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STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 80 Edition 45A ©SS 2021

CONTINGENCY EDITION

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2021

Free to Deployed Areas

Army eyes systemic fix for its AWOL weapons

By **WYATT OLSON**
Stars and Stripes

Army leaders met Thursday in search of a systemic fix to the problem of lost and stolen weapons in the service as disclosed by an investigation by The Associated Press.

The probe, published Tuesday, found that at least 1,900 guns from the U.S. military were recorded as lost or stolen in the 2010s, most from the Army. Some were later used in violent crimes, the investigation found.

“The Army takes weapons accountability very seriously,” Col. Cathy Wilkinson, an Army spokeswoman, said in a statement Thursday.

“While we have stringent physical security measures, we have more work to do to ensure that our property accountability and criminal reporting systems are seamlessly linked together. The Army staff met today to develop a way forward to fix this problem and we will provide more information as this effort evolves.”

Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was asked about missing weapons during a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing Thursday.

SEE AWOL ON PAGE 4

“I was frankly shocked by the numbers that were in there.”

Gen. Mark Milley
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



DESMOND PARKS/U.S. Navy

Ensign Jose Lopezbautista, electrical officer aboard USS New Orleans, takes a bearing on the bridge as conning officer during operations with USS America, USS Germantown and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ship JDS Shimokita in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

Navy struggling to retain SWOs

New GAO report also finds only 12% of female surface warfare officers stay in the job

By **SARAH CAMMARATA**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Navy officers who focus on the safe operation of surface ships are switching jobs or leaving the military at higher rates than other service officers in similar positions, according to a government watchdog re-

port released Thursday.

The Government Accountability Office's report also found only 12% of female surface warfare officers stay in the job, compared with 39% of male SWOs. Overall, 33% of SWOs remain in the position compared with 45% of officers who are in similar Navy jobs.

Though Naval Surface Forces Command tracks separation rates for surface warfare officers by gender, it hasn't developed a plan to improve retention rates, according to the report titled “Navy Readiness: Actions Needed to Evaluate and Improve Surface Warfare Officer Career Path.”

The GAO report is part of the response to ship collisions at sea that killed 17 sailors in 2017. That spring, the guided-missile destroyer USS Fitzgerald collided with a merchant ship off the coast of Japan, resulting in the death of

SEE REPORT ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS/WEATHER

US agrees to suspend tariffs on Scotch whisky

Associated Press

LONDON — Scotch single malt whisky makers breathed a sigh of relief Thursday after the United States agreed to suspend tariffs on one of Scotland's main exports in the wake of the resolution of a longstanding transatlantic trade row over subsidies to aircraft companies Boeing and Airbus.

President Donald Trump imposed the 25% tariffs on select products of the European Union, including Scotch single malt whiskies, in October 2019 as part of the

trade dispute. While the U.K. is no longer an EU member, it belonged to the bloc when the tariffs were introduced.

Earlier this week, the U.S. and the EU reached an agreement to end the aerospace dispute, paving the way for a 5-year suspension of tariffs. Parallel talks were held between the U.S. and the U.K. over the tariffs.

The tariffs on Scotch single malts were the most high-profile to affect Britain. The Scotch Whisky Association estimated that they

contributed to a 30% fall in total whisky exports to the U.S., equivalent to around \$850 million in the 18 months to March 2021.

"This deal removes the threat of tariffs being re-imposed on Scotch whisky next month and enables distillers to focus on recovering exports to our largest and most valuable export market," Karen Betts, the association's chief executive, said.

A thaw in U.S.-EU relations had been expected following the election of President Joe Biden.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 21)	\$1.16
Dollar buys (June 21)	0.8181
British pound (June 21)	\$1.35
Japanese yen (June 21)	108.00
South Korean won (June 21)	1103.00

South Korea (Won)	1135.72
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9221
Thailand (Baht)	31.49
Turkey (NewLira)	8.7395

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

Commercial rates	
Bahrain(Dinar)	0.3770
Britain (Pound)	1.3840
Canada (Dollar)	1.2396
China(Yuan)	6.4524
Denmark (Krone)	6.2664
Egypt (Pound)	15.6644
Euro	0.8426
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7641
Hungary (Forint)	299.99
Israel (Shekel)	3.2734
Japan (Yen)	110.44
Kuwait(Dinar)	0.3013
Norway (Krone)	8.6504
Philippines (Peso)	48.53
Poland (Zloty)	3.84
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3449

INTEREST RATES

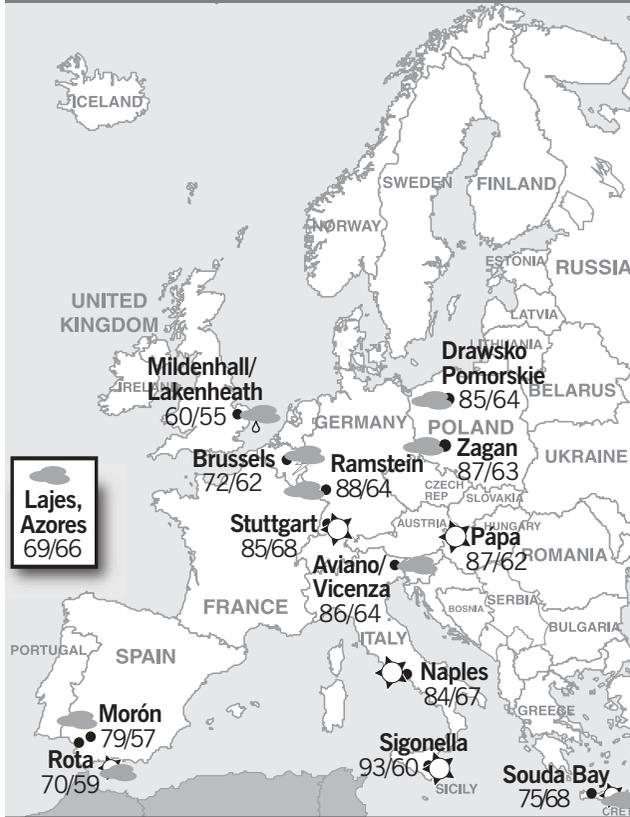
Prime rate	3.25
Interest Rates Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.04
30-year bond	2.10

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SATURDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SATURDAY IN EUROPE



SUNDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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MILITARY

Guide released on suing DOD for malpractice

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department released guidelines Thursday on how troops can now sue the military for medical malpractice, which they had been barred from doing for more than 70 years.

The Pentagon will begin paying service members or their estates next month for substantiated claims of less than \$100,000 that were filed within two years of a medical malpractice incident, according to the information published in the Federal Register.

The Treasury Department will cover claims totaling more than \$100,000, according to the register.

As of April 1, there were 227 cases totaling \$2.16 billion awaiting adjudication, according to a Bloomberg report at that time. Updated numbers were not immediately available Thursday from the Pentagon.

Since 1950, service members have been barred from suing the government for medical malpractice after the Supreme Court that year ruled in the case of *Feres v.*

United States that active-duty troops cannot sue the government for personal injuries suffered while in service, according to the register.

The Supreme Court case was named for Army Lt. Rudolph Feres, who died in a 1947 Pine Camp, N.Y., barracks fire. Lawyers argued the Army owed his widow compensation because it was negligent in not fixing a defective heating plant and a fire guard in the area did not maintain adequate fire watch, according to the court opinion.

“We conclude that the government is not liable under the Federal Tort Claims Act for injuries to servicemen where the injuries arise out of or are in the course of activity incident to service,” the Supreme Court wrote in its opinion.

But a provision in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, which sets policy and spending priorities for the Pentagon, ended the ban on suing for medical malpractice, after Sgt. 1st Class Richard Stayskal and his attorney, Natalie Khawan, petitioned law-



CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. 1st Class Rich Stayskal, an Army Green Beret suffering from terminal lung cancer, arrives on Capitol Hill in Washington with his wife Meg in 2018. Stayskal says doctors at Fort Bragg missed the tumor on his lung evident in a scan six months earlier.

makers to change the law. The *Feres* ruling barred Stayskal from filing suit after military doctors during a routine physical in January 2017 failed to inform him of his lung cancer, which grew to be terminal.

“A few years ago, when Richard came to me and asked for help to find a law, some way that he and his family be made whole after suffering from military medical practice, we went to The Hill and we worked hard to be where we are today,” Khawan said Thursday during a news conference streamed on Facebook.

The Richard Stayskal Military

Medical Accountability Act of 2019 was then included and passed in the 2020 NDAA, which former President Donald Trump signed into law Dec. 20, 2019.

The new regulation will come into effect in 30 days. While it includes the two-year statute of limitations, the regulation is retroactive and will allow filing claims from 2017, two years before the NDAA was signed into law.

To file a claim, service members or their representative must submit a signed, written claim including the facts behind the claim and the dollar amount requested, according to the Federal Register.

In some cases, an affidavit affirming the claimant consulted with a health care professional who stated a “DOD health care provider breached the standard of care that caused the alleged harm” must also be included, according to the register.

“It’s been a long time coming but it’s here,” Stayskal said at the news conference. “It’s a great day for the military and for the service members to finally be able to be made whole through unfortunate situations.”

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Senator: DOD justice changes must go beyond sex cases

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand is on the brink of success in her yearslong campaign to get sexual assault cases removed from the military chain of command. But getting over the finish line may depend on whether she can overcome wariness about broader changes she’s seeking to the military justice system.

There is now widespread support for using independent military lawyers to handle sexual misconduct cases, but Gillibrand is promoting legislation that goes beyond that, extending that change to all major crimes. Top Pentagon officials and key lawmakers are open to the sexual assault shift, but they say applying it more broadly requires far more study and debate.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Gillibrand said the wider change is necessary to combat racial injustice within the military, where studies have found that Black people are more likely to be investigated and arrested for misconduct. She intends to press

that point in the coming days.

Asked if she might compromise on her bill, Gillibrand said that time has passed. “We’ve been doing that for eight years. We’ve been getting something through every year, and some things just don’t work. You need this broad-based reform,” the New York Democrat said. “This is a bill whose time has come.”

For years, however, lawmakers have framed their push for change in the military justice system around problems with sexual misconduct cases. Victims — largely women — have long said they are reluctant to file sexual assault or harassment complaints because they fear they won’t be believed or will face retaliation. They’ve complained that allegations are sometimes dismissed by a good ol’ boys network among unit commanders or that attackers get away with minimal punishments.



Gillibrand

Those complaints have resonated, and support has grown on Capitol Hill and in the Pentagon, where senior defense leaders acknowledge that, despite years of effort, they’ve made little progress combating sexual misconduct in the ranks. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for the first time said they were open to taking sexual assault and harassment charges out of the chain of command.

But both also said that extending the change to all major crimes would require more time and review.

Similarly, Sen. Jack Reed, chair of the Armed Services Committee, supports the change for sexual misconduct and said this week that he believes it will get committee approval. But he said he wants a more thorough discussion within the committee for changes that affect the entire Uniform Code of Military Justice.

“The worst thing we can do to victims of sexual assault is to move a bill through that can’t be implemented effectively or on

time, creates too large a workload for too few qualified military judge advocates, imperils prosecutions, leads to convictions being overturned on appeal, or results in neglected cases because the necessary attention cannot be devoted to them,” he said.

Reed, a Rhode Island Democrat, said Pentagon estimates indicate the broader bill would require more senior qualified lawyers than the department has, and will take 180 days to implement. He also has repeatedly objected to Gillibrand’s efforts to get unanimous approval to move her bill separately to the full Senate for a vote, saying it should be included in the overall defense bill.

Asked about cost, Gillibrand said it will be “very little” because the prosecutors already are in place and they already take the cases to court.

The Pentagon, however, believes it won’t be that simple, and that if lawyers are pulled out of the chain of command to handle major crimes, others will be needed to deal with other cases and duties, such as desertion, military

discipline or legal policy reviews.

Jeh Johnson, former Pentagon general counsel, wrote in the *Lawfare* blog on Wednesday that Gillibrand’s bill “appears to require a whole new bureaucracy. ... No one should be under the illusion that the broad mission contemplated by the bill can be carried by a small band of elite JAGs in a suite someplace in northern Virginia.”

Johnson said a change for sexual assault crimes is long overdue, but added, “Congress should take care to fashion a solution commensurate with the problem at hand, and not go too far.”

Gillibrand, who has 65 other Senate supporters for her bill, acknowledged that overcoming committee leaders’ opposition will be a challenge.

“Having the chairman and ranking member opposed to this reform is highly problematic if this bill goes to the committee,” said Gillibrand, adding, “It would be easier if the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff or the secretary of defense supported our proposal.”

MILITARY

Report: Navy works to improve SWO career paths

FROM PAGE 1

seven U.S. sailors.

Later that year, the guided-missile destroyer USS John S. McCain was struck by a chemical tanker off the coast of Singapore and Malaysia. Ten U.S. sailors died as a result of the crash.

Some changes came after two internal investigations into the root causes of the 2017 collisions found challenges with training, qualifications and assignments as officers progressed throughout their career, according to the GAO report.

The Navy has taken small steps to improve officers' career paths, such as extending training and tours of duty to give more time to earn qualifications, but it has not fundamentally changed career paths for more than a century, the

GAO said.

Rep. Rob Wittman, R-Va., said Thursday during a House Armed Services Committee subpanel hearing that the "lack of leadership" among the surface warfare officers "continues to haunt" him. Thursday was the four-year anniversary of the USS Fitzgerald crash.

During the hearing, Wittman pressed Vice Adm. James Kilby, the Navy's deputy chief of naval operations for warfighting requirements and capabilities, on the results of the GAO report and how the Navy is addressing ongoing issues with surface warfare officers.

Specifically, Wittman pointed out a statistic from the report that found by a factor of four to one, surface warfare officers believe

specialized career paths would better prepare them for their job than the current generalized career path.

"Without periodic evaluations of current approaches, including alternative career paths, and the use of those evaluations, the U.S. Navy may miss an opportunity to develop and retain proficient SWOs," the GAO wrote.

Surface warfare officers are "screaming for change," Wittman said during the hearing of the House subcommittee on seapower and projection forces to discuss the Navy's budget proposal for fiscal year 2022.

Kilby said he could not speak to the specific data from the study released publicly after the hearing ended.

However, he said: "We've done

a lot of work, we feel, to professionalize and increase our mariner skill training. Some of those investments are still underway in Norfolk [Va.] and San Diego and will prove to be sufficient."

Surface warfare officers are trained to serve on all ship departments and all ship types. This training provides a generalist career path spanning across disciplines such as ship-driving, engineering and combat systems. But other Navy officers specialize in specific ship department areas.

"According to the commander, Naval Surface Forces, a generalist approach is the best career path for SWOs because commanding officers must know how to drive, fight, and lead on their ship, and SWOs with specialist career paths

are less prepared for this responsibility than are SWOs with a generalist career path," according to the GAO report.

However, the GAO found a majority of surface warfare officers want a specialized career path. An estimated 65% of surface warfare officers want a specialized track, compared with 16% who think a generalist model is best.

The GAO recommended the Navy develop a plan to improve retention, including female retention rates, and regularly evaluate its approach to training officers. The evaluation will then serve as a way to improve career options. The Navy concurred with all seven recommendations.

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Major US-led war games wind up in northwestern Africa

By MOSA'AB ELSHAMY
Associated Press

TAN-TAN, Morocco — More than 7,000 troops from the United States, African and NATO countries on Friday wound up a large-scale training exercise in the northwestern section of a continent increasingly threatened by Islamist extremists and military strife.

The U.S.-led African Lion war games lasted almost two weeks and took place in regional U.S. ally Morocco, Tunisia and Senegal. The annual drills, the largest in Africa, were skipped last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Maj. Gen. Andrew Rohling, commander of the U.S. Army's Southern European Task Force Africa, said it had been an "exceptional" exercise.

"It has helped our interoperability, our joint capabilities, and provided readiness and a good opportunity to build cohesion across the forces," he said Friday.

But there was a hitch at the

start, with Spain withdrawing from the war games citing budgetary reasons. Press reports however attributed the move to Spain's poor relations with Morocco, a former key ally.

The two countries have been at loggerheads since Spain took in the leader of the Polisario Front independence movement — Morocco's No.1 enemy — for COVID-19 treatment in a Spanish hospital earlier this year. The Polisario is fighting for independence for the Western Sahara, a vast region that Morocco claims as its own.

During the exercise, Morocco held some airborne operations near the Western Sahara and not far from Polisario refugee camps in Tindouf, in neighboring Algeria.

"Those activities have been perfectly conducted and agreed upon between the two militaries," Moroccan Brigadier Gen. Mohammed Jamil told The Associated Press.



MOSA'AB ELSHAMY/AP

An airman checks out the cockpit of a U.S. F-16 fighter during in the African Lion military exercise, in Ben Guerir, Morocco, on Monday.

Asked whether any action spilled into the disputed Western Sahara, Gen. Rohling said only that the locations "have not changed since the beginning of our construct of this exercise last year," before the Spain-Morocco crisis.

Africa faces several potential crisis points, from inroads made by Islamic State, al-Qaida and Boko Haram fighters to power struggles and coups. In addition to the threat from Islamist extre-

mists in the Sahel, militaries in places like the Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic come under attack by other armed groups vying for control of the region's mineral resources.

The participating countries were the U.S., Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Italy, The Netherlands and Britain. Observers also attended from countries including Egypt, Qatar, Niger and Mali.

AWOL: Lost weapons data shocks DOD's top general

FROM PAGE 1

"I was frankly shocked by the numbers that were in there," he said.

Milley told lawmakers that he had asked leaders of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force to conduct thorough audits of weapons to determine the actual number missing.

Initial data from those audits suggest that the number of missing weapons is "significantly less" than what the AP reported, he said.

The AP received only incomplete data on missing weapons from the military services, which the news-wire service concluded could mean the tally of missing weapons could be even higher.

The AP examined records provided by the service branches, criminal investigations, lost property forms, data from small-arms registries and internal Defense Department memos in establishing the number of weapons that were missing.

The Pentagon stopped the routine updating of Congress on stolen weapons in the mid-1990s, the AP reported. The Defense Department reports "significant" losses of weapons at its own discretion, the AP reported.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said Thursday he planned to write a "mandatory reporting requirement" into the National Defense Authorization Act, according to the AP.

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Hawaii soldier pleads not guilty to murder of wife

Associated Press

HONOLULU — A Hawaii-based soldier on Thursday pleaded not guilty in military court to first-degree premeditated murder in the January beating and stabbing death of his wife.

Spc. Raul Hernandez Perez also pleaded not guilty to disobeying a noncommissioned officer's order that he have no contact with his wife, the Honolulu Star-Advertis-



Hernandez Perez

er reported.

Hernandez Perez, 23, is a signals intelligence analyst assigned to the 500th Military Intelligence Brigade.

His trial date has been set for Nov. 8.

Army prosecutors say the cou-

ple were going through a divorce initiated by Hernandez Perez, who wanted to get back together with a high school sweetheart in Florida.

Military prosecutors said Hernandez Perez took out a \$100,000 life insurance policy on his wife, Selena Roth, on Dec. 15. Early in the morning on Jan. 10, Hernandez Perez Googled in Roth's home how many swings it took to kill

someone with a bat, and then beat and stabbed her to death.

Her body was found on Jan. 13 stuffed in an outdoor trash bin outside the house on Schofield Barracks.

Prosecutors said Hernandez Perez used a several-foot-long piece of wood to beat her on the back of her head and used a kitchen knife to stab her four times in the back.

VIRUS OUTBREAK



PHOTOS BY CEDAR ATTANASIO/AP

Ahead of campers' arrival in June, counselors at the Glorieta Adventure Camp train in tree rappelling May 21, in Glorieta, N.M.

Summer camps return but with fewer campers and counselors

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — Overnight summer camps will be allowed in all 50 states this season, but COVID-19 rules and a pandemic labor crunch mean that many fewer young campers will attend, and those who do will have to observe coronavirus precautions for the second consecutive year.

The Southeast is the first region to kick off camps this month, with other parts of the country to follow in July.

"Camp might look a little different, but camp is going to look a lot better in 2021 than it did in 2020, when it didn't happen," said Matt Norman of Atlanta, who is getting ready to send his 12-year-old daughter to camp.

Even though most camps will be open, reduced capacity necessitated by COVID-19 restrictions and the labor shortage will keep numbers well below a normal threshold of about 26 million summer campers, said Tom Rosenberg of the American Camp Association.

Across the country, many camps face competition for counselors in a tight job market. Traditional recruitment tactics like job



Glorieta Adventure Camp counselor Kole Linville, of Kentucky, trains on a zip line before campers arrive.

fairs on college campuses have been canceled.

"It's been hard to get people to work," said Josh Nelson, at Glorieta Adventure Camp, a facility in pine-covered foothills outside Santa Fe, N.M.

A group of Glorieta camp staffers started their orientation by rolling up their sleeves and getting vaccinated in an area between the mess hall and the water slides. But many campers are too young to get the shots because the vaccines

have not been approved for children under 12.

That means this year's camp experience will still involve many of the same prevention practices that were adopted at the small number of camps that operated last year. Those measures include grouping kids in cohorts, mandating masks, emphasizing social distancing — and lots of hand washing. Some states, like Vermont, are offering free virus testing for campers.

US to spend \$3.2B to fight COVID, viruses

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States is devoting \$3.2 billion to speed development of antiviral pills to treat COVID-19 and other dangerous viruses that could turn into pandemics.

The new program will invest in "accelerating things that are already in progress" for COVID-19 but also would work to come up with treatments for other viruses, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert. He announced the investment Thursday at a White House briefing.

"There are few treatments that exist for many of the viruses that have pandemic potential," he said, including Ebola, dengue, West Nile and Middle East respiratory syndrome.

But he added, "vaccines clearly remain the centerpiece of our arsenal."

The U.S. has approved one antiviral drug, remdesivir, specifically for COVID-19, and allowed emergency use of three antibody combinations that help the immune system fight the virus. But all the drugs have to be given by IV at hospitals or medical clinics, and demand has been low due to these logistical hurdles.

Health experts have increasingly called for a convenient pill that patients could take themselves when symptoms first appear. Some drugmakers are testing such medications, but initial results aren't expected for several more months. The new funds will speed those tests and support private sector research, development and manufacturing.

Last week, the U.S. said it would purchase 1.7 million doses of an experimental antiviral pill from Merck and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, if it is shown to be safe and effective. Results from a large study of the drug, molnupiravir, are expected this fall. Early research suggests the drug may reduce the risk of hospitalization if used shortly after infection by stopping the coronavirus from quickly reproducing. It did not benefit patients who were already hospitalized with severe disease.

Several other companies, including Pfizer, Roche and AstraZeneca, are also testing antiviral pills.

The currently available drugs have mostly been shown to help patients avoid hospitalization or shorten their recovery time by several days.

Under President Donald Trump, the U.S. poured more than \$19 billion into rapidly developing multiple vaccines. But less than half that amount went toward developing new treatments. That shortfall has become increasingly concerning as the vaccination campaign slows and experts emphasize the need to manage the disease in millions of Americans who may never get the shots.

Until this week, the only medicines shown to boost survival were steroids given to patients sick enough to need extra oxygen and intensive care. But on Wednesday, U.K. researchers reported that one of the antibody combinations successfully reduced deaths in a large study of hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

More US bases begin vaccinating Japanese employees

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The U.S. military in Japan carried on with vaccinating their Japanese workers Friday as infection numbers among American troops continued to decrease there and in South Korea.

Friday was the first day that Japanese employees could be vaccinated at Yokosuka Naval Base, home of the 7th Fleet 40 miles

south of Tokyo. By 8 a.m., more than 120 people were lined up at the Hawk's Nest Training Center to receive their first shots.

Approximately 800 people had signed up to receive the Moderna vaccine that day, although walk-ins were also expected, said Petty Officer 1st Class Jose Salazar, the emergency operations center manager at Yokosuka.

Hiroko Kazama, an accountant working on the base, said she was excited to get her first shot.

"I'm tired of this situation," she said of the coronavirus pandemic. "I want to be able to go and travel."

However, Kazama said some of her coworkers are hesitant to receive a vaccine administered by the U.S. military because of Japan's preventive immunization law. They are worried they might not receive government money provided under the law if they suffer significant medical issues after being inoculated.

Yokosuka's commander, Capt.

Rich Jarrett, told Stars and Stripes he expects shot clinics for Japanese workers to continue for the next few weeks, and hopes that everyone who opts in will be fully vaccinated by the end of July.

Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, Naval Air Facility Atsugi in Kanagawa prefecture and Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in western Japan also distributed first doses of the Moderna vaccine to Japanese base workers Friday, according to Facebook posts from

those installations.

The U.S. military in Japan and South Korea had reported three new COVID-19 infections as of 7 p.m. Friday.

The Marine Corps on Okinawa had one person test positive at Camp Hansen, according to a Facebook post by Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

U.S. Forces Korea had one service member test positive on Tuesday and another on Wednesday, the command announced.

NATION

Black Americans say Juneteenth 'not enough'

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE
AND KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Black Americans rejoiced Thursday after President Joe Biden made Juneteenth a federal holiday, but some said that, while they appreciated the recognition at a time of racial reckoning in America, more is needed to change policies that disadvantage too many of their brethren.

"It's great, but it's not enough," said Gwen Grant, president and CEO of the Urban League of Kansas City. Grant said she was delighted by the quick vote this week by Congress to make Juneteenth a national holiday because "it's been a long time coming."

But she added that "we need Congress to protect voting rights, and that needs to happen right now so we don't regress any further. That is the most important thing Congress can be addressing at this time."

At a jubilant White House bill-signing ceremony, Biden agreed that more than a commemoration of the events of June 19, 1865, is needed. That's when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom to enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas — some 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had freed slaves in Southern states.

"This day doesn't just celebrate the past. It calls for action today," Biden said before he established



DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/The Washington Post

President Joe Biden appears alongside Vice President Harris and members of Congress while signing the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law in the East Room of the White House on June 17.

Juneteenth National Independence Day. His audience included scores of members of Congress and Opal Lee, a 94-year-old Texas woman who campaigned for the holiday.

Biden singled out voting rights as an area for action.

Republican-led states have enacted or are considering legislation that activists argue would cur-

tail the right to vote, particularly for people of color. Legislation to address voting rights issues, and institute policing reforms demanded after the killing of George Floyd and other unarmed Black men, remains stalled in the Congress that acted swiftly on the Juneteenth bill.

Other people want the federal government to make reparations

or financial payments to the descendants of slaves in an attempt to compensate for those wrongs. Meanwhile, efforts are afoot across the country to limit what school districts teach about the history of slavery in America.

Community organizer Kimberly Holmes-Ross, who helped make her hometown of Evanston, Ill., the first U.S. city to pay reparations,

said she was happy about the new federal holiday because it will lead more people to learn about Juneteenth.

But she would have liked Congress to act on anti-lynching legislation or voter protections first.

"I am not super stoked only because all of the other things that are still going on," said Holmes-Ross, 57. "You haven't addressed what we really need to talk about."

Peniel Joseph, an expert on race at the University of Texas at Austin, said the U.S. has never had a holiday or a national commemoration of the end of slavery. Many Black Americans had long celebrated Juneteenth.

"Juneteenth is important symbolically, and we need the substance to follow, but Black people historically have always tried to do multiple things at the same time," Joseph said.

Most federal workers will observe the holiday Friday. Several states and the District of Columbia announced that government offices would be closed Friday.

Juneteenth is the 12th federal holiday, including Inauguration Day once every four years. It's also the first federal holiday since the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday was added in 1983.

Before June 19 became a federal holiday, it was observed in the vast majority of states and the District of Columbia. Texas was first to make Juneteenth a holiday in 1980.

Voting bill showdown looms as GOP rejects Manchin plan

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate is set for a key vote Tuesday on a sweeping rewrite of voting and election law, setting up a dramatic test of Democratic unity on a top priority that Republicans are vowing to block.

Democrats appeared to be coalescing Thursday around changes to the bill that could win the support of moderate West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, the lone Democratic holdout on the legislation. Yet they still faced lockstep Republican opposition that will likely leave Democrats back where they started: lacking the votes to overcome a Republican filibuster. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., called Manchin's proposal "equally unacceptable."

"Republicans are digging in their heels," said Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut. "They've made it pretty clear this week that there's nothing they're willing to support."

The bill, known as the For the People Act, has been touted as Democrats' answer to a state level-GOP push to enact voting re-

strictions following the 2020 election. It passed the House in March, but has bogged down in the Senate as Democrats have debated among themselves — with Manchin ultimately declaring he couldn't vote for it because it lacked bipartisan support.

Yet Manchin's position has evolved and compromise appeared to be nearing after he proposed a series of changes this week to narrow its scope. His proposal received a boost Thursday when Stacey Abrams, a former Georgia gubernatorial candidate who is a leading Democratic voice on voting rights, said she "absolutely" supported it.

"What Sen. Manchin is putting forward are some basic building blocks that we need to ensure that democracy is accessible," Abrams told CNN.

Still, in a narrowly divided Senate where Democrats must count on Vice President Kamala Harris to cast tie-breaking votes, any

compromise will likely be for naught unless changes are made to Senate filibuster rules, which Manchin and others oppose. For now, it takes 60 votes to overcome a filibuster and advance legislation.

Over a dozen Senate Republicans took turns at the microphone during a Thursday news conference to denounce the bill, which they view as a federal overreach into state and local elections.

McConnell predicted all Republicans would remain in lockstep opposition regardless of what changes are made. Sen. Roy Blunt, the No. 4 ranking Senate Republican, noted the endorsement by Abrams, who is a lightning rod for GOP criticism.

"I actually think when Stacey Abrams immediately endorsed Sen. Manchin's proposal it became the Stacey Abrams (bill), not the Joe Manchin (bill)," he told reporters Thursday.

As written, the Democrats' bill would bring about the largest overhaul of U.S. voting in a generation, touching nearly every aspect of the electoral process. It would blunt laws erected in the

name of election security, like voter ID requirements, while curtailing the influence of big money in politics. It would create a nonpartisan process for redrawing congressional districts, expand mail voting and early voting, restore the rights of felons to cast a ballot, and scores of other provisions.

Manchin's counter-offer, which is intended to entice GOP support, would leave significant portions of the sprawling bill intact, while curtailing, rewriting or eliminating other key parts.

"Color me a little skeptical," Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine, of Virginia, said of the possibility of bipartisanship.

What will ultimately come to the floor for a vote Tuesday remains unclear. Also not certain: whether Manchin will vote for it.

"We'll see what bill we have," he told reporters Thursday. "We don't know what bill we're going to have."

A national voter ID requirement favored by Manchin has emerged as one sticking point with some Democrats.

Manchin's proposal is far softer than the strict photo ID require-

ments adopted by some states. It would require all states to check ID, but various documents including a utility bill could be used instead of a photo ID, a requirement already adopted by 15 states including Manchin's West Virginia.

"That is what we're negotiating," said Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who is playing a lead role in guiding the legislation.

Polls have shown notable bipartisan support for voter ID requirements, and Democrats in their elections overhaul focused on the strictest ID laws.

In the current Senate bill, Democrats would require states with an ID law to allow voters who show up without identification to cast a regular ballot as long as they sign an affidavit under penalty of perjury.

"We might squabble about one or two things," said Sen. Raphael Warnock, of Georgia. "But I am not about to sacrifice the good in the pursuit of the perfect."

Klobuchar said she would continue to work on the bill over the weekend and was optimistic all 50 Senate Democrats would support it.



Manchin

NATION

Hispanic group sues over obelisk

By CEDAR ATTANASIO
Associated Press
Report for America

SANTA FE, N.M. — A New Mexico Hispanic fraternal order is suing the mayor of Santa Fe over damage to a historical monument by activists last year and the city's proposal to permanently remove it.

In a lawsuit filed Wednesday in state district court, the Union Protectoria de Santa Fe argues that the 152-year-old stone obelisk is a legally protected historical site under state law and that its removal dishonors Hispanic veterans.

A group of around 40 mostly white activists tore down the stone obelisk last year after other statues and monuments across the U.S. were toppled over concerns about racism.

In Santa Fe, inscriptions at the base of the monument honored Union soldiers who died fighting Indigenous tribes and Confederate soldiers. One inscription that described Indigenous people as "savage" was chiseled out in 1974 and never repaired.

The lawsuit asks a judge to prevent the city from spending any time or money on modifications to the historic downtown park until the stone obelisk is restored.

That would hobble Mayor Alan Webber's plans to have an independent commission determine the statue's fate. Despite calling for the removal of the obelisk, he emphasized that he would respect the final decision of the commission. A proposal for a commission to take on that task is being considered by the city council next month, with an estimated budget of \$265,000.

In addition to being a 19th century war memorial, the obelisk is a marker of the land grant issued from Spanish colonial royalty to Hispanic families that conquered the area in the 1600s.



CEDAR ATTANASIO/AP

Union Protectoria de Santa Fe president Virgil Vigil and vice president Richard Varela sit in front of the covered remnants of the Soldier's Memorial obelisk at the center of the Plaza in Santa Fe, N.M., Monday.

It's a reference point that anchors heritage and religious processions for traditional Hispanics and serves as a reminder of genocide for Native Americans.

"We're protecting our history, culture and our traditions, and our religion also," said Virgil Vigil, President of Union Protectoria de Santa Fe.

For Vigil, a Vietnam War veteran and helicopter pilot, honoring the veterans is a major focus.

"This is respecting our soldiers that gave their lives to maintain the freedom that we have and to end slavery," he said in an interview Monday, near the grey wooden box that covers the remnants of

the obelisk.

Vigil has been an outspoken critic of Webber's handling of protests over the obelisk and the removal of a statue of Spanish conquistador Don Diego de Vargas from a downtown park. He said his organization has been shut out of conversations over the monuments' future.

"This lawsuit is not the way forward," Webber said, adding that the commission would start its work "very soon."

Webber called for removal of the obelisk last year, months before activists tore it down on Oct. 13 during a protest marking Indigenous Peoples Day.

Portland officers resign from unit for crowd control

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — A team of 50 police officers who serve on a specialized crowd-control unit in Oregon and respond to Portland's ongoing, often violent protests have resigned en masse after a team member was indicted on criminal charges.

During a Wednesday night meeting, officers, detectives and sergeants on the Rapid Response Team voted to resign from the team because of a perceived lack of support from City Hall and from the district attorney over the past year, according to the mayor's office and officers.

The move by officers to disband their own team came a day after Officer Cody Budworth was indicted and accused of fourth-degree assault stemming from a baton strike against a protester last summer.

"I don't think it is just an indictment that caused this to happen, I think it is a very long complicated history of things that have gone on over the last 14 months," Acting Portland Police Chief Chris Davis said.

Davis told reporters Thursday that while the officers on the unit have "left their voluntary positions and no longer comprise a team," they will continue with their regular assignments.

The Rapid Response Team is an "all-hazard incident" unit that responds to natural or man-made disasters, large-scale searches and, most recently, public order policing or riots.

Members of the team are trained in advanced skills related to crowd management, use of force, de-escalation and arrests.

Last summer, when Portland became the epicenter of Black Lives Matter protests following the murder of George Floyd, the team was on the front lines.

Many demonstrations devolved into clashes with officers late at night, and at times ended with vandalism, property damage and fires. The crowd-control team was the unit often directed to disperse groups after police declared unlawful assemblies or riots.

"Our entire organization has been put through something none of us have ever seen through our careers — and at a level and intensity that I don't think any other city in the United States has experienced," Davis said.

In late October, the president of the police union, the Portland Police Association, sent the mayor and police chief a letter, urging both to "stand up and publicly support Police Bureau members who voluntarily serve on the Rapid Response Team."

"Our RRT members do not volunteer to have Molotov cocktails, fireworks, explosives, rocks, bottles, urine, feces and other dangerous objects thrown at them," wrote Daryl Turner, then-president of the union. He noted that the team members volunteer for the work without any specialty pay.

On Thursday, Davis acknowledged that members of the team have been exposed and subjected to "unbelievable things" in the past 14 months, including ongoing protests, increased violence and the pandemic.

"I understand that those are very complex issues, but I also understand their perspective," Davis said about the team's decision. "If you put a human being through what they went through, that takes a toll."

Davis said in the event there's a declared riot in the coming days, there will still be a police response from other officers within the bureau "with as close to adequate resources as we can get."

Mint to issue quarters honoring American women, their accomplishments

Associated Press

Poet and author Maya Angelou, America's first woman in space and a revered Cherokee Nation leader are among female trailblazers whose likenesses will appear on the U.S. quarter.

The new four-year American Women Quarters Program celebrates women's accomplishments and contributions to the United States' development and history, according to the U.S.



Mankiller

Mint.

Under the program, the mint will issue up to five new designs each year from 2022 to 2025. Honorees will be from a variety of fields and from ethnically, racially and geographically diverse backgrounds, the mint says.

Those chosen for the first year are:

- Angelou, celebrated poet and memoirist
- Wilma Mankiller, the Cherokee Nation's first female principal chief
- Adelina Otero-Warren, a leader in New Mexico's suffrage movement
- Sally Ride, the first U.S. woman in space
- Anna May Wong, the first

Chinese American Hollywood film star

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. and Mankiller's husband, Charlie Soap, expressed gratitude for Mankiller's inclusion in the program, saying her influence and leadership made her a fitting choice.

Mankiller became one of the United States' most visible Native American leaders during her 10 years as chief of the Cherokee

Nation of Oklahoma, from 1985 to 1995. She died in 2010.

"We thank the U.S. Mint for recognizing Wilma and the other recipients for such an honor," Soap told Indian Country Today. "Wilma was a humble, spiritual, great leader whose leadership was not only for Cherokee people but for all women and races. The real value of this coin is the inspiration it brings to Indian people and women everywhere."

NATION

Gulf Coast expecting heavy rain, floods

Associated Press

MIAMI — Officials ordered a floodgate and locks system closed in southeast Louisiana and readied sandbags in Mississippi and Alabama as a broad, disorganized tropical weather system began spinning bands of rain and brisk wind across the northern Gulf of Mexico coast Friday.

The system had not yet reached tropical storm strength as of mid-morning. But, in anticipation of strengthening, a tropical storm warning was in effect for parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida — extending from Morgan City, La., to the Okaloosa-Walton County line in the Florida Panhandle. Flash flood watches extended along the coast from southeast Louisiana into the Florida panhandle and well inland into

Mississippi, Alabama and western Georgia.

Children could still be seen playing on the beach under cloudy skies, with a rougher-than-usual surf roaring, at Gulf Shores, Ala. Business owners kept an eye on the weather, hoping it wouldn't ruin a Father's Day weekend for the tourism-dependent coast.

At Tacky Jack's, a popular restaurant on the Alabama coast in Orange Beach, "the winds are blowing pretty fast today so hopefully that wind will make the storm move faster and blow on out of here," kitchen manager Greg Paddie said Friday.

"Anytime there's a tropical storm in the Gulf, we pay attention to it," said Ryan Schumann in Mobile, Ala.

Schumann, who is president of

the Alabama Deep Fishing Rodeo on nearby Dauphin Island — one of the world's largest fishing tournaments — is thankful the event is scheduled for next month, not this weekend.

By midmorning Friday, the system was centered about 220 miles south of Morgan City, La., with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph. It was moving north-northeast at 14 mph.

In Louisiana's vulnerable Plaquemines Parish, the local government warned mariners that locks and a floodgate in the Empire community, near where the Mississippi River meets the Gulf, would close at noon.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards issued a state of emergency late Thursday. The move is an administrative step that authorizes

the use of state resources to aid in storm response efforts.

The system is expected to produce up to 8 inches of rain across the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico, and up to 12 inches through the weekend along the central U.S. Gulf Coast.

The combination of storm surge and the tide will cause normally dry areas near the coast to be flooded by rising waters moving inland from the shoreline, the hurricane center said. The water could reach heights of about 1-3 feet.

The threat of heavy downpours reached far inland. More than 140 miles from the coast, organizers of a Juneteenth festival in Selma, Ala., cited the weather in postponing a daylong celebration until August.

Flood watches also extended into north Georgia. Up to 6 inches of rain will be possible in parts of west Georgia as the storm moves on its expected path to the northeast, the National Weather Service said.

There have already been two named storms during the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season. Meteorologists expect the season to be busy, but not as crazy as the record-breaking 2020 season.

Mexico, while getting rain from the storm in the Gulf, was also threatened by a storm in the Pacific. Tropical Storm Dolores formed Friday morning and was expected to make landfall on Mexico's west-central coast Saturday evening, possibly near hurricane strength, according to the National Hurricane Center.

St. Louis gun-waving couple pleads guilty

By JIM SALTER
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — A St. Louis couple who gained notoriety for pointing guns at social justice demonstrators pleaded guilty Thursday to misdemeanor charges, but the man left the courthouse defiantly pledging to "do it again" if faced with the same circumstances.

Patricia McCloskey pleaded guilty to misdemeanor harassment and was fined \$2,000. Her husband, Mark McCloskey, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor fourth-degree assault and was fined \$750. They also agreed to give up the weapons they used during the confrontation.

When several hundred demonstrators marched past their home in June of 2020, the couple waved weapons at them. They claimed the protesters were trespassing and that they feared for their safety.

The McCloskeys, both of them lawyers in their 60s, wore blue blazers and spoke calmly in answering questions from Judge Da-

vid Mason during Thursday's hearing. Mason asked Mark McCloskey if he acknowledged that his actions put people at risk of personal injury. He replied, "I sure did your honor."

Mark McCloskey, who announced in May that he was running for a U.S. Senate seat in Missouri, was unapologetic after the hearing.

"I'd do it again," he said from the courthouse steps in downtown St. Louis. "Any time the mob approaches me, I'll do what I can to put them in imminent threat of physical injury because that's what kept them from destroying my house and my family."

The McCloskeys' defense lawyer, Joel Schwartz, said after the hearing the couple had hoped to raise money by donating Mark's rifle to charity, but acknowledged that it was an unusual request.

Because the charges are misdemeanors, the McCloskeys do not face the possibility of losing their law licenses and can continue to own firearms.



JIM SALTER/AP

Patricia McCloskey and her husband Mark McCloskey leave a court in St. Louis, on Thursday.



SPACEPORT CAMDEN/AP

This artist's sketch provided by Spaceport Camden shows the launch pad complex of the proposed Spaceport Camden in Camden County, Ga.

After 9 years and \$10M, Georgia spaceport nears FAA approval

By RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. — After nine years of planning and \$10 million invested by local taxpayers, county officials in Georgia's coastal southeast corner came a big step closer Thursday to winning federal approval of a project engineered to literally inject the local economy with rocket fuel.

Since 2012, Camden County on the Georgia-Florida line has doggedly pursued plans to build and operate the 13th licensed U.S. commercial rocket launch pad for blasting satellites into orbit. It's been a bumpy ride, with critics concerned that explosive misfires might threaten a protected barrier island popular with campers and possibly a Navy base entrusted

with nuclear weapons.

The project came closer to fruition Thursday, when the Federal Aviation Administration issued its final study on Spaceport Camden's environmental impacts. The agency concluded that building the spaceport was its "preferred alternative," as opposed to scrapping the project. That paves the way for a final decision in July on its license to operate a launch site.

Even if approved, there's no guarantee the project will fire its first rocket anytime soon. Despite increased demand for commercial launches in the past decade, more than half of licensed U.S. spaceports have never held a licensed launch.

Regardless, Steve Howard, Camden County's government ad-

ministrator, insists the community of 55,000 is seizing a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" not only to join the commercial space race, but to lure supporting industries and tourists.

"For us, it's never been about the rockets. It's about everything else," Howard said. "The rockets and the spaceport are a catalyst. What we want is everything else around it: R&D, manufacturing, payload processing, STEM programs, tourism."

Camden County would join 19 total U.S. sites available to launch commercial rockets. Five are U.S. government sites such as Cape Canaveral in Florida. Two private sites in Texas were built for the sole use of their owners, SpaceX and Blue Origin.

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY

Chinese crew making new space station their home

By SAM McNEIL
Associated Press

JIUQUAN, China — Three Chinese astronauts have begun making China's new space station their home for the next three months, after their launch and arrival at the station Thursday marked further advances in the country's ambitious space program.

Their Shenzhou-12 craft connected with the station about six hours after taking off from the Jiuquan launch center on the edge of the Gobi Desert.

About three hours later, commander Nie Haisheng, followed by Liu Boming and space rookie Tang Hongbo, opened the hatches and floated into the Tianhe-1, the core living segment of the station. Pictures showed them busy at work unpacking equipment and at one point turning to the camera to greet and salute audiences back on Earth.

"This represents the first time Chinese have entered their own space station," state broadcaster CCTV said on its nightly news.

China has now sent 14 astronauts into space since 2003, when it became only the third country after the former Soviet Union and the United States to do so on its own.

China's leaders hope the mission will be a complete success as the ruling Communist Party prepares to celebrate its centennial

next month.

Although contact between the Chinese space program and NASA is restricted by U.S. law, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson issued a statement Thursday expressing, "Congratulations to China on the successful launch of crew to their space station! I look forward to the scientific discoveries to come."

The mission is the third of 11 planned through next year to connect the Tianhe-1 to two laboratory modules and send up crews and supplies. The current crew will carry out experiments, test equipment and prepare for the future missions.

A fresh crew and supplies will be sent in three months. Each crew will have three members, with the station's capacity at six, when crews are being exchanged. Two of China's past astronauts were women, and future crews on the station will include women.

Uniformed military personnel and children waving flowers and flags and singing patriotic songs saw off the astronauts before they entered the Shenzhou-12 to be blasted into space atop a Long March-2F Y12 rocket at 9:22 a.m. Thursday Beijing time.

The rocket dropped its boosters about two minutes into the flight followed by the cowlings surrounding the crew's craft. After about 10 minutes it separated from the rocket's upper section, extended its solar panels and shortly after-

ward entered orbit.

About a half-dozen adjustments helped line up the craft for docking with the Tianhe-1, or Heavenly Harmony, module at about 4 p.m.

The travel time is down from the two days it took to reach China's earlier experimental space stations, a result of a "great many breakthroughs and innovations," the mission's deputy chief designer, Gao Xu, told state broadcaster CCTV.

"So the astronauts can have a good rest in space which should make them less tired," Gao said.

Other improvements include an increase in the number of automated and remote-controlled systems that should "significantly lessen the pressure on the astronauts," Gao said.

China is not a participant in the International Space Station, largely as a result of U.S. objections to the Chinese programs secrecy and close military ties. However, China has been stepping up cooperation with Russia and a host of other countries, and its station may continue operating beyond the International Space Station, which is reaching the end of its functional life.

Chinese space officials have also said foreigners may be part of future crews on the station after it is fully built next year.

China landed a probe on Mars last month that carried a rover, the Zhurong, and earlier landed a



CCTV/AP

The docking process in space between the Tianhe core module of China's space station and a Shenzhou-12 spaceship carrying a crew of Chinese astronauts is seen Thursday.

probe and rover on the moon's less explored far side and brought back the first lunar samples by any country's space program since the 1970s.

China and Russia this week also unveiled an ambitious plan for a joint International Lunar Research Station running through 2036. That could compete and possibly conflict with the multinational Artemis Accords, a blueprint for space cooperation that supports NASA's plans to return humans to the moon by 2024 and to launch a human mission to

Mars.

After the Tianhe-1 was launched in April, the rocket that carried it into space made an uncontrolled reentry to Earth.

Usually, discarded rocket stages reenter the atmosphere soon after liftoff, normally over water, and don't go into orbit.

China dismissed criticism of the potential safety hazard at the time, and officials said the rocket used Thursday was of a different type and reentering components were expected to burn up before they could be a danger.

Weird 'living fossil' fish lives 100 years, pregnant for 5

Associated Press

The coelacanth — a giant weird fish still around from dinosaur times — can live for 100 years, a new study found.

These slow-moving, people-sized fish of the deep, nicknamed a "living fossil," are the opposite of the live fast, die young mantra. These nocturnal fish grow at an aching slow pace.

Females don't hit sexual maturity until their late 50s, the study said, while male coelacanths are sexually mature at 40 to 69 years. And maybe strangest of all, researchers figure pregnancy in the fish lasts about five years.

Coelacanths, which have been around for 400 million years, were thought extinct until they were found alive in 1938 off South Africa. Scientists long believed coelacanths live about 20 years. But by applying a standard technique for dating commercial fish, French scientists calculated they actually live close to a century, according to a study in Thursday's Current

Biology.

Coelacanths are so endangered that scientists can only study specimens already caught and dead.

In the past, scientists calculated fish ages by counting big lines on a specific coelacanth scale. But the French scientists found they were missing smaller lines that could only be seen using polarized light — the technique used to figure out the age of commercial fish.

Study co-author Bruno Ernande, a marine evolutionary ecologist at France's marine research institute, said polarized light revealed five smaller lines for every big one. The researchers concluded the smaller lines better correlated to a year of coelacanth age — and that indicated their oldest specimen was 84 years old.

Using the technique, the scientists studied two embryos and calculated the largest was five years old and the youngest was nine years old. So, Ernande said, they figured pregnancy lasts at least five years in coelacanths, which



PIERRE GODOT / AP

visitors to the Natural History Museum in Paris look at a coelacanth exhibit in 1954. The "living fossil," still around from the time of the dinosaurs, can live for 100 years, according to a study released Thursday.

have live births.

That five-year gestation is "very strange" for fish or any animal, said Scripps Institution of Ocean-

ography's Harold Walker, who wasn't part of the research.

Even though coelacanths are unrelated genetically and show

wide evolutionary differences, they age slowly like other dwellers of the deep, sharks and rays, Ernande said.

WORLD

Kim vows to be ready for encounter with US

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered his government to be prepared for both dialogue and confrontation with the Biden administration — but more for confrontation — state media reported Friday, days after the United States and others urged the North to abandon its nuclear program and return to talks.

Kim's statement indicates he'll likely push to strengthen his nuclear arsenal and increase pressure on Washington to give up what North Korea considers a

hostile policy toward the North, though he'll also prepare for talks to resume, some experts say.

During an ongoing ruling party meeting Thursday, Kim analyzed in detail the policy tendencies of the U.S. under President Joe Biden and clarified steps to be taken in relations with Washington, the Korean Central News Agency said. It did not specify the steps.

Kim "stressed the need to get prepared for both dialogue and confrontation, especially to get fully prepared for confrontation in order to protect the dignity of

our state" and ensure national security, it said.

In 2018-19, Kim held a series of summits with then-President Donald Trump to discuss North Korea's advancing nuclear arsenal. But the negotiations fell apart after Trump rejected Kim's calls for extensive sanctions relief in return for a partial surrender of his nuclear capability.

Biden's administration has worked to formulate a new approach on North Korea's nuclear program that it describes as "calibrated and practical." Details of his North Korea policy haven't

been publicized, but U.S. officials have suggested Biden will seek a middle ground between Trump's direct meetings with Kim and former President Barack Obama's "strategic patience" to curb Kim's nuclear program.

Earlier this week, leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy nations issued a statement calling for the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and "the verifiable and irreversible abandonment" of North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. They called on North Korea to engage and resume dialogue.

Sung Kim, the top U.S. official on North Korea, is to visit Seoul on Saturday for a trilateral meeting with South Korean and Japanese officials. His travel emphasizes the importance of three-way cooperation in working toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the State Department said.

Kim Jong Un has recently threatened to enlarge his nuclear arsenal and build high-tech weapons targeting the U.S. mainland if Washington refuses to abandon its hostile policy toward North Korea.

Israel strikes Gaza after Hamas launches incendiary balloons

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel launched airstrikes on the Gaza Strip late Thursday for a second time since a shaky cease-fire ended last month's 11-day war. The strikes came after activists mobilized by Gaza's militant Hamas rulers launched incendiary balloons into Israel for a third straight day.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the strikes, which could be heard from Gaza City. Israel also carried out airstrikes early Wednesday, targeting what it has said were Hamas facilities, without killing or wounding anyone.

The military said fighter jets struck Hamas "military compounds and a rocket launch site" late Thursday in response to the balloons. It said its forces were preparing for a "variety of scenarios including a resumption of hostilities."

Rocket sirens went off in Israeli communities near Gaza shortly after the airstrikes. The military later said they were triggered by "incoming fire, not rockets."

Surveillance camera footage obtained by The Associated Press showed what appeared to be heavy machine-gun fire into the air from Gaza, a possible attempt by Palestinian militants to shoot down aircraft. Other footage showed projectiles being fired from Gaza, but it was unclear what kind or where they landed.

Tensions have remained high since a cease-fire halted the war on May 21, even as Egyptian mediators have met with Israeli and Hamas officials to try and shore up the informal truce.

Israel and Hamas have fought four wars and countless smaller skirmishes since the Islamic militant group seized power from rival Palestinians forces in 2007. Israel

and Egypt have imposed a crippling blockade on Gaza, which is home to more than 2 million Palestinians, since Hamas took over.

Earlier, Israeli police used stun grenades and a water cannon spraying skunk water to disperse Palestinian protesters from Damascus Gate in east Jerusalem, the epicenter of weeks of protests and clashes in the run-up to the Gaza war.

After the crowds were dispersed, Palestinians could be seen throwing rocks and water bottles at ultra-Orthodox Jews walking in the area.

Calls had circulated for protesters to gather at Damascus Gate in response to a rally held there by Jewish ultranationalists on Tuesday in which dozens of Israelis had chanted "Death to Arabs" and "May your village burn." The police had forcibly cleared the square and provided security for that rally, part of a parade to celebrate Israel's conquest of east Jerusalem.

In a separate incident, a Palestinian teenager died Thursday after being shot by Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank during a protest against a settlement outpost, the fourth demonstrator to be killed since the outpost was established last month.

The Israeli military said Wednesday that a soldier stationed near the wildcat outpost in the West Bank saw a group of Palestinians approaching, and that one "hurled a suspicious object at him, which exploded adjacent to the soldier." The army said that the soldier fired in the air, then shot the Palestinian who threw the object.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said Thursday that Ahmad Shamsa, 15, died of a gunshot wound sustained a day earlier.



EBRAHIM NOROOZI/AP

Voters fill out their ballot papers during the presidential election at a polling station Friday in Tehran, Iran.

Iran votes in presidential poll tipped in hard-liner's favor

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iranians voted Friday in a presidential election that a hard-line protege of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei seemed likely to win, leading to low turnout fueled by apathy and calls for a boycott.

Opinion polling by state-linked organizations and analysts indicated that judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi — who is already under U.S. sanctions — was the dominant front-runner in a field of just four candidates. Former Central Bank chief Abdolnasser Hemmati is running as the race's moderate candidate but hasn't inspired the same support as outgoing President Hassan Rouhani, who is term limited from seeking the office again.

By midday, turnout appeared far lower than Iran's last presidential election in 2017. State television offered tight shots of polling places, several of which seemed to have

only a handful of voters in the election's early hours.

Those passing by several polling places in Tehran said they similarly saw few voters. In some images on state TV, poll workers wore gloves and masks due to the coronavirus pandemic, with some wiping down ballot boxes with disinfectants.

If elected, Raisi would be the first serving Iranian president even before entering office over his involvement in the mass execution of political prisoners in 1988, as well as his time as the head of Iran's internationally criticized judiciary — one of the world's top executioners.

It also would put hard-liners firmly in control across the Iranian government as negotiations in Vienna continue to try to save a tattered deal meant to limit Iran's nuclear program at a time when it is

enriching uranium to the closest point yet to weapons-grade levels. Tensions remain high with both the U.S. and Israel, which is believed to have carried out a series of attacks targeting Iranian nuclear sites as well as assassinating the scientist who created its military atomic program decades earlier.

Whoever wins will likely serve two four-year terms and thus may be at the helm at what could be one of the most-crucial moments for the country in decades — the death of the 82-year-old Khamenei. Already, speculation has mounted that Raisi may be a contender for the position, along with Khamenei's son, Mojtaba.

Polls opened at 7 a.m. local time for the vote, which has seen widespread public apathy after a panel overseen by Khamenei barred hundreds of candidates, including reformists and those aligned with Rouhani.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man dies after jumping in river to retrieve volleyball

NY NEW YORK — A man died after jumping in the East River near Brooklyn's Domino Park to retrieve a volleyball, police said.

Police got a 911 call about a man in the water near the park in the Williamsburg neighborhood at around 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Harbor unit officers brought the man to shore and tried to revive him, police said. The 36-year-old man was taken to Brooklyn Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. His name was not immediately released.

The city medical examiner's office will determine the cause of death.

Aviation group announces expansion at airport

WV BRIDGEPORT — An aviation group is expanding its hangars at a new business park at a northern West Virginia airport, creating up to 300 jobs, officials announced.

Gov. Jim Justice, along with company and other officials, announced the expansion Wednesday at the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries West Virginia Service Center at the North Central West Virginia Airport in Bridgeport.

MHIRJ Aviation is investing \$20 million to add 100,000 square feet and two hangars to its facility, Justice said. Construction is expected to take 18 months. The facility currently has 500 workers.

700-pound George Floyd statue is unveiled

NJ NEWARK — A new statue of George Floyd was unveiled at Newark's City Hall on Wednesday afternoon.

Mayor Ras Baraka along with actor and filmmaker Leon Pickney, who commissioned the statue, and artist Stanley Watts unveiled the 700-pound bronze statue that was donated this week to the City of Newark, according to WABC-TV.

Hopefully when people walk by and they see it, and they participate, hopefully it inspires them to become active in the struggles that are happening right here in Newark and right here in New Jersey," Baraka said.

Floyd's murder at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer last year fueled a global movement for racial justice.

The statue will remain outside City Hall for at least one year.

Historic Liberty Bell taken to temporary home

NY NEW YORK — A bell that rang at some of the most historic moments in American history was taken down and moved Wednesday from a belfry where it survived a blaze last year that gutted a New York City church.



SARAH REINGEWITZ, THE ORANGE COUNTY (CALIF.) REGISTER/AP

One-wheel wheelie

A cyclist who turned his bike into a unicycle rides down Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, Calif., on Wednesday.

New York's Liberty Bell will be kept temporarily at the New-York Historical Society, displayed as part of an exhibition, according to leadership at Middle Collegiate Church.

The church was destroyed in December when a fire started in the building next to it and spread, sending flames shooting through its roof. The survival of the bell was gratifying news to the congregation, which has pledged to rebuild.

New York's Liberty Bell has sounded for many milestone moments, such as marking the country's founding in 1776 as well as presidential inaugurations.

Boat lands big marlin, big check in tournament

NC MOREHEAD CITY — One big marlin meant one big check for a boat entered in an annual tournament on the North Carolina coast.

Natural, which is based in Beaufort, had to wait out a thunderstorm on Tuesday before learning Jonathan Fulcher had landed a 521.6-pound marlin, which was good for nearly \$829,000 in prize money at the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament, The Virginian-Pilot of Norfolk reported. The victory was earned in the tournament's Fabulous Fisherman's prize.

Of the 270 participants in the 63rd annual tournament, only 159 boats went offshore on Tuesday, the second day of the competition. Among the boats entered in the

THE CENSUS

\$80K The amount a northwest Iowa man has been ordered to pay as a fine for burning thousands of railroad ties on his property despite being told it would violate the law. The Iowa Attorney General's office said Wednesday that John Goldsmith, of Sergeant Bluff, also was warned he could face contempt charges and possible jail time if he violated solid waste and open burning laws again. The \$80,000 fine was the maximum penalty allowed.

tournament is Catch 23, which belongs to basketball legend Michael Jordan, who led briefly in the heaviest dolphin category before finishing in fifth.

DC man gets nearly 5 years for gun store theft

MD BALTIMORE — A Washington, D.C., man has been sentenced to nearly five years in prison for stealing firearms from a Maryland gun store.

The Justice Department announced Wednesday that Xyavion Lawrence, 20, was sentenced for theft of firearms from a federal firearms licensee's inventory. Lawrence and another suspect broke into an Essex gun shop in Baltimore County in August 2019, officials said.

Surveillance footage showed Lawrence repeatedly backing a car into the store's front door before going inside and taking the guns and then fleeing in the car. Later, Lawrence showed several of the stolen firearms in a social media video while wearing the same clothes, mask and gloves used in the burglary, officials said.

Investigators identified his forearm tattoo from the surveillance footage.

Lawrence's plea agreement states that the ankle monitor he was also wearing placed him at the gun store at the time of the burglary, officials said.

Lawrence was carrying one of the stolen weapons from the burglary two days later when he was arrested, officials said. He told investigators that he stole six firearms from the store. Lawrence was sentenced to 57 months in federal prison, followed by three years of supervised release.

Counties join ban on fireworks due to drought

ND BISMARCK — Burleigh and Morton counties have joined the city of Mandan in banning the private use of fireworks during the July Fourth holiday season due to the widespread drought in North Dakota.

Rural fire chiefs in both counties recommended the bans because of extremely dry conditions. North Dakota has experienced some of the driest winter and

spring months this year. The U.S. Drought Monitor shows more than two-thirds of the state is in extreme and exceptional drought.

Morton County officials said setting off fireworks could cause fires "that could threaten the health, well-being and safety of citizens, and the cost of response may be far in excess of current resources."

If the county receives a significant amount of rain in the coming weeks, it might reassess the ban, the Bismarck Tribune reported.

Public or commercial fireworks displays that have received permits from the appropriate agencies are still allowed.

Tornado blows tree into house, injures one

WV CHARLESTON — A tornado in Marion County, W.Va., blew a tree into a house and injured one person, the National Weather Service said.

The tornado spun for about four minutes on Wednesday in the Pleasant Valley area of Fairmont in Marion County. It uprooted several trees and damaged the shingles of a garage.

The weather service office in Pittsburgh said the most severe damage came after a large tree was blown onto a house and caused unspecified injuries to an inhabitant. The tornado, rated as a relatively weak EF-0, had maximum winds of 75 mph.

HEALTH & FITNESS

'It was like a pressure cooker'

Experts explain what burnout is and why it has become more prevalent during the pandemic

By ANGELA HAUPT

Special to *The Washington Post*

Summer Sides is a go, go, go type of person. But by late last year, all the fitness instructor wanted to do was pass mindless hours in her home, undisturbed — venturing no farther than her backyard. She was suffering, she said, from massive burnout.

Sides, 37, who lives in Greensboro, N.C., had opened a yoga studio March 1, only to shut it down 18 days later and pivot to the Wild West of online programming. At the same time, she was taking care of her dad, who had suffered a stroke the previous year.

She started getting migraines, and brain fog clouded her days. By winter, she was utterly depleted.

"I didn't mentally have the capacity to figure out another piece of spaghetti to throw at the wall," she said. "It was like a pressure cooker: One thing after another kept getting added in, and all of a sudden there wasn't enough space and the lid was going to blow."

As weary Americans emerge from a harrowing global pandemic — and, in many cases, a period of heightened personal and professional demands — experts say burnout is a common affliction.

"People are overwhelmed and exhausted and still feeling like they ought to be doing more," said Amelia Nagoski, who wrote the 2019 book "Burnout" with her sister, Emily Nagoski. "I think it's almost everybody everywhere."

"Burnout" has become a popular catchall phrase in the "language of the people," said Christina Maslach, a professor emerita of psychology and a researcher at the Center for Healthy Workplaces at the University of California, Berkeley.

"Some people use it to mean they're bored — like, 'Oh, I'm getting so burned out on Pilates.' Or, 'I haven't had a creative idea all week.' So it's like a lightbulb has burned out, as opposed to a fire that has burned out," she said. It makes sense that people have latched on to the term: "It's very catchy — the visual imagery of flames and ashes and all that kind of stuff."

But experts, who have been using the term for more than 50 years, rely on a more precise definition. In 1981, Maslach, who wrote some of the earliest literature on professional burnout, developed a diagnostic tool that is still used widely in research studies.

According to the Maslach Burnout Inventory, burnout occurs when three factors are present at the same time: emotional exhaustion, depersonalization and a diminished sense of personal accomplishment. (In 2019, the World Health

Tips for avoiding burnout

Seek support from friends and family. "Self-care cannot be the cure for burnout," author Amelia Nagoski said. "Burnout is all of us caring for each other." Aim to be surrounded by a "protective bubble of love," she said: people who will remind you of your value and whom you can lean on as you work through your burnout.

Take breaks. Build these into your daily schedule. Spend your breaks resting or doing something you really enjoy, like reading a favorite book or going for a swim. Take vacations or, when needed, even longer time off from work.

Prioritize exercise for well-being. We often exercise because of social pressures, such as achieving the so-called perfect body. In that context, working out might not help relieve stress, Nagoski said. But judgment-free exercise can. Think "dancing to Beyonce in the kitchen or punching something in the basement," she said.

Build transitions into your day. At the end of every workday, mindfulness expert Leah Weiss knows she could easily log a few more hours — but she's clear about her values, such as spending time with her kids. She recommends implementing a routine that can help you transition from your work persona into home mode. "Maybe that's walking the dog or putting on a soundtrack as you close your work for the day or taking some mindful breaths," she said. "It's something that reminds you why the rest of your life matters, and not to sacrifice that."

Get creative. Painting, writing poetry, sewing and any other form of creative expression are terrific ways to push through the chronic stress that defines burnout, Nagoski said. Working with your hands helps you "burn up all your feelings," she said, by allowing you to channel your emotions into an object or process.

Angela Haupt

Organization recognized burnout as an occupational syndrome — not a medical condition — based on those same three components.)

Emotional exhaustion is characterized by feeling depleted and like you don't have any energy, Maslach said. Depersonalization, which is also referred to as cynicism, is "a hostile, take-this-job-and-shove-it attitude," and a reduced sense of personal accomplishment means, well, exactly that. People experiencing professional burnout will be overwhelmed by their own alleged inadequacy and notice that their productivity plummets.

There's a lot of overlap between burnout and stress, said Inger Burnett-Zeigler, a clinical psychologist and associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Northwestern University. But burnout is the result of "expo-

sure to prolonged stress," she emphasized — not just one or two taxing days at work.

The pandemic has been a perfect breeding ground for the syndrome to fester: "When we think about burnout in the context of COVID, I personally can relate," Burnett-Zeigler said. "And I know a lot of folks I work with have been under extreme stress, working longer hours, balancing work with child care responsibilities, having back-to-back meetings and adjusting to working in a different environment."

Burnout can manifest physically as well as emotionally. When we're burned out, our amygdala — the brain's danger detection system — might "hijack" our frontal lobes, said Leah Weiss, a mindfulness expert who teaches a course called "Leading with Mindfulness and Compassion" at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. This can trigger a fight-or-flight response, which makes it difficult to think clearly, draw conclusions and recall memories.

Burnout is also linked to hormonal imbalance, hair loss, changes in menstruation, stomach problems and sleep disruption, Weiss said. People suffering from it commonly report headaches, muscle aches and listlessness.

In 2017, a research article in the journal *PLOS One* examined the physical, psychological and occupational consequences of job burnout. The authors reviewed 61 studies and found associations between burnout and serious health problems such as increased alcohol consumption, coronary heart disease, depression, sedentary behavior, obesity and musculoskeletal pain.

As Maslach sums it up, burnout "exerts wear and tear on human beings physically, emotionally and cognitively." That's why it's so important to address it.

Experts emphasize, however, that there is only so much that employees can do on their own to prevent burnout.

Steps that employers can take, the experts said, include allowing staff to set their own schedules, checking in with them to monitor well-being, designating meeting-free days and proactively addressing microaggressions or rude workplace behavior. Employers also shouldn't normalize, or praise, working around-the-clock and should actively encourage staff to use vacation and sick days.

Maslach said that, in many ways, the timing is ideal to make meaningful workplace changes. Companies had to learn how to operate differently during the pandemic, and that "presents a golden opportunity to really think outside the box and say, 'OK, we have to change. Something has to be different,'" she said.



VIDEO GAMES



Insomniac Games photos

Ratchet and Clank: Rift Apart is a conventional, well-balanced adventure game that includes shooting, platforming and puzzle sections.

A zany visual showcase for PS5

Colorful, adventurous Ratchet and Clank: Rift Apart shows what the console is capable of

BY CHRISTOPHER BYRD

The Washington Post

Ratchet and Clank: Rift Apart is like a 20-plus-hour fireworks display. It is pure spectacle — cascades of riotous colors wrapped around polished gameplay tropes. The 17th game in the long-running series, about an adventurous tinkerer and his robot companion, is another lighthearted adventure that coasts on lame jokes and madcap action sequences.

Following a brief cinematic opening that shows Rivet, Ratchet's female counterpart, steal some information and save a fellow rebel, the game cuts to the Festival of Heroes where Ratchet and Clank (Ratchet's robot sidekick) are to be honored for their space-faring heroism. For Clank, the festival is an opportunity to show his appreciation toward his friend. At the climax of the ceremony he presents Ratchet with a Dimensionator, a tool capable of opening portals to different dimensions. Clank's gift is intended to help Ratchet find the rest of his fellow Lombax, a feline-like race renowned for their technical prowess, whose whereabouts are a mystery.

The plan goes awry after their old antagonist, Dr. Nefarious, ambushes the ceremony and tries to make off with the Dimensionator, which is damaged in the scuffle, causing several rifts between dimensions to open up. Ratchet and Clank get separated during the incident and end up in a dimension where Nefarious is a supreme ruler.

Like many other works of pop culture these days, Rift Apart is enamored with parallel dimensions. Rivet, for example, lives in that dimension where Dr. Nefarious is a despot known as Emperor Nefarious. The game plays up the similar but different angle by

giving Rivet a mechanical arm and making her distrustful of robots for reasons that become clear later.

Soon after the calamity at the festival, Clank meets Rivet, who is slow to believe his story until she finds time to independently verify it. Elsewhere, while Ratchet is searching for Clank, he comes across a melancholic robot who is reluctant to enter his company. Spoiler alert: Over time, Ratchet befriends the robot, who calls herself Kit, and the two work together to try to rebuild the Dimensionator.

Ratchet and Clank: Rift Apart is a conventional, particularly well-balanced adventure game sporting shooting, platforming and puzzle sections. With the generously doled out in-game currency, there are loads of weapons players can buy for Ratchet and Rivet. Aside from your run-of-the-mill laser pistol or rocket launcher, there are guns that pop out different types of minions that will attack your enemies for you: One that turns enemies into ice cubes, another that grants you a reflective shield and many more — all of which have big upgrade trees. Switching between weapons is like cycling through different special effects, which make the game's abundantly detailed environments that much more vibrant. A new game plus feature allows you to carry over your arsenal to a new save file and acquire previously unavailable weapons.

From time to time, Clank and Kit are called upon to repair dimensional anomalies. These puzzle sections require them to help a series of their ghostly copies or "possibilities" find a route from one end of a grid-like structure to the other. Left to their own devices, the possibilities charge headlong in one direction until an external force redirects their movements. Except for the last section of the last puzzle, I found these sections fairly easy to get through. (I could say the same for the adversaries in the game.)



Rift Apart introduces a female counterpart to Ratchet named Rivet.



Rift Apart provides a plethora of weapons that Ratchet and Rivet can use.

For those looking for a blockbuster, family-friendly experience, Ratchet and Clank: Rift Apart checks the boxes. It is hyperkinetic and full of cutesy-looking characters that wear their emotions on their sleeves. If you've seen one of the trailers, then you basically know what you're in for: something totally familiar but with next-gen graphics. In other words, from a marketing perspective, it's a safe bet.

Platform: PlayStation 5

Online: insomniac.games/game/ratchet-clank-rift-apart

Microsoft mulls 'cloud gaming' without console

BY DINA BASS

Bloomberg

No console? No problem. Microsoft said its Xbox gaming unit is working on new hardware and deals with TV makers that will let people play games and experience the Xbox without needing to buy a gaming machine.

The idea would be to embed the Xbox experience directly into an internet-connected TV with nothing else needed except for a video game controller, Microsoft said. Meanwhile Xbox is also building streaming devices to enable cloud gaming services on any TV or monitor. Microsoft's latest Xbox consoles, released last fall, remain in short supply amid a chip shortage that's constraining industries from tech to autos, and Microsoft has said it expects to continue to feel the squeeze in the coming months.

"Cloud gaming is truly a breakthrough experience," said Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella in a video released June 10 by Microsoft. "It's a really fast, easy way to get into gaming." Microsoft declined to provide more details on the hardware or the planned partnerships.

As the company tries to smooth and boost revenue flow by getting more customers on to video-game subscriptions that offer access to hundreds of titles and cloud gaming, Microsoft said subscribers to these services are buying even more content besides their monthly fee. In August, Xbox Vice President Sarah Bond said subscribers to Xbox's Game Pass service spend 20% more on extra games and downloadable content. Now that number is up to 50%, Microsoft said this month.

In an interview, Bond said the increase is probably due to improved quality of the offering and customers getting more familiar with it.

"If you look at the evolution of the catalog over time, the quality of the games, the sophistication of the games, the percentage of games that have a really well-built, in-game monetization mechanic, people's understanding of the catalogue and the benefit that comes with Game Pass, I think all that's been advancing and contributes," she said.



iStock

A controller might soon be the only hardware needed for Xbox.

FOOD



Oishii

Oishii's Omakase Berries cost \$50 for a package of eight and are currently not available outside of New York City. Packages with more or fewer berries are also for sale.

Only the berry best

Oishii strawberries, billed as the berry with no equal, are compared to similar fruit from grocery store, farm

BY HANNAH SELINGER

Special to The Washington Post

Some months ago, a curious new strawberry began appearing in social media feeds. The berry, which comes in packages of three, six or eight, was a uniform pale red. Each berry in each plastic carton looked almost exactly the same — heart-shaped, symmetrical and indented on the surface where, in a store-bought strawberry, yellow seeds would appear. One more notable thing: They cost between \$5 and \$6.25 apiece.

The Omakase Berry, a Japanese variety grown by the New Jersey-based company called Oishii, bills itself as an entirely different strawberry experience. Its website even offers advice when it comes to eating them: Allow berries to sit at room temperature for 10 to 15 minutes; let the berries' aromatics "fill the room"; inhale the "bouquet"; eat.

Oishii grows its berries indoors vertically, leveraging technology that its co-founder and CEO, Hiroki Koga, 34, explored in Japan.

The first run of berries (the Omakase cultivar) has been geared toward the luxury market and is available only in the New York City area. But the company is in the process, Koga said, of expanding its market share. Some of the varieties the company is experimenting with can be grown in a much more cost-efficient way, he said, "which means that we should be able to place these into the market at a significantly affordable, reasonable price, compared to what it is today."

Koga says Oishii's low yields are guided by the same principles as fine wine production: An intentionally depleted crop,

achieved by such tactics as crop-thinning, forces the plant to push more of its nutrients and flavor into fewer berries, yielding a more concentrated flavor. The growing environment, according to Koga, is also optimized so that berries yield the maximum amount of nutrients and sweetness — finding the optimal temperature and breeze; controlling plant management, water frequency and pruning; and leveraging artificial intelligence to help predict yields.

I wanted to know how the Omakase Berry — billed by Koga as a berry with no American equal — would stand up to other domestic fruit. I arranged my own taste comparison, using three different strawberries: Oishii's Omakase Berry, available only in the New York City area; widely available Driscoll's strawberries; and first-of-the-season strawberries from Balsam Farms, in Amagansett, N.Y., down the road from where I live.

Appearance

Perhaps most striking about the Omakase Berry is its utter uniformity. Each orangy berry — I purchased a package of eight for \$50 — looks exactly the same.

The Driscoll's berries (\$3.99 for the company's standard 16-ounce plastic clamshell) were far deeper in pigment — the company aims for "deep red," said Scott Komar, 58, the company's senior vice president for global research and development — and were larger, overall, than the Omakase, though there was variability in size. They were covered in tiny yellow seeds.

My local strawberries (a quart for \$9) were smaller, deeply pigmented and visually much less consistent.



JENNIFER BEESON GREGORY/The Washington Post

Driscoll's organic strawberries cost \$3.99 for a standard 16-ounce plastic clamshell.



JENNIFER BEESON GREGORY/The Washington Post

Locally grown strawberries, like these at the Kuhn Orchards (Cashtown, Pa.) booth at the Fairlington Farmers Market in Arlington, Va., June 6, are more varied in every way.

Aroma

Oishii isn't lying when it says the aroma of its berries will fill the room. Opening the box, I was assaulted with the most strawberry-smelling fruit I'd ever encountered. Aroma, Koga said, is one of the classic characteristics of the Omakase Berry.

In this category, there was no competition. My Driscoll's berries did not have much of a scent. Driscoll's places a high premium on flavor and color, and the variety I tried may not have been bred, specifically, for aroma.

My Long Island berries smelled very much like strawberries, although their scent was not nearly as potent as the Omakases'.

"I think there's probably more variation on local strawberries, as there are with probably everything that's locally produced," said Balsam Farms co-owner Ian Calder-Piedmonte, 41. Other berries that come from "incredibly controlled" environments "where it's sunny every day" are more likely to be consistent in size, shape, flavor and even aroma. On Long Island, he said, "I think there are a lot more variables."

Taste

The Omakase Berry was, without question, the sweetest that I sampled.

The Driscoll's berries were the firmest

of the three, with a consistent mouthfeel and flavor. It seemed to me that the objective in their breeding was a distinct balance between sweet and tart.

As for my local berries, there was something compelling about the unpredictability. They also varied between sweet and tart.

And, as Calder-Piedmonte pointed out, the distinct advantage of a local strawberry is that you're eating it the day it's picked.

"They really are harvested that day or the day before," he said. Many berries are picked and then held in refrigerators (or refrigerated trucks) for days before they reach the consumer, and flavor can diminish each day.

Then came the Omakase Berry. The berry, Koga said, was "specifically selected out of 250 cultivars that exist in Japan," optimizing for "very strong aroma and high sweetness level."

"Because most of the conventional strawberries here in the U.S. have a very high acidity and very low sweetness level, we just wanted to differentiate our product," he added. This berry, with its heightened sweetness, is the type of berry that sits heavy on the tongue. Eat one, consider it, let the sugar coat the palate. That's more than enough. The point isn't to keep eating. The point, in fact, is to stop. So I did.

TELEVISION

Casting the next 'Jeopardy!' host

Show's executive producer says the process won't rely on 'gut instinct' as in past

BY LYNN ELBER
Associated Press

“Jeopardy!” needed a host, and Lucille Ball had an enthusiastic suggestion for creator Merv Griffin: The smooth-voiced, debonair emcee of the “High Rollers” game show.

That was 1984. Decades later, filling the void left by the late Alex Trebek involves sophisticated research, a parade of guest hosts doing their best to impress viewers and the studio that's expected to make the call before the new season begins taping later this summer.

Think of Sony Pictures Television as clutching the rose, and Mayim Bialik, Anderson Cooper, Katie Couric and “Jeopardy!” champs Ken Jennings and Buzzy Cohen among the suitors so far, with more to come including Robin Roberts, Dr. Sanjay Gupta and LeVar Burton.

Sony has “the most robust team of people I have ever seen looking at this and analyzing it in a very cerebral way,” said executive producer Mike Richards. “It's a real change from the way casting has traditionally been done on television.”

“It's usually been a gut instinct of the head executive: ‘How about that person?’” Richards said.

That was producer-entertainer Griffin's approach when he brought a syndicated version of “Jeopardy!” to TV, five years after the quiz show's last network iteration wrapped in 1979 on NBC.

A word from Ball, of “I Love Lucy” fame, and Trebek's skill and experience sealed his hire.

Audience and critical regard for the Canadian-born Trebek grew over the



Guest host Mayim Bialik appears on the set of “Jeopardy!” Bialik is among the subs who have filled in for the late Alex Trebek while the show's studio looks for his replacement.

years, which makes finding a worthy replacement both a gesture of respect for the late host and the means to protect a corporate asset. While ratings have shifted under the guest hosts, “Jeopardy!” remains among the top-ranked syndicated programs in viewership.

Trebek helped build the show's “display of excellence with his own excellence. And it's tremendously difficult to find somebody to replace him, not only because of the status that he had in the American imagination,” said Deepak Sarma, a Case Western Reserve Uni-

versity professor and Netflix cultural consultant. “Anyone who is going to take his position will be judged in the end against this model of perfection.”

Game show hosts of Trebek's era were usually radio and TV broadcasting veterans steeped in the genre, and almost invariably white men. Among the “Jeopardy!” subs are men and women of color and prospects from a variety of fields, including NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

The approach makes sense to Louis Virtel, a longtime fan whose vantage point is informed by writing for a game show

(“Match Game”) and competing on “Jeopardy!” in 2015.

“It's great to see all these different fill-ins. I'm open to suggestions, and I think most people are,” said Virtel, a “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” writer and co-host of the “Keep It” podcast. “‘Jeopardy!’ is a one-of-a-kind show, and the replacement should be tailored to the game.”

What makes for a good “Jeopardy!” host?

“I think establishing a sense of comfort (so) the audience just eases into the game,” Virtel said. “Also a sense of stakes, that a real tough game is being played. It's called ‘Jeopardy!’ for a reason. The host is there to make sure we're all on our toes.”

But taking over for an authority figure like Trebek is harder on women and others not typically seen in such roles, said Sarma.

“The sorts of expectations placed on a person of color in a leadership position are usually higher than those placed on a white person in position of power,” he said, and any error or “slight movement against the norm is jumped upon ... as some tremendous mistake.”

There could also be backlash from those resentful that Trebek isn't replaced like-for-like, which Sarma said isn't far-fetched in this period of social discord.

“Sony is in a pickle,” he said.

Series producer Richards, the second temporary host after Trebek's pancreatic cancer death last November at age 80, holds an optimistic view despite the prospect of online trolls and whatever their gripes about the newbie may be.

“My hope is that whoever is chosen will be given a chance to prove why they were chosen, without too much static,” he said. “Ultimately, we are trying to put out the best product for our fans. That tends to narrow your focus to a pretty nice North Star, as opposed to, ‘What's the internet going to say?’”

‘Jeopardy!’ announcer not ready to leave show after 37-year tenure

BY LYNN ELBER
Associated Press

Johnny Gilbert, who decided to stick with “Jeopardy!” after Alex Trebek's death, faced the wrenching question once again as production for next season neared.

This time it would mean adjusting to the quiz show's yet-to-be-named host, as opposed to the succession of celebrities who have been filling in since Trebek succumbed to pancreatic cancer last November.

“It's not easy for me because I worked with Alex for 37 years, and I never thought of anybody replacing him,” he said. “Nobody can do it like he did it, you know.”

No one does it like Gilbert either, who at age 92 has decided he's not ready to call it quits on the show business career he

began pursuing as a teenager.

Last year, when he was reluctant to continue after losing his admired and longtime colleague, others with the show urged Gilbert to consider his role as a comforting touchstone for viewers who also were in mourning for Trebek.

“If you just listen to the way Johnny articulates each name, each word, he has a voice and even more importantly, delivery, unlike anyone else,” said Mike Richards, the show's executive producer. Without Trebek, “the fact we can still rely on Johnny is obviously very important to us as well.”

“This is ‘Jeopardy!’” is Gilbert's richly booming introduction that opens each episode and belies his years. In turn, he's acknowledged with thanks from

the host and, occasionally, has been shown at an otherwise off-camera stage perch.

During the pandemic, he's been taping his contributions remotely from the Los Angeles-area home he shares with his wife, Sheree Gilbert. They've been together for several more years than his “Jeopardy!” stint, the sort of marital and career longevity that's rare in Hollywood.

Gilbert expressed reservations about whether the Sony Pictures Television series would bring him back when taping resumes in late July or early August for season 38. He's served as warm-up host for the studio audience as well as the show's announcer.

“I'm not as young as I used to be,” Gilbert said. But there is a tradition of longevity in the field,



Show announcer Johnny Gilbert appears on the set of “Jeopardy!” He worked with host Alex Trebek for 37 years before Trebek's death.

including the late Don Pardo of “Saturday Night Live.” He was the show's voice for 38 seasons until his 2014 retirement at age 96.

“Jeopardy!” producer Richards, who'd stepped in as the show's second fill-in host, quickly brushed aside the notion that

Gilbert's tenure was in anyone's hands but his own.

“Johnny will be the announcer of ‘Jeopardy!’ as long as he would like to be the announcer of ‘Jeopardy!’” Richards said. “I have told him that, and it's just how he is, humble. He's never taken the job for granted.”

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

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Mostly pleased with moderately conservative court?

BY RAMESH PONNURU

Bloomberg Opinion

In two major decisions, the Supreme Court expanded protections for religious liberty and narrowed the law of standing so that fewer federal lawsuits can be entertained. Six of the nine justices were appointed by Republican presidents, and a majority of those six agreed with each decision.

Conservative exultation is nonetheless subdued. One of those decisions upheld the “Obamacare” law. While the case was widely expected to come out this way, it’s not something conservatives who spent more than a decade opposing the law can celebrate. And the religious-liberty decision, conservatives worry, was too narrow. Conservative unease with Chief Justice John Roberts’ court is therefore persisting.

Justice Samuel Alito dissented from the Obamacare decision and wrote a concurrence in the religious liberty case that has the mood of a dissent. To my mind, he scores some real points in each case.

Current jurisprudence on who has the standing to bring constitutional challenges to laws is, as he points out, not a model of clarity and intellectual rigor. It has the feel of a set of ad hoc rules engineered to get majorities to the results they want in particular cases. The court’s previous decisions on Obamacare have shown a stronger commitment to rescuing the statute than to any legal principle.

The religious liberty case concerned Philadelphia’s insistence that a Catholic foster care agency place children with same-sex couples. The court unanimously ruled that the city’s policy conflicts with the First Amendment, but left open the possibility that the city could cross some t’s and get what it wants. Alito

wanted the court to go further, by ruling that the First Amendment demands that religious dissenters be exempt from policies that place a substantial burden on the exercise of their faith.

Ruling that way would require overturning *Employment Division v. Smith*, a 1990 decision written by conservative hero Antonin Scalia that most conservatives have come to regret. In that case, the court said that the state of Oregon didn’t owe unemployment insurance to two counselors it had fired for breaking the drug laws by using peyote in a religious ceremony. It said, as well, that a law that does not single out religious believers for penalties can be applied to them even if it happens to impose a burden on the exercise of their faith.

It was a highly controversial decision then: There were four dissenters, and Congress nearly unanimously passed a law to undo much of its effect. Academic heavy-hitters, including conservatives, have argued for each side of the subsequent debate.

Alito zeroes in on the chief weakness of the Scalia rule: It seems to give religious liberty less judicial protection than other parts of the Bill of Rights. Matthew Franck, a scholar at Princeton University, has elaborated on the point in an essay.

Scalia, Franck explains, envisioned two categories of government policies with respect to the free exercise of religion: invalid ones that aim to restrict it, and valid ones that may place incidental limits on it. The justice concluded that the Constitution does not guarantee exemptions for believers from the second type of policy.

But he didn’t consider the possibility that there is a third type: policies that aren’t designed to infringe religious liberty but have

such a large effect on it that they have to be struck down. And so free exercise becomes the only right that governments are nearly always allowed to infringe accidentally.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett wrote a concurrence of her own that agrees with Alito: The 1990 decision has to go. But she also noted that the court would have to face many questions about how to replace it, questions that may not yet have answers on which a majority of justices agree.

One difficulty for them is that neither side of the debate perfectly fits the actual practice of religious liberty for most of U.S. history. For much of that time, it was usually up to legislators to grant religious exemptions, but courts would sometimes strike down laws altogether for their incidental effects on believers. (Franck argues that’s the best way to understand the court’s decision that schoolkids can’t be forced to salute the flag.)

Given this thicket of issues, it probably made sense for the court to avoid rushing to declare a full doctrine. It was on firm ground in upholding Obamacare, too.

Alito argued that the law’s “individual mandate” for people to buy health insurance is unconstitutional, and therefore much of the rest of the law has to fall. It’s that “therefore” that is the least persuasive portion of his opinion: By getting rid of the fine for people who don’t have insurance but leaving the rest of Obamacare in place, Congress has effectively separated these parts of the law.

Where does this leave us? With a moderately conservative court, with which conservatives should be moderately pleased.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Ramesh Ponnuru is a senior editor at National Review and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

GOP should back Manchin’s voting plan – with tweaks

BY HENRY OLSEN

Special to The Washington Post

I rarely agree with Stacey Abrams, but I do with respect to Sen. Joe Manchin’s proposed voting rights compromise: It’s overall a good proposal. And it requires only two slight changes to merit Republican support.

Democrats have thus far made support for their far-reaching election bill, H.R. 1, a matter of party dogma. That measure would essentially federalize election law and create the least secure voting system anywhere in the developed world. Democrats may say there’s nothing to worry about in a system that essentially has no prior checks on voter eligibility and provides no serious barriers to voter fraud. That voter fraud rarely happens doesn’t mean it never does. H.R. 1’s approach to election law is akin to a bank president saying the bank no longer needs vaults because no one has ever broken into them.

Manchin’s opposition to this unnecessary proposal earned him a lot of progressive scorn, but the West Virginia Democrat rose to the moment this week by producing a much-scaled-down set of principles that Republicans could endorse. He would make Election Day a public holiday and mandate 15 days of continuous early voting in federal elections. He would also require automatic voter registration for people with driver’s licenses, although he would allow people to opt out of registration if they didn’t want to appear on the rolls. And he would require voters to show identification when they arrive at the polls and

ban partisan gerrymandering.

What Manchin doesn’t include is as important as what he does. His idea does not sanction nationwide, no-excuse mail balloting, as H.R. 1 would. There’s no requirement for states to create stand-alone drop boxes where voters can submit ballots without direct personal supervision by election officials. There’s no ban on states adopting identification measures for people who ask to vote by mail. And there’s no provision legalizing third-party handling of ballots, something Republicans call “ballot harvesting.” Each of these measures would have opened the door for enterprising fraudsters; keeping them out of his proposal shows Manchin takes election integrity seriously.

His proposed changes to the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act also demonstrate that Manchin is serious about keeping election law from becoming a partisan football. His ideas on the bill, which would reauthorize the preclearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act, are not as fleshed out, but they limit an attorney general or partisan-allied lawyers’ groups from using the law to coerce states and localities to agree to voting rules that advantage one side and that aren’t approved by elected representatives. He would also require an objective test to determine if a state or locality has a pattern of election discrimination that might warrant additional oversight. This principle recognizes that the days of Jim Crow are over, and that any arguments we have about voting access address marginal, not significant, barriers to voting.

Abrams’ endorsement is surprising given

how the Georgia Democrat has made crusading for progressive visions of voting access her calling card. But it may be a welcome recognition that most Americans don’t share her views. Polls regularly show that even Democrats and Black Americans approve of voter-identification laws, and it’s increasingly hard to say anyone is denied the right to vote when there are so many ways to cast a ballot at one’s convenience. Her endorsement could help bring progressives on board.

Republicans should endorse this, too, with some amendments. The automatic voter registration requirement should include a provision that ensures only citizens can be registered, which probably requires some sort of measure that ensures driver’s license applicants provide a Social Security number whose validity can be checked against the federal government’s E-Verify platform. The voter-ID component should also require a person who relies on an alternative identification measure that does not contain a picture to submit to having their photo taken upon voting. That photo can then be attached to their voter file so that no one can subsequently impersonate them, and so election officials can verify their identity visually in future elections.

Done right, early in-person and mail voting can improve voter access without seriously risking election integrity. Manchin’s ideas largely do that and could be a way to restore faith in our sorely tested democratic norms.

Henry Olsen is a Washington Post columnist and a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

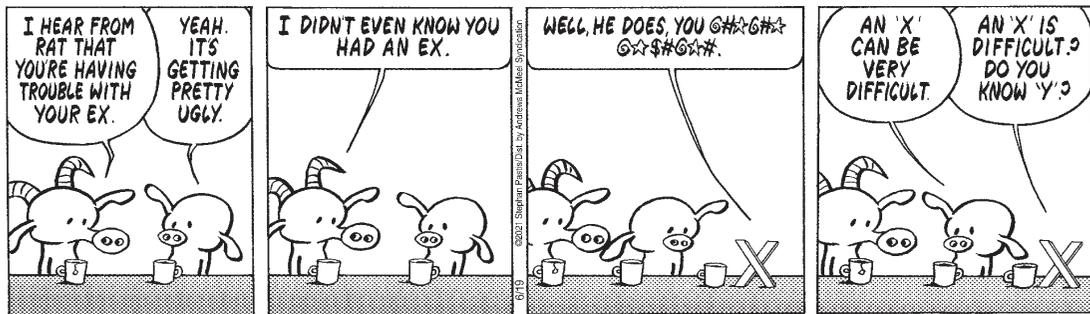
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



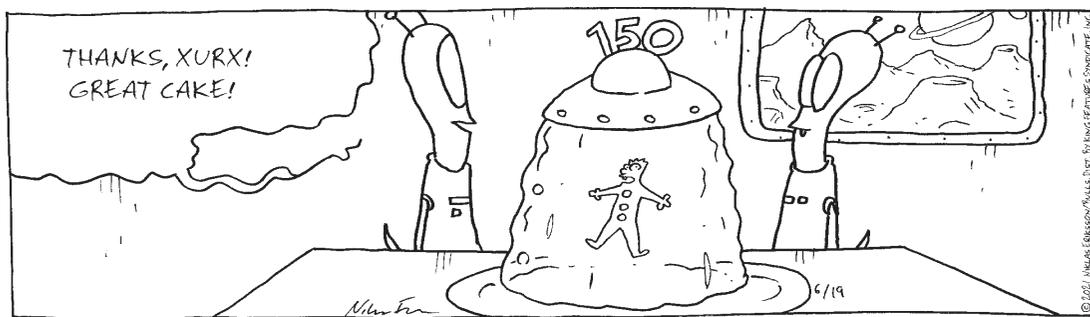
Non Sequitur



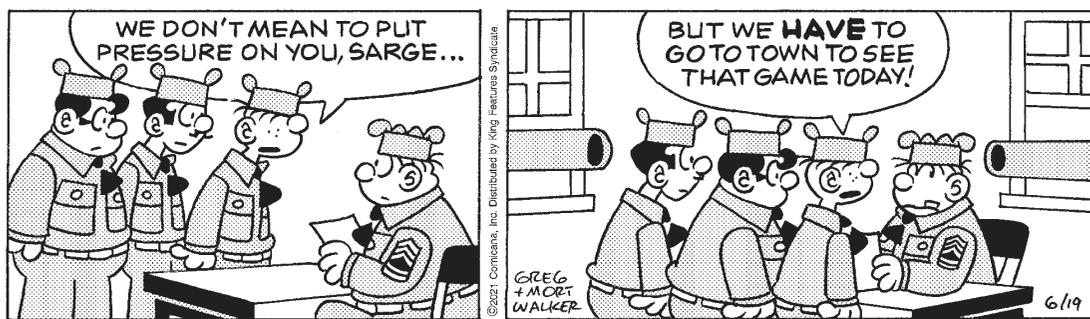
Candorville



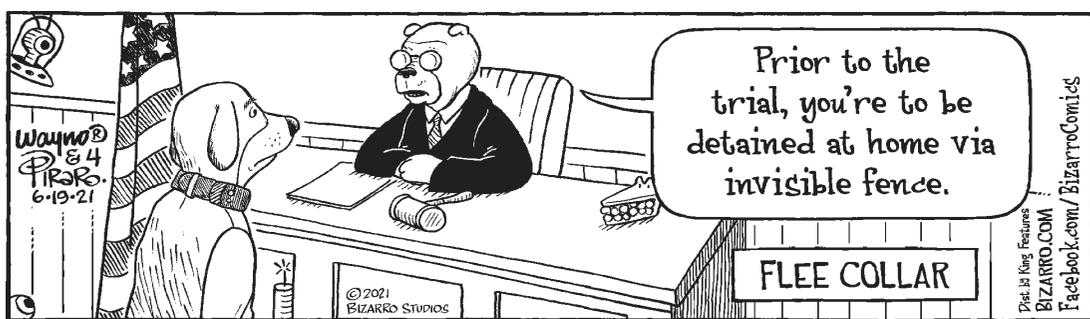
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Coin toss
 - 5 Hotel chain
 - 9 Poke
 - 12 Verdi heroine
 - 13 Pencil filler
 - 14 Bobby of hockey
 - 15 Recognized
 - 16 Ointment amounts
 - 17 Crucial
 - 18 "Manhattan Beach" author Jennifer
 - 19 — -cone
 - 20 Low-fat
 - 21 Large snake
 - 23 Win — nose
 - 25 Place in trust
 - 28 "Who cares?"
 - 32 Rice, on a Spanish menu
 - 33 Door handles
 - 34 Fleeced
 - 36 Unjust verdict
 - 37 Sch. URL ender
 - 38 I love (Lat.)
 - 39 Mideast ruler
 - 42 Corp. symbols
 - 44 Like paraffin
 - 48 "The One I Love" band
 - 49 Farrowand Hamm
 - 50 Vogue rival
- DOWN**
- 1 Bogus
 - 2 TV journalist Lisa
 - 3 Notion
 - 4 Hockshop figure singer Shirley
 - 5 Familiar adage
 - 6 Intend
 - 7 Bigwigs
 - 8 Egos' counterparts
 - 9 Gag
 - 10 Vicinity
 - 11 — Mawr
 - 20 Grass cutters
 - 22 Leaked slowly
 - 24 Li'l Abner's
 - 25 Corn spike
 - 26 "No seats"
 - 27 — -Magnon
 - 29 Opposite of vert.
 - 30 Lawyers' gp.
 - 31 Recipe abbr.
 - 35 Obligations
 - 36 "Goldfinger" singer Shirley
 - 39 Actor La Salle
 - 40 TV's Griffin
 - 41 Apple computer
 - 43 Calc. or trig
 - 45 Arkin of "Argo"
 - 46 42, in old Rome
 - 47 Puppy's cry
 - 49 CEO's deg.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

6-19 CRYPTOQUIP

VOZGZ VAXQR WAX PDW TP
 NOZ ZJDFN FZSNZG AB D
 SZNVAGI AB DGNZGTZP? RZZC
 TS NOZ OZDGN AB CQZJXP.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU KNOW WHAT I CALL
 PATTIES PRODUCED WITH MEAT SUBSTITUTES
 LIKE SOY OR LENTILS? SHAM-BURGERS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals X

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SCOREBOARD/SPORTS BRIEFS

PRO SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New England	5	1	2	17	11	7
Philadelphia	4	2	2	14	9	5
Orlando City	3	1	3	12	8	4
NYCFC	3	2	2	11	13	7
CF Montréal	3	3	2	11	10	9
Columbus	3	2	2	11	7	6
Nashville	2	0	5	11	9	6
Atlanta	2	1	4	10	9	7
New York	3	4	0	9	10	10
D.C. United	3	5	0	9	8	11
Inter Miami CF	2	4	2	8	8	13
Toronto FC	1	4	2	5	8	12
Chicago	1	5	1	4	4	11
Cincinnati	1	4	1	4	6	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	5	0	3	18	14	3
Sporting KC	5	2	2	17	16	11
LA Galaxy	5	2	0	15	11	11
Colorado	4	2	1	13	12	8
Houston	3	3	2	11	11	12
San Jose	3	5	0	9	11	12
Portland	3	4	0	9	9	11
Real Salt Lake	2	1	3	9	9	7
LAFc	2	3	2	8	8	9
Austin FC	2	4	2	8	6	9
Vancouver	2	4	1	7	6	9
Minnesota	2	4	1	7	6	11
FC Dallas	1	3	3	6	8	11

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

Friday's games

Nashville at New York
Vancouver at Real Salt Lake

Saturday's games

Chicago at Columbus
Colorado at Cincinnati
Orlando City at Toronto FC
New England at New York City FC
Miami at D.C. United
Minnesota at FC Dallas
San Jose at Austin FC
Seattle at LA Galaxy
Sporting Kansas City at Portland
Houston at Los Angeles FC

Sunday's games

Philadelphia at Atlanta

Tuesday, June 22

San Jose at Orlando City

Wednesday, June 23

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

Friday, June 25

Orlando City at Miami

Saturday, June 26

Los Angeles FC at Sporting Kansas City
Cincinnati at Toronto FC
Houston at Real Salt Lake
Philadelphia at Chicago
CF Montréal at Nashville
Vancouver at Seattle
LA Galaxy at San Jose
Minnesota at Portland

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Orlando	3	0	2	11	7	4
Portland	3	2	0	9	11	4
Washington	2	1	2	8	5	5
Gotham FC	2	1	1	7	2	1
Houston	2	2	1	7	6	6
Chicago	2	2	1	7	4	7
North Carolina	1	2	1	4	6	3
Reign FC	1	2	1	4	2	3
Louisville	1	2	1	4	2	8
Kansas City	0	3	2	2	2	6

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

Saturday's games

Reign FC at North Carolina
Washington at Chicago

Sunday's games

Houston at Louisville
Kansas City at Portland
Gotham FC at Orlando

Tuesday, June 22

Chicago at Reign FC

Wednesday, June 23

Orlando at Kansas City
North Carolina at Louisville

Saturday, June 26

Louisville at Chicago
Gotham FC at Reign FC
Portland at North Carolina
Orlando at Houston
Washington at Kansas City

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	8	4	.667	—
New York	6	6	.500	2
Chicago	6	7	.462	2½
Washington	5	6	.455	2½
Atlanta	5	7	.417	3
Indiana	1	13	.071	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	12	2	.857	—
Las Vegas	10	3	.769	1½
Los Angeles	5	5	.500	5
Minnesota	5	6	.455	5½
Phoenix	5	7	.417	6
Dallas	5	7	.417	6

Wednesday's games

Los Angeles 85, Phoenix 80

Thursday's games

Seattle 79, Indiana 69
Washington 96, Atlanta 93
Chicago 81, Connecticut 75
Minnesota 85, Dallas 73
Las Vegas 103, New York 76

Friday's games

Phoenix at Los Angeles

Saturday's games

Connecticut at Chicago
Indiana at Washington
Minnesota at Dallas

Sunday's games

New York at Los Angeles

GOLF

Meijer Championship

LPGA Tour
Thursday
At Blytheheld Club
Belmont, Mich.
Purse: \$2.3 million
Yardage: 6,556; Par: 72
First Round

Leona Maguire	32-33-65	-7
Charley Hull	35-30-65	-7
Nasa Hataoka	32-33-65	-7
Lauren Stephenson	35-30-65	-7
Ariya Jutanugarn	33-33-66	-6
Min Lee	31-35-66	-6
Marina Alex	35-32-67	-5
Pajaree Anannarukarn	32-35-67	-5
Chella Choi	34-33-67	-5
Alison Lee	32-35-67	-5
Xiyu Lin	33-34-67	-5
Sarah Schmelzel	33-34-67	-5
Gabriela Ruffels	33-34-67	-5
Anna Nordqvist	33-34-67	-5
Amy Olson	34-33-67	-5
Sophia Popov	33-34-67	-5
Su Oh	35-32-67	-5
Brittany Altomare	33-35-68	-4
Sarah Burnham	34-34-68	-4
Megan Khang	34-34-68	-4
Inbee Park	33-35-68	-4
Lizette Salas	34-34-68	-4
Georgia Hall	34-34-68	-4
Moriya Jutanugarn	33-35-68	-4
In Gee Chun	35-33-68	-4
Jennifer Kupcho	33-35-68	-4
Giulia Molinaro	36-32-68	-4
Lindy Duncan	33-35-68	-4
Gaby Lopez	35-33-68	-4
Madelene Sagstrom	33-35-68	-4
Lexi Thompson	35-33-68	-4
Ally Ewing	32-36-68	-4
Jessica Korda	34-34-68	-4
Nelly Korda	33-35-68	-4
Mina Harigae	33-35-68	-4
Esther Henseleit	34-34-68	-4
Christina Kim	33-35-68	-4
Caroline Masson	35-34-69	-3
Austin Ernst	34-35-69	-3
Mi Jung Hur	34-35-69	-3
Cristie Kerr	36-33-69	-3
Carlotla Ciganda	32-37-69	-3
Ashleigh Buhai	35-34-69	-3
Dana Finkelstein	36-33-69	-3
Jeongeun Lee	34-35-69	-3
Jin Young Ko	36-33-69	-3
Jodi Ewart Shadoff	34-35-69	-3
Esther Lee	34-35-69	-3
Clariss Guce	35-35-70	-2
Lee Lopez	35-35-70	-2
Muni He	36-34-70	-2
Na Yeon Choi	35-35-70	-2
Cydney Clanton	36-34-70	-2
Marissa Steen	35-35-70	-2
Alena Sharp	35-35-70	-2
Mind Muangkhumsakul	35-35-70	-2
Samantha Troyanovich	37-33-70	-2
Janie Jackson	35-35-70	-2
Jennifer Chang	35-35-70	-2
Wichanee Meechai	35-35-70	-2
Ssu-Chia Cheng	34-36-70	-2
Gerina Piller	36-34-70	-2
Laura Davies	36-34-70	-2
Hannah Green	36-34-70	-2
Brittany Lincicome	33-37-70	-2
Katherine Kirk	36-34-70	-2
Albane Valenzuela	36-34-70	-2

TENNIS

Bett1 Open

Thursday
At Am Rothenbaum Rot-Weiss Tennis Club
Berlin
Purse: Euro 456,073
Surface: Grass
Women's Singles
Round of 16

Liudmila Samsonova, Russia, def. Veronika Kudermetova, Russia, 6-4, 6-3.
Victoria Azarenka (7), Belarus, def. Angelique Kerber, Germany, 6-3, 7-5.
Garbine Muguruza (6), Spain, def. Elena Rybakina, Kazakhstan, 6-4, 6-3.

Women's Doubles

Quarterfinals
Victoria Azarenka and Aryna Sabalenka (4), Belarus, def. Petra Martic, Croatia, and Shelby Rogers, United States, 6-3, 6-4.

Birmingham Classic

Thursday
At Edgbaston Priory Club
Birmingham, Great Britain
Purse: \$235,238
Surface: Grass
Women's Singles
Round of 16

Ons Jabeur (2), Tunisia, def. Leylah Annie Fernandez, Canada, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (3).
Anastasia Potapova, Russia, def. Kristina Mladenovic, France, 6-3, 6-3.
Tereza Martincova, Czech Republic, def. Jelena Ostapenko (5), Latvia, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-2.

Daria Kasatkina (4), Russia, def. Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, 6-2, 7-5.

Women's Doubles

Quarterfinals
Lyudmyla Kichenok, Ukraine, and Makoto Ninomiya, Japan, def. Elixane Lechemia, France, and Ingrid Neel, United States, 6-1, 6-3.

Lucie Hradecka and Marie Bouzkova, Czech Republic, def. Latisha Chan and Hao-Ching Chan (2), Taiwan, 3-6, 7-5, 10-5.
Ons Jabeur, Tunisia, and Ellen Perez, Australia, def. Tara Moore and Eden Silva, Britain, 5-7, 6-2, 10-5.

Fever-Tree Championships

Thursday
At The Queen's Club
London
Purse: Euro 1,290,135
Surface: Grass
Men's Singles
Round of 16

Daniel Evans (6), Britain, def. Adrian Mannarino, France, 6-4, 7-6 (7).
Matteo Berrettini (1), Italy, def. Andy Murray, Britain, 6-3, 6-3.
Denis Shapovalov (2), Canada, def. Feliciano Lopez, Spain, 6-2, 6-3.
Frances Tiafoe, United States, def. Viktor Troicki, Serbia, 6-3, 7-6 (3).

Men's Doubles

Quarterfinals
Nicolas Mahut and Pierre-Hugues Herbert (4), France, def. Gonzalo Escobar, Ecuador, and Ariel Behar, Uruguay, 7-5, 6-4.

Philipp Oswald, Austria, and Marcus Daniell (7), New Zealand, def. Robert Farah and Juan Sebastian Cabal (2), Colombia, 4-6, 6-2, 10-6.

Cameron Norrie, Britain, and Alex de Minaur, Australia, def. Aslan Karatsev, Russia, and Max Purcell, Australia, 3-6, 6-4, 10-6.

John Peers, Australia, and Reilly Opelka, United States, def. Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic (1), Croatia, 6-1, 6-2.

NOVENTI Open

Thursday
At Gerry Weber Stadium
Halle, Germany
Purse: Euro 1,318,605
Surface: Grass
Men's Singles
Round of 16

Sebastian Korda, United States, def. Kei Nishikori, Japan, 2-6, 6-3, 7-5.
Lloyd Harris, South Africa, def. Lukas Lacko, Slovakia, 6-3, 7-6 (8).
Ugo Humbert, France, def. Alexander Zverev (3), Germany, 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-3.

Nikoloz Basilashvili, Georgia, def. Arthur Rinderknech, France, 6-2, 7-5.

Men's Doubles

Round of 16
Michael Venus, New Zealand, and Tim Puetz (5), Germany, def. Yannick Hanfmann and Dominik Koepfer, Germany, 7-6 (2), 6-2.

Hubert Hurkacz, Poland, and Felix Auger-Aliassime, Canada, def. Jean-Julien Rojer and Wesley Koolhof (4), Netherlands, 7-6 (5), 6-3.

Quarterfinals

Horia Tecau, Romania, and Kevin Kraewitz (3), Germany, def. Guido Pella and Andres Molteni, Argentina, 6-4, 6-2.

Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen (6), Belgium, def. Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan, India, 6-3, 7-6 (3).

AP SPORTLIGHT

June 19

1867 — Ruthless, ridden by J. Gilpatrick, wins the inaugural Belmont Stakes at Jerome Park in the Bronx. The filly earns \$1,850 for her victory.

1914 — Harry Vardon wins his sixth and final British Open by shooting a 306, three strokes ahead of J.H. Taylor at Prestwick Club.

1936 — German heavyweight boxer Max Schmeling knocks out previously unbeaten Joe Louis in the 12th round. Schmeling's victory sets off a propaganda war between the Nazi regime and the United States on the eve of World War II.

DEALS

Thursday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Placed OF Adam Eaton on the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Zack Burdi from Charlotte (Triple-A East).

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Selected the contract of C Ryan Lavarnway from Columbus (Triple-A East). Placed C Austin Hedges on the 7-day IL, retroactive to June 16. Transferred CF Jordan Luplow from the 10-day IL to the 60-day IL.

DETROIT TIGERS — Optioned LHP Miguel Del Pozo to Toledo (Triple-A East). Recalled RHP Matt Manning from Toledo (Triple-A East).

HOUSTON ASTROS — Placed 3B Alex Bregman on the 10-day IL. Recalled C Garrett Stubbs from Sugar Land (Triple-A West).

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Optioned CF Edward Olivares to Omaha (Triple-A East). Purchased the contract of RHP Jose Cuas from Long Island (Atlantic League). Purchased the contract of RHP Kipp Rollings from Joliet (Frontier League).

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Recalled INF Luis Rengifo from Salt Lake (Triple-A West). Optioned RHP Aaron Slegers to Salt Lake.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Traded INF Mike Ford to Tampa Bay in exchange for cash considerations and a player to be named later.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Optioned RHP Chris Mazza and INF Mike Ford to Durham (Triple-A East). Transferred RHP Tyler Glasnow from the 10-day IL to the 60-day IL. Reinstated RHP Collin McHugh from the 10-day IL.

TEXAS RANGERS — Acquired RHP Dennis Santana from the Los Angeles Dodgers in exchange LHP Kelvin Bautista, then optioned him to Round Rock (Triple-A West). Designated LHP Hyeon-jong Yang for assignment.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Recalled RHP T.J. Zeuch from Buffalo (Triple-A East). Selected OF Jared Hoying to active roster. Placed OF Teoscar Hernandez on the paternity list. Placed RHP Rafael Dolis on the 10-day IL. Transferred RHP C.J. Edwards from the 10-day IL to the 60-day IL.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Optioned RHP Humberto Castellanos to Reno (Triple-A West). Reinstated RHP Zac Gallen from the 10-day IL. Agreed to terms with RHP Blake Rogers to a minor league contract.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Signed RHP Tyler Ferguson to a minor league contract. Optioned LHP Kyle Muller to Gwinnett (Triple-A East). Recalled RHP Jacob Webb from Gwinnett.

CHICAGO CUBS — Optioned RHP Robert Stock to Iowa (Triple-A East). Recalled LHP Brad Wieck from Iowa.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Placed RHP Mychal Givens on the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Justin Lawrence from Albuquerque (Triple-A West).

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Reinstated LHP Garrett Cleavinger from the 10-day IL. Optioned OF Luke Raley to Oklahoma City (Triple-A West). Sent OF Yoshi Tsutsugo to Oklahoma City on a rehab assignment.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Reinstated OF Derek Fisher from the 10-day IL. Optioned 2B Tim Lopes to Nashville (Triple-A East).

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Signed LHP Wade LeBlanc. Transferred 2B Max Moroff from the 10-day IL to the 60-day IL. Optioned RHP Seth Elledge to Memphis (Triple-A East).

FOOTBALL
National Football League

NFL — Suspended San Francisco 49ers DE Jordan Willis for first six games of the 2021 season for violating the performance-enhancing drug policy.

NBA PLAYOFFS/SWIMMING

Bucks bounce back, beat Brooklyn to force Game 7

By STEVE MEGARGEE
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Khris Middleton and the Milwaukee Bucks refused to fold under pressure and wouldn't allow Kevin Durant to produce one more remarkable comeback that could end their second-round playoff series.

Middleton set a career playoff high with 38 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo added 30 and the Milwaukee Bucks never trailed in a 104-89 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Thursday night to force a decisive seventh game.

Game 7 will be Saturday night in Brooklyn. The home team has won each of the first six games in this series.

"We don't think about any type of pressure at all," Middleton said. "It's a basketball game. It's as simple as that. I know it's lose-or-go-home, but at the same time, it's just basketball. You've got to have fun with it. Those moments are fun, you know, when the game's on the line."

Milwaukee bounced back two nights after blowing a 17-point lead in a 114-108 Game 5 loss at Brooklyn that featured an epic 49-point, 17-rebound, 10-assist performance from Durant.

The Bucks shot just 7-for-33 from three-point range but made up for it by outscoring the Nets 26-4 in fast-break points.

"It definitely hurt us," Nets coach Steve Nash said of the fast-break points. "That's where they're really strong. I thought we had some problems getting back in transition."

Scoreboard

Conference semifinals

(Best-of-seven)

x-if necessary

Eastern Conference

Brooklyn 3, Milwaukee 3

Brooklyn 115, Milwaukee 107

Brooklyn 125, Milwaukee 86

Milwaukee 86, Brooklyn 83

Milwaukee 107, Brooklyn 96

Brooklyn 114, Milwaukee 108

Milwaukee 104, Brooklyn 89

Saturday: at Brooklyn

Atlanta 3, Philadelphia 2

Atlanta 128, Philadelphia 124

Philadelphia 118, Atlanta 102

Philadelphia 127, Atlanta 111

Atlanta 103, Philadelphia 100

Atlanta 109, Philadelphia 106

Friday: at Atlanta

x-Sunday: at Philadelphia

Western Conference

Phoenix 4, Denver 0

Phoenix 122, Denver 105

Phoenix 123, Denver 98

Phoenix 116, Denver 102

Phoenix 125, Denver 118

L.A. Clippers 3, Utah 2

Utah 112, L.A. Clippers 109

Utah 117, L.A. Clippers 111

L.A. Clippers 132, Utah 106

L.A. Clippers 118, Utah 104

L.A. Clippers 119, Utah 111

Friday: at L.A. Clippers

x-Sunday: at Utah

Durant occasionally seemed on the verge of leading the Nets back once again Thursday.

He scored 10 straight Nets points during one third-quarter stretch as Brooklyn narrowed a 14-point deficit to five. He sparked a 10-0 run early in the fourth quarter that got the margin down to five again.

Each time, Middleton responded by making a basket or getting to the free-throw line.

"You know in those moments, he's going to make the right play," Antetokounmpo said. "We know that when he feels good, we've got to give him the ball."

Middleton shot 11-for-16 from

the floor and 11-for-12 on free-throw attempts and had 10 rebounds, five assists and five steals. Antetokounmpo shot 12-for-20 and had 17 rebounds. Jrue Holiday added 21 points, eight rebounds and five assists.

Durant had 32 points and 11 rebounds. He is one of only two players to score at least 30 points against the Bucks at least seven times in a season (regular season and playoffs combined). Michael Jordan had seven games of at least 30 points against Milwaukee in 1989-90.

James Harden added 16 points for Brooklyn but still looked as though he was at far less than full strength in his second game since returning from a hamstring injury.

Harden had left Game 1 in the opening minute with right hamstring tightness and returned in Game 5 but shot 1-for-10 and scored just five points.

"I'm out there to do whatever it takes to win," Harden said. "I've got to be better on both ends of the ball, which I will be in Game 7."

As the Bucks and Nets headed into their respective locker rooms after the final buzzer sounded, a jubilant Fiserv Forum crowd celebrated while the Beastie Boys' "No Sleep Till Brooklyn" played over the loudspeaker.

"As I've said all year long, we're built for this moment, simple as that," Antetokounmpo said. "Nobody says it's going to be easy. It might be hard. But we're capable of doing it."



JEFFREY PHELPS/AP

Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo shoots against the Brooklyn Nets on Thursday. Antetokounmpo scored 30 points in Milwaukee's 104-89 Game 6 win, posting his 10th straight playoff double-double and fourth straight game with at least 30 points and 10 rebounds.

Dressel wins, but Manuel fails to advance in swim stunner

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Caeleb Dressel locked up his spot for Tokyo, where he's expected to be one of the biggest stars in the Olympic pool.

Simone Manuel got left behind.



Manuel

In the biggest surprise yet at the U.S. swimming trials, the defending Olympic women's champion in the 100-meter freestyle failed to advance from the semifinals

Thursday night.

Manuel, who tied for the gold at the Rio Olympics to become the first Black female ever to win an individual swimming event, finished fourth in the first semifinal heat at 54.17 seconds.

She just missed a spot in Friday



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Caeleb Dressel reacts after winning the men's 100 freestyle during wave 2 of the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials on Thursday in Omaha, Neb.

night's final when five swimmers went faster in the second semifinal heat, with Erika Brown taking the eighth spot in 54.15 — two-hundredths faster than Manuel.

There were no such concerns for Dressel, who romped to victory in the men's 100 free in 47.39.

He finally got a chance to shine on Day 5 of the trials after a long

week of waiting. When Dressel saw a "1" beside his name, he hopped on the lane rope, splashed the water and pumped his arms to whip up the crowd.

In the wake of Michael Phelps' retirement, Dressel has emerged as the next big thing in men's swimming. After winning two golds medals at the 2016 Rio Games, he really shined at the last two world championships.

In 2017, Dressel captured seven gold medals in Budapest — joining Phelps and Mark Spitz as the only swimmers to win that many races at a major international meet.

Dressel followed up with six golds and two silvers at the 2019 championships in Gwangju, becoming only the second swimmer to take as many as eight medals after Phelps.

A giant picture of Dressel adorns the outside of the down-

town Omaha arena where the trials are being held.

"All the fluff that comes with it, your name on the building, is cool," he said. "But it adds a little bit different pressure to it."

A fading star of the American team is still in the mix for Tokyo.

Thirty-six-year-old Ryan Lochte advanced to the final of the 200 individual medley, his only realistic chance to qualify for his fifth Olympics and redeem himself for the embarrassment of Rio, where he lied about being robbed at gunpoint during a boisterous night on the town.

But Lochte has his work cut out for him. Michael Andrew dominated the semifinals with a time of 1:55.26 — fastest in the world this year. Lochte was the sixth-fastest qualifier at 1:58.65, nearly 3½ seconds behind Andrew.

Only the top two will make the Olympic team Friday.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Point lifts Lightning past Islanders in Game 3

By VIN A. CHERWOOD
Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — After keeping up his scoring touch to help Tampa Bay get a big road victory in its Stanley Cup semifinal series, Brayden Point was especially proud of the Lightning's defensive effort.

Point got the tiebreaking goal late in the second period, Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 27 shots and the Lightning beat the New York Islanders 2-1 on Thursday night to take a 2-1 series lead.

The Islanders outshot the Lightning 8-5 in a tight third period, but couldn't tie it. They pulled goalie Semyon Varlamov for an extra skater with about 1:48 remaining but couldn't manage a shot on goal.

"They had some control late, something to look at," Point said. "We still had guys sacrificing, blocking shots and all that good stuff. We'll take the win for sure."

Yanni Gourde also scored to help Tampa Bay improve to 6-1 on the road in the playoffs.

"We kept the game really simple," Gourde said. "We managed the game for most part of the game and that was the key, especially in the third period. We closed the ice pretty well and we got the puck deep whenever we got the chance. I think that was very important for us."

Cal Clutterbuck scored for the Islanders, and Varlamov finished with 23 saves.

Game 4 is Saturday night at Nassau Coliseum, with Game 5 back in Tampa on Monday night.

"Tampa's good all around," the Islanders' Matt Martin said.



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Tampa Bay Lightning center Brayden Point brings the puck up the ice against the New York Islanders during the third period of Game 3 of the Stanley Cup semifinals on Thursday in Uniondale, N.Y.

"They're the defending Stanley Cup champions and they know what it takes to win. ... They know what they have to do in their D zone."

Both teams had chances in a fast-paced second period. The Islanders had some sustained pressure in the offensive zone midway through, but couldn't beat Vasilevskiy. The goalie denied a

shot by Adam Pelech with 6 minutes to go and Mathew Barzal hit a goalpost seconds later. Vasilevskiy then denied Barzal's tip try.

"We have to get more pucks, we have to get inside," Islanders coach Barry Trotz said. "We had some chances. Vasilevskiy made a couple of key saves. They didn't have a lot tonight, I thought we were pretty good defensively as

well."

The Islanders tied it late in the second. Off a scramble for the puck in front of Vasilevskiy, Lightning defenseman Eric Cernek attempted to push the puck into the goalie. Clutterbuck and several players whacked at the puck and it went through Vasilevskiy's feet and in with 2:22 left.

Scoreboard

Semifinals

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

Vegas 1, Montreal 1

Vegas 4, Montreal 1

Montreal 3, Vegas 2

Friday: at Montreal

Sunday: at Montreal

Tuesday: at Vegas

x-Thursday, June 24: at Montreal

x-Saturday, June 26: at Vegas

Tampa Bay 2, N.Y. Islanders 1

N.Y. Islanders 2, Tampa Bay 1

Tampa Bay 4, N.Y. Islanders 2

Thursday: Tampa Bay 2, N.Y. Islanders 1

Saturday: at N.Y. Islanders

Monday: at Tampa Bay

x-Wednesday: at N.Y. Islanders

x-Friday, June 25: at Tampa Bay

The Lightning regained the lead just four seconds after their power play expired in the final minute of the second. Point got the rebound of a point shot by Victor Hedman and whipped it in past Varlamov as he was falling to the ice with 18 seconds remaining. It was Point's 11th of the post-season and extended his goals streak to six games. He has eight goals in the last nine games.

"I didn't really take a look at it on the replay, but I think I just kind of got knocked down and the puck just kind of got on my stick and I slammed it into the net," Point said. "I'm not sure how it went in. One of those lucky ones we needed tonight."

Point's streak is the longest in the playoffs since Ottawa's Martin Havlat also scored in six straight in 2006. Claude Lemieux (1997), Joe Sakic (1996), Mario Lemieux (1996), Pat LaFontaine (1992) and Mario Lemieux (1991) are tied for the most in the last 30 years with seven straight.

Key: Successful playoff teams getting offensive production from defensemen

FROM PAGE 24

sive scoring we're getting.'

Vegas defensemen have contributed almost a third of the team's scoring through 15 playoff games: 11 goals, 28 assists and 39 points.

"The expectation is that it's everybody," DeBoer said. "We're not saying just Shea Theodore or just Alex Pietrangelo. It's all six guys that are in the lineup, whether it's Nick Holden or Nic Hague. We're asking you to be a part of that piece of our game. I think they've embraced that."

Zach Whitecloud believes the way Vegas breaks the puck out allows defensemen to jump into the play and get involved off the rush and in the defensive zone. From Pietrangelo and Theodore to Whitecloud, Alec Martinez and even Holden, the personnel help, too.

"We got six guys back there that are confident making plays and getting up in the offensive zone and contributing," Whitecloud said. "That's what our forwards need from us. They need us to put pucks in their hands and get out there and support them just as they support us in the D zone."

It's a bit of a different expectation in Islanders coach Barry Trotz's system: Be re-



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Tampa Bay had zero goals from defensemen this postseason until Victor Hedman (77) and Jan Rutta (44) scored in Game 2 against the Islanders on Tuesday night.

sponsible and then join in on the action. Defensemen only make up 21.9% of New York's point production in the playoffs, but have three of nine game-winning goals.

11

Goals scored by Vegas defensemen through 15 playoff games, almost a third of the Golden Knights' scoring.

SOURCE: Associated Press

"They're defensemen first, but when we have the puck, they're supporting the attack," Trotz said. "I always require them to support the attack, and if they are able to contribute because they are supporting it, then we're going to get some points from them."

Tampa Bay had zero goals from defensemen this playoffs until Hedman and Jan Rutta scored in Game 2 against the Islanders on Tuesday night. That's a far cry from 17 during the 2020 championship run, though part of it is by design.

Cooper and newcomer David Savard said the game plans in the first two rounds against Florida and Carolina were built around understanding the goals would come mostly from forwards. If Game 2 against the Islanders was any indication, that could change on a dime.

"In our offensive system, we try and move guys around all over the place," Cooper said. "Naturally just from the geographics of where guys are on the ice a lot of times, defensemen don't score as much. But for the most part, in my tenure here, we've really tried to have defensemen up in the rush, activate, move in the offensive zone."

Montreal defensemen were responsible for only 13 of the team's first 76 points this postseason. Then three more in Game 2 against Vegas with Petry back alongside regular defensive partner Joel Edmundson.

"Getting Petey back in the lineup, same with (defenseman Jon Merrill) is a huge boost to our team," Edmundson said. "Petey's been our best defenseman all year. Obviously, you miss a guy like that."

The Golden Knights are healthy on the back end, and Pietrangelo scored twice in their Game 2 loss. DeBoer's hope is more time together continues to make a difference.

"This year, everybody, with another year under our belt (and) adding Pietrangelo back there, I think the concepts are a little more familiar and a little more comfortable," he said.

MLB/COLLEGE BASEBALL

MLB scoreboard

MLB ROUNDUP

Arizona sets record for futility

Diamondbacks endure 23rd straight road loss

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The Arizona Diamondbacks set a major league record with their 23rd straight road loss, making dubious history in getting trounced by the San Francisco Giants 10-3 Thursday.

The dejected D-backs trudged off the field after breaking a tie with the 1963 Mets and '43 Philadelphia Athletics for road futility.

Held to just a lone single by pitcher Zac Gallen through six innings, Arizona fell behind 6-0. The Diamondbacks don't play again on the road until June 25 at San Diego.

Gallen (1-2) allowed four earned runs in 2½ innings in his first start back from a sprained pitching elbow.

Giants starter Kevin Gausman (8-1) limited the D-backs to two runs on four hits in eight innings. The right-hander struck out six and walked one.

Curt Casali homered and drove in four runs for San Francisco, finishing a double shy of the cycle. Steven Duggar went 3-for-3 with an RBI double and Mauricio Dubón and Mike Yastrzemski drove in two runs each as the Giants improved the best record in the majors to 44-25.

Indians 10, Orioles 3: José Ramírez and Bobby Bradley homered during a three-run first inning and Cleveland dealt Baltimore its 19th straight road loss.

Angels 7, Tigers 5: Shohei Ohtani (3-1) yielded five hits and a run over six strong innings, and Taylor Ward hit his first career grand slam as host Los Angeles beat Detroit.

Cubs 2, Mets 0: Kyle Hendricks (9-4) flummoxed New York for six innings to win his career-best seventh straight start, Javier Báez hit



ERIC RISBERG/AP

The Arizona Diamondbacks' Carson Kelly walks back to the dugout in front of Giants catcher Curt Casali after striking out during the seventh inning of Thursday's game in San Francisco.

a two-run homer in the first off Marcus Stroman and visiting Chicago avoided a four-game series sweep.

Braves 4, Cardinals 0: Charlie Morton (6-3) didn't allow a hit until the seventh inning and took a shutout into the eighth, lifting host Atlanta over St. Louis.

Yankees 8, Blue Jays 4: At Buffalo, N.Y., Giancarlo Stanton hit a go-ahead homer in a four-run seventh inning and New York pulled off a triple play in a win over struggling Toronto.

Padres 6, Reds 4: Victor Caratini hit a two-run, game-ending homer two batters after Eric Hosmer hit a tying, two-run homer for San Die-

go in a win over visiting Cincinnati before the first sellout crowd at Petco Park since 2019.

Astros 10, White Sox 2: Jose Altuve homered for the fourth time in three games, Michael Brantley and Abraham Toro also connected, and host Houston defeated Chicago.

Rockies 7, Brewers 3: Germán Márquez (5-6) allowed one hit over six scoreless innings, C.J. Cron ignited a five-run first with a grand slam and host Colorado beat Milwaukee for its fourth consecutive victory.

Mariners 6, Rays 5: Shed Long Jr. hit a tying double in the bottom of the ninth inning and pinch-hitter Kyle Seager singled home the winning run to rally host Seattle past Tampa Bay.

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	43	27	.614	—
Boston	42	27	.609	½
New York	36	32	.529	6
Toronto	33	34	.493	8½
Baltimore	22	46	.324	20

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	43	26	.623	—
Cleveland	38	28	.576	3½
Kansas City	30	37	.448	12
Detroit	29	40	.420	14
Minnesota	27	41	.397	15½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	43	27	.614	—
Houston	40	28	.588	2
Seattle	35	36	.493	8½
Los Angeles	34	35	.493	8½
Texas	25	43	.368	17

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	35	26	.574	—
Philadelphia	33	33	.500	4½
Atlanta	31	35	.470	6½
Washington	30	35	.462	7
Miami	29	39	.426	9½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	39	30	.565	—
Milwaukee	38	31	.551	1
Cincinnati	35	32	.522	3
St. Louis	35	34	.507	4
Pittsburgh	23	44	.343	15

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	44	25	.638	—
Los Angeles	41	27	.603	2½
San Diego	39	32	.549	6
Colorado	29	41	.414	15½
Arizona	20	50	.286	24½

Thursday's games

Cleveland 10, Baltimore 3
N.Y. Yankees 8, Toronto 4
Houston 10, Chicago White Sox 2
L.A. Angels 7, Detroit 5
Seattle 6, Tampa Bay 5
San Francisco 10, Arizona 3
Chicago Cubs 2, N.Y. Mets 0
Atlanta 4, St. Louis 0
San Diego 6, Cincinnati 4
Colorado 7, Milwaukee 3

Friday's games

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

Saturday's games

Oakland (Bassitt 7-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Germán 4-4)
Minnesota (TBD) at Texas (Allard 2-2)
Toronto (Manoah 1-0) at Baltimore (Kremer 0-6)
Boston (Pérez 4-4) at Kansas City (Bubic 1-2)
Chicago White Sox (Lynn 7-2) at Houston (Valdez 3-0)
Detroit (Peralta 0-0) at L.A. Angels (Sandoval 1-2)
Tampa Bay (Fleming 6-4) at Seattle (Gilbert 2-2)
N.Y. Mets (Peterson 2-5) at Washington (Lester 0-2)
Miami (López 2-4) at Chicago Cubs (Arrieta 5-7)
Cleveland (Quantrill 0-2) at Pittsburgh (Crowe 0-4)
Philadelphia (Nola 5-4) at San Francisco (Wood 6-3)
N.Y. Mets (TBD) at Washington (TBD)
Cincinnati (Gutierrez 3-1) at San Diego (Lamet 1-2)
St. Louis (Wainwright 4-5) at Atlanta (Smyly 3-3)
Milwaukee (Houser 4-5) at Colorado (Gomber 6-5)
L.A. Dodgers (Buehler 6-0) at Arizona (Peacock 2-4)

MLB calendar

July 11-13 — Amateur draft, Denver.
July 13 — All-Star Game, Denver.
Aug. 12 — New York Yankees vs. Chicago White Sox at Dyersville, Iowa.
Aug. 22 — Los Angeles Angels vs. Cleveland at Williamsport, Pa.

Teams hard-pressed to homer in Omaha

BY ERIC OLSON

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Home runs — lots and lots of them — have defined the NCAA baseball tournament so far.

A total of 381 have been hit in 123 games, the highest total through super regionals since at least 2005.

History suggests it is unlikely homers will come at the same rate when the stage moves to TD Ameritrade Park for the College World Series beginning Saturday.

When the ballpark opened in 2011, it quickly earned a reputation for being the place where home runs go to die. While the number of CWS homers has increased since the NCAA went to the less air-resistant, flat-seam ball, teams that are most successful find gaps in the expansive outfield for extra-base hits and advancing runners. And, of course, strong pitching and defense help.

College baseball scoreboard

World Series

At Omaha, Neb.

(Double Elimination; x-if necessary)

Saturday, June 19

Game 1: No. 9 Stanford vs. N.C. State

Game 2: No. 4 Vanderbilt vs. No. 5 Arizona

Sunday, June 20

Game 3: No. 3 Tennessee vs. Virginia

Game 4: Texas vs. No. 7 Mississippi St.

Monday, June 21

Game 5: Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser

Game 6: Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner

Tuesday, June 22

Game 7: Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 loser

Game 8: Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner

ner

Wednesday, June 23

Game 9: Game 5 winner vs. Game 6 loser

Thursday, June 24

Game 10: Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 loser

Friday, June 25

Game 11: Game 6 winner vs. Game 9 winner

Game 12: Game 8 winner vs. Game 10 winner

Saturday, June 26

x-Game 13: Teams TBD

x-Game 14: Teams TBD

Championship Series

(Best-of-three)

Monday, June 28: Teams TBD

Tuesday, June 29: Teams TBD

x-Wednesday, June 30: Teams TBD

After watching Tennessee and LSU combine for 10 home runs in the game's first 17 hits in a super regional loss to the Volunteers on Sunday, retiring Tigers coach Paul Mainieri said of the CWS: "There might not be 10 home runs hit the entire tournament up there."

Home runs have been up all season. The rate of 0.87 per team per game through May 30 al-

ready was on track to be the highest since 2010. That figure is 1.55 in tournament games.

Teams combined for five or more homers in 33 regional and super regional games, according to Associated Press research. The high was 11 in a Mississippi-Southern Mississippi regional game.

There were 38 instances of a player hitting multiple homers in

a game, and there were 13 grand slams.

No team enters the CWS on a bigger home run surge than Tennessee, which hit 16 in five tournament games. The Volunteers have homered at least once in 26 of their past 30 games, including 15 with multiple homers and seven with at least four.

How will that homer-heavy offense carry over to Omaha?

TD Ameritrade's dimensions are 335 feet down the lines, 375 to the alleys and 408 to center. The cavernous downtown stadium sits on low ground a few blocks from the Missouri River, and ball flight is suppressed because games this time of year typically are played in high humidity and batters often hit into a south wind. There were a total of 25 homers hit in 59 CWS games from 2011-14 (0.21 per team per game). With the flat-seam ball, there have been 88 homers in 80 CWS games (0.55) since 2015.

US OPEN/TRACK AND FIELD

US Open scores

Thursday
At Torrey Pines Golf Course, South Course
San Diego, Calif.
Purse: \$12.5 million
Yardage: 7,685; Par: 71
First round suspended due to darkness (45 DNF)

Russell Henley	33-34-67	-4
Francesco Molinari	34-34-68	-3
Rafa Cabrera Bello	34-34-68	-3
Brooks Koepka	36-33-69	-2
Xander Schauffele	36-33-69	-2
Hayden Buckley	33-36-69	-2
Hideki Matsuyama	35-34-69	-2
Edoardo Molinari	36-34-70	-1
Fabián Gómez	35-35-70	-1
Patrick Rodgers	33-37-70	-1
Matthew Wolff	34-36-70	-1
Matt Fitzpatrick	35-35-70	-1
Tyrrell Hatton	34-36-70	-1
Adam Hadwin	33-37-70	-1
Taylor Montgomery	36-34-70	-1
Richard Bland	33-37-70	-1
Greyson Sigg	34-37-71	E
Marcus Armitage	35-36-71	E
Guido Migliozzi	36-35-71	E
Daniel Berger	37-34-71	E
Si Woo Kim	33-38-71	E
Andrew Kozan	34-37-71	E
Charl Schwartzel	34-37-71	E
Robert MacIntyre	35-36-71	E
Lee Westwood	34-37-71	E
Paul Casey	36-35-71	E
Cameron Young	38-34-72	+1
Wilco Nienaber	36-36-72	+1
Harris English	38-34-72	+1
Brian Harman	35-37-72	+1
Tommy Fleetwood	38-34-72	+1
Shane Lowry	36-36-72	+1
J.T. Poston	36-36-72	+1
Adrian Meronk	35-37-72	+1
Wade Ormsby	36-36-72	+1
Tom Hoge	34-38-72	+1
Christiaan Bezuidenhout	39-33-72	+1
Scottie Scheffler	36-36-72	+1
Pierceson Coody	37-36-73	+2
Mackenzie Hughes	36-37-73	+2
Justin Thomas	37-36-73	+2
Kevin Kisner	35-38-73	+2
Matt Kuchar	37-36-73	+2
Abraham Ancer	36-37-73	+2
Jason Kokrak	37-36-73	+2
Paul Barjon	35-38-73	+2
Dylan Frittelli	36-37-73	+2
Akshay Bhatia	34-39-73	+2
Bryson DeChambeau	36-37-73	+2
Stewart Cink	37-36-73	+2
Brad Kennedy	37-37-74	+3
Chris Baker	37-37-74	+3
Viktor Hovland	35-39-74	+3
Billy Horschel	36-38-74	+3
Gary Woodland	34-40-74	+3
Tony Finau	37-37-74	+3
Jimmy Walker	35-39-74	+3
Ian Poulter	36-38-74	+3
Martin Laird	40-34-74	+3
Matt Sharpstene	38-36-74	+3
David Coupland	36-38-74	+3
Erik van Rooyen	35-39-74	+3
Matt Wallace	35-39-74	+3
Jhonattan Vegas	38-37-75	+4
Collin Morikawa	38-37-75	+4

Oosthuizen joins Henley in lead

First round carries over after darkness suspended play on Thursday

By DOUG FERGUSON
 Associated Press

SAN DIEGO—Louis Oosthuizen capped off an impeccable start to the U.S. Open with two tough par putts to finish off a 4-under 67 and join Russell Henley in a share of the lead at Torrey Pines.

The first round was not completed until Friday morning because of a 90-minute fog delay at the start of the championship Thursday. Oosthuizen was among 36 players who had to finish the round before a quick turnaround to start the next one.

The South African, coming off a runner-up finish to Phil Mickelson in the PGA Championship last month at Kiawah Island, rolled a bending 25-footer down the hill at the par-3 eighth that rolled out some 8 feet by the hole. He made that for par and then had to make a 4-footer on the par-5 ninth.

“I’m glad I didn’t have to do that last night with greens being a lot bumpier in the afternoon,” Oosthuizen said. “That was one of the reasons I didn’t want to hit that long putt yesterday, but it was probably a bit faster this morning than it would have been last night, but I couldn’t see anything last night.”

When the round ended, 40 players were at par or better and 10 shot in the 60s. That included Rikuya Hoshino, the 25-year-old with two Japan Golf Tour victories in the last two months. He birdied his last two holes for a 69.

The South course played to an average of 73.7, and only two players — Rafa Cabrera Bello (68) and Patrick Cantlay (70) made it around without a bogey.



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Russell Henley hits from the 17th fairway during the first round of the U.S. Open on Thursday at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego. Henley finished the first round tied for the lead with Louis Oosthuizen.

With a marine layer covering the course in the morning, and sunshine expected in the afternoon, the attention first shifted to who makes it to the weekend. The top 60 and ties

make the cut, and among those on the ropes was Mickelson. He opened with a 75 in his bid to finally win the U.S. Open and complete the career Grand Slam.

Brooks Koepka was among those playing in the afternoon. He opened with a 69, extending his amazing U.S. Open record with a sixth consecutive sub-70 round.

Track trials could bring demonstrations

By EDDIE PELLIS
 Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — If American athletes plan to use their Olympic stage to take a knee or raise a fist, U.S. track and field trials figure to be the first place to see what sort of reaction they’ll get.

The majority of America’s Black Summer Olympians come from track and field, which put the medals stand in Eugene under the spotlight when the action started Friday. In a major shift in policy, the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee resolved to not sanction athletes who use their platform for social demonstrations.

“I’m happy in the sense that the United States has moved enough today that they will allow their athletes to make a statement on the victory stand as far as kneeling and putting the fist in the sky,” said John Carlos, who along with Tommie Smith, raised his fist on the medals stand at the 1968 Olympics.

“But the question I have is, when an athlete goes beyond the United States and steps

into the realms of the international Olympic community, how supportive is the United States going to be to those athletes?” Carlos said.

The USOPC stance does, indeed, set up the possibility for conflict and confusion at the Tokyo Games, where the IOC will be in charge, and has not clearly defined how it will handle violations of Rule 50 — the rule that prohibits inside-the-lines demonstrations.

But at trials, which are owned and operated by U.S. entities, athletes are free to use their platform, so long as their demonstration fits within guidelines that were released earlier this spring.

“An athlete might want to pay homage because they know they can do it here, and they’re not sure what they can do in Tokyo,” said Moushaumi Robinson, the sprinter who serves as chair of the USOPC Council on Racial and Social Justice. “So, this is our battle right now, and the next battle is to wait and see what the IOC says the sanction might be there.”

Gestures made at the Pan-Am Games in 2019 by hammer thrower Gwen Berry and fencer Race Imboden rekindled a contentious debate about Rule 50. After their demonstrations, USOPC CEO Sarah Hirshland sent both letters of reprimand and put them on probation.

The summer of violence and protest in the wake of last year’s killing of George Floyd added a new sense of urgency to the debate. While the IOC barely budged in altering the rule, citing an international survey of athletes as a key reason to hone closely to the status quo, the attitude in America was far different.

The USOPC formed the council that Robinson leads, and that group spent months formulating a list of dos and don’ts in an attempt to lend some certainty to the complicated topic of what constitutes an appropriate demonstration.

Berry said she wouldn’t be surprised if the USOPC support leads to a cascade of demonstrations in Tokyo that the IOC will be hesitant to stop.



AP

U.S. athletes Tommie Smith, center, and John Carlos protest during the national anthem on Oct. 16, 1968 at the Summer Olympics in Mexico City.

SPORTS



Joyless journey
D-backs' 23rd straight road loss sets new record for futility » **MLB, Page 22**

NHL PLAYOFFS

Scoring defense

Getting offensive contributions from defensemen key factor in semifinals

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

One of the first things Peter DeBoer wanted to change when he took over as head coach of the Vegas Golden Knights 17 months ago was getting defensemen more involved in the offense.

It took some time. Now, the Golden Knights have more goals, assists and points from their blue line than any other team in the NHL playoffs.

"Our defense contributing offensively is something that's been part of our foundation all year," DeBoer said. "They're a big part of our identity."

That identity does not belong to Vegas alone, and offense from the defense could determine which teams move on to play for the Stanley Cup.

The Montreal Canadiens evened their series against Vegas on Wednesday night after getting defenseman Jeff Petry back from injury and three assists from their blue line. In the other semifinal, the New York Islanders took a series lead thanks to a Game 1-winning goal from a defenseman, and the Tampa Bay Lightning responded with two goals from their blue line to tie things up.

Reigning playoff MVP Victor Hedman said he and his fellow Lightning defensemen wanted to "put an end to" the talk of being kept off the score sheet, and coach Jon Cooper expects more where that came from.

"I think it was just a matter of time," Cooper said Wednesday. "We might be a couple games from now saying, 'Holy cow, I can't believe all the defen-

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Peter DeBoer
Vegas Golden Knights coach

Golden Knights defenseman Alec Martinez celebrates after scoring against the Montreal Canadiens during Game 1 of their Stanley Cup semifinal playoff series on Monday in Las Vegas.

JOHN LOCHER/AP



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