Washington Commanders once again find themselves at the center of an off-the-field issue that has nothing to do with football, dealing another blow to their rapidly sagging reputation as one of the most dysfunctional franchises in professional sports.

The fallout from the latest misstep requiring an explanation or apology — assistant coach Jack Del Rio comparing the protests in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd to the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol — could have far-reaching consequences beyond the locker room.

It immediately scuttled the team's best opportunity to reach a deal to build a new stadium, which was the most important long-term project facing owner Dan Snyder amid a lengthy drought without a playoff victory and a dearth of fan enthusiasm. Multiple Virginia lawmakers pointed to Del Rio's comments as another reason not to vote on legislation luring the Commanders to the state, and by Thursday the bill already on its last legs was pushed off the table for the rest of the year.

In other NFL news: ■ The Las Vegas Raiders have locked up another key player with a new contract, agreeing to a two-year, \$32 million extension with Pro Bowl slot receiver Hunter Renfrow.

Renfrow was entering the final season of his rookie contract after being a fifth-round pick in 2019 and he got a big pay raise based on his breakthrough 2021 season.

Renfrow had 103 catches for 1,038 yards and nine TDs last season.

Cincinnati, Houston, UCF joining Big 12 in 2023

The American Athletic Conference announced an agreement Friday with Cincinnati, Houston and UCF that paves the way for the schools to join the Big 12 in 2023.

The three schools announced in September they had accepted invitations to join the Big 12, which moved quickly to a rebuild its membership after Texas and Oklahoma revealed they planned to join the Southeastern Conference in 2025.

Along with the addition of BYU in 2023, the Big 12 is set to be a 14-team conference for two years.

Each departing school agreed to pay the AAC \$18 million, with more than half paid out by 2024 and the rest due over a period of 12 years, two people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because neither the conference nor the schools are releasing terms of the agreement.

ROUNDUP

Ohtani, Angels end 14-game skid

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Shohei Ohtani pitched seven stellar innings and hit a two-run homer, and the Los Angeles Angels snapped their 14-game losing streak with a 5-2 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Thursday night.

Andrew Velazquez added a three-run homer in the sixth, but the Angels ended the longest skid in franchise history squarely on the shoulders of their AL MVP, both on the mound and at the plate.

Ohtani (4-4) yielded four hits and a run while striking out six. He also had two hits, and he put the Angels ahead for the first time by crushing his 12th homer of the season off Nick Pivetta (5-5) in the fifth inning.

Los Angeles won for the first time since May 24 and for the first time under interim manager Phil Nevin, who replaced the fired Joe Maddon after Monday's series-opening loss.

Alex Verdugo had an RBI single in the eighth for the Red Sox, whose seven-game winning streak ended with their first loss in the first two stops of their 10-game West Coast road trip.

Phillies 8, Brewers 3: Bryce Harper, Kyle Schwarber and Odúbel Herrera homered as interim manager Rob Thomson and visiting Philadelphia won its season-high seventh straight game.

Thomson, 6-0 since replacing Joe Girardi, is off to the best start by a first-time major league manager since Boston's Joe Morgan won his first 12 games from July 15-25, 1988, the Elias Sports Bureau said.

Dodgers 11, White Sox 9: Los Angeles' Max Muncy broke open the game with a three-run homer in the top of the sixth inning after Chicago manager Tony La Russa ordered an intentional walk to Trea Turner with a 1-2 count against left-hander Bennett Sousa.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

The Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani follows through as he hits a two-run home run during the fifth inning of Thursday's game against the Boston Red Sox in Anaheim, Calif.

Muncy had five RBIs in his return after missing 11 games with left elbow inflammation.

Yankees 10, Twins 7: Gerrit Cole gave up home runs to his first three batters and a career-high five in 2½ innings, but visiting New York rallied to beat Minnesota behind two home runs from Joey Gallo.

Five of Minnesota's first 16 batters homered off Cole, who allowed seven runs and eight hits.

Diamondbacks 5, Reds 4: Josh Rojas hit a two-run single for a 4-3 lead during a four-run rally in the ninth as visiting Arizona gained a four-game split.

Arizona went into the ninth trailing 3-1, but got help when Tony Santillan (0-1) threw a wild pitch, then threw away a bunt for an error.

Rockies 4, Giants 2: At Denver, Colorado's Yonathan Daza looped

a tiebreaking single into right field, capping a three-run fourth inning fueled by three San Francisco errors.

The Giants made a season-high four errors, including a pair in the fourth by second baseman Thairo Estrada.

Rays 2, Cardinals 1: Shane Bieber (7-2) allowed an unearned run and two hits in eight innings and struck out nine, winning his fifth consecutive start as host Tampa Bay completed a three-game sweep.

Ji-Man Choi hit a two-run homer in the fourth off Miles Mikolas (4-4), who pitched a three-hitter.

Guardians 8, Athletics 4: Andrés Giménez drove in the go-ahead run with a single in his team's four-run eighth inning, and host Cleveland rallied without manager Terry Francona, sending Oakland to its ninth straight loss.

Giménez looped a single into left field off Lou Trivino (1-5) as the Guardians moved back over .500 for the first time since May 9.

Francona was ejected in the sixth inning for arguing with the Guardians down 4-2.

Braves 3, Pirates 1: Max Fried (6-2) won his sixth straight decision by pitching six sharp innings and host Atlanta earned its eighth consecutive victory.

Adam Duvall, Dansby Swanson and Travis d'Arnaud each drove in a run for the Braves, whose winning streak is their longest since they took nine in a row last August.

Royals 7, Orioles 5: Carlos Santana and MJ Melendez homered, leading host Kansas City past Baltimore.

Santana hit a two-run homer to break a fifth-inning tie as the Royals won consecutive games for the first time since May 17-18.

Strasburg gives up seven runs in first start

Associated Press

MIAMI — Jazz Chisholm bunted for a single on the first pitch of Stephen Strasburg's return from a one-year absence, stole second and the Marlins kept on going in a 7-4 win over the Washington Nationals on Thursday night that finished a three-game sweep.

The 33-year-old right-hander, pitching on the 13th anniversary of Washington selecting him with the first overall pick in the amateur draft, allowed seven runs, eight hits and two walks in 4⅓ innings.

"It felt good, and I'm excited to learn from it and get back out there for the next one," Strasburg said. "Fastball command could have been better in certain spots there. I felt the changeup was working pretty well. All in all, it's a place to start and try to build off of it."

Strasburg (0-1) struck out five and hit a bat-



Strasburg

ter, throwing 63 of 83 pitches for strikes while averaging 91.9 mph with his fastball.

"He didn't throw 93-94 (mph) but his fastball had oof at the end of it," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said. "There was late action. Now it's a matter of getting back out there every five days and getting him going."

The three-time All-Star and 2019 World Series MVP had not pitched in a major league game since June 1 last year, spending much of the time recovering from surgery on July 28 to correct thoracic outlet syndrome, a compression of nerves, arteries or veins near the neck or armpit. He had made three minor league rehabilitation starts.

The Marlins had been 0-12 in 15 games started by Strasburg since May 5, 2015. His record against them dropped to 21-8.

Trevor Rogers (3-5) allowed two runs and six hits in five innings.

Jesús Sánchez homered and doubled against Strasburg, and Chisholm had two bunt singles. Garrett Cooper doubled and singled, giving him six straight multihit games.

Chisholm scored on Sánchez's RBI double and Jon Berti followed with a two-run single for a 3-0 lead in the first. Miami entered with 13 first-inning runs — only Detroit with 12 had fewer.

Juan Soto hit a two-run single in the fifth before Miami chased Strasburg in a four-run bottom half that included Cooper's RBI double, Jesús Aguilar's run-scoring single and Sánchez's two-run homer.

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	41	16	.719	—
Tampa Bay	34	23	.596	7
Toronto	33	23	.589	7½
Boston	30	28	.517	11½
Baltimore	24	34	.414	17½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	33	26	.559	—
Cleveland	27	26	.509	3
Chicago	26	29	.473	5
Detroit	23	33	.411	8½
Kansas City	19	37	.339	12½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	36	21	.632	—
Los Angeles	28	31	.475	9
Texas	26	30	.464	9½
Seattle	26	31	.456	10
Oakland	20	39	.339	17
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	38	21	.644	—
Atlanta	31	27	.534	6½
Philadelphia	28	29	.491	9
Miami	25	30	.455	11
Washington	21	38	.356	17
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	33	26	.559	—
St. Louis	32	26	.552	½
Pittsburgh	24	31	.436	7
Chicago	23	33	.411	8½
Cincinnati	20	37	.351	12
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	37	20	.649	—
San Diego	35	22	.614	2
San Francisco	30	26	.536	6½
Arizona	28	31	.475	10
Colorado	25	32	.439	12
Thursday's games				
Cleveland 8, Oakland 4 N.Y. Yankees 10, Minnesota 7 Kansas City 7, Baltimore 5 L.A. Angels 5, Boston 2 Tampa Bay 2, St. Louis 1 Arizona 5, Cincinnati 4 Philadelphia 8, Milwaukee 3 L.A. Dodgers 11, Chicago White Sox 9 Colorado 4, San Francisco 2 Atlanta 3, Pittsburgh 1 Miami 7, Washington 4				
Friday's games				
Oakland at Cleveland Toronto at Detroit Baltimore at Kansas City Tampa Bay at Minnesota Texas at Chicago White Sox Boston at Seattle Arizona at Philadelphia Chicago Cubs at N.Y. Yankees Milwaukee at Washington Pittsburgh at Atlanta Miami at Houston Cincinnati at St. Louis N.Y. Mets at L.A. Angels Colorado at San Diego L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco				
Saturday's games				
Tampa Bay (Baz 0-0) at Minnesota (TBD) Texas (Pérez 4-2) at Chicago White Sox (Giolito 4-2) Baltimore (Wells 2-4) at Kansas City (Lynch 2-5) Oakland (Montas 2-6) at Cleveland (Plesac 2-4) Toronto (Gausman 5-4) at Detroit (Brieske 0-5) Boston (Wacha 4-1) at Seattle (Kirby 1-1) Cincinnati (Greene 3-7) at St. Louis (Wainwright 5-4) Arizona (Bumgarner 2-5) at Philadelphia (Wheeler 4-3) Milwaukee (Lauer 5-1) at Washington (Corbin 2-8) Colorado (Freeland 1-5) at San Diego (Clevinger 1-0) Miami (Garrett 0-1) at Houston (Valdez 6-2) Pittsburgh (Thompson 3-4) at Atlanta (Wright 6-3) Chicago Cubs (Swarmer 1-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Montgomery 1-1) L.A. Dodgers (Urias 3-5) at San Francisco (TBD) N.Y. Mets (Carrasco 7-1) at L.A. Angels (Lorenzen 5-3) Colorado (TBD) at San Diego (Gore 4-1)				
Calendar				
July 17-19 — Amateur draft, Los Angeles. July 19 — All-Star Game, Los Angeles. July 24 — Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, Cooperstown, N.Y.				

COLLEGE BASEBALL/COLLEGE SOFTBALL

SUPER REGIONALS

Two wins away from CWS trip

16 teams battle for eight berths in Omaha

By ERIC OLSON
Associated Press

Super regionals are the next stop on the NCAA baseball tournament's Road to Omaha.

Four of the best-of-three series are Friday through Sunday: Notre Dame (38-14) at No. 1 national seed Tennessee (56-7); No. 9 Texas (45-19) at No. 8 East Carolina (45-19); No. 12 Louisville (42-19-1) at No. 5 Texas A&M (40-18); and Oklahoma (40-21) at No. 4 Virginia Tech (44-12).

The four series Saturday through Monday: UConn (49-14) at No. 2 Stanford (45-15); Arkansas (41-19) at No. 10 North Carolina (42-20); Mississippi (35-22) at No. 11 Southern Mississippi (47-17); and No. 14 Auburn (40-19) at No. 3 Oregon State (47-16).

The eight winners advance to the College World Series in Omaha, Neb., starting June 17.

You like offense?

The 16 super regional teams averaged 9.3 runs per game per team, and six of them scored at least 20 runs in a game. Auburn scored 17 runs per game and Virginia Tech 15.3.

Overall, the regional round was the highest-scoring since 1999 at 7.1 runs per game per team. Notre Dame was on the low end at 3.7 after outscoring three regional opponents 50-5 last year.

The long ball continues to be in fashion. North Carolina slugged 14 home

Scoreboard

NCAA super regionals	
Best-of-three; x-if necessary	
Host school is Game 1 home team; visiting school is Game 2 home team; coin flip determines Game 3 home team	
At Knoxville, Tenn.	
Friday:	Tennessee (56-7) vs. Notre Dame (38-14)
Saturday:	Tennessee vs. Notre Dame
x-Sunday:	Tennessee vs. Notre Dame
At Greenville, N.C.	
Friday:	East Carolina (45-19) vs. Texas (45-19)
Saturday:	East Carolina vs. Texas
x-Sunday:	Texas vs. East Carolina
At College Station, Texas	
Friday:	Texas A&M (40-18) vs. Louisville (42-19-1)
Saturday:	Texas A&M vs. Louisville
x-Sunday:	Texas A&M vs. Louisville
At Blacksburg, Va.	
Friday:	Virginia Tech (44-12) vs. Oklahoma (40-21)
Saturday:	Virginia Tech vs. Oklahoma
x-Sunday:	Oklahoma vs. Virginia Tech
At Stanford, Calif.	
Friday:	Stanford (45-15) vs. UConn (49-14)
Saturday:	Stanford vs. UConn
x-Sunday:	Stanford vs. UConn
At Chapel Hill, N.C.	
Friday:	North Carolina (42-20) vs. Arkansas (41-19)
Saturday:	North Carolina vs. Arkansas
x-Sunday:	North Carolina vs. Arkansas
At Hattiesburg, Miss.	
Friday:	Southern Miss (47-17) vs. Mississippi (35-22)
Saturday:	Southern Miss vs. Mississippi
x-Sunday:	Mississippi vs. Southern Miss
At Corvallis, Ore.	
Friday:	Oregon St. (47-16) vs. Auburn (40-19)
Saturday:	Oregon St. vs. Auburn
x-Sunday:	Auburn vs. Oregon St.

runs in five games, Arkansas 12 in four games and Auburn 11 in three games.

The 349 home runs in 105 regional games were a record. The regional average of 1.66 per game per team was up 9% from last year's 1.52 and up 28%



HANNAH RUHOFF, THE SUN HERALD/AP

Southern Miss pitcher Tyler Stuart is embraced by teammates after beating LSU in a regional Monday in Hattiesburg, Miss. Southern Miss is making only its second appearance in super regionals.

from 1.30 in 2019. There was no tournament in 2020 because of the pandemic.

You like strikeouts?

Mississippi pitchers averaged 15.3 strikeouts per nine innings in regionals and the tournament field's overall rate was a record 8.86. The trend has been for strikeouts to go up in super regionals and the CWS.

Vols do it all

Barring a flameout, any conversation about most dominant college baseball teams in history must include Tennessee, which is the first team to lead the nation in both home runs (150) and ERA (2.38).

The Volunteers' 56-7 record gives them a winning percentage (.889) on track to be highest since Oregon State went 56-6 (.903) in 2017. Outstanding pitching carried the Beavers that season

but their offensive numbers were modest.

Tennessee's homer total is the highest since LSU hit 157 in 1998 and ranks sixth all-time. Nine players have double-digit homers. The Vols are the only team this season with an ERA under 3.00.

Been there, done that

Arkansas' four straight super regional appearances lead the nation. East Carolina, Mississippi and Stanford are in supers for a third time in a row.

Texas' winning percentage of .729 in regionals and super regionals is best in the field and second all-time among teams that have played a minimum of 25 such games.

Welcome aboard

Virginia Tech is the only team making its first appearance in super regionals. Few expected the Hokies to be here. They were picked second-to-last in the

ACC Coastal Division and started 0-4 in conference play. They ended up winning the ACC regular-season title and recording their most wins (44) since 1985. They enter supers having won 34 of their last 40.

Welcome back

Southern Mississippi is making its second appearance in super regionals and first since 2009. That was the year the Golden Eagles made it to the CWS under Corky Palmer. Current coach Scott Berry was an assistant on the '09 team.

Game 1 means a lot

The team that wins Game 1 of its super regional has advanced to the CWS 80% of the time (140 of 176) since the tournament went to its current format in 1999. Eleven of the last 12 national champions won their super regional openers.

Oklahoma beats Texas, repeats as national champion

By CLIFF BRUNT
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Jocelyn Alo and Tiare Jennings put Oklahoma on the brink of a repeat national championship with their stellar play throughout the Women's College World Series.

Their teammates brought it home.

Kinzie Hansen and Grace Lyons hit three-run homers, Jayda Coleman made spectacular defensive plays and No. 1 seed Oklahoma defeated unseeded Texas 10-5 on Thursday night to win its second straight title.

Alo, the two-time USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year, was named Most Outstanding Player. She hit .667 for the World Series, tied Jennings for a series-record five home runs and set a series mark with 12 runs scored.

Alo ends her career with a Divi-



SUE OGROCKI / AP

Oklahoma players celebrate after defeating Texas in the Women's College World Series finals Thursday in Oklahoma City.

sion I record 122 home runs. Most important to her, she ended one of the greatest college careers with a win.

"These are the moments that I'll remember forever," she said. "I'm just happy to be going out on top and to just know that all the hard

Scoreboard

World Series	
At Oklahoma City	
Championship Series	
(Best-of-three)	
Oklahoma 2, Texas 0	
Wednesday:	Oklahoma 16, Texas 1
Thursday:	Oklahoma 10, Texas 5

work we put in paid off."

The Sooners (59-3) claimed the best-of-three series against their Big 12 rival 2-0 after winning Game 1 on Wednesday 16-1 with a record six home runs. It was Oklahoma's sixth overall national championship and fifth in the past nine World Series.

Alo hit a hard single in her final at-bat in the sixth inning and later scored. In the seventh, she stepped in to play left field and caught two fly balls for outs before leaving a standing ovation.

The future looks bright for the Sooners.

Jennings — just a sophomore — set a World Series record with 15 RBIs. Coleman is a sophomore, too.

And then there's Oklahoma's Jordy Bahl (22-1). The NFCA Freshman of the Year settled down after a rough start. She allowed two runs and four hits in four innings.

Texas wasn't even expected to reach the World Series.

Mia Scott hit a three-run homer and JJ Smith had two hits for the Longhorns (47-22-1), who had survived six elimination games in NCAA tournament play before Thursday.

"I think it was all worth it in the end to say that we left it all out there and emptied our gas tanks to get to where we are," Texas catcher Mary Iakopo said.

NBA FINALS/GOLF

Once thought expendable, Brown now indispensable

Guard overcomes early struggles, shines for Celtics in Finals

By KYLE HIGHTOWER
Associated Press

BOSTON — There was a time when the narrative surrounding Jaylen Brown was that he was a redundant player on a Celtics team shaping its identity around budding superstar Jayson Tatum. Though he was a recent All-Star on a team packed with young, homegrown talent, Brown was considered by outsiders to be a potential trade chip Boston could use to adjust a roster that didn't get past the conference finals during his first five seasons.

Cries to jettison the third overall pick of the 2016 draft only grew louder after a tepid 18-21 start to this season under new coach Ime Udoka that had veteran Marcus Smart calling out the Celtics' young stars.

Six months and a run to the NBA Finals later, Mr. Expendable is suddenly Mr. Indispensable as the Celtics pursue their 18th championship.

"It's hard for me to reflect on moments when I'm in the heart of the storm," Brown said. "But everything, all the adversity, all the ups and downs and negative things, indirectly and directly, has helped build me to where I'm at."

Brown is averaging a team-best 22.7 points and 7.3 rebounds through the first three games of the Finals. He delivered probably

NBA scoreboard

Finals	
(Best-of-seven)	
x-if necessary	
Boston 2, Golden State 1	
Boston 120, Golden State 108	
Golden State 107, Boston 88	
Boston 116, Golden State 100	
Friday: at Boston, AFN-Sports, 3 a.m. Saturday CET; 10 a.m. Saturday JKT	
Monday, June 13: at Golden State, AFN-Sports, 3 a.m. Tuesday CET; 10 a.m. Tuesday JKT	
x-Thursday, June 16: at Boston, AFN-Sports, 3 a.m. Friday CET; 10 a.m. Friday JKT	
x-Sunday, June 19: at Golden State, AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Monday CET; 9 a.m. Monday JKT	

his best performance of the playoffs — 27 points, nine rebounds and five assists — as Boston beat the Golden State Warriors 116-100 in Game 3 to take a 2-1 series lead.

His 17-point first quarter set the tone for Boston's attack, but Udoka said Brown's game has evolved on both ends.

"The versatility he gives us on the defensive end, is what it is. I think that goes trickle-down with Marcus and our bigs as well as our big wings," Udoka said.

"We're asking (for) more communication, more recognition, and he is one of the guys that's improved throughout the season as far as that."

While Brown has been locked in during the playoffs, Tatum said he and Brown knew there were ques-

tions about whether they could coexist after the team's slow start. He said they've figured out how to meld their skill sets and personalities.

"I think all of those things helped, from saying that we need to split the group up, get rid of somebody or me and JB can't play together," Tatum said after Boston beat Miami to win the Eastern Conference title. "That fueled us to figure it out and not run from it. ... That we trust in each other and we had to be better."

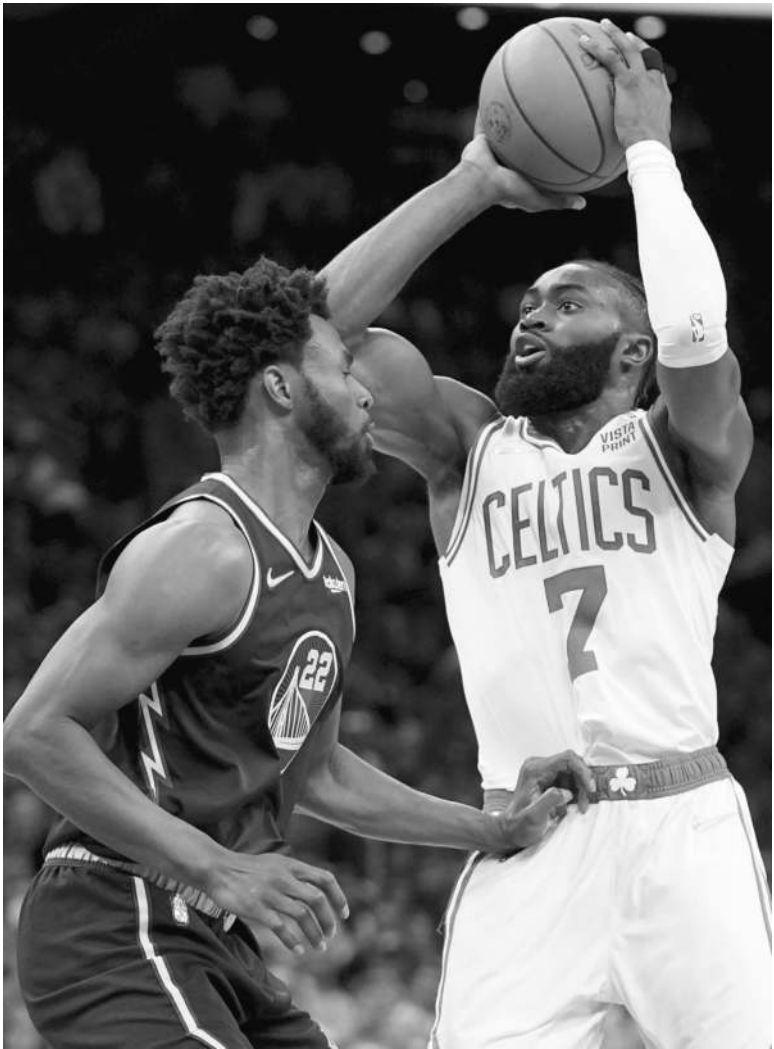
Under the tutelage of Udoka and his staff, both players have learned to play off their teammates more.

Tatum has steered away from his past tendencies of relying on isolation and jump shots. Instead, he's using the double teams he draws to shuffle the ball to Brown and others to share the scoring load.

Brown, too, has morphed his game. Against Golden State in particular, he's been slashing inside, finding mismatches and picking his spots against the Warriors' small lineups.

Smart said the aggression of Brown and Tatum has become contagious.

"They're very adamant about what they want, what they're going to do with the ball, with making decisions and making reads,"



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown shoots over Golden State Warriors forward Andrew Wiggins on Wednesday night during Game 3 the NBA Finals in Boston. Brown is averaging a team-best 22.7 points and 7.3 rebounds through the first three games of the series.

Smart said. "They've grown and matured in that aspect. They knew in order for us to reach our full potential that they were going to have to take that step. They took the challenge, and they're showing it and it's proven right now."

Brown has also been a steady-voice, reminding his teammates to block out distractions

such as Golden State's Draymond Green's attempts to rattle the Celtics with his physical play.

On Jan. 31, at the start of Boston's late-season turnaround, Brown tweeted, "The energy is about to shift."

Given his recent performance, his words are looking less cryptic and more prophetic.

Defectors open Saudi-funded golf series amid pomp, fractures

By ROB HARRIS
Associated Press

ST. ALBANS, England — At a distance it looked like a military flyover and Grenadier Guards trumpeting in a royal-style occasion. Only it wasn't an extension of Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee celebrations but the launch of the Saudi-funded golf breakaway, attempting to bring a sense of faux regal pageantry to the rebellion splitting the sport.

On a course just outside north London, the band dressed as infantrymen were there to proclaim the arrival of Dustin Johnson and Phil Mickelson, two stars enticed from the PGA Tour to potentially earn hundreds of millions of dollars on the LIV Golf series.

The planes rumbling overhead helped to mask the lack of significant crowd noise beyond the occasional shout of "Let's go, Phil!" as he prepared to tee off.

At the same time, the message Thursday from the PGA Tour was

being delivered — go off. To all the players who defected to the renegade series, they now face banishment from future tour events. Johnson had already given up his PGA membership, but Mickelson is not ready to.

The fury of LIV Golf — a product of the Saudi sovereign wealth fund — was clear, calling the PGA Tour "vindictive" with a decision that will only deepen the divides. There were no signs of the Saudi backing across the Centurion Club, nor any sponsor branding.

Mickelson was sporting a black cap adorned by his personal logo featuring a silhouette of himself playing golf, replacing the KPMG-branded one that was worn before the corporate sponsors dropped the deal in February after he disparaged the PGA Tour and Saudi Arabia. He matched Johnson with a 1-under 69, with Charl Schwartzel leading at 65.

Across the course, the only branding was from LIV Golf and a

sparse number of spectators. There was intrigue from those who did turn up, accompanied by a desire to see so many of the world's leading players, although none from the top 10.

Schwartzel, the 2011 Masters champion, had a one-stroke lead over fellow South African Hennie du Plessis. Scott Vincent of Zimbabwe and Phachara Khongwatmai of Thailand shot 67.

Jim Dawkins, who has been attending golf events for six decades, paid 67 pounds (\$84) for his pass to the the club between Hemel Hempstead and St. Albans.

"I thought as this was the first tournament of the rebel tour it would be interesting to see how it works and who is playing," said the 91-year-old Dawkins, who railed against the PGA Tour banning players. "I've seen an awful lot of changes."

LIV is running 54-hole, three-day tournaments, with a shotgun start that has players teeing off at



ALASTAIR GRANT/AP

Dustin Johnson watches his tee shot on the fourth hole Thursday. Johnson resigned from the PGA Tour to play in the Saudi series.

the same time from different holes. What confuses Dawkins is the team element.

The field is split into 12 teams with garish logos and brash names, like Johnson's 4 Aces and

Graeme McDowell's Niblicks.

"I find this scoreboard difficult to follow," said Dawkins, who traveled from the south of London. "You have got the players up there. I don't know how the teams are set up."

The top three teams share \$5 million on top of the \$20 million prize fund per event shared between the golfers individually.

To accept the lavish rewards, the players not only had to overcome concerns about being banned from the PGA Tour and events like the Ryder Cup, but also moral doubts.

This is a series viewed as being part of Saudi Arabia's efforts, branded "sportswashing" by human rights groups, to wipe away the stain of the kingdom's abuses.

"It's absolute rubbish, it's just a sport," said Colin Chambers, 80, a friend of Dawkins. "When you think about the Chinese, what they do, and we are still happy to go to their Olympics."

NHL PLAYOFFS

Avs, in holding pattern, prep for Final

Colorado rests, heals and waits for finish of Tampa-New York series

By PAT GRAHAM
Associated Press

DENVER — There were quite a few big names missing from Colorado’s practice Thursday: Captain Gabriel Landeskog, defensemen Devon Toews and Josh Manson, forward Andre Burakovsky.

No need for concern, though. Just a maintenance day for that group of Avalanche players as they rest up — and wait — to face the New York Rangers or two-time defending champion Tampa Bay in the Stanley Cup Final.

Maybe of some concern were two more missing forwards: Nazem Kadri (thumb) and Andrew Cogliano (hand), who both recently underwent surgery. They haven’t been ruled out from playing in the Final, whenever that may be. This time off could be the window they need to return to health.

“It’s good to get a little bit of rest,” forward J.T. Compher said of a break that could extend to nearly two weeks. “It’s just keeping your mind in it. You have a little time to relax, but it’s just mentally making sure you’re refreshed and focused on the goal ahead.”

The Avalanche started their preliminary preparations Thursday even as they remain in a holding pattern. They kept things condensed in front of fans — and kids attending a summer camp — during practice at their training facility, which houses laser tag, a climbing wall and arcade games on the other side of the rink.

“When we come to work, we’re going to work. When we give them



Pavel Francouz, above, played the final three games of the Western Conference finals in place of injured Darcy Kuemper, but Colorado coach Jared Bednar isn’t saying who will be in net for the Stanley Cup Final.

rest, we’ll give them rest,” coach Jared Bednar explained. “If they need anything extra, then it’s up to them to go and get what they need on their own.”

This was a practice session dedicated to getting back up to speed on the heels of a travel day back from Edmonton — where they finished a sweep of Connor McDavid and the Oilers — and an off day. They talked some strategy before taking shots on goaltenders Pavel Francouz and Darcy Kuemper. Bednar was mum on which one would be in net for Game 1.

Kuemper was the starter before exiting the first game against Edmonton with an upper-body injury. Francouz was in net the rest of the series as the Avalanche earned a spot in the Stanley Cup Final for the first time since 2001.

“It’s a tough decision,” Bednar said. “There will be conversations about it.”

Kuemper wouldn’t divulge the precise nature of his injury. He did say he was seeing the puck “really good.” In the Nashville series, Kuemper was poked through his mask with a stick that caught him

near his eye. He was back for the St. Louis series, which the Avalanche won in six games.

He applauded Francouz’s performance.

“Super happy for him,” Kuemper said. “It was great for the team.”

A blow to the team would be the potential loss of Kadri and Cogliano. Kadri left Game 3 after taking a cross-check from Evander Kane, who drew a one-game suspension for the hit. Cogliano was hurt after blocking a shot with his right hand in Game 4. Cogliano extended his

NHL scoreboard

Conference finals	
(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Rangers 2	
N.Y. Rangers 6, Tampa Bay 2	
N.Y. Rangers 3, Tampa Bay 2	
Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Rangers 2	
Tampa Bay 4, N.Y. Rangers 1	
Thursday: Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Rangers 1	
Saturday: at Tampa Bay, AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m. Sunday CET; 9 a.m. Sunday JKT	
x-Tuesday, June 14: at N.Y. Rangers, AFN-Sports2, 2 a.m. Wednesday CET; 9 a.m. Wednesday JKT	
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Colorado 4, Edmonton 0	
Colorado 8, Edmonton 6	
Colorado 4, Edmonton 0	
Colorado 4, Edmonton 2	
Colorado 6, Edmonton 5, OT	

left hand to the Oilers in the post-series handshake line.

Kadri has six goals and eight assists in these playoffs, while Cogliano plays a primary role on the penalty-kill unit.

“We’ll see how it goes when they get playing and whatnot,” Bednar said. “We’re hopeful they could be an option for us.”

One thing’s for sure: The Avalanche will be well-rested. They’re used to long layoffs, though, going a week between games after sweeping Nashville.

Bednar wasn’t concerned with the lengthy break even though Tampa Bay’s Jon Cooper mentioned rust in losing two straight to the Rangers to start the Eastern Conference finals. The Lightning have rallied at home.

“I’m worried about what we do with our (breaks), what we’ve deemed to be successful and that’s it,” Bednar said. “I don’t know how they handled it or what they did — nor do I care.”

Nor was Bednar about to take a moment to reflect on what they’ve accomplished so far.

“We still have work to do. That’s my approach,” Bednar said. “We’ll breathe when it’s over.”



Tampa Bay Lightning left wing Ondrej Palat (18) and center Steven Stamkos react after a goal by defenseman Mikhail Sergachev against the New York Rangers on Thursday night in New York.

Brink: Rangers again have backs to wall

FROM PAGE 24

cob Trouba said. “It was a tight game that could have gone either way. I think that’s what makes it more frustrating.”

Game 6 is Saturday night in Tampa, Fla.

“We haven’t won the series, it’s just 3-2,” Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. “The Rangers — any team — has proven they can wipe that out. We’re the first ones with our eyes wide open, knowing that can happen. We’ll see how this goes.”

Vasilevskiy made several sprawling saves midway through the third, stopping attempts by Ryan Strome, Adam Fox and then Lindgren in a 32-second span to keep it tied at 1. Vasilevskiy also gloved a shot by Kevin Rooney with about eight minutes left.

After Palat’s deflection put the

Lightning ahead, Hagel sealed the win with a empty-netter with 59 seconds remaining.

“The game-winning goal can come in the first minute or last minute,” Cooper said. “It doesn’t really matter when it comes. You just have to get it.”

The loss dropped the Rangers into a 3-2 series hole for the third time this postseason. They were down 3-1 to Pittsburgh in the first round before winning three straight to advance. Then, they trailed 3-2 against Carolina before winning the last two games to reach the conference finals.

“It seems like we play our best hockey when our backs are against the wall,” Lindgren said.

“We’ve just got to go to Tampa and win a game. Take it one game at a time and just draw from those past experiences and go play our

best hockey.”

The Rangers opened the scoring when Lindgren fired a shot from the left side over Vasilevskiy’s right shoulder with traffic in front with 9:31 left in the second period. It was the defenseman’s second of the postseason.

After a Lightning turnover, Motte fired a long shot that was gloved and smothered by Vasilevskiy with just under three minutes left to keep it a one-goal game.

Just 30 seconds later, Sergachev tied it from center point with a shot through traffic for his first this postseason with 2:26 to go.

The Rangers outshot the Lightning in a fast-paced and penalty-free first period. New York had the only shot on goal of the first 5½ minutes.

Kucherov hit a goalpost less than 20 seconds earlier.

SPORTS



MVP shoulders the load
Ohtani homers, pitches 7 innings as Angels end skid at 14 » **MLB, Page 20**

NHL PLAYOFFS



Lightning push Rangers to brink

Palat scores late as Tampa Bay grinds out win, 3-2 series lead over New York in Eastern Conference finals

BY VIN A. CHERWOOD
Associated Press

NEW YORK — After falling behind midway through the game, the Tampa Bay Lightning showed the poise of a two-time defending champion. They rallied for another late victory to move a win away from returning to the Stanley Cup Final.

Ondrej Palat scored on a deflection with 1:50 remaining to break a tie and lead the Lightning to a 3-1 victory over the New York Rangers on Thursday night for a 3-2 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

“We just stayed patient,” Tampa Bay captain Steven Stamkos said. “We knew it would be a chal-

INSIDE

Avs play the waiting game after sweep in West finals
Page 23

lenge in this atmosphere. We knew it would be a low-scoring grinding game. We continued our game plan and got rewarded.”

Mikhail Sergachev had a goal and an assist, and Brandon Hagel also scored to help the Lightning get their third straight win, the first by a road team in this series. Andre Vasilevskiy stopped 24 shots.

On the tiebreaking goal, Sergachev got a pass from Victor Hedman and fired a shot from the right point through traffic in front that deflected off Palat’s knee and past Igor Shesterkin to give the Lightning their first lead of the night.

“I saw our guys going to the net hard,” Sergachev said. “I tried to shoot the puck as quickly as possible.”

Ryan Lindgren scored for New York, which had won eight straight at home. Shesterkin finished with 24 saves.

“It definitely stings,” Rangers defenseman Ja-

SEE BRINK ON PAGE 23

Tampa Bay Lightning left wing Brandon Hagel scores an empty-net goal with 59 seconds remaining against the New York Rangers in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals on Thursday night in New York.

ADAM HUNGER/AP

Oklahoma wins its 2nd consecutive softball CWS title » Page 21