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STARS AND STRIPES®

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NATO mulls future safety guarantees for Ukraine

BY LORNE COOK
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — NATO leaders are discussing ways to ensure that Ukraine does not come under attack from Russia again once the war is over, but they are concerned about doing anything that might drag the organization into a wider conflict, the head of the military alliance said Monday.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is seeking “security guarantees” from the 31-nation alliance to ward off any future attack from Ukraine’s neighbor. Some countries are weighing what could be done to avoid a repeat of the war. Russia already annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

“There are consultations that are going on,” ahead of a summit involving President Joe Biden and his counterparts in Lithuania on July 11-12, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said during an interview with his predecessor, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, at a conference in Copenhagen.

Stoltenberg declined to provide details about those talks.

NATO allies benefit from a collective security guarantee — so called Article 5 of the organization’s founding Washington Treaty — which ensures that an attack on any one of their number would be considered an attack on them all.

In the past year, the U.S., U.K., France and Germany committed to provide security guarantees to Finland and Sweden when they applied to join NATO, should it be necessary to dissuade President Vladimir Putin from trying to destabilize the two Nordic neighbors.

Finland has since joined and has Article 5 protection, but Sweden’s accession is pending.

SEE SAFETY ON PAGE 6



JACKSON ADKINS/U.S. Navy

Sage is a 3-year-old yellow Labrador retriever deployed to the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford as a military facility working dog. She is part of an effort to improve quality of life for sailors deployed at sea.

All paws on deck for carrier

A furry friend gives sailors a boost aboard the USS Ford at sea

BY ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

With the help of a yellow Labrador retriever, the Navy’s newest aircraft carrier is testing a pilot program to improve quality of life for sailors at sea.

USS Gerald R. Ford is the first Navy ship to host an operational stress military working dog, said Cmdr. Genevieve Clark, a chaplain aboard the carrier.

Three-year old Sage from the Virginia Beach, Va.-based nonprofit Mutts With A Mission was aboard when the carrier left Naval Station Norfolk on May 2 for a global deployment.

“The dogs enable the individual to open up where they might not have otherwise been comfortable doing so.”

Brooke Corson
director of Mutts With A Mission

With a wag of her tail, love for attention and friendly demeanor, Sage offers sailors a way to get the stress-reducing benefits that animals can bring, Navy officials said.

“In a lot of ways, Sage normalizes life,” said Clark, who completed 120 hours of training before deployment in becoming the canine’s primary handler. “Because just like people have pets at home, that’s a normal part of life that we can offer now at sea.”

The Navy is working to address quality of life issues and pushing to expand services amid con-

SEE PAWS ON PAGE 5

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Cyberattack halts printing of Philadelphia newspaper

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Inquirer experienced the most significant disruption to its operations in 27 years due to what the newspaper calls a cyberattack.

The company was working to restore print operations after a cyber incursion that prevented the printing of the newspaper's Sunday print edition, the Inquirer reported on its website.

The news operation's website was still operational Sunday, al-

though updates were slower than normal, the Inquirer reported.

Inquirer publisher Lisa Hughes said Sunday "we are currently unable to provide an exact time line" for full restoration of the paper's systems.

"We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we work to fully restore systems and complete this investigation as soon as possible," Hughes said in an email responding to questions from the paper's newsroom.

The attack was first detected

when employees on Saturday morning found the newspaper's content-management system was not working.

The Inquirer "discovered anomalous activity on select computer systems and immediately took those systems off-line," Hughes said.

The cyberattack has caused the largest disruption to publication of Pennsylvania's largest news organization since a massive blizzard in January 1996, the Inquirer reported.

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|---|---------|
| Euro costs (May 16) | \$1.06 | Switzerland (Franc) | 0.8954 |
| British pound (May 16) | \$1.22 | Thailand (Baht) | 33.82 |
| Japanese yen (May 16) | 131.00 | Turkey (NewLira) | 19.6709 |
| South Korean won (May 16) | 1304.00 | | |
| Commercial rates | | (Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.) | |
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3770 | | |
| Britain (Pound) | 1.2519 | | |
| Canada (Dollar) | 1.3513 | | |
| China (Yuan) | 6.9523 | | |
| Denmark (Krone) | 6.8457 | | |
| Egypt (Pound) | 30.9004 | | |
| Euro | 1.0881 | | |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.8389 | | |
| Hungary (Forint) | 339.79 | | |
| Israel (Shekel) | 3.6624 | | |
| Japan (Yen) | 136.04 | | |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.3069 | | |
| Norway (Krone) | 10.6583 | | |
| Philippines (Peso) | 56.05 | | |
| Poland (Zloty) | 4.14 | | |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7501 | | |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.3373 | | |
| South Korea (Won) | 1338.69 | | |

INTEREST RATES

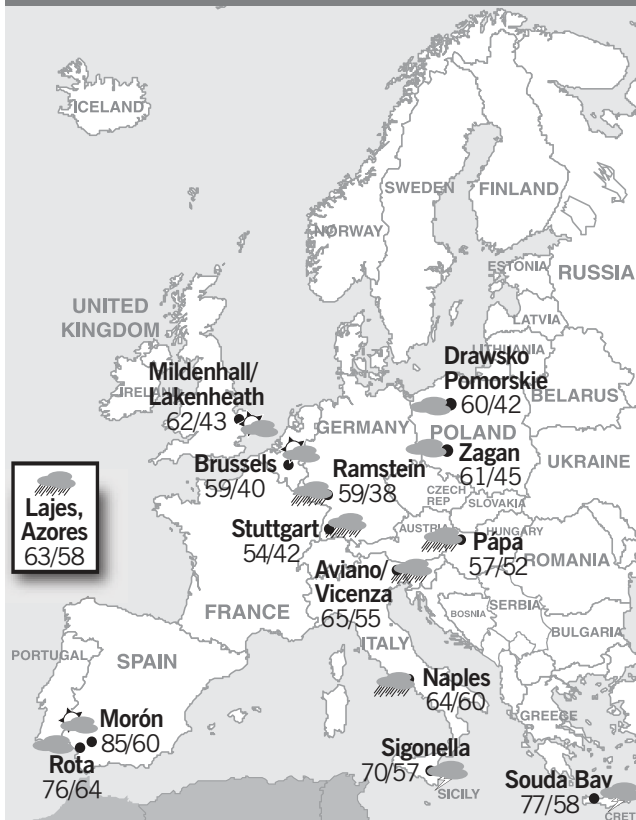
| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Prime rate | 8.25 |
| Interest Rates Discount rate | 5.75 |
| Federal funds market rate | 5.08 |
| 3-month bill | 5.23 |
| 30-year bond | 3.79 |

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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MILITARY

Air Force reveals upgrade to performance report system

By JONATHAN SNYDER
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force in March quietly launched myEval 2.0, an updated version of its personnel evaluation platform, following complaints about its usability when it debuted more than a year ago.

The app, an effort by the service to create a user-friendly performance review system, returned March 13 for colonel evaluations, Air Force spokeswoman Deana Heitzman told Stars and Stripes by email Friday.

She said the Air Force made no official announcement of myEval's return while it tested the improved system on a small group.

"It officially launched before the colonel's static close-out date, one of the smallest groups myEval would process at the same time," Heitzman said. "We wanted to ensure the system worked as intended prior to an official announcement."

The system has been available to officers and senior noncommissioned officers since May 9, Heitzman said. Noncommissioned officers should have access this summer.

The myEval system launched in January 2022 and was abruptly taken down in November after a large number of complaints about its functionality. Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne Bass in the fall promised "a better version of myEval and more transparency" on the next rollout.

Heitzman said the improved myEval system is appearing in increments to allow its managers to better address faults and questions as they arise.

"The reason why they're doing it is to just make sure that they're focusing on the people that are in-putting things now," she said. "So, if there's any issues, they can ad-



TREVOR COKLEY/U.S. Air Force

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne Bass in the fall promised "a better version of myEval and more transparency" on the next rollout.

dress it immediately."

So far, the new version of myEval is "working pretty well," Heitzman said.

"They're doing instant push updates whenever it is needed, but those are very minimal," she said.

MyEval 2.0 incorporates policy changes seamlessly, uses fewer pop ups, has secure cloud data storage and a click-to-sign signature function, all of which is internal to the system, Heitzman said.

The system runs on the Salesforce platform and is part of the myFSS overhaul of Air Force personnel management. Salesforce is a cloud-based customer relationship management platform that enables businesses to manage all relationships and interactions

with customers and potential customers, according to its website.

Heitzman could not confirm which company has the myEval contract or how much the contract costs.

The previous myEval issues included various evaluation errors, evaluations routed to the incorrect rating officials and training challenges, Heitzman said in December.

"So basically, it was a whole new system, they took all of the feedback from the 1.0, and implemented it into 2.0 to where it's working," she said by phone Thursday.

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MICHAEL SLAVIN/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division's Troop D assemble their Bradley Fighting Vehicles as part of Exercise Combined Resolve 18 on Friday at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Germany.

Texas troops bring scouts, tanks together at Bavaria exercise

By MICHAEL SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

HOHENFELS, Germany — A Texas-based brigade used the rough terrain and rainy weather at the Army's training grounds in Bavaria to test new battlefield tactics that combine scouts and tanks. The Combined Resolve 18 exercise marked the rollout of the armored cavalry troop concept by the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, which is based at Fort Cavazos, formerly known as Fort Hood. The exercise, which just wrapped up, involved the U.S., the U.K. and 14 other European allies and partners over about three weeks.

The concept uses smaller reconnaissance units composed of Joint Light Tactical Vehicles and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, with the firepower of M1 Abrams tanks backing them up.

"What's really different is the actual (smaller) size of the unit and how closely we work with scouts," said Sgt. 1st Class Wesley Moore, tank platoon leader, on Friday. "The scouts' job is to go out and find the enemy and we come and destroy them."

Training with international forces that might join them in the event of a conflict helps build trust and adds to the exercise's value, Moore said.

The new fighting method will continue to be tested by the 1st Cavalry Division.

"We are still getting our feet under us," said Troop D commander Capt. Robert Waugh. "Each report we have will help drive the development of the armored cavalry troop concept."

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Aerial drills underway; 'enemy provocations' in mind

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Large-scale aerial drills are underway again over the Korean Peninsula, nearly a month after South Korea carried out similar training with the United States.

More than 60 South Korean aircraft are taking part in the week-long, biannual Soaring Eagle exercise that kicked off Friday. It consists of aerial combat scenarios, ground-to-air missile simulations and aerial refueling training, according to a Ministry of National Defense news release.

Only South Korean aircraft are taking part in the exercise, ac-

ording to the release. They include F-35A Lightning IIs, F-15K Slam Eagles, KF-16s, KA-1 close air support aircraft and KC-330 refuelers.

Soaring Eagle's purpose is to "respond swiftly to recent, repeated enemy provocations and threats and to have the best operational capability," air force Col. Won Kwonsoo, chief of the Air Combat Command's Operational Training Division, said in the release.

The exercise comes 29 days after North Korea last fired a long-range ballistic missile that flew east for 620 miles on April 12. The missile prompted the Japanese

government to warn Hokkaido residents to seek shelter before it splashed down in the Sea of Japan, or East Sea.

North Korea has fired 12 ballistic missiles in nine separate days of testing so far this year.

Soaring Eagle follows several large-scale exercises by the United States and South Korean militaries. On March 20, roughly 1,200 U.S. and South Korean soldiers carried out four days of live-fire training with the M777 howitzer, Stryker armored fighting vehicles, AH-64E Apache attack helicopters and A-10 Thunderbolt II Warthog close air support aircraft. Those drills took place about

16 miles from the Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Korea.

One month later, U.S. sailors and Marines trained with their South Korean counterparts for the two-week Ssangyong Exercise that included more than 30 ships, 50 amphibious assault vessels and 70 aircraft.

The joint drills are part of Seoul and Washington's efforts to expand the scope of their military alliance and to restore the "realistic, theater-level combined exercise system," the White House said in an April 26 fact sheet.

During South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's state visit to the

White House on April 26, he and President Joe Biden released a joint statement saying their two countries will "broaden and deepen our ties as an alliance in action toward the future."

North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency criticized Yoon's visit in reports and accused Seoul of trying to fuel tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

The U.S. and South Korea's "hostile activities against [North Korea]" will end "tragically," KCNA reported on May 5.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.
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PACIFIC

F-15E Strike Eagles join Okinawa rotation

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

A second batch of U.S.-based F-15E Strike Eagles have rotated into Kadena Air Base on Okinawa as part of a two-year plan to replace the installation's aging F-15 fighters with a superior rotational force.

An unknown number of Strike Eagles began arriving April 22 from the 391st Fighter Squadron of Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, an 18th Wing statement said that day. The aircraft continued to trickle into the strategic air base through May 9, a spokesman from Japan's Ministry of Defense told Stars and Stripes by email Friday.

The Idaho F-15Es join a group of Strike Eagles that arrived April 8 from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.; F-35A Lightning II stealth fighters from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska; and Kadena's remaining F-15C/D Eagles.

"In coordination with our allies and partners, the Bold Tigers are here to support the 18th Wing to project decisive airpower as well as reinforce regional stability and security," Lt. Col. Jeremiah King, 391st Fighter Squadron commander, said in the statement.

The Air Force is just over a quarter of the way into a 24-month plan to replace its aging F-15 fighters at Kadena with rotating squadrons of more advanced warplanes. Some F-15s went to Air National Guard units in the United States or to the Air Force



MICAH ANTHONY/U.S. Air Force

A pilot assigned to the 391st Fighter Squadron taxis his F-15E Strike Eagle at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, on April 17 prior to the unit's rotational deployment to Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

boneyard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona.

There are now 22 Strike Eagles, 12 F-35As and an unknown number of F-15s at the base, the ministry spokesman said. The stealth fighters arrived March 28.

The Air Force does not release the number of deployed aircraft due to operational security. Some government officials in Ja-

pan speak to the media on condition of anonymity as a requirement of their positions.

The Air Force on Oct. 28 announced plans to replace 48 Eagles from the 44th and 67th Fighter Squadrons with rotating units of more advanced aircraft.

About a dozen F-22 Raptors from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, arrived in early November and a dozen



U.S. Air Force

An F-15E Strike Eagle assigned to the 391st Fighter Squadron lands at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, on April 22.

F-16CM Fighting Falcons arrived in January from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

Those aircraft have since departed.

The Strike Eagle — first delivered for testing in 1988 — is a dual-role fighter developed to meet Air Force needs for a jet that could effectively engage enemy targets on the ground, the Boeing website said. It can carry 23,000 pounds of weapons and is outfitted with advanced navigation and infrared targeting systems, allowing the fighter to fly at low altitude and high speeds at night or in inclement weather.

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Equity firm eyes potential airport at former Philippines naval base

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

American investors plan to develop facilities at a former U.S. naval base in the Philippines that could include the installation's airport, according to a Philippine government news outlet.

Cerberus Capital Management, a New York-based private equity firm, took control of a large shipyard in Subic Bay last year. Eight hundred Philippine navy sailors are now stationed in part of the installation, the government-run Philippine News Agency reported Friday.

Cerberus executives, led by chairman and former U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, discussed their investment plans during a Friday meeting with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos in Malacañang, the Manila Bulletin newspaper reported Sunday.

"We're all very excited about this project and ... we have always tried to find a way to regain our position in the shipbuilding," Marcos said during the meeting, according to the newspaper.

Cerberus did not immediately respond to questions emailed after hours Sunday in New York about the investment plans.

A spokesman for Marcos' office, Chelly Garafil, told the Philippine



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN SNYDER/Stars and Stripes

The control tower at the former home of Naval Air Station Cubi Point, Philippines, is pictured on April 23.

News Agency on Friday that Cerberus "sees value" in improving the former Cubi Point naval air station at Subic to serve as a logistics and cargo hub.

U.S. Air Force AC-130J Ghost rider gunships, MC-130J Commando II airlifters, CV-22 Osprey tiltrotors and MQ-9 Reaper drones operated from Cubi Point during last month's Balikatan drills involving more than 17,000 U.S. and Filipino troops.

Once a formidable Navy instal-

lation, Subic Bay has changed since U.S. forces departed in 1992. Subic Bay Metropolitan Corp., a government organization that runs the facility, is looking for ways to make money in the civilian sector.

South Korean shipbuilder Hyundai has expressed interest in two drydocks at Subic for shipbuilding and could move to the facility by year's end. That project would create 5,000 to 15,000 jobs, according to the Philippine News



U.S. Navy replenishment oiler, the USNS Big Horn, docks in Subic Bay during Balikatan training in the Philippines.

Agency.

Cerberus subsidiary Subcomm, which builds and installs submarine cables, will begin operating from Subic Bay in August, Garafil said, according to the news agency.

Cerberus is also eyeing investments in the Philippines' semiconductor and energy sectors, he said.

The mention of semiconductors and undersea cables suggests that the Philippines could become a terminus for cables in the Western Pacific and a backup to the Taiwanese semiconductor industry in the event of conflict or threat, according to Paul Buchanan, a New Zealand-based U.S. security expert.

The U.S. Navy could use improved facilities at Subic Bay for logistics, repairs and replenishment, Buchanan said in an email

Monday.

"The participation of civilian enterprises gives good economic cover to whatever military purpose might be served by the expanded facilities," he said.

The Subic Bay investments are a win for both parties, according to Patricio Abinales, a Philippines expert at the University of Hawaii.

"Cerberus will be able to fill the gap indeed and on the cheap while the Philippines may be able to avail (be it to buy, lease, etc.) of some of the ships constructed in this rehabilitated shipyard to project a more robust presence in the South China Sea," he said in an email Monday.

The limited U.S. industrial capacity in shipyards is well known, Leland Bettis, director of the Guam-based Pacific Center for Island Security research institute, wrote in an email the same day.

"This contributes to the current (U.S. Navy) fleet maintenance backlogs as well as caps on the number of new vessels than can realistically be planned for delivery," he said. "If political issues in the Philippines can be resolved, Navy work at U.S.-owned facilities in Subic has to be an attractive consideration."

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MILITARY

Dog handlers hail forgotten Vietnam heroes

BY MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Army veteran Ed Reeves knows his name could be on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial if it hadn't been for his German shepherd Prince.

It was Feb. 14, 1971 — Valentine's Day — Reeves and Prince were a scout team scoping out a trail in Phu Bai, Vietnam, as a group of U.S. soldiers followed behind. A small tree had fallen on the path, but Prince went around it instead of jumping over it. Reeves tried to get the dog to come back but Prince kept circling around the area. Reeves said he could not figure out what the dog was doing so he tried to walk over the tree. Prince came underneath him and put his nose to the ground to indicate something was there.

"I took a step back and he looked at me like, 'There you go, stupid,'" said Reeves, 72. The dog had discovered a mine was hidden at the spot.

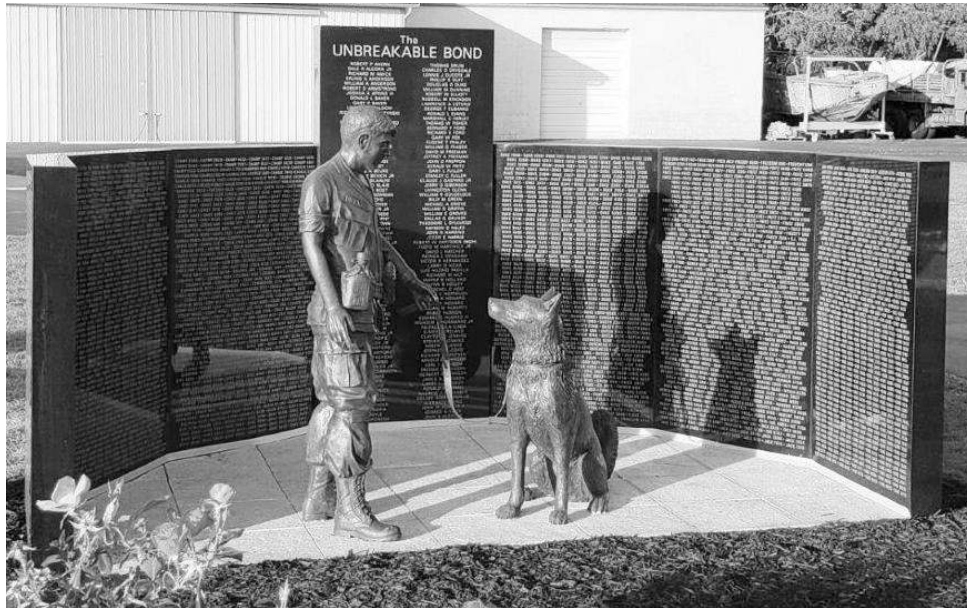
More than 4,000 dogs were trained for scouting, tracking, sentry duty, mine/tunnel detection and water patrols during the Vietnam War. The dogs are believed to have prevented about 10,000 service members from dying, according to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the nonprofit organization that built the wall.

But to the military, the efforts of the dogs were not a factor when it was time to come home. Some service members tried to get their dogs back to the U.S., but only 204 dogs returned from Vietnam — 2,000 were euthanized.

Few people attending a three-day "Welcome Home" commemoration in the nation's capital to honor Vietnam veterans and mark the 50th anniversary of the war's end knew about the dogs that served in Vietnam. Many of them at the event who passed by a tent set up by the Vietnam Veterans Dog Handler Association made similar comments: "I had no idea about dogs in Vietnam" and "Did we really leave dogs there?"

Joe Gilleran was a sentry and a dog handler in the Army in Ban Me Thuot, Vietnam, in 1970-71. As a sentry, he monitored areas that contained ammunition and fuel, and he conducted perimeter sweeps and base security.

Gilleran volunteered for the service in Scranton, Pa., in 1970 after a couple of guys



Motts Military Museum

The Vietnam War Dog Team Memorial was unveiled at the Motts Military Museum in Groveport, Ohio, in 2019.

from his block were drafted and died.

"I didn't think it was right that some people had to go while others did not," he said.

It took him a while to find the right job in the Army, but Gilleran was happy when he became a dog handler. He said his German shepherd, Rex, was the best-looking dog in Vietnam, but doesn't know what happened to the dog after the war. Gilleran, 72, said he assumes the worst.

He also said there could be a few reasons why the military did not bring dogs home from the war.

"It was Uncle Sam being Uncle Sam. Sorry, honey, we don't have the money," Gilleran said, referring to it being a cost-saving measure.

The military also thought dogs were carrying diseases that could be transported back to the United States and they were treated like excess equipment if there was not room on a plane or places were not lined up for the dogs to live in America, he said.

Reeves said when he left Vietnam on July 2, 1971, he was not allowed to have contact with Prince. As he was driving off in a jeep, Prince chased him down and he stopped to say goodbye.

"It was the happiest day of my life, but also the saddest day leaving him behind," Reeves said.

He arrived back in the U.S. on July 4, 1971, and Reeves said he thought about Prince and what happened to him. But 36 years later, Reeves learned Prince was one of the 204 dogs who made it home. Prince worked for four years as a drug-sniffing dog for U.S. Customs and Border Protection in San Diego. He retired to a kennel in that city and died of natural causes in 1983.

In 2000, Robby's Law was passed by Congress and signed by President Bill Clinton requiring all military working dogs suitable for adoption be available for placement after their service.

"There is nothing that can be done to fix the past," Reeves said. "But at least we know nothing like that will happen again."

The dogs who served in Vietnam are now receiving recognition.

A memorial was unveiled Sept. 28, 2019, at the Motts Military Museum in Groveport, Ohio, called The Vietnam War Dog Team Memorial to honor the 4,225 dogs who served Vietnam. Deputy Director Lori Motts said she was not aware of what dogs did during the Vietnam War, and she was upset about what happened to them.

"I said people have to know what happened. I said we have to create a memorial, we have to do something to keep these dogs' memories alive and let people know what



MATTHEW ADAMS/Stars and Stripes

Ed Reeves, a former Army scout dog handler, stands next to a photo of him and his dog, Prince on Friday in Washington.

they did," she said.

Motts said it took three years to raise \$113,000 for the memorial and complete the research and work of the memorial to ensure every dog's name and serial number were listed on the wall. The granite stone for the dog memorial came from the same quarry in India that was used for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"In my mind, that's the vision I had," Mott said. "I wanted a wall similar to that wall with every dog's name and numbers in alphabetical order so their handlers could come and find them."

In addition to the dogs, the wall includes the names of 297 dog handlers, one veterinary and two veterinary technicians who died in the war.

In front of the wall, there is a statue of a dog and his handler. The statue is based on a photo of Reeves and Prince from 1971. Reeves is a volunteer at the museum who worked with Motts throughout the process with finding records and information. She said it took some convincing for Reeves and Prince to be the model for the statue.

"[Reeves] doesn't feel like he really did anything other than what anybody else did at the time," Motts said. "I told him, 'That's the point. You guys were the grunts on the ground taking all the heat. You guys need to be out front — you and Prince walking point.'"

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Paws: Labrador retriever trained to assist service members in need

FROM PAGE 1

cerns about mental health and suicide.

In 2022, 70 active-duty sailors died by suicide. There were 59 and 65 suicide deaths of active-duty sailors in 2021 and 2020, respectively, according to the Navy's website.

Recent Navy efforts include installing waterfront resiliency centers at some bases, such as Naval Station Rota in Spain, where sailors can seek counseling or other mental health services just steps from four homeported destroyer berths.

The Navy also plans to place chaplains on all its destroyers by 2025 to help fill a critical need for coun-

seling, Stars and Stripes reported Feb. 27.

And officials at Naval Support Activity Bahrain last month held a mental health stand down designed to raise awareness of expanded services available there.

Sage offers sailors aboard Ford more than a chance to say "hello" or cuddle for a few minutes, officials say.

A casual encounter can offer an opportunity for Clark or one of three other trained handlers to talk with sailors who may be feeling homesick, anxious or have personal or work-related problems, she said.

"It's an entry point to further conversation where we can either

help directly or connect them with the people (needed)," Clark said.

Sage is trained to assist sailors in distress with a technique to help them regulate their breathing. She also intuitively seeks out service members who need attention, Clark said.

For the past year, Mutts With A Mission has sent dogs for visits to Navy ashore facilities and ships, Brooke Corson, the group's director, said in an email. Facility dogs also have worked at police departments, where they help to reduce the stigma associated with mental health, she said.

"They give the individual an 'excuse' to go seek help under the

guise of visiting the dog," Corson said. "Sometimes the dogs enable the individual to open up where they might not have otherwise been comfortable doing so."

Sage has taken part in thousands of hours of training, exposure and socialization since she was 8 weeks old. She's even received training on how to use ship ladders, Corson said.

The hope is to expand the program to more ships and potentially other military services.

For example, the group is working to place a military facility working dog aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp for an upcoming deployment, Corson said.

In just a few weeks, Sage has proven popular with Ford sailors, who often question her absence if Clark is alone. Sage routinely tours nearly all areas of the ship and attends staff and other meetings, Clark said.

Clark believes the program's value will become more apparent as Ford's mission continues.

"Sage is going to be even more important to being present with individuals or even small groups as they process the stressors that come with a deployment at sea," she said.

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EUROPE

UK promises drones, more missiles for Ukraine

By JILL LAWLESS
AND DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's prime minister promised Monday to provide Ukraine with attack drones and hundreds more missiles as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited the U.K. to drum up support in advance of a counteroffensive against Russian forces.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak greeted Zelenskyy with a handshake and a hug after he landed by helicopter at Chequers, the British leader's official country retreat. It's Zelenskyy's second trip to the U.K. since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Zelenskyy thanked Britain for its support so far, and said the war was a matter of "security not only for Ukraine, it is important for all of Europe."

Sunak told Zelenskyy that "your leadership, your country's bravery and fortitude are an inspiration to us all."

This is the fifth European country Zelenskyy has visited in the past three days, after Italy, the Vatican, Germany and France. He is seeking more aid as Ukraine prepares a long-anticipated spring offensive to retake territory seized by Russia.

The Kremlin said it took London's promise to supply Ukraine with more weapons "extremely negatively," but at the same time believed the supplies wouldn't drastically change the course of the war, spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday.

"Britain aspires to be at the forefront among countries that continue to pump weapons into Ukraine," Peskov said. "We repeat once again, it cannot yield any drastic and fundamental influence on the way the special military operation (in Ukraine) is unfolding. But, definitely, it leads to further destruction, further action. ... It makes this whole story for Ukraine much more complicated."

Sunak responded by pledging the U.K.'s long-term support for Ukraine.

The U.K. has become one of Uk-



LIBKOS/AP

Ukrainian soldiers fire a cannon near Bakhmut, an eastern city where fierce battles against Russian forces have been taking place, in the Donetsk region of Ukraine, on Monday.

raine's major military allies, sending Kyiv short-range missiles and Challenger tanks and training 15,000 Ukrainian troops on British soil. Last week, Britain announced it had sent Ukraine Storm Shadow cruise missiles, which have a range of more than 150 miles—the first known shipment of the weaponry that Kyiv has long sought from its allies.

Sunak's office also said it was giving Ukraine hundreds more air defense missiles, as well as "long-range attack drones" with a range of more than 120 miles.

"This is a crucial moment in Ukraine's resistance to a terrible war of aggression they did not choose or provoke," Sunak said. "They need the sustained support of the international community to defend against the barrage of unrelenting and indiscriminate attacks that have been their daily reality for over a year."

"We must not let them down."

Zelenskyy had said one of his missions on the trip was to build a "fighter jet coalition" to provide Ukraine with vital defenses from the skies. He said more work was needed on that front.

While the U.K. will not provide the planes, the prime minister said it would be a key part of the coalition and would begin training Ukrainian fighter pilots as soon as this summer.

Sunak will also push allies to deliver more support to Ukraine at a meeting of Group of Seven leaders in Japan later this week, Downing Street said.

As Zelenskyy visited European capitals, Russia stepped up attacks across Ukraine with drones and missiles. On Sunday, Russia shelled two communities in the northern border region of Sumy, regional officials said on Telegram. They said 109 explosions were recorded.

Zelenskyy's office said Monday

that the shelling had killed nine civilians and injured 19 in the past day. Six of the deaths were in the Kherson region. Two civilians were killed in Chuhuiv in the Kharkiv region and one in Prymorsk, which is on the Azov Sea coast about 12 miles from Russian-occupied Berdyansk.

The presidential office also reported that Marhanets, which lies across the river from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, was shelled.

Zelenskyy's stop in Britain followed a previously unannounced visit to Paris on Sunday evening, where he met French President Emmanuel Macron.

Macron's office said France would supply dozens of light tanks, armored vehicles and more air defense systems "in the weeks ahead," without giving specific numbers.

About 2,000 Ukrainian soldiers would also receive training in

France this year and nearly 4,000 others in Poland as part of a wider European effort, Macron's office said.

France had dispatched a plane to pick up Zelenskyy in Germany, where he met with Chancellor Olaf Scholz earlier Sunday.

It was his first visit to Berlin since the start of the invasion and came a day after the German government announced a new package of military aid for Ukraine worth more than 2.7 billion euros (\$3 billion).

Germany overcame its initial hesitation to become one of the biggest suppliers of arms to Ukraine, including Leopard 1 and 2 battle tanks, and the sophisticated IRIS-T SLM air defense system. Modern Western hardware is considered crucial if Ukraine is to succeed in its planned counteroffensive.

On Saturday, Zelenskyy met Pope Francis at the Vatican and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni in Rome.

During his European trip, Zelenskyy said Ukraine would aim to liberate Russian-occupied areas within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders, and not attack Russian territory.

Among areas still occupied by Russia are the Crimean Peninsula and parts of eastern Ukraine with mainly Russian-speaking populations.

The Washington Post cited previously undisclosed documents from a trove of U.S. intelligence leaks suggesting that Zelenskyy had considered trying to capture areas in Russia proper for possible use as bargaining chips in peace negotiations to end the war launched by Moscow.

This would put him at odds with Western governments that have insisted that weapons they provide must not be used to attack targets in Russia.

"We have neither the time nor the strength (to attack Russia)," Zelenskyy said when asked about the report, according to an official interpreter. "And we also don't have weapons to spare with which we could do this."

Safety: Most in NATO oppose membership for nation at war

FROM PAGE 1

"We don't know how this war will end, but what we do know is that when it ends it is extremely important that we are able to prevent history from repeating itself," Stoltenberg said. Beyond the annexation of Crimea, he also noted Russia's conflict with Georgia in 2008, saying: "This has to stop."

"The only way to ensure that that stops is partly to ensure that Ukraine has the military strength

to deter and defend against further aggression from Russia but also to find some kind of framework to prevent President Putin from continuing to chip away at European security," Stoltenberg said.

But he said that "if NATO allies, and especially of course the big ones, start to issue security guarantees bilaterally to Ukraine we are very close to Article 5. So, there's no way to find an easy solu-

tion to these issues."

In February, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak called on NATO countries to provide long-term security guarantees for Ukraine. He said they are necessary to shield Ukraine from future Russian aggression and to protect the system of international rules that has helped keep peace since the end of World War II.

NATO as an alliance does not provide weapons to Ukraine — al-

though its members do bilaterally and in smaller groups — and the organization defends only the territory of its member countries as it is wary of being dragged into a wider war with nuclear armed Russia. Ukraine has applied to join NATO but for that to happen, all 31 current members would have to agree. Most of the allies oppose letting the country in at a time when a war is raging.

Stoltenberg said that he expects

NATO leaders to endorse Ukraine's membership aspirations at their summit and to emphasize that the alliance's door remains open to European countries that want to join.

But he underlined that there is no point in talking about membership if Ukraine loses the war.

"The most important thing is to be very strong in our support to Ukraine, so Ukraine (can) prevail," Stoltenberg said.

NATION

Biden, leaders set to meet for debt limit talks

By SEUNG MIN KIM
Associated Press

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. — President Joe Biden and congressional leaders will likely resume talks on Tuesday at the White House over the debt limit, the president said Sunday, as the nation continues to edge closer to its legal borrowing authority with no agreement in sight.

The meeting was initially supposed to be Friday, but was abruptly postponed so staff-level talks could continue before Biden and the four congressional leaders huddled for a second time. Administration and congressional officials said Sunday that a meeting has not been finalized, although Tuesday was the likeliest option as Biden returns to Washington on Monday and is scheduled to leave for the Group of 7 summit in Japan on Wednesday.

Biden did not detail much progress in the talks, but said he remained hopeful that an agreement could be reached with Republicans to avoid what would be an unprecedented debt default, which could trigger a financial catastrophe.

“I remain optimistic because I’m a congenital optimist,” Biden told reporters while out for a bike ride in Rehoboth Beach, Del. “But I really think there’s a desire on their part as well as ours to reach an agreement. I think we’ll be able to do it.”

Aides said talks had continued throughout the weekend. But at least publicly, there was little indication that either the White

House or House Republicans had budged from their initial positions.

Biden has called on lawmakers to lift the debt limit without preconditions, warning that the nation’s borrowing authority should not be used to impose deep spending cuts and other conservative policy demands.

“We’ve not reached the crunch point yet,” Biden told reporters Saturday before flying to his beach home for the weekend. “There’s real discussion about some changes we all could make. We’re not there yet.”

On Sunday, senior administration officials said the talks among staff had so far been productive after Biden and the leaders — House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky — ended their first meeting last Tuesday without a breakthrough.

The president described that Oval Office session as “productive” even though McCarthy said later he “didn’t see any new movement” toward resolving the stalemate. White House and congressional aides have been in talks since Wednesday.

“The staff is very engaged. I would characterize the engagement as serious, as constructive,” Lael Brainard, head of the White House’s National Economic Council, said on CBS’ “Face the Nation.”



ELLIOT SPAGAT/AP

Teresa Munoz, seated at center wearing a pink hoodie, rests at a tent at a migrant shelter where she has been trying unsuccessfully for about a month to get an appointment to enter the United States through a new U.S. government mobile phone app in Tijuana, Mexico, on May 11.

Migrants depending on app to set up appointment seeking asylum

Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico — Pandemic-era limits on asylum known as Title 42 have been rarely discussed among many of tens of thousands of migrants massed on Mexico’s border with the United States.

Their eyes were — and are — fixed instead on a new U.S. government mobile app that grants 1,000 people daily an appointment to cross the border and seek asylum while living in the U.S. With demand far outstripping available slots, the app has been an exercise in frustration for many — and a test of the Biden administration’s strategy of coupling new legal paths to entry with severe consequences for those who don’t follow them.

“You start to give up hope but it’s the only way,” said Teresa Muñoz, 48, who abandoned her home in the Mexican state of Michoacan after a gang killed her husband

and beat her. She has been trying for a month to gain entry through the app, called CBPOne, while staying in a Tijuana shelter with her two children and 2-year-old grandson.

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said the Border Patrol made 6,300 arrests on Friday — the first day after the Title 42 restrictions expired — and 4,200 Saturday.

That’s sharply below the 10,000-plus on three days last week as migrants rushed to get in before new policies to restrict asylum took effect.

“It is still early,” Mayorkas said Sunday on CNN’s “State of the Union.” “We are in day three, but we have been planning for this transition for months and months. And we have been executing on our plan. And we will continue to do so.”

Despite the drop in recent days, authorities predict arrests will

spike to between 12,000 and 14,000 a day, Matthew Hudak, deputy Border Patrol chief, said in a court filing Friday.

And authorities cannot confidently estimate how many will cross, Hudak said, noting intelligence reports failed to quickly flag a “singular surge” of 18,000 predominantly Haitian migrants in Del Rio, Texas, in September 2021.

More than 27,000 migrants were in custody along the border one day last week, a number that may top 45,000 by the end of May if authorities can’t release migrants without orders to appear in immigration court, Hudak said.

The administration plans to ask an appeals court Monday for permission to release migrants without orders to appear in court.

Authorities say it takes between 90 minutes and two hours to process a single adult for court and longer to process families.

Biden looks to put conservation on par with oil drilling

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — The Biden administration wants to put conserving vast government-owned lands on equal footing with oil drilling, livestock grazing and other interests, according to a top administration official who defended the idea against criticism that it would interfere with industry.

The proposal would allow conservationists and others to lease federally owned land to restore it, much the same way oil companies buy leases to drill and ranchers pay to graze cattle.

Companies could also buy conservation leases, such as oil drillers who want to offset damage to public land by restoring acreage elsewhere.

Tracy Stone-Manning, director of the Bu-

reau of Land Management, said in an interview with The Associated Press that the proposed changes would address rising pressure from climate change and development. While the bureau previously issued leases for conservation in limited cases, it has never had a dedicated program for it, she said.

“It makes conservation an equal among the multiple uses that we manage for,” Stone-Manning said. “There are rules around how we do solar development. There are rules around how we do oil and gas. There have not been rules around how we deliver on the portions of (federal law) that say, ‘Manage for fish and wildlife habitat, manage for clean water.’”

The pending rule also would promote es-

tablishing more areas of “critical environmental concern” due to their historic or cultural significance, or their importance for wildlife conservation. More than 1,000 such sites covering about 33,000 square miles have been designated previously.

By comparison, about 242,000 square miles of bureau land are open to grazing livestock.

But more than a century after the U.S. started selling oil and gas leases, the conservation idea is stirring debate over the best use of vast government-owned property, primarily in the West.

Opponents including Republican lawmakers are blasting it as a backdoor way to exclude mining, energy development and agriculture from land controlled by the

BLM.

The bureau has a history of industry-friendly policies for the 380,000 square miles it oversees, an area more than twice the size of California. It also regulates publicly owned underground minerals, including oil, coal and lithium for renewable energy across more than 1 million square miles.

Those holdings put the 10,000-person agency at the center of arguments over how much development should be allowed.

On Monday night, senior agency officials were scheduled to host the first virtual public meeting about the conservation proposal. Another virtual event is slated for June 5 and public meetings are planned for May 25 in Denver; May 30 in Reno, Nev.; and June 1 in Albuquerque, N.M..

NATION

More car owners fixing instead of replacing

By TOM KRISHER

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — With new and used cars still painfully expensive, Ryan Holdsworth says he plans to keep his 9-year-old Chevy Cruze for at least four more years. Limiting his car payments and his overall debt is a bigger priority for him than having a new vehicle.

A 35-year-old grocery store worker from Grand Rapids, Mich., Holdsworth would probably be in the market for a vehicle within a few years — if not for the high cost. For now, it's out of the question.

"You're not going to get one for a price you can afford," he said.

Holdsworth has plenty of company. Americans are keeping their cars longer than ever. The average age of a passenger vehicle on the road hit a record 12.5 years this year, according to data gathered by S&P Global Mobility. Sedans like Holdsworth's are even older, on average — 13.6 years.

Blame it mainly on the pandemic, which in 2020 triggered a global shortage of automotive computer chips, the vital component that runs everything from radios to gas pedals to transmissions. The shortage drastically slowed global assembly lines, making new vehicles scarce on dealer lots just when consumers were increasingly eager to buy.

Prices reached record highs. And though they've eased somewhat, the cost of a vehicle still feels punishingly expensive to many Americans, especially when coupled with now much-higher loan rates.

Since the pandemic struck three years ago, the average price of a new vehicle has rocketed 24% to nearly \$48,000 as of April, according to Edmunds.com. Typical loan rates on new-car purchases have ballooned



TOM KRISHER/AP

Mechanic Jon Guthrie inspects the underside of a 2014 Honda Ridgeline pickup truck at Japanese Auto Professional Service in Ann Arbor, Mich. The average U.S. vehicle age was a record 12.5 years in 2022, according to S&P Global Mobility, dovetailing with higher prices for vehicles and higher loan rates.

to 7%, a consequence of the Federal Reserve's aggressive streak of interest rate hikes to fight inflation.

It's all pushed the national average monthly auto loan payment to \$729 — prohibitively high for many. Experts say a family earning the median U.S. household income can no longer afford the average new car payment and still cover such necessities as housing, food and utilities.

Used vehicle prices, on average, have surged even more since the pandemic hit — up 40%, to nearly \$29,000. With an average loan rate having reached 11%, the typical monthly used-vehicle payment is now \$563.

Faced with deciding between making a jumbo payment and keeping their existing vehicles, more owners are choosing to stick with what they have, even if it means spending more on repairs and maintenance.

Auto mechanics have been struck by the rising ages and mileages of vehicles that now arrive at the shop in numbers they'd never seen before.

"You see cars all the time in here with 250,000, 300,000 miles," said Jay Nuber, owner of Japanese Auto Professional Service, a repair garage in Ann Arbor, Mich. "They haven't been really having major

work or anything. They've just been doing the (routine) service."

It doesn't mean that most owners of older vehicles are necessarily stuck with constant repair bills. One reason people can hold their vehicles for increasingly long periods is that auto manufacturing has improved over time. Engines run longer. Bodies don't rust as quickly. Components last longer.

Yet the cost of buying either a new or used vehicle is leaving more people with essentially no choice but to keep the one they have.

"The repair-versus-buy equation changed," said Todd Campau, an associate director with S&P. Even

with rising repair costs, Campau said, it's still typically more cost-effective to fix an older vehicle than to spring for a purchase.

The average vehicle age, which has been edging up since 2019, accelerated this year by a substantial three months. And while 12.5 years is the average, Campau noted, more vehicles are staying on the road for 20 years or more, sometimes with three or four successive owners.

In such cases, the third or fourth owner is getting a much older car than they would have in the past. Nearly 122 million vehicles on the road are more than a dozen years old, Campau said. S&P predicts that the number of older vehicles will keep growing until at least 2028.

S&P also predicts that U.S. new vehicle sales will reach 14.5 million this year, from about 13.8 million last year. A big reason is that the supply at dealerships is finally growing. Automakers have also begun to restore some discounts that had long helped keep a lid on prices. The result is that many people who can afford to buy can now do so. It's a trend that could slow the advancing age of the U.S. fleet and boost overall sales.

Still, no one is predicting a return to pre-pandemic annual sales of around 17 million anytime soon.

As for Holdsworth, the Chevy Cruze owner, he plans to keep up with the scheduled maintenance, especially routine oil changes. Even if he encountered a major repair, he thinks he'd probably pay for it.

Having bought his vehicle two years ago, Holdsworth has about two years of payments left. So his Cruze, too, may reach the 12.5-year-old national average.

"I'll finish paying it off," he said, "and drive it for a couple more years."

Biden endorses Democrat over veteran in key Pennsylvania legislature race

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A Democrat running for a vacant seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives received President Joe Biden's endorsement Monday in a race likely to determine control of the legislative chamber, with implications for abortion rights, the 2024 presidential contest and Gov. Josh Shapiro's agenda.

Biden cited the majority House stakes and referred to abortion rights in backing Heather Boyd in a special election against Republican Katie Ford in suburban Philadelphia's Delaware County.

Biden's statement said the outcome of Tuesday's vote will "determine the future of so many fundamental freedoms that Pennsylvanians hold dear" and called Boyd "an experienced public servant who will protect a woman's right to make

her own health care decisions, stand up for common sense gun safety laws and expand access to voting rights."

Boyd and Ford are seeking to replace Rep. Mike Zabel, a Democrat who resigned in March after a labor lobbyist accused him sexually harassing her. Ford is a military veteran, school volunteer and behavioral therapist; Boyd is a former congressional and state legislative aide.

Ford campaign chair Jamie Santora, a Republican who held the House seat until 2018, said Monday that the Biden endorsement indicates Democrats are worried the contest is close.

A campaign statement provided by Santora said Biden "just endorsed a person who covered up a sexual harassment scandal for four years. This is just another one of his failures that is destroying this coun-

try."

After 12 years with majority Republican control of the House, Democrats flipped a net of 12 seats in November, then held the one-vote majority by sweeping three special elections in February. There is a second vacancy being filled in Tuesday's voting, a Republican-majority district in central Pennsylvania that is not expected to change hands.

Not counting the two open seats, Democrats have a 101-100 House majority, so a Ford victory would likely give Republicans enough votes to restore one of their own to the speakership and control the House voting calendar and agenda. The state Senate has a Republican majority.

Democrats losing the chamber would make it more difficult for Shapiro, a Democrat in his first year, to pursue his agenda.

Campgrounds at Yosemite to close over flood threat

Associated Press

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — Three popular campgrounds at California's Yosemite National Park will be temporarily closed starting Monday because of a forecast of flooding as warming temperatures melt the Sierra Nevada's massive snowpack.

Park officials said Sunday that the Lower and North Pines Campgrounds and the Housekeeping Camp will be shut over fears that waterways could overspill their banks.

The National Weather Service issued a flood watch for the area until at least Friday.

"The combination of extended hot weather and abundant snow means the Merced River may remain above flood stage for some time," the park said in a statement.

An update on the closures will be provided Monday evening.

Late last month, eastern sections of the famed Yosemite Valley were closed for a few days over fears of floods that never materialized.

Spring weather is quickly melting huge amounts of snow that accumulated in mountains from a series of epic winter storms.

Storm runoff has caused flooding of San Joaquin Valley agricultural fields below the southern Sierra. But the major melt of the massive snowpack has yet to occur.

The state Department of Water Resources said earlier this month that despite a brief increase in temperatures in late April, the snowpack has melted at a slower pace than average because of below-average temperatures early in the month and cloud cover.

NATION

GOP state lawmakers target ballot initiatives

By JULIE CARR SMYTH
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — With other state lawmakers seated around her in the Ohio House, Democratic state Rep. Tavia Galonski got to her feet and began to loudly chant, “One person, one vote!”

The former Teamster’s cry spread quickly through the visitors gallery, then began to rise from the throng of protesters gathered outside in the statehouse rotunda. Struggling to be heard over the din, the Republican speaker ordered spectators cleared from the chamber.

Last week’s striking scene came as Ohio joined a growing number of Republican-leaning states that are moving to undermine direct democracy by restricting citizens’ ability to bypass lawmakers through ballot initiatives and constitutional amendments.

The Ohio proposal will ask voters during an August special election to boost the threshold for passing constitutional amendments to 60% rather than a simple majority. It also would double the number of counties where signatures must be collected, adding an extra layer of difficulty to qualifying initiatives for the ballot.

The Missouri Legislature failed to approve a similar measure on Friday, but Republicans vowed to bring the issue back in 2024 in an attempt to head off a citizens’ attempt to restore abortion rights in the state through a constitutional amendment.

A similar measure will be on North Dakota’s ballot next year, while one in the works in Idaho would ask voters to increase signature requirements imposed on petition gatherers. In Wisconsin, which does not allow statewide citizen initiatives, Republicans who control the Legislature have proposed prohibiting local governments from placing advisory questions on ballots. Such referenda are sometimes used to boost voter turnout, though results don’t carry the weight of law. Florida Republicans added new hurdles to that state’s constitutional



SAMANTHA HENDRICKSON/AP

Supporters and opponents of a GOP-backed measure that would make it harder to amend the Ohio constitution packed the statehouse rotunda Wednesday in Columbus ahead of the Ohio House’s vote.

amendment process in 2020.

The trend has taken off as Democrats and left-leaning groups frustrated by legislative gerrymandering that locks them out of power in state legislatures are increasingly turning to the initiative process to force public votes on issues that are opposed by Republican lawmakers yet popular among voters. Only about half the states, mostly in the Western U.S., allow some form of citizen ballot initiative.

In Ohio, voters have proposed using the initiative process to enshrine abortion rights in the state constitution this November, as well as to increase the minimum wage, to legalize recreational marijuana and to reform a redistricting system that has produced persistently unconstitutional political maps favoring Republicans.

Arkansas Sen. Bryan King, a Republican who has joined the League of Women Voters in a lawsuit challenging his state’s latest

initiative restriction, said he views efforts to undermine the initiative process as anti-democratic.

A measure approved earlier this year by Arkansas’ majority-GOP Legislature and signed by Republican Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders makes it harder to get initiatives on the ballot by raising the number of counties where signatures must be gathered from 15 to 50.

“I think one of the things it does is, no matter what party is in power, when you start trying to make it harder for citizens to challenge what their government does or make changes, then it just makes people not have faith in the process,” King said. “So I do think that making it harder is wrong.”

In Ohio, former governors and attorneys general of both major parties have lined up against the proposed constitutional amendment that would alter the simple majority threshold for passing citizen-led initiative that has been in

place since 1912.

Democratic legislators point to the bipartisan opposition and the maneuvering that allowed the proposal to be on an August ballot as evidence that today’s Republicans are extremist in their desire to maintain political power.

Republican state Rep. Brian Stewart, the Ohio plan’s sponsor, argued during last week’s raucous floor session that a simple majority of voters will get to decide whether to impose the stricter requirements on future ballot initiatives.

“SJR 2 will ask Ohioans, not us, whether Ohio’s constitution should require a 60% vote threshold to adopt amendments going forward. It will ask Ohioans, not us, to decide whether all 88 counties should have a voice in determining what amendments make it onto the ballot and to eliminate the cumbersome ‘cure’ period, which gives initiative petitions effectively a do-over when they fail to meet the requirements for ballot ac-

cess,” he said. “Putting this issue in front of Ohioans, that is democratic.”

What Stewart didn’t address is how Republicans circumvented a law they had just passed so they could put the proposed amendment on a summertime ballot when voter turnout is typically quite low, rather than putting it before voters in the regular election this November.

Democratic Rep. Casey Weinstein called out Stewart and Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose, a Republican, for previously opposing the very August special elections that they supported for offering the 60% question.

Weinstein read in its entirety LaRose’s testimony from December advocating for the provisions of a new law — signed in January — that eliminated most August elections. LaRose argued that making big decisions, including those regarding ballot issues, in chronically low-turnout August elections “isn’t the way democracy is supposed to work” and that such elections “aren’t good for taxpayers, election officials or the civic health of our state.”

In testimony, Mark Gavin Sr., outreach director for the Black Environmental Leaders Association, referred to the U.S. Constitution’s counting of enslaved people by calling the Ohio proposal “the new Three-Fifths Compromise.”

Gavin was among hundreds of protesters who packed statehouse hearings and overflow rooms, testified and marched in opposition to the Republican proposal, which he said is intended to dilute the power of individual voters.

“I’ve been a voter in Ohio for 15 years, and it’s getting really old to always have to have new rules and regulations on a ballot,” he said.

Anti-abortion and pro-gun groups were the primary forces behind the push in favor of the proposed Ohio amendment. Since the Supreme Court’s decision last year overturning Roe v. Wade, voters in Michigan, Kentucky and Kansas have protected abortion rights through statewide votes.

Police: Boyfriend fatally shoots Texas woman after she has abortion

Associated Press

DALLAS — A man who didn’t want his girlfriend to get an abortion fatally shot her during a confrontation in a Dallas parking lot, police said.

He was jailed on a murder charge as of Friday.

Texas banned abortions after roughly six weeks of pregnancy in September 2021. But nearly all abortions have been halted in Texas since Roe v. Wade was overturned last summer, except in cases of medical emergency.

Gabriella Gonzalez, 26, was with her boyfriend, 22-year-old Harold Thompson, on Wednesday when he tried to put her in a choke hold, according to an arrest warrant affidavit. She had returned the night before from Colorado, where she had gone to get an abortion.

“It is believed that the suspect was the father of the child,” the affidavit said. “The suspect did not want (Gonzalez) to get an abortion.”

Surveillance video from the



Thompson

Gonzalez in the head.

She falls to the ground and Thompson shoots her multiple times before running away, the affidavit said.

Thompson was arrested later

parking lot shows Gonzalez “shrugs him off,” police said, and the two continue walking.

Thompson then pulls out a gun and shoots

Wednesday and is being held in the Dallas County Jail without bond.

Gonzalez’s sister was at the scene and heard the shooting, police said.

Another witness saw Thompson try to choke Gonzalez but couldn’t call police because she did not have her cell phone.

At the time of the shooting, Thompson had been charged with assault of a family member, who accused him of choking her in March.

The affidavit from March does not specifically name Gonzalez as the person who was assaulted. But it does say the woman told police that Thompson “beat her up multiple times throughout the entirety of their relationship” and that Thompson told police the woman was pregnant with his child at that time.

The woman “reiterated that she is scared of the suspect because he had made threats to harm her family and her children,” according to the affidavit.

NATION

NYC skyscrapers turning to carbon capture

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK — From the outside, the Manhattan high-rise looks like any other luxury building: A doorman greets visitors in a lobby adorned with tapestry and marble.

Yet the basement has a set of equipment seen almost nowhere else in the world. To reduce emissions, the owners have installed twisting pipes and tanks that collect carbon dioxide from the building's massive, gas-fired boilers.

The goal is to stop carbon dioxide, a climate-warming gas, from entering the atmosphere. In such a vertical city, it's impossible to address climate change without tackling emissions from buildings. So building owners must make dramatic cuts starting next year or face escalating fines under a new law which affects some 50,000 structures — more than half the buildings in the city. Other cities such as Boston and Denver passed similar laws.

To comply, some property managers are installing carbon capture systems, which strip out carbon dioxide, direct it into tanks and prepare it for sale to make carbonated beverages or soap. In this case, the carbon dioxide is sold to a concrete manufacturer in Brooklyn.

"Time is not on our side, and this type of solution can be installed quickly, cost-effectively and without a major disruption," said Brian Asparro, chief operating officer of CarbonQuest, which built the system.

Critics say buildings should be switched to electricity instead.

"Carbon capture doesn't actually reduce emissions; it seeks to put them somewhere else," said Anthony Rogers-Wright, director of environmental justice at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest.

It's unclear whether carbon capture will be recognized by New

York City as a qualifying emissions reduction; the city has not decided.

Capturing the culprit

In the Manhattan building's basement, two 500-horsepower boilers rumble, burning natural gas and releasing carbon dioxide. The boilers produce roughly half the building's emissions. The other half are generated at power plants where the building buys electricity. The carbon capture system, Asparro said, is trapping about 60% of the boilers' emissions.

"Boilers like this are installed everywhere, in schools and hospitals around the world," Asparro said.

Carbon dioxide and other gases flow from the boilers over a special material that separates out the carbon dioxide in a system that occupies two former parking spaces. Then it's compressed and cooled to minus-10 degrees Fahrenheit, turning it to liquid.

Pipes lead to spigots outside the building, where a truck loads up with the liquefied CO₂ and takes it to a concrete manufacturer in Brooklyn.

The apartment building is trying to reduce energy in other ways, too, said Josh London, senior vice president at Glenwood Management Corp. It has computerized motors, fans and pumps, LED lighting and battery storage. The company plans to install carbon capture systems in five more buildings this year.

Nearly 70% of New York City's large buildings have steam boilers like these that run on natural gas or oil, according to NYC Accelerator.

The city law requires all buildings over 25,000 square feet to reduce emissions.

In Minnesota, Radisson Blu Mall of America, a hotel, has installed a system that captures carbon dioxide that's eventually used to make soap.



PHOTOS BY JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

Brian Asparro, chief operating officer of CarbonQuest, stands in a production room where liquid carbon dioxide is converted from a byproduct of a natural-gas fired water boiler to a salable industrial product in New York.

Mineralized into concrete

Over in Brooklyn, the floor shakes as yellow machines churn at Glenwood Mason Supply Co. Inc., a concrete maker unrelated to Glenwood Management Corp. Grey concrete blocks rattle down a conveyor under a din of metal gears and motors.

A truck arrives with liquefied carbon dioxide and then, using equipment provided by a company called CarbonCure, it's compressed and turned into a solid.

As concrete ingredients churn, the carbon dioxide, now essentially dry ice, flows in like a mist. It reacts with calcium ions in cement, a main ingredient of concrete. This forms calcium carbonate, which becomes embedded in the concrete.

Once carbon dioxide is in that mineral state, it's secure and it won't be released unless heated to about 1,652 degrees Fahrenheit, said Claire Nelson, a geochemist who specializes in carbon capture at Columbia Climate School.

"So unless a volcano erupts on top of your concrete building, that carbon is going to be there forever," Nelson said.

Adding mineralized carbon dioxide to concrete can reduce its carbon footprint, though not by much. On average, concrete producers using CarbonCure technology reduce their carbon footprint by 5% to 6%, said Robert Niven, CEO of CarbonCure. But that is still meaningful, because making concrete contributes significantly to climate change.

Questions remain

Many environmental groups re-



A stack of concrete blocks created with liquid carbon dioxide as an ingredient is pulled from a curing kiln at the Glenwood Mason Supply Company on April 18 in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

main skeptical of carbon capture, favoring investments in renewable energy. They also fear it could be unsafe to store carbon dioxide in a residential dwelling.

After a carbon dioxide pipeline ruptured in Satartia, Miss., in 2020, 45 people sought medical attention at local hospitals, according to a report from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. People exposed to high concentrations of carbon dioxide, the report said, may experience rapid breathing, confusion, elevated blood pressure and increased arrhythmias. Extreme concentrations can lead to death by asphyxiation.

There's also a risk of leaks, if a truck transporting carbon dioxide gets into an accident, Rogers-Wright said.

Proponents of carbon capture say there are safeguards and the

technology installed in Manhattan was permitted by multiple city agencies.

Nelson, who also started a carbon capture company, says storing natural gas in basements is more dangerous than storing carbon dioxide, and many people accept the risks posed by natural gas.

The biggest challenge, proponents say, is scaling this and other solutions fast enough to make a difference in climate change.

Back in Manhattan, the local utility doesn't have enough renewable energy to sell to all New York customers, and "with solar, you need a bigger footprint than what we have in a building like this," London said.

He wants to buy wind power when it's more widely available, but "we can reduce our emissions while we wait," he said.



Workers monitor a production line of concrete blocks, made in part with liquid carbon dioxide, at the Glenwood Mason Supply Co.

NATION

Who let the dogs in? The government says dogs can dine al fresco but not everyone is on board

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press

Just in time for the summer dining season, the U.S. government has given its blessing to restaurants that want to allow pet dogs in their outdoor spaces.

But even though nearly half of states already allow canine dining outdoors, the issue is far from settled, with many diners and restaurants pushing back against the increasing presence of poodles.

"I'd like to be able to enjoy my meal without having to worry about fleas, pet hair, barking and entitled dogs and their owners," said Tracy Chiu Parisi, a food blogger in New York, who was once startled by a dog that stuck its head in her lap while she was reading a menu.

Restaurants have been required to allow service dogs for decades. But it wasn't until the mid-2000's that a handful of states began passing laws allowing dogs in outdoor dining spaces, according to the Animal Legal and Historical Center at Michigan State University. Twenty-three states now have such laws or regulations.

But the legal landscape is confusing. Michigan law doesn't allow dogs in outdoor dining spaces, for example, but lets restaurants apply for a variance from their county health department.

So in 2020, the Conference for Food Protection — a group of food industry and health experts that advises the government — asked the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to issue guidance for states. It cited a 2012 risk assessment in Australia and New Zealand that found that the health risk to human diners from dogs was very low.

The FDA's updated food code, issued late last year, says restaurants can have dogs in outdoor areas if they get approval from a local regulator. Restaurants should have signs saying dogs are welcome and should develop plans to handle dogs and their waste. They should ensure dogs remain properly restrained and provide separate food bowls so dogs don't use



HAVEN DALEY/AP

Iliana Minkoff checks out the menu with her dog JoJo Wigglebutt at a restaurant in San Francisco on May 5.



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

Monty Hobbs and his dog Mattox get ready to order on the patio at the Olive Lounge restaurant in Takoma Park, Md., on May 4.

plates or utensils meant for humans.

The new guidance comes as U.S. pet ownership is rising. Nearly 87 million U.S. households now have a pet, up from 85 million in 2019, according to the American Pet Products Association.

And experts say more people are looking for dining options that will accommodate their dogs. Yelp searches for businesses using the "dogs allowed" filter jumped 58% between the year ending May 1, 2021, and the year ending May 1, 2023.

A total of 47,415 businesses now describe themselves as "dog friendly" on Yelp, the company says.

"Younger pet owners, Millennials and Generation Z, have incredibly strong bonds with their pets and they are willing to act upon that," said Steven Feldman, president of the Human Animal Bond Research Institute. "They are more likely to frequent — and express a preference for — pet-friendly businesses."

Monty Hobbs, the managing director of a digital marketing agen-

cy in Washington, can often be found at local restaurant patios with Mattox, his 5-year-old terrier and miniature schnauzer mix. Some waiters even bring Mattox bits of bacon.

Hobbs stresses that he doesn't take Mattox everywhere. "He's my dog. He's not my child," he said.

But Mattox is well-behaved, he said, so it's nice to know they can drop in at a neighborhood bar if they're out taking a walk.

At Zazie, a San Francisco bistro, diners get \$10 off a bottle of wine on Mondays if they bring their dogs, who get treats donated by the pet store across the street.

"It's great for business. People really enjoy bringing their dog out with them," said Megan Cornelius, Zazie's co-owner.

But other restaurants are saying no to Fido.

The Salty Dog Café in Hilton Head, S.C., allowed dogs on its patio when it first opened in 1987. But two years later, it banned them. Too many dogs were barking through meals, fighting, lying in walkways and stealing hot dogs from kids' plates, says Tim Stearns, the Salty Dog's chief operating officer.

If diners object, the Salty Dog points them to a separate dog-friendly deck where they can eat takeout food from the restaurant. But most diners seem to appreciate the policy.

"We are all dog lovers at Salty Dog, but we remain a restaurant for humans," Stearns said.

The Blond Giraffe Key Lime Pie Factory in Key West, Fla., banned dogs because it didn't want to be held responsible if a dog ate iguana droppings — which can make them violently ill — or tripped a child or an elderly diner. In at least one case, an unleashed dog at the restaurant killed a neighborhood cat.

Julie Denzin, who has worked as a restaurant server in Milwaukee for more than a decade, has watched dogs drool, fight, growl and relieve themselves on restaurant patios. Dogs have bitten her and knocked her over, causing her to spill scalding hot coffee. She has also encountered diners who are allergic to dogs or afraid of them.

Denzin doesn't think dogs should be banned, but says restaurants should consider designating dog-friendly areas or specific hours when dogs are allowed.

"It's not a matter of liking or disliking dogs," she said. "The point is, regardless of what the owner might say — no matter how perfect and obedient they insist their dog is — there's no way to ensure the safety and comfort of other guests."

Maddie Speirs, a dog trainer with Pawsitive Futures Dog Training in St. Petersburg, Fla., said many people hire her with the goal of training their dogs to eat out at restaurants. Not every dog is cut out for that, she said; they need to be comfortable with noise and unsolicited interactions and able to be able to sit near food for long periods.

She urges owners to think about who benefits from restaurant visits: them or their dogs.

"If you think it's for your dog, what exactly are they getting out of it?" she said. "It's not as fun of a social interaction for dogs as it is for us."

Professor breaks record for time living underwater

Associated Press

KEY LARGO, Fla. — A university professor broke a record for the longest time living underwater without depressurization this weekend at a Florida Keys lodge for scuba divers.

Joseph Dituri's 74th day residing in Jules' Undersea Lodge, situated at the bottom of a 30-foot-deep lagoon in Key Largo, wasn't much different than his previous days there since he submerged

March 1.

Dituri, who also goes by the moniker "Dr. Deep Sea," ate a protein-heavy meal of eggs and salmon prepared using a microwave, exercised with resistance bands, did his daily pushups and took an hour-long nap.

Unlike a submarine, the lodge does not use technology to adjust for the increased underwater pressure.

The previous record of 73 days,

two hours and 34 minutes was set by two Tennessee professors — Bruce Cantrell and Jessica Fain — at the same location in 2014.

But Dituri isn't just settling for the record and resurfacing: He plans to stay at the lodge until June 9, when he reaches 100 days and completes an underwater mission dubbed Project Neptune 100.

The mission combines medical and ocean research along with

educational outreach and was organized by the Marine Resources Development Foundation, owner of the habitat.

"The record is a small bump and I really appreciate it," said Dituri, a University of South Florida educator who holds a doctorate in biomedical engineering and is a retired U.S. Naval officer.

"I'm honored to have it, but we still have more science to do."



Dr. Joseph Dituri

WORLD

Erdogan rallies, forces Turkey presidential election runoff

BY SUZAN FRASER AND ZEYNEP BILGINSOY
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey’s presidential election will be decided in a runoff, election officials said Monday, after incumbent Recep Tayyip Erdogan pulled ahead of his chief challenger, but fell short of an outright victory that would extend his increasingly authoritarian rule into a third decade.

The May 28 second-round vote will determine whether the strategically located NATO country remains under the president’s firm grip or can embark on a more democratic course promised by his main rival, Kemal Kilicdaroglu.

While Erdogan has governed for 20 years, opinion polls had suggested that run could be coming to an end and that a cost-of-living crisis and criticism over the government’s response to a devastating February earthquake might redraw the electoral map.

Instead, Erdogan’s retreat was still less marked than predicted —

and with his alliance retaining its hold on the parliament, he is now in a good position to win in the second round.

The uncertainty drove the main Turkish stock exchange BIST-100 more than 6% lower at the open Monday, prompting a temporary halt in trading. But shares recovered after trading resumed, and the index was 2.5% lower in the afternoon compared to the market close Friday.

Western nations and foreign investors were particularly interested in the outcome because of Erdogan’s unorthodox leadership of the economy and often mercurial but successful efforts to put Turkey at the center of many major diplomatic negotiations.

At a crossroads between East and West, with a coast along the Black Sea and borders with Iran, Iraq and Syria, Turkey has been a key player on issues including the war in Syria, migration flows to Europe, exports of Ukraine’s grain, and NATO’s expansion.

Preliminary results showed Erdogan won 49.5% of the vote, while

Kilicdaroglu grabbed 44.9%, and the third candidate, Sinan Ogan, received 5.2%, according to Ahmet Yener, the head of Supreme Electoral Board.

The remaining uncounted votes were not enough to tip Erdogan into outright victory, even if they all broke for him, Yener said.

In the last presidential election in 2018, Erdogan won in the first round, with more than 52% of the vote.

Even as it became clear a runoff was likely, Erdogan, who has governed Turkey as either prime minister or president since 2003, painted Sunday’s vote as a victory both for himself and the country.

“That the election results have not been finalized doesn’t change the fact that the nation has chosen us,” Erdogan, 69, told supporters in the early hours of Monday.

He said he would respect the nation’s decision.

Kilicdaroglu sounded hopeful, tweeting around the time the runoff was announced: “Don’t lose hope.... We will get up and win this election together.”



EMRAH GUREL/AP

A person walks past billboards of Turkish President and People’s Alliance’s presidential candidate Recep Tayyip Erdogan a day after the presidential election day, in Istanbul, Turkey, on Monday.

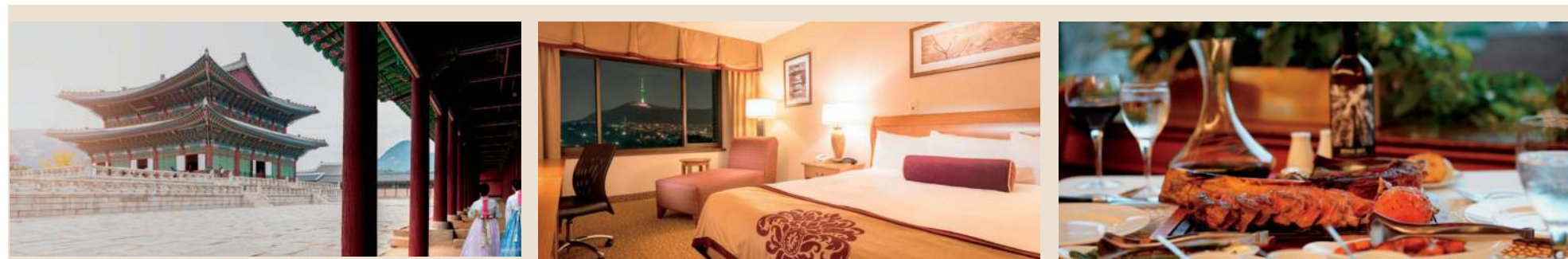
Kilicdaroglu, 74, and his party have lost all previous presidential and parliamentary elections since he took leadership in 2010 but increased their votes this time.

Right-wing candidate Ogan has not said whom he would endorse if the elections go to a second round. He is believed to have received support from nationalist electors wanting change after two decades under Erdogan but unconvinced by the Kilicdaroglu-led six party alliance’s ability to govern.

The election results showed

that the alliance led by Erdogan’s ruling Justice and Development Party looked like it would keep its majority in the 600-seat parliament, although the assembly has lost much of its power after a referendum that gave the presidency additional legislative powers narrowly passed in 2017.

Erdogan’s AKP and its allies secured 321 seats in the National Assembly, while the opposition won 213 and the 66 remaining went to a pro-Kurdish alliance, according to preliminary results.




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WORLD

Thai opposition parties score stunning win

Associated Press

BANGKOK — Fresh off a stunning election victory in which they together captured a majority of seats in the House of Representatives, Thailand's top two opposition parties began planning Monday for the next stage in their bid to replace the military-dominated government.

Monday's headliner was 42-year-old businessman Pita Limjaroenrat, who led his Move Forward Party to a first-place finish, surpassing most expectations. It squeaked past the Pheu Thai Party, its opposition partner, which had been favored to top the polls.

Pheu Thai stumbled despite the

star power of Paetongtarn Shinawatra, daughter of Thaksin Shinawatra, the former populist prime minister who was toppled by a 2006 military coup and is the driving force behind the party.

"The overwhelming electoral victory by Move Forward and Pheu Thai is a decisive sign that voters want a polity where the people, not the military, decide their future," said Tyrell Haberkorn, a Thai studies scholar at the University of Wisconsin.

"Voters want a Thailand with free speech, without compulsory military conscription, and where the people's voices are valued, not something to be silenced or

bought," she said.

Pita said Monday he has been talking to five other parties about forming a coalition government. It would have 309 House seats in total, providing more stability than the 292-seat partnership with Pheu Thai as a sole ally. Parliament selects a new prime minister in July, so has about two months to seal a deal.

Thailand for the past nine years has been led by former army commander Prayuth Chan-ocha, who seized power in a 2014 military coup and was returned as prime minister after the 2019 election. He ran for reelection on Sunday, but is saddled with blame for a lag-

ging economy, a botched response to the coronavirus pandemic and thwarting democratic reforms — a particular sore point with younger voters.

"The sentiment of the era has changed and it's right," Pita said Monday. "And today it's a new day and hopefully it's full of bright sunshine of hope going forward."

As it earlier became clear his party was taking the lead, he tweeted that he is ready to bring about change as the country's 30th prime minister. "Whether you agree or disagree with me, I will be your prime minister. Whether you have voted for me or not, I will serve you."

World's oldest dog celebrates 31st birthday

Associated Press

The world's oldest dog recently celebrated his 31st birthday, according to Guinness World Records.

Bobi, a purebred Rafeiro do Alentejo, a breed of Portuguese dog, celebrated during a party Saturday at his home in the Portuguese village of Conqueiros, where he has lived his entire life.

More than 100 people attended the "very traditional" Portuguese party, owner Leonel Costa said.

Local meats and fish were served to up to 100 guests, with extra for Bobi, who only eats human food. A dance troupe also performed with Bobi participating.

Costa has owned several old-age dogs in the past, including Bobi's mother, Gira, who lived to 18. However, Costa said he never imagined any of his dogs would reach their 30s.

One of the biggest contributing factors to Bobi's longevity is the "calm, peaceful environment" in which he lives, according to Costa.

2 charged with playing Hitler speeches on train in Austria

Associated Press

BERLIN — Two people were charged in Austria for allegedly playing speeches by Adolf Hitler via the loudspeaker system of a train running from Bregenz to Vienna, Austrian news agency APA reported Monday.

The two suspects, who were not identified, also blasted the "Heil Hitler" Nazi salute via the train's intercom several times on Sunday. The authorities tracked them down by analyzing video from the train cameras. Spreading Nazi propaganda

is a criminal offense in Austria.

The two are also suspected of responsibility for two other incidents last week on trains running from St. Poelten to Vienna, in which recordings were played over the train intercom. It was not clear if those record-

ings also had a Nazi connotation.

The suspects are believed to have opened the train conductors' intercom cabins with a key all train employees own, and then played the recordings, APA reported.



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TECHNOLOGY

TSA testing facial recognition technology

BY REBECCA SANTANA
AND RICK GENTILO
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — A passenger walks up to an airport security checkpoint, slips an ID card into a slot and looks into a camera atop a small screen. The screen flashes “Photo Complete” and the person walks through — all without having to hand over their identification to the TSA officer sitting behind the screen.

It’s all part of a pilot project by the Transportation Security Administration to assess the use of facial recognition technology at a number of airports across the country.

“What we are trying to do with this is aid the officers to actually determine that you are who you say you are,” said Jason Lim, identity management capabilities manager, during a demonstration of the technology to reporters at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.

The effort comes at a time when the use of various forms of technology to enhance security and streamline procedures is only increasing. TSA says the pilot is voluntary and accurate, but critics have raised concerns about questions of bias in facial recognition technology and possible repercussions for passengers who want to opt out.

The technology is currently in 16 airports. In addition to Baltimore, it’s being used at Reagan National near Washington, D.C., airports in Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Orlando, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, San Jose, and Gulfport-Biloxi and Jackson in Mississippi. However, it’s not at every TSA checkpoint so not every traveler going through those airports would necessarily experience it.

Travelers put their driver’s license into a slot that reads the card or place their passport photo against a card reader. Then they look at a camera on a screen about the size of an iPad, which captures their image and compares it to their ID. The technology is both checking to make sure the people at the airport match the ID they present and that the identification is in fact real. A TSA officer is still there and signs off on the screening.

A small sign alerts travelers that their



JULIA NIKHINSON/AP

A person inserts an ID card to demonstrate the Transportation Security Administration’s new facial recognition technology at a Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport security checkpoint on April 26 in Glen Burnie, Md.

photo will be taken as part of the pilot and that they can opt out if they’d like. It also includes a QR code for them to get more information.

Since it’s come out the pilot has come under scrutiny by some elected officials and privacy advocates. In a February letter to TSA, five senators — four Democrats and an Independent who is part of the Democratic caucus — demanded the agency stop the program, saying: “Increasing biometric surveillance of Americans by the government represents a risk to civil liberties and privacy rights.”

As various forms of technology that use biometric information like face IDs, retina scans or fingerprint matches have become more pervasive in both the private sector and the federal government, it’s raised concerns among privacy advocates about how this data is collected, who has access to it and what happens if it gets hacked.

Meg Foster, a justice fellow at Georgetown University’s Center on Privacy and Technology, said there are concerns about bias within the algorithms of various facial recognition technologies. Some have a har-

der time recognizing faces of minorities, for example. And there’s the concern of outside hackers figuring out ways to hack into government systems for nefarious aims.

With regard to the TSA pilot, Foster said she has concerns that while the agency says it’s not currently storing the biometric data it collects, what if that changes in the future? And while people are allowed to opt out, she said it’s not fair to put the onus on harried passengers who might be worried about missing their flight if they do.

“They might be concerned that if they object to face recognition, that they’re going to be under further suspicion,” Foster said.

Jeramie Scott, with the Electronic Privacy Information Center, said that while it’s voluntary now it might not be for long. He noted that David Pekoske, who heads TSA, said during a talk in April that eventually the use of biometrics would be required because they’re more effective and efficient, although he gave no timeline.

Scott said he’d prefer TSA not use the technology at all. At the least, he’d like to see an outside audit to verify that the technology isn’t disproportionately affecting cer-

tain groups and that the images are deleted immediately.

TSA says the goal of the pilot is to improve the accuracy of the identity verification without slowing down the speed at which passengers pass through the checkpoints — a key issue for an agency that sees 2.4 million passengers daily. The agency said early results are positive and have shown no discernible difference in the algorithm’s ability to recognize passengers based on things like age, gender, race and ethnicity.

Lim said the images aren’t being compiled into a database, and that photos and IDs are deleted. Since this is an assessment, in limited circumstances some data is collected and shared with the Department of Homeland Security’s Science and Technology Directorate. TSA says that data is deleted after 24 months.

Lim said the camera only turns on when a person puts in their ID card — so it’s not randomly gathering images of people at the airport. That also gives passengers control over whether they want to use it, he said. And he said that research has shown that while some algorithms do perform worse with certain demographics, it also shows that higher-quality algorithms, like the one the agency uses, are much more accurate. He said using the best available cameras also is a factor.

“We take these privacy concerns and civil rights concerns very seriously, because we touch so many people every day,” he said.

Retired TSA official Keith Jeffries said the pandemic greatly accelerated the rollout of various types of this “touchless” technology, whereby a passenger isn’t handing over a document to an agent. And he envisioned a “checkpoint of the future” where a passenger’s face can be used to check their bags, go through the security checkpoints and board the plane — all with little to no need to pull out a boarding card or ID documents.

He acknowledged the privacy concerns and lack of trust many people have when it comes to giving biometric data to the federal government, but said in many ways the use of biometrics is already deeply embedded in society through the use of privately owned technology.

“Technology is here to stay,” he said.

Bolivian EV startup hopes tiny car will make it big

Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia — On a recent, cold morning, Dr. Carlos Ortuño hopped into a tiny electric car to go check on a patient in the outskirts of Bolivia’s capital of La Paz, unsure if the vehicle would be able to handle the steep, winding streets of the high-altitude city.

“I thought that because of the city’s topography it was going to struggle, but it’s a great climber,” said Ortuño about his experience driving a Quantum, the first EV to have ever been made in Bolivia. “The difference from a gasoline-powered vehicle is huge.”

Ortuño’s home visit aboard a car the size of a golf cart was part of a government-sponsored program that brings doctors to patients living in neighborhoods far from the city center. The “Doctor in your house” program was launched last month by the

municipality of La Paz using a fleet of six EV’s manufactured by Quantum Motors, the country’s sole producer of electric cars.

“It is a pioneering idea. It helps protect the health of those in need, while protecting the environment and supporting local production,” La Paz Mayor Iván Arias said.

The program could also help boost Quantum Motors, a company launched four years ago by a group of entrepreneurs who believe EVs will transform the auto industry in Bolivia, a lithium-rich country, where cheap, subsidized imported gasoline is still the norm.

Built like a box, the Quantum moves at no more than 35 mph, can be recharged from a household outlet and can travel 50 miles before a recharge. Its creators hope the \$7,600 car will help revive dreams of a lithium-powered economy and make electric cars something the masses will embrace.

“E-mobility will prevail worldwide in the next few years, but it will be different in different countries,” says José Carlos Márquez, general manager of Quantum Motors. “Tesla will be a dominant player in the U.S., with its speedy, autonomous cars. But in Latin America, cars will be more compact, because our streets are more similar to those of Bombay and New Delhi than to those of California.”

But the company’s quest to boost e-mobility in the South American country has been challenging. In the four years since it released its first EVs, Quantum Motors has sold barely 350 cars in Bolivia and an undisclosed number of units in Peru and Paraguay. The company is also set to open a factory in Mexico later this year, although no further details have been provided on the scope of production there.

Still, Quantum Motors’ bet on battery-po-



JUAN KARITA/AP

Dr. Carlos Ortuño drives a Bolivian-made, Quantum electric car to a house call in La Paz, Bolivia, on May 3.

wered cars makes sense when it comes to Bolivia’s resources. With an estimated 21 million tons, Bolivia has the world’s largest reserve of lithium, a key component in electric batteries, but it has yet to extract — and industrialize — its vast resources of the metal.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Native leader, advocate for tribal sovereignty dies

NM SANTA FE — Joe A. Garcia, a well-known Native American leader from New Mexico and advocate for tribal sovereignty, has died at 70, his family confirmed Saturday.

A traditional funeral was already held following Garcia's death Thursday, said family members. The cause of death was not made public.

Garcia was a former two-time president of the the National Congress of American Indians, which describes itself as the oldest and largest organization of American Indian and Alaska Native governments. He previously served three terms as governor of the Ohkay Owingeh, a federally designated tribe of pueblo people in New Mexico. Garcia was currently the tribe's head councilman.

Garcia had been chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council, now renamed the All Pueblo Council of Governors, a nonprofit leadership group that represents the modern pueblo tribes.

He also had been a vice president of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Fe Indian School, which serves about 700 Native American middle and high school students.



JACQUELINE DORMER, (POTTSVILLE, PA.) REPUBLICAN-HERALD/AP

Police: Brother stops abduction with slingshot

MI ALPENA — A Michigan girl was able to escape an attempted kidnapping when her brother used a slingshot to strike the would-be attacker, authorities said this week.

Mlive.com reported the Michigan State Police arrested the accused assailant in the city of Alpena on Wednesday.

The 17-year-old's name has not been released though he has been charged as an adult with one count of attempted kidnapping/child enticement, one count of attempted assault to do great bodily harm less than murder, and one count of assault and battery.

Michigan State Police said in a news release that the 8-year-old girl was in her backyard when the alleged assailant came out of the woods, grabbed her and covered her mouth. Authorities said the girl's brother, 13, hit the alleged attacker in the head and chest using a slingshot.

City council nomination brawl leaves 2 injured

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A brawl broke out over nominations for Minneapolis City Council candidates, leaving at least two people injured, a newspaper reported.

The scuffle arose during the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party's endorsing convention for Minneapolis Ward 10, held Saturday at a magnet school in the city, the Star Tribune reported.

Video posted on social media

Scratches for a Shire

Kaley Hampford, of Pottsville, Pa., and her daughter, Brynn, pet Ty Tiberius from Northeast Shires of Pine Grove, Pa., at the Pottsville Outdoor Market on Saturday.

showed the disturbance began after supporters of Minneapolis Council Member Aisha Chughtai took the stage, which caused an uproar among supporters of her challenger, Nasri Warsame. Some Warsame supporters jumped on stage, shouting, banging on tables and waving signs, the paper reported.

Convention chair Sam Doten called the behavior embarrassing and adjourned the event without a nominee being chosen, saying it was no longer safe.

Police shootout leaves 1 dead, police dog wounded

TN SEVIERVILLE — A gunfight between police and a man inside a home in east Tennessee left him dead and wounded a K-9 police dog named Hank, who is recovering from surgery, authorities said Saturday.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation did not say if police gunfire killed David Wright, 63. The bureau said an autopsy would determine the manner and cause of death.

A second person in the home was hospitalized with unspecified injuries. The bureau's news release did not identify the injured person.

Officers went to the house in Sevierville on Friday night after a felony in which someone evaded police in a vehicle, the bureau said. Someone inside the home fired at

the officers, who shot back. The bureau is investigating the shooting.

Governor signs bill to fight antisemitism

VA RICHMOND — Joined by Jewish faith and community leaders, Gov. Glenn Youngkin hosted an event Monday to ceremonially sign a bill supporters have said will help Virginia better track and combat growing instances of antisemitism.

Under the legislation, which will take effect July 1, Virginia will adopt a definition of antisemitism used by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. The state will use that non-legally binding definition for training and education, and for tracking and reporting antisemitism.

At the time the bill passed, the Combat Antisemitism Movement said Virginia would be the 30th U.S. state to recognize the definition, either through the legislative process or executive order.

Rescue completed after partial collapse of bridge

NM LOS LUNAS — First responders completed a search for victims after a bridge over a New Mexico river partially collapsed Saturday night.

Los Lunas Fire Chief John Gabaldon said two people were res-

cued after the Los Lunas River Bridge collapsed, KOAT-TV reported.

Emergency crews initially searched for additional victims, but Gabaldon confirmed later in the night there were no other people trapped or believed to be missing.

Traffic was closed in both directions for the bridge in the community about 24 miles south of Albuquerque.

Rutgers' unions ratify new contracts, ending strike

NJ NEW BRUNSWICK — Three faculty unions that went on strike last month at New Jersey's flagship university have overwhelmingly approved four-year contracts, formally ending the first such job action in the school's 257-year history.

Thousands of professors, part-time lecturers and graduate student workers at Rutgers University staged the five-day strike at the New Brunswick, Piscataway, Newark and Camden campuses as students were finishing their spring semester and preparing for finals and commencement. It began April 10 after months of negotiations had failed to resolve disputes over salary increases, better job security for adjunct faculty and guaranteed funding for graduate students, among other requests.

Union leaders announced Mon-

day that the new contracts were approved by 93% of members casting ballots. The deals include across-the-board raises and additional job security for part-time lecturers, along with significant raises and job security provisions for graduate workers.

State moves toward gender inclusivity

IL CHICAGO — Illinois bills that would update existing laws to be more gender inclusive and add protections for LGBTQ marriages are ready for action by Gov. J.B. Pritzker, who said he will sign them.

The trio of state bills passed this month are meant to move the state in the "opposite direction" of those restricting LGBTQ youth, said Sen. Mike Simmons, the bills' sponsor and the first and only current "out" LGBTQ lawmaker in the Illinois Senate.

The Illinois Democratic supermajority passed the bills out of the Senate on Thursday, and the measures now await Pritzker's signature.

One bill would replace certain pronouns with the nouns to which the pronouns refer, such as "minor" instead of "he or she," and "person who gives birth" in place of "mother" in some existing laws concerning children in the state's care.

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Demand ethics from all 3 branches of government

BY STEPHEN L. CARTER

Bloomberg Opinion

I'm not sure there's much fire beneath the smoky ethical allegations swirling around the U.S. Supreme Court. Justice Clarence Thomas stands accused of accepting lavish gifts from a wealthy friend. Critics say Justice Neil Gorsuch shouldn't have done a real estate deal with the head of a law firm that does business before the court.

None of this seems to violate any rules; at worst, the disclosures could have been clearer. Moreover, the recently floated notion that a big book contract creates a conflict of interest is farcical. But even if I'm wrong and there's flame aplenty, the news media's focus on ethics at the high court is far too narrow. If we're experiencing a crisis of financial ethics in government, it's not obvious that the justices are the principal culprits.

Yes, the judiciary has had its moments of ethical shoddiness. In 1969, the egregious Abe Fortas resigned as a Supreme Court justice after multitudinous misbehaviors, including taking \$20,000 from a financier under investigation for insider trading. In 1961, a federal judge named Royce Savage created a stir when he left the bench to become general counsel of Gulf Oil a year and a half after dismissing criminal price-fixing charges against ... Gulf Oil. The move quadrupled his salary.

Such episodes as these are memorable precisely because they're relatively rare. Set beside them, the allegations currently being lobbed with such vigor against the court seem almost trivial. If we're truly worried about public servants enriching themselves,

perhaps we should examine the other branches.

Consider Congress. We've long known that members who manage their own investments earn significantly higher returns than ordinary folk. Because of suspicion that representatives and senators achieved these results by trading on nonpublic information, the Congress, with great fanfare, passed legislation in 2012 to ban insider trading by its members. Shortly thereafter, with somewhat less publicity, the sparkling new rules were significantly weakened.

Even now, after all the fuss and bother, members of Congress continue to show a proclivity for investing, um, wisely. For example, studies of portfolio activity in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic have found a significant likelihood that members of Congress from both parties profited by trading stocks on nonpublic information. In particular, following closed-door briefings before COVID was front-page news, a number of members of both the House and the Senate made remarkably prescient decisions to buy or sell in industries likely to have abnormally high or low returns once the markets learned how serious the problem was.

As for the executive branch, The Wall Street Journal just won the Pulitzer Prize for its investigative series detailing how an astonishing 2,600 federal officials hold investments in companies whose value is affected by their decisions. The highest number of trades per senior official came in five of the most important regulatory agencies: the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (which also recently suspended its own inspector general for alleged misconduct), the

Education Department, the Treasury Department, the Energy Department, and — you guessed it! — the Internal Revenue Service. At the Environmental Protection Agency, some 200 top officials held stocks in companies actively lobbying the agency. One third of senior Federal Trade Commission officials were invested in companies that the FTC was actively reviewing or investigating.

If we're serious about improving ethics in government, such conflicts of interest as these seem at least as worthy of concern as the perhaps unwise decision of a single justice to accept lavish hospitality from a rich friend.

A common response is that although such findings about legislators or regulators are unfortunate, judges should be held to a higher standard. But frequent repetition doesn't make a maxim true.

A better argument is that those who make law should be held to universally high standards of integrity. Only small bits of law are produced by courts. Most is produced by legislators and regulators.

This isn't a tu quoque argument. If you demand that I get my house in order, disorder in yours doesn't make you wrong. And nobody is likely to mistake me for a regular defender of Clarence Thomas. My point, rather, is that the focus on the supposed sins of the judiciary is too narrow. If integrity is an important governance value — as I believe it is — we should demand it everywhere.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Stephen L. Carter is a professor of law at Yale University and author of "Invisible: The Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster." This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

To reinforce democracy, don't raise the voting age

BY JONATHAN BERNSTEIN

Bloomberg Opinion

Longshot Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy is proposing to raise the voting age from 18 to 25, with exceptions for those who serve in the military, work as first responders, or pass a civics test. "There needs to be some civic experience you need to have gone through in order to actually vote," he says.

He's entirely wrong.

He's wrong on the merits, which I'll get to, but it's worth pointing out that Republicans have developed a bad habit of responding to electoral losses by attempting to restrict the franchise, whether explicitly — as in this proposal — or implicitly, with laws that make it harder for groups that tend to support Democrats to cast their ballots. It's a bad habit not just for democracy but for the party, which doesn't do the hard work of trying to figure out how to make its principles appealing to new voters.

There are also practical problems here. Making this proposal law would require a constitutional amendment, since the Constitution currently mandates voting for 18-year-olds. It's highly unlikely such an amendment would pass.

And then there are the merits of the proposal — or rather, the lack thereof.

The basic questions these kinds of discussions invite is why we have a democracy in the first place, and why voting is a central part of all modern democracies. There are essentially two good answers.

One is that democracies are the best way

to ensure that a government looks out for the public interest, and elections force politicians to represent every citizen. If politics is mainly about who gets what, and democracy is about including everyone in that "who," then it's critical that everyone's interests be protected by extending the franchise.

Indeed, for those who see politics through this Lockean frame, expanding not restricting the vote makes sense. In fact, if democracy is about protecting the interests of all citizens, then children should have the vote — or, barring that, parents should vote on their kids' behalf. That seems odd to Americans only because we're not used to it; if the English had adopted so-called Demeny voting a few hundred years ago, parents today would be furious at any proposal to remove it.

There is another way of thinking about politics and democracy: Politics is about participating in collective self-government, which is valuable for its own sake. If that's the theory, then democracy is valuable because it enlarges the experience of organizing our world. In that case, voting is less the core of democracy and more a training wheels of politics — a way of participating that's relatively easy and good practice for more complex forms of participation. There's no real way to say when young people are old enough to see voting (or any political act) as meaningful, but that age is surely closer to 13 than to 25.

One final observation: Arguments about restricting the vote almost never attempt to restrict other forms of participation, such as electioneering or lobbying. Yet many teenagers participate in politics in these ways,

and sometimes their actions have larger effects than their vote does.

What about the specifics of Ramaswamy's proposal? To the extent it's not just a plan to disenfranchise Democrats, it's rooted in at least two false premises. One is that the way to get good decisions in democracies is to restrict participation to "the best" of us. Leaving aside who gets to choose "the best," the whole notion is logically flawed: There will be a hierarchy among those who are selected as "the best" — the best of the best, as it were — and so the incentive will always be to impose more restrictions to further "improve" the electorate. Eventually only a handful will remain. In other words, this is an aristocratic (or even authoritarian) principle.

In reality, however, we can't leave aside who gets to choose. That the vote — the basic act of participation in politics — should be seen as some kind of reward implies a system in which there is someone who gets to choose who participates. And if a political system already has someone in charge, then it's obvious that the vote isn't actually meaningful.

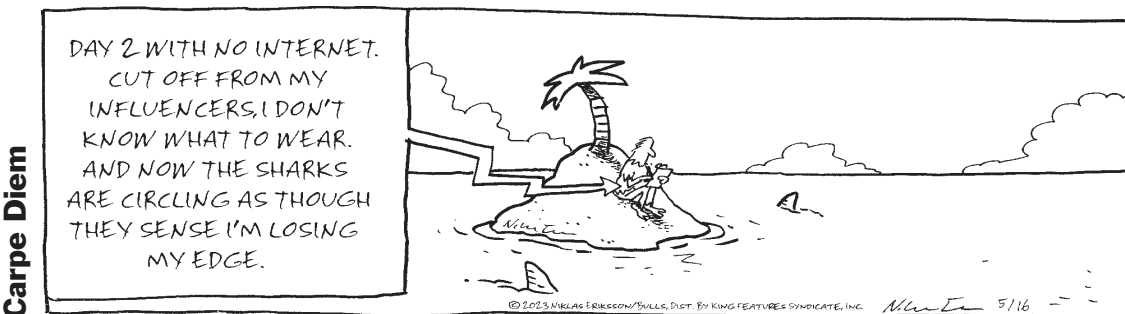
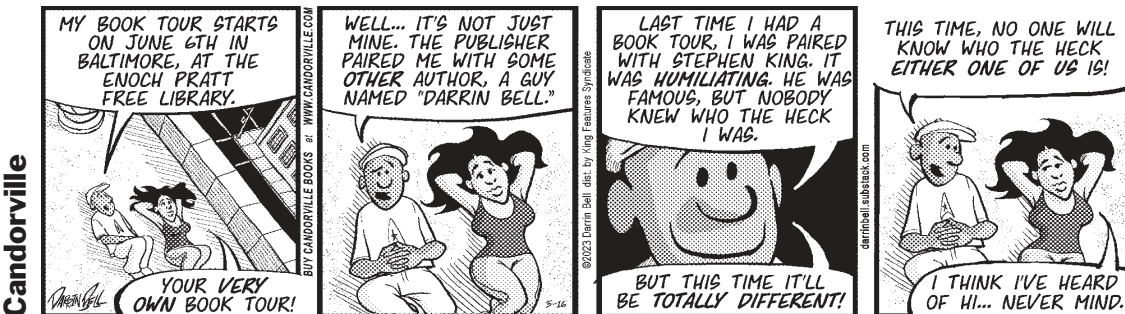
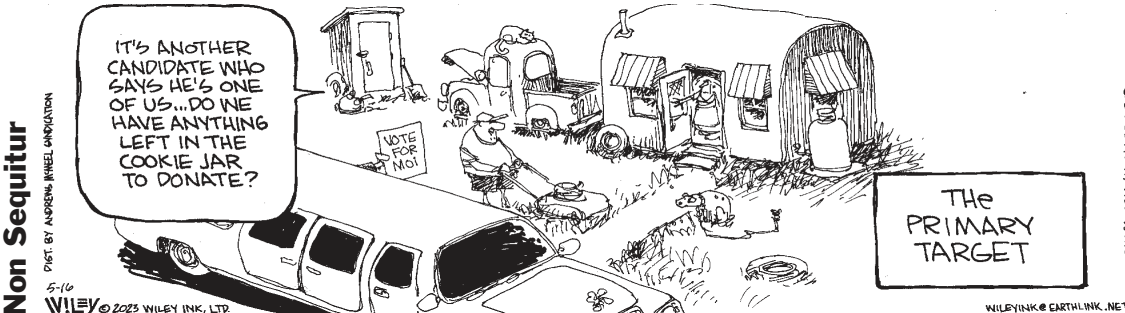
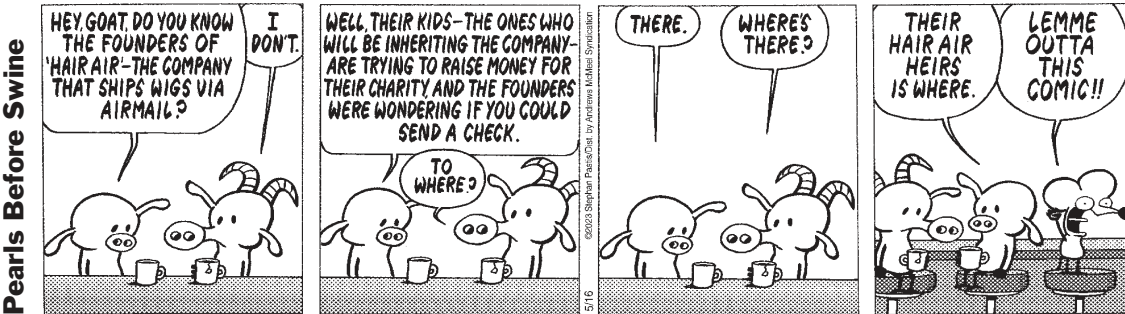
Democracies require the vote for all citizens, or at least all who are capable of minimal levels of participation. We should err in the direction of extending the franchise, not restricting it. It's a simple principle that is exactly what any reasonable interpretation of democracy demands.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Jonathan Bernstein is a former professor of political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

Grid for Eugene Sheffer Crossword with numbered squares.

ACROSS

- 1 Huff and puff
5 Wet dirt
8 Dash gauge
12 Modern money
13 Jargon suffix
14 Yours (Fr.)
15 Jazz great Getz
16 Capitol Hill group
18 Nissan models
20 Highway access points
21 Choice words?
22 May honoree
23 Rural buildings
26 Grads-to-be abbr.
30 TV schedule abbr.
31 "Wham!"
32 Romance
33 The "S" of ESP
36 Batting plays
38 Early hrs.
39 Scepter
40 Rose protector
43 Summon
47 Guard
49 North Sea feeder
50 From the U.S.
51 Altar constellation
52 Chiefs coach Andy
53 Ascend
54 Levy
55 Pre-college exams

DOWN

- 1 Porgy's love
2 Mandolin's kin
3 Algerian port
4 Chinese dumpling
5 Big buttes
6 Applications
7 Lair
8 Japanese mat
9 Teensy bit
10 Business abbr.
11 Radiator sound
17 "East of Eden" twin
19 Monopoly buys (Abbr.)
22 Kitten's cry
23 "Life Goes On" K-pop band
24 Jurist Fortas

- 25 Campaigned
26 Sauce source
27 Personal
28 Decay
29 "Mayday!"
31 7, on older phones
34 "No Exit" writer
35 Prefix meaning "all"
36 "— voyage!"
37 Cow features
39 Chill out
40 Romanov ruler
41 Half (Pref.)
42 Wallet stuffers
43 Antitoxins
44 Dog bane
45 Final notice
46 Some wines
48 — King Cole

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Answer grid for previous puzzle: SCAN, BEG, SCAT, POSE, ONO, OHIO, ALOG, WELLM, MADE, RAFAEL, FEARED, TAFT, ALI, MADESURE, ISPS, URI, ELENA, MOT, MESS, SELFM, MADE, LTS, SIRE, AGORAS, VOLUME, MADENICE, ONIT, ALGA, FIN, DINA, SEEM, T, AS, YVES

5-16

CRYPTOQUIP

KY H MXZEHW MCWXMRE KI
GXZN AKYYKMT OE EC MCWGXN
KW RCXEZN, NCT IPCTOA
OXHGX KE EC EPX RZCIX.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MONEY AWARDED TO THE COMPETITORS WHO WIN THE FINAL PART OF A CHAMPIONSHIP: THE PLAYOFF PAYOFF.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals C

FACES



SONY PICTURES CLASSICS/AP

Ethan Hawke, left, and Pedro Pascal are in “Strange Way of Life,” a short film directed by Pedro Almodóvar and premiering at Cannes.

Blockbuster edition of Cannes

Fully-recovered film festival to premiere Indy, ‘Flower Moon,’ Depp historical drama

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

The Cannes Film Festival, which will kick off Tuesday, is such a colossal extravaganza that taking measure of its ups and downs is notoriously difficult. It’s a showcase of the world’s best cinema. It’s a red-carpet spectacular. It’s a French Riviera hive of dealmaking.

But by at least some metrics, Cannes — following a canceled 2020 festival, a much-diminished 2021 edition and a triumphant 2022 return — is finally all the way back.

“Let’s just say it’s gotten very hard to get restaurant reservations again,” says veteran producer Christine Vachon.

When the 76th Cannes Film Festival opens Tuesday with the premiere of “Jeanne du Barry,” a historical drama by Maiwenn starring Johnny Depp, the gleaming Cote d’Azur pageant can feel confident that it has weathered the storms of the pandemic and the perceived threat of streaming.

Last year’s festival produced three Oscar best-picture nominees (“Top Gun: Maverick,” “Elvis” and the Palme d’Or winner “Triangle of Sadness”), again proving Cannes as the premiere global launching pad for films big and small.

Hot tickets abound

This year’s festival is headlined by a pair of marquee premieres: Martin Scorsese’s Osage Nation 1920s epic “Killers of the Flower Moon,” with Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro, and James Mangold’s “Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny,” starring Harrison Ford in his final performance as the character.

But as blockbuster as Cannes can be, even those films suggest the wide spectrum of cinema on hand. Both Scorsese and Mangold were first in Cannes decades ago. Scorsese with 1973’s “Mean Streets,” Mangold with 1995’s “Heavy.”

This time, though, they’ll debut much bigger films, sure to be the hottest tickets on the Croisette. Scorsese has his \$200 million epic for Apple TV+. And Mangold will premiere, as he says, “a more splendid project” than his minimalist debut.

The “Indy” celebration will include a tribute to Ford. He, along with Michael Douglas, will be given honorary Palme d’Or awards. To Mangold, it’s a chance for Ford to embrace the franchise’s international following. The “Indiana Jones” films’ essence, the director says, is rooted in golden-age cinema.

“These are things where you’re taking your guidance from the classics,” Mangold says. “That’s something that’s really appreciated by the French about American cinema. In many ways, they revere the old pictures more than even the audience in the United States do. That makes it a really wonderful platform.”

New high for female filmmakers

This year, 21 films are competing for the Palme d’Or, which will be decided by a jury led by last year’s winner, Swedish writer-director Ruben Östlund. Seven are directed by women, a new high for Cannes in its nearly eight decades of existence. Among the most anticipated is Italian filmmaker Alice Rohrwacher’s “La Chimera,” starring Josh O’Connor and Isabella Rossellini.

The festival, running through May 27, will unspool against the backdrop of labor unrest on both sides of the Atlantic. France has been beset by protests over pension reforms, including raising the retirement age. In the U.S., screenwriters are on strike to seek better pay in the streaming era.

The prospect of a prolonged work stoppage could potentially drive up prices for finished films at Cannes, the world’s top movie market. Among the titles seeking distribution is Haynes’ “May December,” which stars Natalie Portman as a journalist who embeds with a couple (Julianne Moore, Charles Melton) once renown for their age discrepancy.

Auteurs and A-listers

As usual, this year’s competition lineup returns plenty of Cannes heavyweights, including Hirokazu Kore-eda (“Monster”), Wim Wenders (“Perfect Days”), Nuri Bilge Ceylan (“About Dry Grasses”), Ken Loach (“The Old Oak”) and Nanny Moretti (“A Brighter Tomorrow”).



JOEL C RYAN, INVISION/AP

The poster featuring actress Catherine Deneuve from the film “La Chamade” is pictured on the facade of the Palais des Festivals ahead of the Cannes film festival in France, which runs from May 16-27.

Jonathan Glazer’s “The Zone of Interest,” shot in Auschwitz, is one of the festival’s most eagerly awaited films. It’s his first since 2013’s “Under the Skin.” Pedro Almodóvar will premiere the short “Strange Way of Life,” with Pedro Pascal and Ethan Hawke. Wes Anderson, flanked by another starry ensemble, will debut “Asteroid City.”

There’s also the upcoming HBO series “The Idol,” from “Euphoria” filmmaker Sam Levinson starring the Weeknd and Lily-Rose Depp; “Firebrand” with Alicia Vikander as Catherine Parr and Judd Law as Tudor King Henry VIII; and the Pixar movie “Elemental,” which closes the festival.

Steve McQueen, the “12 Years of Slave” filmmaker, will debut the longest film playing at Cannes and one of its most thought-provoking. “Occupied City,” which McQueen made with his wife, Dutch author Bianca Stigter, is a four hour-plus documentary that combines narration detailing violent incidents across Amsterdam during the Nazi occupation with present-day footage from those locations.

“It’s the most important film festival,” McQueen says of Cannes. “Our film is asking questions. This is where you want to premiere films that challenge and films that ask questions. You’re right on the front line.”

‘Super Mario Bros.’, ‘Guardians’ remain top box office draws

From wire reports

Several new movies infiltrated theaters this weekend, from a lighthearted trip to Italy with Jane Fonda, Candice Bergen, Diane Keaton and Mary Steenburgen to a Ben Affleck-fronted detective thriller. The two top spots were once again claimed by Marvel and Mario, however.

In its second weekend, “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3” added \$60.5 million from North American theaters, according to studio estimates on Sunday. That’s a slim 49% drop from its opening. Including \$91.9 million from international showings, “Vol. 3” has already grossed more than \$528.8 million worldwide.

“The Super Mario Bros. Movie” made \$13 million in its sixth weekend, bringing its domestic grosses just shy of \$536 million. Globally, the film has made \$1.2 billion.

It was an especially crowded weekend for new movies, opening both wide and limited in all genres and of all qualities. “Book Club: The Next Chapter” fared the best with \$6.5 million.

Robert Rodriguez’s “Hypnotic,” meanwhile, is bombing. The mystery starring Affleck as a detective whose daughter is missing cost a reported \$65 million to make. It earned just \$2.4 million.

Kelly Clarkson responds to accusations of toxic workplace

Kelly Clarkson has responded to a Rolling Stone report accusing her daytime talk show of being a toxic workplace.

Clarkson issued a statement on her Instagram page May 13. She addressed the allegations after 11 current and former employees complained about being overworked and underpaid on “The Kelly Clarkson Show” and also called their work “traumatizing to their mental health.”

In the May 12 report, the anonymous employees called Clarkson “fantastic” but said show producers were “monsters” who made their lives “hell.”

Clarkson said she loves her team. “To find out that anyone is feeling unheard and/or disrespected on this show is unacceptable,” she said in the post. The talk show host said she will institute leadership training for all of the senior staff.

Other news

■ “Pirates of the Caribbean” star **Johnny Depp** has reportedly signed the biggest men’s fragrance deal of all time. Variety cites a source confirming Dior closed a deal with Depp for a three-year deal estimated to be worth \$20 million. The veteran actor has been the face of Dior’s Sauvage since it launched in 2015.

■ The Tony Awards Management Committee and CBS canceled plans for a live **Tony Awards** show on June 11, according to an anonymous source. The decision was made after the Writers Guild of America denied a request for a waiver that would have allowed the show’s producers to stage a live show without striking writers protesting outside the venue in New York City.

■ “The Bear” star **Jeremy Allen White** and actor Addison Timlin filed to dissolve their three-year marriage May 11, according to legal documents obtained by The L.A. Times. The two married in 2019 and have two daughters.

SCOREBOARD

PRO SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

| | W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA |
|----------------|---|---|---|-----|----|----|
| New England | 7 | 2 | 3 | 24 | 19 | 11 |
| Cincinnati | 7 | 1 | 3 | 24 | 15 | 12 |
| Nashville | 5 | 3 | 4 | 19 | 15 | 7 |
| Atlanta | 5 | 4 | 3 | 18 | 21 | 21 |
| Philadelphia | 5 | 4 | 2 | 17 | 17 | 14 |
| Inter Miami CF | 5 | 6 | 0 | 15 | 12 | 12 |
| CF Montréal | 5 | 6 | 0 | 15 | 11 | 17 |
| Columbus | 4 | 4 | 3 | 15 | 21 | 14 |
| D.C. United | 4 | 5 | 3 | 15 | 16 | 16 |
| NYFC | 4 | 5 | 3 | 15 | 14 | 15 |
| Orlando City | 4 | 4 | 3 | 15 | 12 | 14 |
| Charlotte FC | 4 | 5 | 3 | 15 | 16 | 22 |
| Chicago | 3 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 14 | 16 |
| New York | 2 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 8 | 11 |
| Toronto FC | 2 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 13 | 17 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| | W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA |
|----------------|---|---|---|-----|----|----|
| Seattle | 7 | 3 | 2 | 23 | 19 | 9 |
| LAFC | 6 | 1 | 3 | 21 | 20 | 8 |
| Saint Louis SC | 6 | 4 | 1 | 19 | 22 | 13 |
| FC Dallas | 5 | 3 | 3 | 18 | 13 | 11 |
| San Jose | 5 | 4 | 3 | 18 | 16 | 16 |
| Portland | 4 | 5 | 3 | 15 | 18 | 19 |
| Houston | 4 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 10 | 9 |
| Vancouver | 3 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 15 | 12 |
| Minnesota | 3 | 5 | 3 | 12 | 10 | 14 |
| Colorado | 2 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 10 | 14 |
| Real Salt Lake | 3 | 6 | 2 | 11 | 10 | 20 |
| Austin FC | 2 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 17 |
| LA Galaxy | 2 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 10 | 18 |
| Sporting KC | 2 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 16 |

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

Sunday's game

LA Galaxy 2, San Jose 1

Wednesday's games

Colorado at Atlanta
Chicago at Charlotte FC
CF Montréal at Cincinnati
LA Galaxy at Columbus
New York City FC at Orlando City
D.C. United at Philadelphia
New York at Toronto FC
Vancouver at FC Dallas
Houston at Minnesota
Miami at Nashville
Portland at Real Salt Lake
Sporting Kansas City at Los Angeles FC
Austin FC at Seattle

Saturday's games

Nashville at Charlotte FC
Columbus at Cincinnati
LA Galaxy at D.C. United
Orlando City at Miami
CF Montréal at New York
New England at Philadelphia
Toronto FC at Austin FC
Atlanta at Chicago
Houston at FC Dallas
Real Salt Lake at Colorado
Sporting Kansas City at Saint Louis City SC

San Jose at Los Angeles FC
Minnesota at Portland
Seattle at Vancouver

NWSL

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

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

Sunday, May 7

Gotham FC 2, Chicago 1

Angel City 3, Kansas City 2

Friday, May 12

Louisville 3, Chicago 0

Houston 2, Portland 1

Saturday, May 13

Washington 1, Angel City 0

Sunday's games

North Carolina 1, OL Reign 0

Orlando 0, Gotham FC 0, tie

San Diego 2, Kansas City 0

Saturday's games

Angel City at North Carolina

Washington at Orlando

Louisville at Kansas City

San Diego at Houston

Sunday, May 21

Chicago at Portland

Gotham FC at OL Reign

Friday, May 26

Houston at Kansas City

Portland at San Diego

TENNIS

Italian Open

Sunday
At Foro Italico
Rome
Purse: Euro 7,705,780
Surface: Red clay
Men's Singles
Round of 64

Marco Cecchinato, Italy, def. Roberto Bautista Agut (21), Spain, 6-2, 6-2.
Daniil Medvedev (3), Russia, def. Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, 6-4, 6-2.
Yannick Hanfmann, Germany, def. Taylor Fritz (9), United States, 6-4, 6-1.
Lorenzo Musetti (18), Italy, def. Matteo Arnaldi, Italy, 6-4, 6-4.
Alexander Zverev (19), Germany, def. David Goffin, Belgium, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Round of 32

Alexei Popyrin, Australia, def. Roman Safiullin, Russia, 7-5, 7-5.
Francisco Cerundolo (24), Argentina, def. Gregoire Barrere, France, 6-7 (0), 6-2, 6-2.
Holger Rune (7), Denmark, def. Fabio Fognini, Italy, 6-4, 6-2.
Laslo Djere, Serbia, def. Cristian Garin, Chile, 6-3, 2-1, ret.

Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Grigor Dimitrov (26), Bulgaria, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1.
Casper Ruud (4), Norway, def. Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (0).
Cameron Norrie (13), Britain, def. Marton Fucsovics, Hungary, 6-2, 7-6 (4).
Jannik Sinner (8), Italy, def. Alexander Shevchenko, Russia, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-2.

Women's Singles

Round of 32

Marketa Vondrousova, Czech Republic, def. Maria Sakkari (9), Greece, 7-5, 6-3.
Karolina Muchova, Czech Republic, def. Camila Giorgi, Italy, 7-6 (4), 6-2.
Daria Kasatkina (8), Russia, def. Julia Grabher, Austria, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (2).
Iga Swiatek (1), Poland, def. Lesia Tsurenko, Ukraine, 6-2, 6-0.
Madison Keys (19), United States, def. Victoria Azarenka (14), Belarus, walkover.

Paula Badosa, Spain, def. Marta Kostyuk (32), Ukraine, 6-4, 6-2.
Marie Bouzkova (27), Czech Republic, def. Coco Gauff (6), United States, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.
Jelena Ostapenko (20), Latvia, def. Barbora Krejčíková (10), Czech Republic, 7-6 (2), 6-0.

Elena Rybakina (7), Kazakhstan, def. Anna Kalinskaya, Russia, 4-3, ret.
Donna Vekic (21), Croatia, def. Liudmila Samsonova (16), Russia, 2-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2.

Men's Doubles
Round of 32

Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, def. Nikola Mektić and Mate Pavić (5), Croatia, 7-6 (6), 3-6, 10-8.
Robin Haase and Botić Van de Zandschulp, Netherlands, def. Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, and Santiago Gonzalez (8), Mexico, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Simone Bolelli and Fabio Fognini, Italy, def. Lucas Miedler and Alexander Erler, Austria, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 11-9.
Rajeev Ram, United States, and Joe Salisbury (2), Britain, def. Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni (8), Argentina, 6-3, 6-2.

Wesley Koolhof, Netherlands, and Neal Skupski (1), Britain, def. Matwe Middelkoop, Netherlands, and Andreas Mies, Germany, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 10-4.

Round of 16

Mackenzie McDonald and Frances Tiafoe, United States, def. Harri Heliövaara, Finland, and Lloyd Glasspool (6), Britain, 4-6, 6-2, 11-9.

Women's Doubles

Round of 32

Ekaterina Alexandrova and Anastasia Potapova, Russia, def. Vera Zvonareva, Russia, and Miriam Kolodziejova, Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-2.
Magda Linette, Poland, and Marketa Vondrousova, Czech Republic, def. Latisha Chan and Hao-Ching Chan, Taiwan, 7-6 (7), 4-6, 12-10.

Monica Niculescu, Romania, and Makoto Ninomiya, Japan, def. Yulia Putintseva, Kazakhstan, and Daria Kasatkina, Russia, 4-3, ret.

Round of 16

Storm Hunter, Australia, and Elise Mertens (4), Belgium, def. Camilla Rosatello and Angelica Moratelli, Italy, 6-1, 7-6 (6).
Timea Babos, Hungary, and Anna Danilina, Kazakhstan, def. Victoria Azarenka, Belarus, and Beatriz Haddad Maia, Brazil, walkover.

Bethanie Mattek-Sands, United States, and Marie Bouzkova, Czech Republic, def. Nadia Kichenok, Ukraine, and Kimberley Zimmermann, Belgium, 6-4, 6-2.
Jessica Pegula and Coco Gauff (1), United States, def. Alexandra Panova, Russia, and Nicole Melichar-Martinez, United States, 6-7 (2), 7-6 (5), 10-8.

Demi Schuurs, Netherlands, and Desirae Krawczyk (3), United States, def. Elena-Gabriela Ruse, Romania, and Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, 6-0, 6-1.

AUTO RACING

Goodyear 400

NASCAR Cup Series
Sunday
At Darlington Raceway
Darlington, S.C.
Lap length: 1.37 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

- (4) William Byron, Chevrolet, 295 laps, 56 points.
- (20) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 295, 42.
- (21) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 295, 34.
- (10) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 295, 44.
- (2) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 295, 40.
- (14) Harrison Burton, Ford, 295, 31.
- (12) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 295, 45.
- (22) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 295, 29.
- (11) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 295, 31.
- (27) Chris Buescher, Ford, 295, 27.
- (24) Todd Gilliland, Ford, 295, 26.
- (8) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 295, 25.
- (3) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 295, 30.
- (16) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 295, 29.
- (32) Ryan Preece, Ford, 295, 22.
- (13) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, 295, 21.
- (31) Chase Briscoe, Ford, 295, 20.
- (15) Joey Logano, Ford, 295, 19.
- (25) Austin Cindric, Ford, 295, 18.
- (7) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 295, 25.
- (17) Aric Almirola, Ford, 295, 16.
- (9) Tyler Reddick, Toyota, 295, 17.
- (30) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 294, 14.
- (34) Corey Lajoie, Chevrolet, 293, 13.
- (28) Erik Jones, Chevrolet, 293, 12.
- (29) Noah Gragson, Chevrolet, 293, 11.
- (33) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 293, 10.
- (26) Ryan Newman, Ford, 291, 9.
- (5) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, accident, 287, 25.
- (23) Josh Berry, Chevrolet, 286, 0.
- (1) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, accident, 280, 17.

- (35) BJ McLeod, Chevrolet, garage, 226, 5.
- (19) Michael McDowell, Ford, accident, 200, 4.
- (6) Daniel Suárez, Chevrolet, accident, 199, 3.
- (18) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, accident, 196, 2.
- (36) Brennan Poole, Ford, transmission, 39, 0.

Race statistics

Average speed of race winner: 118.877 mph.
Time of race: 3 hours, 23 minutes, 23 seconds.

Margin of victory: .781 seconds.
Caution flags: 8 for 47 laps.

Lead changes: 19 among 8 drivers.

Lap leaders: M.Truex 0; B.Wallace 1; M.Truex 2-138; R.Blaney 139-141; B.Wallace 142; M.Truex 143-150; R.Chastain 151-189; K.Larson 190-202; R.Chastain 203-247; K.Harvick 248-251; R.Blaney 252; B.Wallace 253; D.Hamlin 254-262; K.Larson 263-276; R.Chastain 277; K.Larson 278-279; R.Chastain 280-287; W.Byron 288-292; K.Harvick 293; W.Byron 294-295

Leaders summary (driver, times led, laps led): M.Truex, 3 times for 145 laps; R.Chastain, 4 times for 93 laps; K.Larson, 3 times for 29 laps; D.Hamlin, 1 time for 9 laps; W.Byron, 2 times for 7 laps; K.Harvick, 2 times for 5 laps; R.Blaney, 2 times for 4 laps; B.Wallace, 3 times for 3 laps.

Wins: W.Byron, 3; K.Larson, 2; K.Busch, 2; C.Bell, 1; D.Hamlin, 1; M.Truex, 1; T.Reddick, 1; J.Logano, 1; R.Stenhouse, 1.

Top 16 in points: 1. R.Chastain, 429; 2. C.Bell, 402; 3. K.Harvick, 400; 4. D.Hamlin, 393; 5. W.Byron, 387; 6. M.Truex, 385; 7. R.Blaney, 381; 8. T.Reddick, 371; 9. B.Keselowski, 365; 10. K.Larson, 363; 11. K.Busch, 353; 12. J.Logano, 334; 13. C.Buescher, 329; 14. R.Stenhouse, 325; 15. B.Wallace, 293; 16. C.Briscoe, 275.

AP SPOTLIGHT

May 16

1884 — Isaac Murphy, a black jockey and one of the greatest American riders, wins the Kentucky Derby aboard Buchanan. He wins the showcase race two more times.

1916 — Damosch, ridden by Linus McAtee, takes the early lead, gives it up in the stretch, and comes back to beat Greenwood by 1½ lengths in the Preakness Stakes.

1925 — Flying Ebony, ridden by Earl Sande, becomes the fourth field horse to win the Kentucky Derby, a 1½-length victory over Captain Hal. The first network radio broadcast of the Kentucky Derby airs from WHAS in Louisville.

1927 — The New York Yankees' Bob Meusel steals second, third and home.

1955 — Rocky Marciano beats Don Cockell by TKO in the ninth round at Kezar Stadium in San Francisco to retain his world heavyweight boxing title.

1964 — Northern Dancer, ridden by Bill Hartack, wins the Preakness Stakes by 2½ lengths over The Scoundrel.

1973 — AC Milan of Italy win 13th Euro-

pean Cup Winner's Cup against Leeds of England 1-0 in Salomiki.

1975 — Muhammad Ali TKOs Ron Lyle in the 11th round to win the heavyweight boxing title.

1976 — The Montreal Canadiens win their 19th Stanley Cup with a 5-3 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers, capping a four-game sweep.

1977 — Muhammad Ali beats Alfredo Evangelista in 15 rounds to win the heavyweight boxing title.

1979 — FC Barcelona of Spain wins its 19th European Cup Winner's Cup against Fortuna Düsseldorf of West Germany 4-3 in Basel.

1980 — The Los Angeles Lakers beat the Philadelphia 76ers 123-107 to win the NBA title in six games. Rookie guard Magic Johnson fills in at center for the injured Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and comes up with 42 points, 15 rebounds and seven assists and is named the Finals MVP. The 42 points are the most scored by a rookie in an NBA Finals game.

1985 — Michael Jordan named NBA Rookie of Year.

GOLF

AT&T Byron Nelson

PGA Tour
Sunday
At TPC Craig Ranch
McKinney, Texas
Purse: \$9.5 million
Yardage: 7,414; Par: 71
Final Round

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----|
| Jason Day, \$1,710,000 | 64-69-66-62-261 | -23 |
| Austin Eckroat, \$845,500 | 69-65-63-65-262 | -22 |
| Si Woo Kim, \$845,500 | 65-66-68-63-262 | -22 |
| C.T. Pan, \$465,500 | 67-66-68-62-263 | -21 |
| Zecheng Dou, \$351,500 | 63-70-64-67-264 | -20 |
| Tyrrell Hatton, \$351,500 | 68-67-65-64-264 | -20 |
| Scottie Scheffler, \$351,500 | 64-64-71-65-264 | -20 |
| Vincent Norrman, \$277,875 | 68-66-65-66-265 | -19 |
| Ryan Palmer, \$277,875 | 64-65-68-68-265 | -19 |
| Adam Scott, \$277,875 | 63-71-68-63-265 | -19 |
| Stephan Jaeger, \$220,875 | 67-71-65-63-266 | -18 |
| Kevin Tway, \$220,875 | 66-71-66-63-266 | -18 |
| Ricky Werenski, \$220,875 | 64-68-68-66-266 | -18 |
| Byeong Hun An, \$163,875 | 67-67-68-65-267 | -17 |
| Mackenzie Hughes, \$163,875 | 65-64-73-65-267 | -17 |
| Sung Kang, \$163,875 | 66-68-66-67-267 | -17 |
| Carson Young, \$163,875 | 70-68-63-66-267 | -17 |
| Peter Kuest, \$163,875 | 70-67-67-63-267 | -17 |
| Joseph Bramlett, \$121,125 | 68-67-67-66-268 | -16 |
| Doug Ghim, \$121,125 | 65-70-69-64-268 | -16 |
| Scott Piercy, \$121,125 | 64-69-69-66-268 | -16 |
| Seamus Power, \$121,125 | 69-66-69-64-268 | -16 |
| Aaron Baddeley, \$80,546 | 71-65-66-67-269 | -15 |
| C. Beuzidenhout, \$80,546 | 68-69-66-66-269 | -15 |
| Eric Cole, \$80,546 | 66-68-70-65-269 | -15 |
| Trevor Cone, \$80,546 | 67-68-69-65-269 | -15 |
| Nate Lashley, \$80,546 | 67-70-68-64-269 | -15 |
| Hideki Matsuyama, \$80,546 | 66-67-70-66-269 | -15 |
| Brandon Wu, \$80,546 | 70-68-67-64-269 | -15 |

MLB

ROUNDUP

Harper ejected as Rox top Phils

Associated Press

DENVER — Philadelphia Phillies star Bryce Harper was ejected for charging Colorado's dugout, and Kyle Freeland dominated for six innings on his 30th birthday in the Rockies' 4-0 win Sunday.

Harper appeared to respond to Colorado reliever Jake Bird, who clapped a hand against his glove and said something toward the Philadelphia dugout after the last out of the top of the seventh.

"I get emotion," Harper said. "I understand getting fired up for an inning and stuff like that, but once you make it about a team or make it about yourself and the other team, that's when I've kind of got a problem with it."

Harper was initially restrained by Rockies catcher Elias Díaz, then Phillies third base coach Dusty Wathan prevented the two-time NL MVP from entering a group of players and coaches gathered near the first-base line.

"It could be," Phillies manager Rob Thomson said when asked whether Harper's reaction was the result of mounting frustration. "But a guy yelling in your dugout? That shouldn't happen. Flat out, that shouldn't happen."

Bird, who said his comments weren't directed at anyone in particular, also was ejected.

"I get a little emotional on the mound sometimes," Bird said. "It's a good team. It was a big moment. I got a little emotional out there. They took exception to it."

Thomson had been thrown out the previous inning after arguing with plate umpire Ryan Wills over a called third strike on Kyle Schwarber. Philadelphia's season-high five-game winning streak was stopped.

Colorado has won nine of 13 following an 8-20 start.

Freeland (4-4) allowed four hits, struck out eight and walked just one. After posting a 5.27 ERA in April, the Denver native has allowed just three earned runs in 18 innings over his past three starts.

"You don't want to get swept," Freeland said. "You want to salvage a series as much as you can. I wouldn't say it's a must-win, but it's one of those things to right the ship and get back on track to that winning. It starts with pitching. Obviously, I had a very good start today."

Nationals 3-2, Mets 2-8: Max Scherzer pitched five steady innings in his return from neck spasms as visiting New York finally broke loose for eight runs in the fifth to beat Washington.

Slumping outfielders Starling Marte and Mark Canha both had two hits and two RBIs during New York's biggest inning this season.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

The Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper, center right, is restrained after Rockies relief pitcher Jake Bird taunted the Phillies dugout in the seventh inning Sunday in Denver.

After losing 3-2 hours earlier in the completion of a game suspended Saturday because of rain, the \$355 million Mets (20-21) improved to 6-14 in their last 20.

Scherzer, 38, allowed one run and two hits against his former team, striking out six and walking two. He lowered his ERA to 4.88 and improved to 3-2.

In the completion of Saturday's game, suspended in the third inning after a rain delay that lasted 3 hours, 56 minutes, Nationals center fielder Alex Call made a pair of outstanding defensive plays in the ninth to preserve a 3-2 victory.

CJ Abrams broke a 2-all tie in the seventh with a home run off Dominic Leone (0-1). Kyle Finnegan notched his eighth save.

Dodgers 4, Padres 0: Tony Gonsolin and four relievers combined on a three-hitter, Mookie Betts launched a two-run homer and host Los Angeles blanked San Diego to complete a three-game sweep for its fifth straight victory.

Gonsolin (1-1) allowed two hits over five innings, struck out six and walked one in lowering his ERA to 1.42 in the Dodgers' third shutout of the season.

Miguel Vargas had a two-run double in the sixth after Brent Honeywell replaced Ryan Weathers (1-2), who was recalled from Triple-A El Paso to make his fourth start this season.

Rays 8, Yankees 7: Taylor Walls broke a fifth-inning tie with a grand slam off Albert Abreu, and visiting Tampa Bay held off New York to gain a four-game split.

Aaron Judge ended the game with a 399-foot flyout that Jose Siri

caught in front of the center-field wall, giving Jason Adam his fifth save.

Blue Jays 6, Braves 5: Danny Jansen hit a two-run single in the ninth inning as host Toronto rallied past Atlanta to complete a three-game sweep.

With the Blue Jays trailing 5-4, Toronto loaded the bases with two outs before Jansen singled off Raisel Iglesias (1-1), driving in Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Matt Chapman.

Cardinals 9, Red Sox 1: Nolan Arenado and Andrew Knizner each hit a two-run homer, and visiting St. Louis routed Boston to complete a three-game sweep.

Paul DeJong added a solo shot and Arenado drove in four runs for the Cardinals, who won for the sixth time in seven games since an eight-game losing streak. Their previous two wins came on ninth-inning rallies against closer Kenley Jansen at Fenway Park.

Pirates 4, Orioles 0: Mitch Keller struck out a career-high 13 in his second straight outstanding start, and visiting Pittsburgh blanked Baltimore to win for only the second time in 13 games.

The Pirates avoided a sweep after dropping the first two games of the series. Keller (5-1) allowed four hits in seven innings and did not walk a batter. Colin Holderman and David Bednar pitched out of trouble to close it out.

Astros 4, White Sox 3: Yainer Diaz hit his first major league home run to back rookie Hunter Brown (4-1), who allowed three runs in 5½ innings and tied his career high with eight strikeouts.

Yordan Alvarez hit a two-run double in the first, advanced on shortstop Tim Anderson's throwing error and scored on Kyle Tucker's sacrifice fly as the Astros built a 3-0 lead. Diaz homered off Lucas Giolito (2-3) in the fourth.

Guardians 4, Angels 3: Josh Naylor hit a three-run homer off Carlos Estévez in the eighth, his third go-ahead homer in three days in that same inning for host Cleveland.

Rangers 11, Athletics 3: Adolis García doubled against Austin Pruitt (0-1) to start an eight-run eighth inning capped by his second grand slam this season as visiting Texas took three of four in the series.

Diamondbacks 2, Giants 1: Lourdes Gurriel Jr. drove home Christian Walker with a double in the ninth inning, lifting host Arizona over San Francisco.

Tigers 5, Mariners 3: Riley Greene had three hits, Javier Báez drove in two runs and host Detroit beat Seattle to prevent a three-game sweep.

Twins 16, Cubs 3: Trevor Larnach hit a three-run homer, Joey Gallo connected for the second straight game and Louie Varland pitched 6⅓ solid innings as host Minnesota routed Chicago.

Marlins 3, Reds 1: Bryan De La Cruz doubled twice and singled, and host Miami avoided a three-game sweep against Cincinnati.

Brewers 9, Royals 6: Christian Yelich homered in the first and scored on two missed throws as part of host Milwaukee's seven-run outburst against Kansas City in the third.

Scoreboard

American League

| East Division | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Tampa Bay | 31 | 11 | .738 | — |
| Baltimore | 26 | 14 | .650 | 4 |
| Toronto | 24 | 16 | .600 | 6 |
| New York | 23 | 19 | .548 | 8 |
| Boston | 22 | 19 | .537 | 8½ |

| Central Division | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Minnesota | 23 | 18 | .561 | — |
| Cleveland | 19 | 21 | .475 | 3½ |
| Detroit | 18 | 21 | .462 | 4 |
| Chicago | 14 | 28 | .333 | 9½ |
| Kansas City | 12 | 30 | .286 | 11½ |

| West Division | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Texas | 25 | 15 | .625 | — |
| Houston | 21 | 19 | .525 | 4 |
| Los Angeles | 21 | 20 | .512 | 4½ |
| Seattle | 20 | 20 | .500 | 5 |
| Oakland | 9 | 33 | .214 | 17 |

National League

| East Division | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Atlanta | 25 | 15 | .625 | — |
| Philadelphia | 20 | 20 | .500 | 5 |
| Miami | 20 | 21 | .488 | 5½ |
| New York | 20 | 21 | .488 | 5½ |
| Washington | 17 | 23 | .425 | 8 |

| Central Division | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Milwaukee | 23 | 17 | .575 | — |
| Pittsburgh | 22 | 19 | .537 | 1½ |
| Chicago | 19 | 21 | .475 | 4 |
| Cincinnati | 18 | 22 | .450 | 5 |
| St. Louis | 16 | 25 | .390 | 7½ |

| West Division | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Los Angeles | 26 | 15 | .634 | — |
| Arizona | 23 | 18 | .561 | 3 |
| San Diego | 19 | 22 | .463 | 7 |
| San Francisco | 17 | 23 | .425 | 8½ |
| Colorado | 17 | 24 | .415 | 9 |

Sunday's games

Cleveland 4, L.A. Angels 3
Pittsburgh 4, Baltimore 0
Tampa Bay 8, N.Y. Yankees 7
Detroit 5, Seattle 3
Toronto 6, Atlanta 5
Houston 4, Chicago White Sox 3
Milwaukee 9, Kansas City 6
Minnesota 16, Chicago Cubs 3
Texas 11, Oakland 3
St. Louis 9, Boston 1
Washington 3-2, N.Y. Mets 2-8
Miami 3, Cincinnati 1
Colorado 4, Philadelphia 0
L.A. Dodgers 4, San Diego 0
Arizona 2, San Francisco 1

Monday's games

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

Tuesday's games

L.A. Angels (Silseth 0-0) at Baltimore (Kremer 4-1)
Pittsburgh (Ortiz 0-1) at Detroit (Lorenzen 1-2)
Washington (TBD) at Miami (Luzardo 3-2)
N.Y. Yankees (German 2-3) at Toronto (Gausman 2-3)
Seattle (Castillo 2-1) at Boston (Pivetta 2-3)
Tampa Bay (TBD) at N.Y. Mets (Verlander 1-1)
Milwaukee (Miley 3-2) at St. Louis (Montgomery 2-5)
Atlanta (TBD) at Texas (TBD)
Chicago Cubs (Steele 6-0) at Houston (Javier 3-1)
Cleveland (Bieber 3-1) at Chicago White Sox (TBD)
Cincinnati (TBD) at Colorado (Anderson 0-0)
Arizona (Henry 1-1) at Oakland (Muller 1-3)
Kansas City (Singer 2-4) at San Diego (Lugo 3-2)
Philadelphia (Wheeler 3-2) at San Francisco (Cobb 3-1)
Minnesota (Ober 2-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 6-2)

NHL PLAYOFFS/AUTO RACING

Knights top Oilers, advance to West finals

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — The Vegas Golden Knights are back in familiar territory in the Western Conference finals.

Jonathan Marchessault scored three goals for his second career postseason hat trick as the Golden Knights beat the Edmonton Oilers 5-2 in Game 6 of their second-round series on Sunday night to reach the semifinal round for the fourth time in the franchise's six-year history.

"We're only halfway done to our goal here," Marchessault said. "We're going to keep going until our organization, we win the ultimate goal. Tonight is just one step in the right direction."

Reilly Smith and William Karlsson also scored for the Golden Knights, and Ivan Barbashev had two assists. Adin Hill finished with 39 saves in his third career playoff start.

"I've worked very hard my whole life to get to the NHL and to be here," the 27-year-old Hill said. "It's exciting being on a team that's this good and has chance to really do it all. I'm grateful and I'm excited about it."

Vegas will next face the winner of the series between Dallas and Seattle, which went to a Game 7 on Monday night.

The Golden Knights still have half a dozen players from the team that reached the Stanley Cup Final in their inaugural season in 2017-18.

"We have a lot of older guys on the team that have been through a lot of situations," Marchessault said. "We don't panic. It's one of our strengths and it's definitely going to help in the future."

Connor McDavid and Warren



JASON FRANSON, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The Vegas Golden Knights celebrate their victory over the Oilers in Game 6 of their second-round series Sunday in Edmonton, Alberta. The Knights will face Seattle or Dallas in the Western Conference finals.

Foegele scored early in the first period for Edmonton, which led 2-1 less than three minutes into the game. Stuart Skinner gave up four goals on 17 shots through two periods, and Jack Campbell stopped all four shots he faced in the third.

The Oilers fell short of returning to the conference finals for the second straight year after losing to eventual Stanley Cup champion Colorado a year ago.

"It hurts," Edmonton forward Leon Draisaitl said with a shaking voice. "It's tough to find words right now. When you start a season, you're in it to win it. We're at that stage. If you don't complete that, it feels like a failure or a wasted year almost. It hurts."

Edmonton's loss officially extended the drought for a Canadian team winning the Cup to 30 years since Montreal won in 1993.

Marchessault tied the score 2-2 at 4:26 of second period as the puck redirected off a skate in front of the crease and the right wing fired it into the opening as Skinner slid across the goalmouth to try to stop him.

"A little bit of lack of execution defensively in the second period ended up really hurting us tonight," Oilers coach Jay Woodcroft said.

Marchessault then put Vegas ahead at 7:44. After a slap shot by Alec Martinez deflected into the air off Skinner's shoulder and landed

on the goal line, Marchessault tapped it in.

Seconds after a Vegas power play expired late in the middle period, Marchessault completed his hat trick with a 4-on-4 goal with 1:24 remaining. His wrist shot from just above the hash marks on a cross-ice feed from Alex Pietrangelo beat Skinner far side.

Draisaitl, who scored 13 goals in his first eight playoff games, and McDavid were reunited on the same line in the third period in an attempt to produce more offense. The Oilers generated several chances and McDavid rang a shot off the post.

Campbell was pulled for an extra attacker with over three minutes to

NHL scoreboard

Second round

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Florida 4, Toronto 1

Florida 4, Toronto 2
Florida 3, Toronto 2, OT
Toronto 2, Florida 1
Florida 3, Toronto 2, OT

Carolina 4, New Jersey 1

Carolina 5, New Jersey 1
Carolina 6, New Jersey 1
New Jersey 8, Carolina 4
Carolina 6, New Jersey 1

Carolina 3, New Jersey 2, OT
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Vegas 4, Edmonton 2

Vegas 6, Edmonton 4
Edmonton 5, Vegas 1
Vegas 5, Edmonton 1
Edmonton 4, Vegas 1
Vegas 4, Edmonton 3
Sunday: Vegas 5, Edmonton 2
Seattle 3, Dallas 3

Seattle 5, Dallas 4, OT
Dallas 4, Seattle 2
Seattle 7, Dallas 2
Dallas 6, Seattle 3
Dallas 5, Seattle 2
Seattle 6, Dallas 3
Monday: at Dallas

play in the third, but Hill and the Golden Knights stood firm.

"What was the difference? They did a lot of good things, they shut it down," McDavid said. "The third period was clinical. We still had our looks and didn't find a way to get one past him."

Karlsson sealed the win with an empty-netter in the final minute.

The Golden Knights held Edmonton's vaunted power play to one scoreless chance in the second period. The Oilers, the NHL's highest-scoring team in the regular season, were held to 10 goals over the last four games of the series.

The Knights also outscored Edmonton 17-10 even-strength.

"Our 5-on-5 game, I think it's been good all year," Marchessault said. "We were down 1-0 and 2-1 quite often in that series and we battled back."

Byron wins Goodyear 400 at Darlington Raceway

By PETE IACOBELLI

Associated Press

DARLINGTON, S.C. — William Byron saw Ross Chastain and Hendrick Motorsports teammate Kyle Larson ahead of him late at Darlington Raceway.

Byron made sure he was prepared for the fireworks he thought could happen.

Byron moved in front when Chastain and Larson wrecked while racing for the lead on a restart with six laps left and held off Kevin Harvick in overtime to win the Goodyear 400 at Darlington Raceway on Sunday.

"We talked about it under the caution," Byron said of a potential dustup. "I didn't think that they would wreck, but, obviously, it happened and we rolled on by."

Chastain and Larson have raced each other tooth-and-nail this season with incidents impacting po-



MATT KELLEY/AP

William Byron celebrates in Victory Lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series race at Darlington Raceway on Sunday in Darlington, S.C.

tential wins at Talladega and Dover heading into the track "Too Tough To Tame."

It didn't take a rocket scientist

— Byron is taking college courses at Liberty University — to know the two might tangle again.

It was a measure of retribution

for Byron, who was two laps from victory in this race a year ago until he was shoved out of the way by eventual winner Joey Logano.

"It's pretty amazing," Byron said. "Things have a way of working out."

He got away cleanly from Harvick on the green-white-checkered finish for his third win this season and seventh of his career.

Harvick was second and Chase Elliott third, his best finish since returning to NASCAR from a broken leg while snowboarding.

Brad Keselowski was fourth, followed by Bubba Wallace, Harrison Burton, Kyle Busch, Justin Haley, Ryan Blaney and Chris Buescher.

It was the 100th win for Hendrick Motorsports' No. 24 car and the organization's first victory at Darlington since Jimmie Johnson won the 2012 race.

It looked like 2021 champ Larson or points leader Chastain had the strongest cars and figured to be there at the end. Instead, Chastain was alongside Larson during a restart and admitted trying to squeeze his competitor against the wall in turn two. Both wound up wrecking.

Larson finished 20th and Chastain, who punched Noah Gragson in a pit-road confrontation a week ago at Kansas, was 29th.

"I wanted to squeeze him, I wanted to push him up, we've been trading back and forth all day. I wanted to push him up for sure," Chastain said.

Larson's crew chief Cliff Daniels angrily said on the radio, "three races he's taken us out of."

"Children," TV analyst and racing great Bill Elliott said. "You put 'em in a sandbox together and they can't play."

NBA PLAYOFFS

In 20th season, James still defying time

BY GREG BEACHAM

Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — As his NBA career approaches the dawn of its third decade, LeBron James plays almost exclusively alongside teammates who grew up watching him dominate their game.

He has played against the sons of his basketball contemporaries, and he has played against one of his own 18-year-old son's former high school teammates. That son, Bronny, is headed to college at USC in the fall, an achievement that sparks a father's proud smile whenever he mentions it.

Signs of time's passage are all around the 38-year-old James, yet the new top scorer in NBA history is defying all conventional wisdom about growing older in his mercilessly athletic sport.

When he's fully healthy — which is admittedly true less often than he would like — the third-oldest active player in the league still sprints, dunks, throws no-look passes and competes with the intensity that has kept him at the top for 20 punishing NBA seasons.

"Bron is just different," Lakers big man Anthony Davis said. "He keeps showing us, showing you. He's not done yet, either."

Two days before his Los Angeles Lakers eliminated the vaunted Golden State Warriors to reach the Western Conference finals last week, James was named to the All-NBA third team. James made one of the three teams for the jaw-dropping 19th time even though he played in only 56 games this season.

"I don't take those moments for granted," James said. "I don't take anything that I've been able to accomplish for granted, and I'm always appreciative. To be a part of that class of 15 guys is still pretty cool, even at my age and where I'm at right now, Year 20. Just don't take it for granted."



SANTIAGO MEJIA/AP

LeBron James has played in a league-record 278 postseason games, and his 7,912 career playoff points are nearly 2,000 more than Michael Jordan (5,987) atop the NBA's career playoff scoring list.

"Obviously, I've got bigger fish to fry. But those small moments, those small wins right there, is all part of the journey, all part of the legacy."

The big fish is his fifth NBA championship, which is somehow just eight wins away from being caught at the close of a tumultuous Lakers season. Even getting this close to James' 11th career NBA Finals appearance is incredible, considering these Lakers started the season 2-10 and sat at 26-32 in mid-February, shortly after James broke Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's league scoring record.

But after a 27-12 run through the past two months highlighted by knocking off second-seeded Memphis and the defending NBA champions, James' Lakers open the conference finals at top-seed-

ed Denver on Tuesday night. The Lakers haven't lost back-to-back games since March 17, and they've lost just once at home since March 26.

In the first round, James had the first 20-point, 20-rebound playoff game of his career during the Lakers' Game 4 victory over Memphis — and he also hit the dramatic tying shot in the final second of regulation. In the second round, James racked up 30 points, nine rebounds and nine assists in the clinching Game 6 victory over defending champion Golden State, conjuring his first 30-point playoff outing since the 2020 season.

Indeed, no basketball player has ever stood on the sport's biggest stages as often and as long as James, and he has repeatedly

thrived under the spotlight of 16 NBA postseasons and three Olympics. The Lakers' elimination of the Warriors was James' 41st career playoff series victory, passing Derek Fisher for the most series wins by one player in NBA history.

He has played in a league-record 278 postseason games, and his 7,912 career playoff points are nearly 2,000 more than Michael Jordan (5,987) atop the NBA's career playoff scoring list. He's even the fourth-leading rebounder in NBA playoff history with 2,511 boards — that's a whopping 1,120 more than the next-highest active player, Draymond Green.

The Lakers' achievements are even more impressive because James missed a full month down the regular-season stretch due to a

Scoreboard

Second round

(Best-of-seven)

Eastern Conference

Miami 4, New York 2

Miami 108, New York 101

New York 111, Miami 105

Miami 105, New York 86

Miami 109, New York 101

New York 112, Miami 103

Miami 96, New York 92

Boston 4, Philadelphia 3

Philadelphia 119, Boston 115

Boston 121, Philadelphia 87

Boston 114, Philadelphia 102

Philadelphia 116, Boston 115, OT

Philadelphia 115, Boston 103

Boston 95, Philadelphia 86

Sunday: Boston 112, Philadelphia 88

Western Conference

L.A. Lakers 4, Golden State 2

L.A. Lakers 117, Golden State 112

Golden State 127, L.A. Lakers 100

L.A. Lakers 127, Golden State 97

L.A. Lakers 104, Golden State 101

Golden State 121, L.A. Lakers 106

L.A. Lakers 122, Golden State 101

Denver 4, Phoenix 2

Denver 125, Phoenix 107

Denver 97, Phoenix 87

Phoenix 121, Denver 114

Phoenix 129, Denver 124

Denver 118, Phoenix 102

Denver 125, Phoenix 100

Conference finals

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

Eastern Conference

Boston vs. Miami

Wednesday: at Boston, AFN-Sports, 2:30

a.m. Thursday CET; 9:30 a.m. Thursday JKT

Friday: at Boston, AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m.

Saturday CET; 9:30 a.m. Saturday JKT

Sunday, May 21: at Miami, AFN-Sports,

2:30 a.m. Monday CET; 9:30 a.m. Monday

JKT

Tuesday, May 23: at Miami, AFN-Sports,

2:30 a.m. Wednesday CET; 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday JKT

x-Thursday, May 25: at Boston

x-Saturday, May 27: at Miami

x-Monday, May 29: at Boston

Western Conference

Denver vs. L.A. Lakers

Tuesday: at Denver, AFN-Sports, 3:10

a.m. Wednesday CET; 10:10 a.m. Wednes-

day JKT

Thursday: at Denver, AFN-Sports, 3:10

a.m. Friday CET; 10:10 a.m. Friday JKT

Saturday: at L.A. Lakers, AFN-Sports 2:30

a.m. Sunday CET; 9:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

Monday, May 22: at L.A. Lakers, AFN-

Sports, 3:10 a.m. Tuesday CET; 10:10 a.m.

Tuesday JKT

x-Wednesday, May 24: at Denver

x-Friday, May 26: at L.A. Lakers

x-Sunday, May 28: at Denver

Steady: Lakers ousted Nuggets in 5 games in 2020 Western finals

FROM PAGE 24

juries, Jokic wasn't supposed to carry as much of the load this season but he still put up stellar numbers in guiding the Nuggets to the best record in the West.

His 29 triple-doubles in the regular season were by far the most in the league, more than double the 14 recorded by Sacramento Kings power forward Domantas Sabonis. The Nuggets were 27-2 in those games.

The 6-foot-11, 285-pound Jokic does things at his tempo — using some of the 24-second clock to lumber down the court, more to post up, leaning this way, then that, backing in, spinning or pivoting and the rest to score or deliver a did-he-really-just-do-that? pass.

He's also made big strides in a category that's not on the stat sheet — leadership.

29

Number of triple-doubles by Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic during the regular season, by far the most in the league and more than double the 14 recorded by Sacramento Kings power forward Domantas Sabonis.

SOURCE: Associated Press

"Not only finding his voice but being comfortable with his voice," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "All season long there have been so many different examples ... whether it's in a timeout huddle, in the locker room, at practice, before a game in Houston when he gathered the troops together because we knew he didn't like the way they were warming up.

"He's had to do a little less this year" on

the court, Malone said, "because we're healthy."

On deck, the Lakers. It's a team that beat Denver in five games in the 2020 West finals, held in the NBA bubble.

"It's a great challenge, of course," Jokic said. "You need to play your game, trust your game, don't let anything disturb you."

Despite his stellar season, Jokic came up short in the voting to become fourth ever back-to-back-to-back MVP and joining Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain and Larry Bird.

One thing Jokic doesn't have in common with that trio is a championship ring.

But he does have game — and in the NBA, game recognizes game no matter what it looks like. Jokic has reached 300 points, 100 rebounds and 100 assists in a postseason for the third time in his career. No other Nuggets player has accomplished the feat, ac-

ording to ESPN Stats & Info.

Jokic doesn't have an Adonis body like so many NBA players. He doesn't jump out of the gym or put on a show like several of his fellow All-Stars. He just consistently makes jaw-dropping passes and sweet shots from anywhere on the court, sometimes firing passes with laser-like precision from one end to the other.

"Totally unselfish," former Suns coach Monty Williams marveled. "Just cares about winning."

Jokic has long joked that he's a point guard trapped in a center's body.

Asked about that, Durant, the 2014 MVP, said: "I wouldn't say a point, well, yeah, I guess. ... There's no limit or ceiling that you can put on him. You can't just call him a great passer or a great big man.

"He's just a great basketball player."

NBA



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Celtics forward Jayson Tatum receives applause as he steps off the court near the end of a 112-88 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers in Game 7 of an Eastern Conference semifinal series Sunday in Boston.

Tatum sets Game 7 mark as Celtics eliminate 76ers

Forward scores 51, Boston earns return to Eastern Conference finals

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

BOSTON — Jayson Tatum gave Boston a long-overdue fast start and followed it up with a finish the NBA had never seen before.

After struggling in back-to-back games, Tatum erupted for 51 points — the most in a Game 7 in history — and the Celtics beat the Philadelphia 76ers 112-88 on Sunday to advance to the Eastern Conference finals for the second straight year.

One game after missing 14 of his first 15 shots only to awaken in the fourth quarter in time to save their season, Tatum scored 25 in the back-and-forth first half and 17 more in Boston's 33-10 third quarter that turned a three-point lead into a runaway.

The Celtics, who lost to the Golden State Warriors in the NBA Finals last year, will face the Miami Heat in the East finals for the second straight season. Game 1 is on Wednesday in Boston.

"I was relieved just to get another chance. Our season could have been over after Game 6," said Tatum, who broke the Game 7 record of 50 points Stephen Curry set two weeks ago. "It definitely was on my mind that I had played as bad as it could get, for 43 minutes.

"We had a saying: 'It's only up from here.'"

Tatum added 13 rebounds and Jaylen Brown scored 25 for Boston, which rallied from a 3-2 deficit to keep alive its hopes for an unprecedented 18th NBA title.

"You always come into a series

with the expectation of how it's supposed to go," said Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla, who is in his first year as an NBA head coach after being promoted on the eve of training camp after Ime Udoka was suspended. "That's not how the playoffs are."

Tatum was subbed out of the game with three minutes left to a standing ovation from the crowd, which soon broke out in a "Beat the Heat!" chant. Miami beat Boston in six games in the 2020 Eastern Conference final, and the Celtics took a seven-game matchup last season.

"It's the best time of the year," Tatum said. "As a competitor, I love the opportunity."

NBA MVP Joel Embiid scored 15 points on 5-for-18 shooting, and Tobias Harris scored 19 for Philadelphia. The Sixers lost in the conference semifinals for the third straight year, and the fifth time in six seasons. They have not gotten any farther since reaching the NBA Finals in 2001 despite "The Process" — tanking their way to four top-three draft picks in a row, including Embiid.

"I thought we had the right group. I really did," said Sixers coach Doc Rivers, who coached the Celtics to the title in 2008. "We played great all year and this loss absolutely diminishes what we did this year in some way. ... I think this team is headed right. I thought we took another step this season. And then tonight I think we took a step backward. But that's OK. That happens, too."

Rivers is 6-10 in seventh games.

The 10 defeats are five more than any other NBA coach and three more than the NHL's Mike Babcock and Bruce Boudreau. His teams are 6-16 in their last 22 chances to close out an opponent in a playoff series.

Asked if he expected to be back next year, Rivers said: "Yeah. I think I got two years left. No one is safe in our business and I get that."

Tatum started 0 for 6 in a Game 5 loss and missed 14 of his first 15 shots overall from the floor in Game 6 before making four three-pointers in the final 4:14 to force the decisive seventh game.

He picked up where he left off, scoring Boston's first basket and 11 points in the first quarter, 14 more in the second and outscoring the Sixers on his own, 17-10, in the third. The 33-10 edge in the third was the most lopsided quarter in a Game 7 since at least 1997.

"JT just got it going and get out of that man's way," Brown said. "He got it rolling, and there's nothing they could do to stop him."

Brown began the game with the black mask he has worn since breaking a bone in his face before the All-Star break. He took it off and soon absorbed an elbow to the face from James Harden, who was assessed a flagrant foul.

Brown continued without the mask but finished the half with cotton in his left nostril. He also played with an edge, making both foul shots and following it with a steal and layup as Boston went on a 9-0 run to erase a 35-26 deficit.

Morant suspended again over gun video

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

Ja Morant was suspended by the Memphis Grizzlies on Sunday after he appeared to be holding a gun in another social media video that was streamed live on Instagram, the latest in a series of concerning incidents involving the two-time All-Star guard.

It's the second time in less than three months that Morant was seen on Instagram holding what appeared to be a weapon. The first led to an eight-game NBA suspension that was handed down in March and cost Morant about \$669,000 in salary.

It's unclear what sanctions Morant could face for the second video, which was captured Saturday night and widely shared online. The video was streamed on the Instagram account of Morant associate Davonte Pack, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because neither the NBA nor the Grizzlies have commented on the specifics of the latest video.

"We are aware of the social media post involving Ja Morant and are in the process of gathering more information," NBA spokesman Mike Bass said.

The Grizzlies, whose season is over, said Morant is suspended from all team activities "pending league review."

The video streamed by Pack shows Morant in the passenger seat of a vehicle, briefly appearing to display a handgun. At the very brief moment — only about a second — when Morant is shown holding what appears to be a weapon, the livestream had 111 viewers.

The video that got Morant suspended during the season happened when the Grizzlies star went live on his own Instagram account while holding a gun at a club in the Denver suburbs in early March. After that went viral,

Morant announced that he was taking time away from basketball to seek help, without specifying what sort of treatment he was getting. ESPN later reported that he was getting counseling in Florida, which the team eventually confirmed but did not share any details.

"Ja's conduct was irresponsible, reckless and potentially very dangerous," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement after meeting with Morant and deciding on the suspension's length. "It also has serious consequences given his enormous following and influence, particularly among young fans who look up to him."

"He has expressed sincere contrition and remorse for his behavior," Silver continued. "Ja has also made it clear to me that he has learned from this incident and that he understands his obligations and responsibility to the Memphis Grizzlies and the broader NBA community extend well beyond his play on the court."

Morant sat down for an interview with ESPN during his suspension, taking responsibility for the video.

"I don't condone any type of violence," Morant told ESPN. "But I take full responsibility for my actions. I made a bad mistake and I can see the image that I painted over myself with my recent mistakes. But in the future, I'm going to show everybody who Ja really is, what I'm about and change this narrative."

When the season ended a couple of weeks ago, Morant said again that he needed to work on his decision-making.

"Being disciplined on both sides, off the court making better decisions and on the court being locked in even more," Morant said following a season-ending loss to the Los Angeles Lakers. "Being a leader of this team, it pretty much starts with me. ... I've got to be better in that area."



BRANDON DILL/AP

Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant, right, was suspended for the second time this year for a video showing him holding a gun.

SPORTS

Golden Knights advance
Marchessault's hat trick leads Vegas into West finals » **NHL playoffs, Page 21**



NBA PLAYOFFS

Slow and steady

Jokic guides Nuggets into Western Conference finals utilizing methodical, unselfish approach

BY PAT GRAHAM AND ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

Nikola Jokic is anything but flashy and never seems to be in a hurry to get where he is going.

After leading the Denver Nuggets to a series-clinching shellacking of the Phoenix Suns, Jokic planned to unwind this weekend by watching his beloved horses race in Europe and getting in some much-needed daddy-daughter time in the pool with 20-month-old Ognjena.

Easygoing — just like his game.

With Jokic's methodical play and folksy personality leading the way, the Nuggets have overpowered Anthony Edwards, Karl-Anthony Towns, Kevin Durant and Devin Booker en route to the Western Conference finals against LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers.

The opener is Tuesday night in Denver.

While the Nuggets are one of six NBA teams never to reach the Finals, this is the first time they've been the top-seeded team in the West, and their .851 homecourt winning percentage is the best in the league.

Nuggets center Nikola Jokic averaged a triple-double — 34.5 points, 13.2 rebounds, 10.3 assists — in Denver's six-game series against Phoenix. He also shot nearly 60% from the floor.

RICK BOWMER/AP

INSIDE

Celtics finish 76ers in Game 7
Page 23

Jokic may not have captured a third consecutive regular season MVP award (this year that trophy went to Philadelphia's Joel Embiid). But the center from Serbia doesn't seem to mind.

All that interests him — besides family and his prized horses — is an NBA title. Against Phoenix, Jokic averaged a triple-double — 34.5 points, 13.2 rebounds, 10.3 assists — over the six games. He also shot nearly 60% from the floor.

"Jokic is an all-time great," Durant marveled, chiding anyone surprised by Jokic's night-in, night-out effectiveness. "Going to go down as one of the all-time great centers to ever touch a basketball."

With Jamal Murray and Michael Porter Jr. back from in-

SEE STEADY ON PAGE 22



Harper ejected in Phillies' loss to Rockies » MLB, Page 20

