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STARS AND STRIPES

stripes.com

Volume 81 Edition 72 ©SS 2022 TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2022

平成12年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

US cautious delivering heavy arms to Ukraine

BY ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN, KAREN DEYOUNG, ALEX HORTON AND KAROUN DEMIRJIAN
The Washington Post

NEAR IZYUM, Ukraine — If only they had more, and more sophisticated, weapons from the West, Ukrainian officials often tell their American counterparts and anyone else who will listen, they could make short work of Russian invaders. Last month's arrival of the first of what are now a dozen U.S. multiple-launch precision rocket systems, known as HIMARS, has already been a game-changer, soldiers here said this week.

Since a recent HIMARS strike on an enemy ammunition depot in Izyum, located southeast of Ukraine's second-largest city Kharkiv, Russian shelling has been "10 times less" than before, said Bohdan Dmytruk, a battalion commander in Ukraine's 93rd Mechanized Brigade.

Yet the Biden administration has parceled out the rocket systems slowly, watching how the Ukrainians handle them — and how the Russians respond. To fighters on the ground, that makes little sense at a crucial moment in the war.

In his battalion alone, Dmytruk said, the number of killed and injured has fallen dramatically compared to when his soldiers moved to this part of the front line three

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■ Lavrov: Russia's goal now is to oust Ukraine's president
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ALEXANDER RIEDEL/Stars and Stripes

Dimitar Bozhilov, the owner of the Stadtkrug hotel and restaurant in Baumholder, Germany, is shown in his establishment July 12. A Baumholder staple, the Stadtkrug has served as inn, bar and restaurant and welcomed American service members for decades.

'The most American town'

Baumholder has become a growing player in Europe's defense

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — Forty years' worth of U.S. state license plates adorn the walls of Stadtkrug, where the mostly American military clientele dines on T-bone steaks and pork loin cooked over an open beechwood-fired grill.

The 18 oz. T-bone cuts like Stadtkrug's are a rarity in Germany. But so are towns like Baumholder, a village surrounded by miles of farms and forests, where the American population is the majority — and where the German resi-

dents are, for the most part, very happy about that.

The U.S. Army bases here were on the chopping block in 2008 and again in 2012 before gaining reprieves. While they weren't singled out as part of a now-abandoned Trump administration plan in 2020 to cut 12,000 troops from Germany, the experience left both residents and advocates of a strong defense posture in Europe alarmed.

Two years later, the mood is one of excitement. Baumholder is poised to become one of the most important pieces of U.S. and allied

collective defense on the Continent, as special operations forces move in and the installation upgrades all it can for troops and their families.

"The U.S. Army would not be investing a billion dollars worth of construction if it weren't going to keep this post as a long-term solution," said Jae Kim, U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz's deputy garrison manager for the Baumholder military community.

The earlier expected closures delayed years of needed infrastructure repairs at the bases,

SEE DEFENSE ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS/WEATHER

German union calls 1-day strike by Lufthansa

Associated Press

BERLIN — A German union has called on Lufthansa ground staff to walk out on a one-day strike Wednesday in a dispute over pay.

The ver.di service workers' union said Monday that the call applies to all Lufthansa locations in Germany. It comes amid negotiations on pay for about 20,000 employees of logistical, technical and cargo subsidiaries of the airline.

The strike was set to start at 3:45

a.m. Wednesday and end at 6 a.m. on Thursday.

The union aims to raise the pressure on Lufthansa ahead of the next round of negotiations on Aug. 3 and 4.

Such "warning strikes" are a common tactic in German labor negotiations and typically last from several hours to a day or two. This walkout comes at a time when airports in Germany and elsewhere already are seeing disruption and long lines for security checks.

Ver.di is calling for a 9.5% pay

increase this year and says an offer by Lufthansa earlier this month, which would involve a deal for an 18-month period, falls far short of its demands.

Lufthansa human resources chief Michael Niggemann said in a statement that ver.di's strike call "is all the more incomprehensible given that the employer side has offered high and socially balanced pay increases" despite a "tense" economic situation for the company and an uncertain economic outlook.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 26)	\$1.00
Dollar buys (July 26)	0.9527
British pound (July 26)	\$1.18
Japanese yen (July 26)	134.00
South Korean won (July 26)	1276.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
Britain (Pound)	1.2069
Canada (Dollar)	1.2848
China (Yuan)	6.7484
Denmark (Krone)	7.2640
Egypt (Pound)	18.9197
Euro	0.9758
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8495
Hungary (Forint)	388.27
Israel (Shekel)	3.4383
Japan (Yen)	136.56
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3071
Norway (Krone)	9.8375
Philippines (Peso)	55.84
Poland (Zloty)	4.59
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7579
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3849

South Korea (Won)	1309.76
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9641
Thailand (Baht)	36.66
Turkey (NewLira)	17.8364

(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.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Interest Rates Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	2.46
30-year bond	3.00

WEATHER OUTLOOK

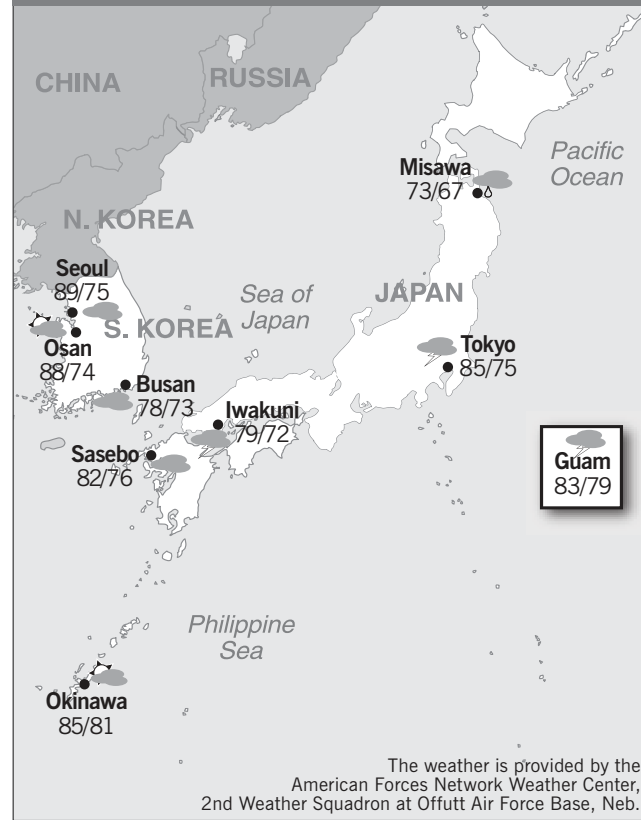
TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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MILITARY

Okinawa to open tunnels beneath Shuri Castle

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**
AND **MARI HIGA**
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — One of the last bastions of the Japanese Army on Okinawa during World War II, a tunnel system beneath the iconic Shuri Castle, may open to the public within three years.

Reopening a portion of the tunnels, which provided the headquarters for Imperial Japan's 32nd Army, is part of a plan announced by Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki in January 2021. Last week, the prefecture said it planned to complete a safety examination of the tunnels by April.

The tunnel is a "negative heritage," but must be preserved, Naomi Maeshiro, an Okinawa resident and member of a group dedicated to preserving memories of the war, told Stars and Stripes by phone on Friday.

"It is important to preserve it so that people can visit the place where important decisions were made," said Maeshiro, a member of the Maintenance-Publicity Campaign for the 32nd Army Headquarters. She said that by preserving and showing the tunnels to the public, Okinawa can "send a message of peace" like the A-Bomb Dome does for Hiroshima.

Shuri Castle, itself a symbol of Okinawa, made international headlines when it was gutted by fire on Oct. 31, 2019. Construction of a restored castle will begin in November, a spokesman for the prefecture's department of civil engineering and construction said Fri-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF OKINAWA PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT

Okinawa government officials inspect the underground headquarters of Imperial Japan's 32nd Army in Naha, Okinawa, in 2021.

day. The goal is to reopen the reconstructed landmark in 2026.

"After losing Shuri Castle to a fire in October 2019, many citizens have requested the preservation and public viewing of the 32nd Army's underground headquarters beneath Shuri Castle," Tamaki said in January 2021, according to the prefecture's website.

Tamaki said the preserved tunnels would assist in passing on "the truth" from the Battle of Okinawa in 1945 to subsequent generations.

The tunnels, approximately 125 feet beneath the castle, served as the 32nd Army's underground headquarters during the Battle of

Okinawa in 1945 and were the epicenter of Japan's southwestern island defenses. The complex is about 3,200 feet in length, stretching southward, and features five tunnels and five entrances, a spokeswoman from the prefecture's peace support and gender equality division told Stars and Stripes on Friday.

The tunnels may have sheltered approximately 1,000 people at its peak, the spokeswoman said.

The tunnels were abandoned toward the end of the war and portions remain in fairly good shape to this day, the Asahi newspaper reported on July 17. Prefectural officials have entered the tunnels several times over the



The underground headquarters of Imperial Japan's 32nd Army in Naha, Okinawa, is seen in 1945.

years, but safety concerns and budgetary constraints kept the government from opening the tunnels to visitors, the spokeswoman said.

To pay for the tunnel improvements, the prefecture tapped funds allocated to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. returning Okinawa to Japanese control.

Government spokespeople in Japan customarily speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

Preliminary plans call for a public viewing of Entrance 5 in 2025 and Entrance 1 in 2026, the spokeswoman said. Private land must first be purchased to gain access to Entrance 5. Entrance 1 has not been discovered.

"The Japanese Army destroyed the complex before leaving, so it has been difficult to find where the entrance was," the spokeswoman said.

The tunnels are part of a complicated wartime legacy for Japan and Okinawa, Maeshiro said. She believes the Army's decision to abandon the headquarters and move south to Mabuni cost the island more than 100,000 lives.

"That decision was made in that headquarters," she said. She said she hopes that once it's open to the public, the site can be used for peace education.

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Okinawa urges caution as COVID-19 surges to record highs

By **JOSEPH DITZLER**
Stars and Stripes

Okinawa has declared a local emergency as the island prefecture again paces Japan's record-breaking wave of COVID-19.

"The momentum of the infection has not slowed down, and the further spread of the infection has become a reality," wrote prefectural Gov. Denny Tamaki in a statement Thursday. He cautioned that summer events and vacation crowds would exacerbate the rising coronavirus tide.

The prefectural emergency calls on its population to wear masks, limit outdoor dining to groups of four, refrain from non-essential outings where social distancing cannot be maintained and avoid visiting people who are at risk of serious illness, Tamaki said.

III Marine Expeditionary Force, headquartered on Okinawa, repeated the prefectural announcement Friday and remind-



LUCAS VEGA/U.S. Marine Corps

Petty Officer 2nd Class Bridget Greene inventories COVID-19 test samples at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa in 2020.

ed its population to take the same precautions.

"While we are guests in Okinawa, it is also our home," the III MEF said in a Facebook post. "It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to come together and help mitigate the spread of

COVID-19."

Hospitals are becoming strained as the number of new patients increases, according to Tamaki. On Sunday, 551 people were hospitalized with COVID-19 on Okinawa, 20 of them with severe symptoms, accord-

ing to the Okinawa COVID-19 information website.

New cases of COVID-19 are arising faster than they ever have in Japan, which reported 200,870 Saturday, high above the pandemic peak of 104,345 on Feb. 3 during the omicron wave, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. Japan on Sunday reported 176,492, according to Johns Hopkins.

The BA.2 omicron subvariant was responsible for the surge in new cases in Japan, the country's National Institute of Infectious Diseases reported July 7. However, the institute predicted the BA.4 and 5 subvariants would soon predominate.

"In particular, the BA.5 lineage may become the mainstream lineage in Japan in the future and could be a factor in increasing the number of infected people," according to the institute report.

BA.5 as of mid-July accounts

for most of the new cases in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is "the most transmissible variant detected yet," the director general of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said at a media briefing Wednesday.

Okinawa had the highest per capita increase of the 47 prefectures in Japan, the infectious disease institute reported. Saturday, the prefecture reported its highest one-day total of the pandemic, 5,297, according to the COVID-19 information website.

Tokyo on Friday posted 34,995 new cases of coronavirus, its highest one-day total of the pandemic, thus far, according to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. Nearly half, 47%, of the available hospital beds are full for a total of 3,333 patients, of whom 79 have severe symptoms.

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MILITARY

Defense: US dedicating more money to work in Baumholder

FROM PAGE 1

which became part of the Army's footprint in 1951.

On-post housing deteriorated, leaving base officials vowing changes in 2018 after residents at town hall meetings complained of mold infestations and brown water coming out of the taps.

Since then, construction has picked up, with a lot more to come. The White House's proposed 2023 budget set aside more than \$200 million for Baumholder projects. With Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine looming large, the expenditures are likely to be part of the final defense appropriations.

Kim estimated that in the longer term, the Army will spend about \$500 million toward quality-of-life improvements, including new housing, a lodge and an elementary school.

Another \$500 million will go into barracks and unit support, including a special operations complex.

About 500 special operations troops are being repositioned from Stuttgart to Baumholder as early as this summer on a rotational basis, the Army announced this month. The move gives Special Forces ready access to more than 30,000 acres of training ranges.

Special operations units have worked for years with Ukrainian units, which surprised many analysts by repelling Russia's better-equipped forces in the initial phase of the invasion, which began in late February.

Those soldiers, along with the air defense, sustainment and logistics units based out of Baumholder, play a large role in aiding allies along NATO's eastern flank as they aim to deter any further aggression from Russia.

Jeans and ice cream

Every few months, whether the Americans will stay is the talk of this town of 4,300 Germans for one reason or another, says Melanie Mai, who along with her husband, Bernd, recently published the book "Americans in Baumholder: The Path from Occupier to Friend."

It expands on the work of the late Herbert Grimm, who authored a book about the Americans' first 50 years in Baumholder.

While the couple talked about the project on their sunny patio earlier this month, the booms of military training rattled in the distance.

"I'm happy to hear this because it tells me there is still military in the area," Bernd Mai said.

Mai, the host nation relations adviser, was born and raised in



ALEXANDER RIEDEL/Stars and Stripes

Baumholder American High School and part of current and former base housing is visible from the center of downtown Baumholder, Germany, on July 12.



ALEXANDER RIEDEL/Stars and Stripes

Blue Billiard-Cafe in Baumholder is housed in the building that used to be known as the Flamingo Bar.

Baumholder and has worked on post for nearly 40 years. He remembers when more than 20,000 U.S. soldiers and their families were garrisoned at the post.

When the Americans took over the German military camp in 1951, the tiny farming village became "perhaps the most American town in Germany," they wrote.

Americans forged many lasting friendships with Germans, one reason many in the town speak English and experienced American culture before a lot of other Germans did, Bernd Mai said.

"We had jeans when everybody was dreaming of jeans," he said. "We had American ice cream. We

had everything."

That was the heyday, culminating in President Bill Clinton's 1995 visit to meet thousands of troops before they deployed to Bosnia.

The low point arguably came when the 170th Infantry Brigade left Baumholder in 2012 and the post's American population shrunk to about 500 soldiers and 1,500 family members and civilians, Mai said.

The bright lights up on the hill from the post at night were "dark all of a sudden," he said. "That was scary."

But after the 2014 Russian takeover of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, the post-Cold War drawdown



BERND MAI

The Flamingo Bar was a popular nightlife hangout for service members in the 70s and 80s.

in Europe was reversed and Baumholder began to grow.

The U.S. military is the region's main employer. About 400 German residents now work on base, down from the roughly 2,800 employed by the military in the 1950s, according to Mai. Businesses and landlords also lean on Americans to supplement their income.

"The lights would go off in town" if the Americans left, said Bernd Alsfasser, the district mayor.

Alsfasser was among those invited on post earlier this month to celebrate 70 years of Americans in Baumholder, an anniversary marked a year late because of pan-

demic restrictions.

"Throughout those 70 years, the city of Baumholder has hosted us, sponsored us, made us feel at home," Col. Angel Estrada, the 16th Sustainment Brigade commander and the senior military commander on post, said at the event.

"The future is bright," Estrada added. "Based on the Army's plan ... for at least the next decade, Baumholder will grow."

US means business

About 9,000 Americans, including families and civilians, are as-

SEE DEFENSE ON PAGE 5

MILITARY

Taiwan preps should China react to Pelosi visit

Associated Press

BEIJING — Taiwan's capital staged air raid drills Monday and its military mobilized for routine defense exercises, coinciding with concerns over a forceful Chinese response to a possible visit to the island by U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

While there was no direct link between China's renewed threats and Taiwan's defensive moves, they underscore the possibility of a renewed crisis in the Taiwan Strait, considered a potential hot-spot for a conflict that could envelop the entire region.

Air raid sirens were sounded in the capital Taipei and the military was holding its annual multi-day Han Kuang drills, including joint air and sea exercises and the mobilization of tanks and troops.

In Taipei, police directed people to shelters when a siren went off shortly after lunchtime. Streets emptied and shops closed.

"In recent years, Chinese military planes have frequently harassed Taiwan, and the war between Russia and Ukraine broke out in February this year," Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je told reporters, referencing concerns that a similar conflict could break out in East Asia. "All these things make us understand the importance of being vigilant in times of peace, and we need to be prepared if there is war."

Pelosi has not confirmed when, or even if, she will visit, but President Joe Biden last week told reporters that U.S. military officials believed such a trip was "not a good idea." Administration officials are believed to be critical of a possible trip, both for the problematic timing and the lack of coordination with the White House.

China's authoritarian ruling Communist Party considers democratic, self-ruling Taiwan its own territory, to be annexed by force if necessary, and regularly advertises that threat by staging military exercises and flying warplanes in-



CHIANG YING-YING/AP

People are guided by Taiwanese soldiers to a basement shelter during the Wanan air raid drill in Taipei, Taiwan, on Monday.

to Taiwan's air defense identification zone or across the center line of the 100-mile-wide Taiwan Strait.

Beijing has said those actions are aimed at deterring advocates of the island's formal independence and foreign allies — principally the United States — from interfering, more than 70 years after the sides split amid civil war. Surveys routinely show that Taiwan's 23 million people reject China's assertions that the island is a Chinese province which has strayed and must be brought under Beijing's control.

Pelosi, long a sharp critic of Beijing, is second in line to the White House. She is viewed as a Biden proxy by China, which demands members of Congress follow the commitments made by previous

administrations.

Taiwan is among the few issues that enjoys broad bipartisan support among lawmakers and within the administration, with Biden stating earlier this year that the U.S. would defend Taiwan if it came under attack.

U.S. law requires Washington provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself and treat all threats to the island as matters of "grave concern," but remains ambiguous on whether it would commit forces in response to an attack from China.

Though the sides lack formal diplomatic ties, the U.S. is Taiwan's chief provider of outside defense assistance and political support, in a reflection of its desire to limit China's growing influence and maintain a robust American presence in the Western Pacific.

During a visit to Indonesia on Sunday, U.S. Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the Chinese military has become significantly more aggressive and dangerous over the past five years.

Milley's Chinese counterpart, Gen. Li Zuocheng, told him in a call earlier this month that Beijing had "no room for compromise" on issues such as Taiwan.

On Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said Beijing had repeatedly expressed its "solemn position" over a potential visit by Pelosi, who would be the highest-ranking U.S. elected official to visit Taiwan since 1997.

"We are fully prepared," Zhao told reporters at a daily briefing. "If the U.S. is bent on going its own

way, China will take firm and strong measures to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

China has not said what specific actions it would take, although speculation has centered on a new round of threatening military exercises or even an attempt to prevent Pelosi's plane from landing by declaring a no-fly zone over Taiwan.

"If the U.S. is determined to make (a visit) happen, they know China will take unprecedented tough measures and the U.S. must make military preparations," said Shi Yinhong, an international relations expert at Beijing's Renmin University.

"Expect huffing and puffing, maybe some fire-breathing, military posturing and perhaps economic punishment of Taiwan," said Michael Mazza, a defense and China expert at the American Enterprise Institute.

The timing of a Pelosi visit, which could happen sometime in early August, is especially sensitive, hinging on multiple factors. Among them is the anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army — the military branch of the ruling Communist Party — which falls on Aug. 1, a date used to stoke nationalism and rally the troops.

China doesn't want to create a "crisis for crisis' sake," but could try to use the possibility of a Pelosi visit to advance its agenda, said Oriana Skylar Mastro, an expert on Chinese military affairs and foreign policy at Stanford University.

China might take the opportunity to test out capabilities through a large-scale amphibious exercise, which it would justify as a response to an "aggressive move" by the U.S., Mastro said.

"So I think they'll use it as an opportunity to make advances that could be problematic, but (which) they wanted to do anyway regardless of the Pelosi visit," she said.

Defense: US base crucial to Baumholder economy

FROM PAGE 4

signed to Baumholder. But the pandemic and the no-uniform policy off base, which has since been lifted, was tough on businesses.

On a recent workday, Ulrich Jung was cutting hair at his salon, Jung Friseur, which his grandfather started in 1937 and is within walking distance of the post. Customers are starting to return, he said, including Americans.

He counts Defense Department teachers on base among his most loyal customers.

Maintaining the U.S. military outpost at Baumholder "is important for the whole region, said

Jung, whose father, Guenther, is the city mayor. "We have nothing else. We don't have big firms here."

Down the street, Otti Walter stood ready to greet customers just inside the longtime family shoe business he runs with his wife, Helga.

Online shoe sales have hurt business, and there are just not as many Americans shopping in Baumholder, he said. But the base is still the community's lifeblood. "There is no industry here except the American camp, so that's everything," he said.

It's been like that for as long as

Walter can remember.

When Walter was a boy and the Americans arrived, "they said the Americans were going to be here for 10 years," he said, noting that he's now 85 and a great-grandfather.

Alluding to the war in Ukraine, he said he doesn't think the Americans are going to be on their way out anytime soon.

"Right now, it doesn't seem to be the right time for them to leave, if you look to the east," he said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Alexander Riedel contributed to this report. svan.jennifer@stripes.com Twitter: @stripesktown



ALEXANDER RIEDEL/Stars and Stripes

The Culture Museum is in the old "Golden Angel" building in Baumholder, Germany.

EUROPE

Lavrov: Russian goal is to oust Ukraine president

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia's top diplomat said Moscow's overarching goal in Ukraine is to topple President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's government, expressing the Kremlin's war aims in some of the bluntest terms yet as its forces pummel the country with artillery barrages and airstrikes.

The remark from Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov comes amid Ukraine's efforts to resume grain exports from its Black Sea ports, something that would help ease global food shortages, under a new deal tested by a Russian strike on Odesa over the weekend.

Speaking to envoys at an Arab League summit in Cairo late Sunday, Lavrov said Moscow is determined to help Ukrainians "liberate themselves from the burden of this absolutely unacceptable regime."

Lavrov accused Kyiv and its

Western allies of spouting propaganda intended to ensure that Ukraine "becomes the eternal enemy of Russia."

"Russian and Ukrainian people would continue to live together. We will certainly help Ukrainian people to get rid of the regime, which is absolutely anti-people and anti-historical," he said.

Lavrov's remarks contrasted with the Kremlin's line early in the war, when it repeatedly emphasized that Russia wasn't seeking to overthrow Zelenskyy's government, even as Moscow's troops closed in on Kyiv. Russia later retreated from around the capital and turned its attention to capturing Ukraine's industrial Donbas region in the east. The fighting is now in its sixth month.

Lavrov argued that Russia was ready to negotiate a deal to end hostilities in March when Kyiv changed tack and declared its intention to rout Russia on the bat-



EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

Rescuers remove debris Monday after a Russian missile attack in Chuhuiv, Ukraine.

tlefield. He said the West has encouraged Ukraine to keep fighting.

"The West insists that Ukraine must not start negotiations until Russia is defeated on the battlefield," Lavrov said.

It was not yet clear when grain shipments would resume following Russia and Ukraine's signing of agreements with the United Na-

tions and Turkey on Friday. The deals are aimed at clearing the way for the shipment of millions of tons of desperately needed Ukrainian grain, as well as the export of Russian grain and fertilizer.

While Russia faced accusations that the weekend attack on the port of Odesa amounted to reneging on the deal, Moscow insisted the strike would not affect grain

shipments.

During a visit to Congo on Monday, Lavrov repeated the Russian military claim that the strike targeted a Ukrainian navy boat and a depot with Harpoon anti-ship missiles supplied by the West.

He said the attack took part in the military section of the port at "a significant distance" from the grain terminal.

Arms: Ukrainian officials say they need more weapons to turn tide

FROM PAGE 1

months ago. "We have about one guy suffer a concussion every week now. Before the HIMARS hit, it was about two to three a day because of the intensity of the shelling."

Dmytruk and soldiers in the area attributed the drop-off in what was near-constant bombardment to the Russians' need to conserve shells after the depot was destroyed, and their fear that firing their own artillery will alert the far more accurate and agile HIMARS to their positions.

"They have no idea where it is," Dmytruk said of the wheeled launch vehicle and its four-man crew, which can fire and drive away at up to 60 miles per hour within two minutes. Already, he said, the Russians are likely adjusting to the new weapons by moving their supplies deeper into Russian-held territory beyond the 50-mile HIMARS range.

The administration announced Friday that it would send four additional HIMARS — High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems — to Ukraine, bringing the total to 16. Britain and Germany also have each sent or pledged three similar multiple-launch long-range systems. But the Ukrainians and some other close observers of the conflict say the need is far greater



ANASTASIA VLASOVA/For The Washington Post

A Ukrainian serviceman opens the door to an HIMARS vehicle in Eastern Ukraine on July 1.

and immediate.

Ukrainian government and military officials have said at various times that they need dozens, hundreds or even thousands of HIMARS. "For an effective counteroffensive, we need at least 100," with longer-range munition than what has been supplied, Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said Tuesday in a video appearance at the Washington-based Atlantic Council. "That would be a game changer."

The provision of security assis-

tance to Ukraine has become a massive operation, involving more than 50 countries. The United States leads the effort, with the most money spent and weapons sent — \$8.2 billion worth since the beginning of the administration, with billions more expected — although others have collectively provided billions worth of light and heavy military equipment. To Washington, confronting Russia with a large and united global front is worth the occasional headaches of coordinating donations

from around the world, ensuring equipment is in working order and matches needs on the ground, and seeing that it gets to the right place inside Ukraine.

The nerve center of the operation is a large, secure room at the U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. Cables taped along the floor and folding tables lined with laptops gave it a makeshift atmosphere during a reporter's recent visit, with a World War II allied vibe as uniformed officers from many countries traded documents, pointed at screens filled with lists and graphs, and consulted on telephones in various languages. The to-do list is complex. Norwegian tanks have needed new barrels to match donated ammunition from somewhere else. Aging Spanish tanks, made in Germany, required refurbishment after years in storage. Shells and spare parts for Ukraine's own Soviet-era artillery are being solicited from other former U.S.S.R. states. There are logistics routes to be plotted and, always, new Ukrainian requests to consider.

Most attention has focused on big-ticket items that only the United States and a few of its NATO allies have been able or willing to provide. From antitank weapons to air defense to howitzers and now HIMARS, each escalation has required consideration by in-

dividual governments of what is possible and advisable.

For some critics, and many Ukrainians, the steps in that process do not always match the urgency of the situation, especially as Russia has said it plans to annex parts of occupied southern Ukraine and made slow but steady progress expanding its hold on the east.

Some argue the objective should be to put Ukraine in a better position for cease-fire negotiations to keep Russia from conquering more territory. Others say the goal of the ally-provided aid, now that the Ukrainians have shown their fighting mettle, should be arming them for a counteroffensive to push the Russians back across their own border.

"There's a window of opportunity that's narrowing rather rapidly to change the trajectory of this war. But right now, I just don't hear the urgency to do so," said Alina Polyakova, president and chief executive of the Center for European Policy Analysis. She defined that window as within the next four to six months.

U.S. and allied incrementalism — the measured provision of more and better equipment after, instead of before, Russians have advanced in a particular battlespace — will make it ever-harder to dislodge established Russian facts on the ground, Polyakova said.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

N. Korea: Herbal medicine is key to fight COVID-19

Associated Press

PAJU, South Korea — As a medical student in North Korea, Lee Gwang-jin said he treated his fevers and other minor ailments with traditional herbal medicine. But bad illness could mean trouble because hospitals in his rural hometown lacked the ambulances, beds, even the electricity at times needed to treat critical or emergency patients.

So Lee was skeptical when he heard recent North Korean state media reports that claimed such so-called Koryo traditional medicine is playing a key role in the nation's fight against COVID-19, which has killed millions around the world.

"North Korea is using Koryo medicine a lot (for COVID-19) ... but it's not a sure remedy," said Lee, who studied Koryo medicine before he fled North Korea in 2018 for a new life in South Korea. "Someone who is destined to survive will survive (with such medicine), but North Korea can't help others who are dying."

Like many other parts of life in North Korea, the medicine that the state says is curing its sick people is being used as a political symbol.



DAVID GUTTENFELDER/AP

A pharmacist at the Kaeson Clinic in the Moranbong District of Pyongyang, North Korea gathers traditional "Koryo" medicine for a patient waiting at the window in 2013.

That, experts say, will eventually allow the country to say its leaders have beaten the outbreak, where other nations have repeatedly failed, by providing homegrown remedies, independent of outside help.

As state media churn out stories about the effectiveness of the medicine and the huge production ef-

forts to make more of it, there are questions about whether people suffering from severe disease are getting the treatment they need.

Defectors and experts believe North Korea is mobilizing Koryo medicine simply because it doesn't have enough modern medicine to fight COVID-19.

"Treating mild symptoms with

Koryo medicine isn't a bad option. ... But the coronavirus doesn't cause only mild symptoms," said Yi Junhyeok, a traditional doctor and researcher at South Korea's Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine. "When we think about critical and high-risk patients, North Korea needs vaccines, emergency care systems and other medical resources that it can use to" lower fatalities.

More than two months have passed since North Korea admitted its first coronavirus outbreak, and the country has reported an average of 157 fever cases each day in the past seven days, a significant drop from the peak of about 400,000 a day in May.

It also maintains a widely disputed claim that only 74 out of about 4.8 million fever patients have died, a fatality rate of 0.002% that would be the world's lowest if true.

Despite widespread outside doubt about the truth of North Korea's reported statistics, there are no signs that the outbreak has caused catastrophe in North Korea. Some outside experts say the North may soon formally declare victory over COVID-19 in an effort

to boost internal unity. North Korea may then emphasize the role of Koryo medicine as the reason.

"North Korea calls Koryo medicine 'juche (self-reliant) medicine,' treats it importantly and views it as one of its political symbols," said Kim Dongsu, a professor at the College of Korean Medicine at South Korea's Dongshin University. "North Korea doesn't have many academic and cultural achievements to advertise so it'll likely actively propagate Koryo medicine."

North Korea officially incorporated Koryo medicine — named after an ancient Korean kingdom — in its public health care system in the 1950s.

Its importance has sharply grown since the mid-1990s, when North Korea began suffering a big shortage of modern medicine during a crippling famine and economic turmoil that killed hundreds of thousands of people.

Koryo medicine refers to herbal concoctions that sometimes include animal parts, acupuncture, cupping, moxibustion and meridian massages. Such ancient remedies are used in many Asian and Western nations.

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NATION

Yellen downplays recession risk as reports loom

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Sunday said the U.S. economy is slowing but pointed to healthy hiring as proof that it is not yet in recession.

Yellen spoke on NBC's "Meet the Press" just before a slew of economic reports will be released this week that will shed light on an economy currently besieged by rampant inflation and threatened by higher interest rates. The data will cover sales of new homes, consumer confidence, incomes, spending, inflation, and overall output.

The highest-profile report will likely be Thursday, when the Commerce Department will release its first estimate of the economy's output in the April-June quarter.

Some economists forecast it may show a contraction for the second quarter in a row. The econ-

omy shrank 1.6% in the January-March quarter. Two straight negative readings is considered an informal definition of a recession, though in this case economists think that's misleading.

Instead, the National Bureau of Economic Research — a nonprofit group of economists — defines a recession as "a significant decline in economic activity that is spread across the economy and lasts more than a few months."

Yellen argued that much of the economy remains healthy: Consumer spending is growing, Americans' finances, on average, are solid, and the economy has added more than 400,000 jobs a month this year, a robust figure. The unemployment rate is 3.6%, near a half-century low.

"We've got a very strong labor market," Yellen said. "This is not an economy that's in recession."

Still, Yellen acknowledged the

economy is "in a period of transition in which growth is slowing," from a historically rapid pace in 2021.

She said that slowdown is "necessary and appropriate," because "we need to be growing at a steady and sustainable pace."

Slower growth could help bring down inflation, which at 9.1% is the highest in two generations.

Still, many economists think a recession is on the horizon, with inflation eating away at Americans' ability to spend and the Federal Reserve rapidly pushing up borrowing costs.

Last week, Bank of America's economists became the latest to forecast a "mild recession" later this year.

And Larry Summers, the treasury secretary under President Bill Clinton, said on CNN's "GPS" Sunday that "there's a very high likelihood of recession," as the Fed

lifts interest rates to combat inflation. Those higher borrowing costs are intended to reduce consumer spending on homes and cars and slow business borrowing, which can lead to a downturn.

On Wednesday, the Federal Reserve is likely to announce its second 0.75% point increase in its short-term rate in a row, a hefty increase that it hasn't otherwise implemented since 1994.

That will put the Fed's benchmark rate in a range of 2.25% to 2.5%, the highest level since 2018. Fed policymakers are expected to keep hiking until its rate reaches about 3.5%, which would be the highest since 2008.

The Fed's hikes have torpedoed the housing market, as mortgage rates have doubled in the past year to 5.5%.

Sales of existing homes have fallen for five straight months. On Tuesday, the government is ex-

pected to report that sales of new homes dropped in June.

Fewer home sales also means less spending on items that typically come with purchasing a new house, such as furniture, appliances, curtains, and kitchenware.

Many other countries are also grappling with higher inflation, and slower growth overseas could weaken the U.S. economy. Europe is facing the threat of recession, with soaring inflation and a central bank that just last week raised interest rates for the first time in 11 years.

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde also sought to minimize recession concerns in a news conference last Thursday.

"Under the baseline scenario, there is no recession, neither this year nor next year," Lagarde said. "Is the horizon clouded? Of course it is."

Alaska faces hundreds of wildfires it's never seen before

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Alaska is burning this year in ways rarely or ever seen, from the largest wildfire in a typically mainly fireproof southwest region to a pair of blazes that ripped through forests and produced smoke that blew hundreds of miles to the the Bering Sea community of Nome, where the normally crystal clear air was pushed into the extremely unhealthy category.

Already more than 530 wildfires have burned an area the size of Connecticut and the usual worst of the fire season lays ahead. While little property has burned, some residents have been forced to evacuate and one person was killed — a helicopter pilot died last month when he crashed while attempting to carry a load of equipment for firefighters.

Recent rains have helped but longer-term forecasts are showing a pattern similar to 2004, when July rains gave way to high-pressure systems, hot days, low humidity and lightning strikes that fueled Alaska's worst fire year.

In 2004, the acreage burned by mid-July was about the same as now, but by the time that fire season ended, 10,156 square miles (26,304 square kilometers) were charred.

"The frequency of these big seasons has doubled from what it was in the second half of the 20th century," said Rick Thoman, a climate specialist with the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy at the University of Alaska's International Arctic Research Center. "And there's no



ERIC KIEHN/AP

In this photo provided by Eric Kiehn, Northwest Incident Management Team 10, Alaska Division of Forestry, a fixed-wing aircraft drops water on the Clear Fire near Anderson, Alaska, on July 6.

reason to think that's not going to continue."

Heat waves and droughts, which are exacerbated by a warming climate, are making wildfires more frequent, destructive, and harder to fight in many places. This month, wildfires have torn through Portugal, Spain, France, England and Germany, which have seen record-high temperatures.

California has recorded its largest, most destructive and deadliest wildfires in the last five years and with the state deep in drought authorities are girding for what may be a late summer and fall filled with smoke and flames.

Alaska, the nation's largest state, also has been dry. Parts saw an early snow melt and then a largely rain-free June that dried out the duff layer — the band of decaying moss and grasses that blankets the floors of boreal forests and the

tundra. This organic matter can be up to 2 feet thick but in various stages of decay.

On May 31, a lightning strike on the duff layer in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta started the East Fork fire, an area in southwest Alaska that rarely burns. Two communities with a combined population of about 700 were threatened but no mandatory evacuations were ordered in what became the largest wildfire ever in the delta at 259 square miles. Firefighters were able to protect the communities.

A fire like that one was directly attributable to climate change, Thoman said. There's more vegetation growing on the tundra, willow and alder trees are thicker in the transition area between the tundra and forests, and spruce along river valleys are growing thicker and moving farther uphill from those valleys.

Semiconductor bill unites usual foes in opposition

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A bill to boost semiconductor production in the United States has managed to do nearly the unthinkable — unite the democratic socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders and the fiscally conservative right.

The bill making its way through the Senate is a top priority of the Biden administration. It would add about \$79 billion to the deficit over 10 years, mostly as a result of new grants and tax breaks that would subsidize the cost that computer chip manufacturers incur when building or expanding chip plants in the United States.

Supporters say that countries all over the world are spending billions of dollars to lure chipmakers. The U.S. must do the same or risk losing a secure supply of the semiconductors that power the nation's automobiles, computers, appliances and some of the military's most advanced weapons systems.

Sanders, I-Vt., and a wide range of conservative lawmakers, think

tanks and media outlets have a different take. To them, it's "corporate welfare." It's just the latest example of how spending taxpayer dollars to help the private sector can scramble the usual partisan lines, creating allies on the left and right who agree on little else. They are positioning themselves as defenders of the little guy against powerful interest groups lining up at the public trough.

Sanders said he doesn't hear from people about the need to help the semiconductor industry. Voters talk to him about climate change, gun safety, preserving a woman's right to an abortion and boosting Social Security benefits, to name just a few.

"Not too many people that I can recall — I have been all over this country — say: 'Bernie, you go back there and you get the job done, and you give enormously profitable corporations, which pay outrageous compensation packages to their CEOs, billions and billions of dollars in corporate welfare,'" Sanders said.



STEVE HELBER/AP

Technicians inspect a piece of equipment during a tour of the Micron Technology automotive chip manufacturing plant in February in Manassas, Va.

NATION



DEREK MONTGOMERY/AP

Anti-abortion protester Jeff Asmussen, center, attempts to talk to a clinic escort at WE Health Clinic in Duluth, Minn., on July 7.

Minnesota abortion clinic braces for tide of out-of-state patients

By TRISHA AHMED
AP/Report for America

DULUTH, Minn. — On the top floor of a modest two-story brick building near the shore of Lake Superior, the executive director of northern Minnesota's only abortion clinic flits from room to room, checking in patients, fielding phone calls from people seeking appointments and handling billing questions from those struggling to pay.

In the waiting room at WE Health Clinic in Duluth, patients from Wisconsin and Texas sit among Minnesotans — the leading edge of an expected uptick in out-of-state patients following the Supreme Court's removal of the federal right to abortion.

"It's just been really busy," Laurie Casey, the executive director, said. "We're trying to be as flexible as we can, especially with people coming out of state. A lot of our patients — even if they're from Minnesota — travel one to three

hours each way to get here. So we try to be as accommodating as we can."

Even before *Roe v. Wade* was reversed, WE Health Clinic was the nearest abortion provider for some people in northern Wisconsin, northern Minnesota and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Today, the clinic's employees are acutely aware of their state's status as an island for legal abortion in the Upper Midwest. Abortion is now illegal or treated as such in Wisconsin and South Dakota. North Dakota is expected to follow suit by the end of the month and Iowa's Republican governor is asking the state courts to severely limit the procedure.

The clinic has raised its cap on patients from 16 to 20 on the one day a week when abortions are typically performed. Its staff try to schedule abortions on other days when necessary, and may set aside an additional half- or full day each week for abortion services.

"We haven't overcome our capacity to serve patients yet. And we are working on efficiencies so that we're ready if we do end up with a flood of patients," said Dr. Judith Johnson, one of three doctors providing abortions at the clinic.

Johnson said the increased pressure began months before the Supreme Court decision, with inquiries from people in Texas and Oklahoma as those states introduced highly restrictive abortion bans.

The extra patient load at WE Health Clinic includes people who have struggled to get speedy appointments at some Minneapolis-area clinics, where five of the state's seven abortion clinics are located, following the Supreme Court's decision. The seventh clinic is in Rochester.

"The number of patients we serve has gone up, and the places they come from have gotten further away," Johnson said.

Young Republicans enjoy hearing from Trump, DeSantis

By JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — When former President Donald Trump took the stage before a crowd of over 5,000 young conservative activists in Tampa on Saturday, he received the rock star's welcome he's grown used to during the seven years he's reshaped the Republican Party.

One night earlier, it was Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis who had the crowd on its feet as he headlined the day's program at Turning Point USA's annual Student Action Summit.

"To be honest, it's like choosing between your favorite child," said Leo Milik, 19, who lives in Barrington, Ill., when asked whom he'd like to see as the party's next nominee.

That sentiment reflects the soul searching inside the GOP as an invisible primary for the 2024 presidential nomination begins to take shape, dominated at least for the moment by Trump and DeSantis.

An unscientific straw poll of attendees at Friday's event found that 78.7% would vote for Trump in a GOP primary, with DeSantis coming in second with 19%. No other potential candidate came in above 1%.

There's little doubt that Trump is moving closer to announcing a third presidential campaign. But there's genuine debate over whether he's the party's best candidate to take on President Joe Biden, who is otherwise seen as a vulnerable incumbent heading into the next campaign, weighed down by soaring inflation, sinking popularity and questions about his capacity to manage the United States into his 80s.

This summer's hearings by the House committee investigating the deadly Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection have only amplified the GOP's anxiety about Trump. A pair of weekend editorials in the *New York Post* and *Wall Street Journal* — publications owned by the often Trump-friendly Rupert Murdoch — underscored the impact, castigating the

former president for refusing to call off the mob of his supporters as they stormed the U.S. Capitol to halt the peaceful transfer of power.

"As a matter of principle, as a matter of character, Trump has proven himself unworthy to be this country's chief executive again," wrote the *New York Post*.

But inside the Tampa Convention Center, mentions of Jan. 6 elicited cheers as a who's who of Trump's "MAGA movement" took the stage in a room that had the feel of a Las Vegas nightclub.

Young attendees dressed in sparkly heels and candy-colored cowboy boots danced under laser lights to a DJ before the program began. Speakers were introduced with WWE-style videos, elaborate pyrotechnics and smoke displays. Throughout the venue, ring lights were placed strategically in front of logoed backdrops for flattering photo ops. Outside, a small group of neo-Nazis briefly waved swastika flags.

The top draw was Trump, who again teased his future plans.

"I ran twice. I won twice and did much better the second time ... and now we may just have to do it again," he said to thundering cheers and chants of "Take it back!"

DeSantis, who has often insisted he is focused solely on reelection as governor, headlined Friday night's program in an appearance that strongly suggested his ambitions extend beyond the state.

He welcomed the crowd to the "free state of Florida" and highlighted the anti-COVID mitigation policies that made him a conservative hero at the height of the pandemic. And he bragged about his efforts to bar discussions of race and sexual orientation in Florida classrooms, as well as his battles with Disney.

"We've accomplished an awful lot in the state of Florida. But we have only begun to fight," he said. "Because we are on a mission to keep the state of Florida free and to save our great country."

Barrage of gunfire at LA park leaves at least 2 dead, 5 wounded

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A dispute at a Los Angeles park at or near an apparently unpermitted car show led to a barrage of gunshots that left two people dead and five wounded, authorities said.

The LA Police Department said the shooting occurred around 3:50 p.m. Sunday at Peck Park in LA's San Pedro neighborhood. At the time, an estimated 500 people

were in the park and many ran for cover when the shooting began.

"All of a sudden we heard three shots — pow, pow, pow," witness Dwayne Ellis told KABC. "Then we heard about 50 or 100 more — pow, pow, boom, boom. All kinds of shots. People were running."

LAPD Capt. Kelly Muniz said during a news conference that a dispute of some kind preceded the gunfire. Police don't know what

started the disagreement or how many people fired. No arrests had been made.

Paramedics from the LA Fire Department responded. Spokesman Erik Scott said four men and three women were taken to hospitals and two of them died. He said the seven victims ranged in age from 23 to 54. No names were released.

Peck Park is about 20 miles

south of downtown Los Angeles. Councilman Joe Buscaino represents the area and said the shooting occurred during an unpermitted car show hosted by gang members.

"Know that this park and many parks across the city have been having issues with these car shows," Buscaino told Southern California News Group.

Skipp Townsend, a gang interventionist who visits the park reg-

ularly, was at the scene with other onlookers Sunday.

"It's sad and heartbreaking that people still won't talk," Townsend told the *Los Angeles Times*. "You know, instead they pick up guns. So that's heartbreaking, that we can have peaceful events in this area for, you know, two, three years straight with no incidents, and then one incident like this happens."

NATION

Data shows airlines bear responsibility for cancellations

BY IAN DUNCAN
AND LORI ARATANI
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Airline executives, under a barrage of criticism from the public, lawmakers and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, have sought to shift blame for flight troubles this summer onto the nation's air traffic control system. But federal data shows that airlines themselves are the biggest reason for delays in recent months and bear responsibility for an unusually high share of cancellations.

The numbers, reported by airlines and released this past week by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, also confirm the experiences of many passengers: 2022 has been a rough year for air travel. Federal transportation officials say 88,161 flights were canceled through May — the second-most in the first five months of a year since 1988, topped only by 2020 during the emergence of the pandemic.

The jump in flight delays and cancellations — stemming from surging demand in an industry that shed tens of thousands of employees during the pandemic — prompted unusual rounds of public finger-pointing beginning this spring. It came as the nation's airports were recording their busiest days of the pandemic era, prompting unequipped airlines to boost worker pay incentives and pare back schedules.

The industry's criticism of air traffic controllers sparked rebuttals from the Federal Aviation Administration and Buttigieg, reminding passengers of their rights to refunds when airlines cancel flights or subject passengers to extended delays.

While air traffic control officials acknowledge their own pandemic-era challenges, data suggests that those issues haven't played a significant role in this year's airline struggles.

According to the Transportation Department figures, air carriers were directly responsible for about 41% of delays through May, a figure on par with last year but higher than before the pandemic. Late-arriving aircraft — another problem mostly attributable to airlines — accounted for an additional 37% of delays.

Problems with the nation's airspace, such as congestion, bad weather or staffing at air traffic control facilities, accounted for 17% of delays — the lowest level since officials began tracking the data in 2004. Extreme weather is its own category and accounted for about 5% of delays.

As for cancellations, problems attributed to airlines were cited in 38%

of cases, the highest rate since 2012. But the majority of cancellations involve circumstances beyond the carriers' control. Weather was cited in 55% of cases. National airspace problems, such as those involving air traffic control, accounted for 7% of cancellations.

Buttigieg said there are signs that air travel is becoming more reliable, even as cancellation rates continue to hover above acceptable levels.

"What I've emphasized to the airlines is we want to support them when they're doing the right thing. We're also here to enforce the rules when they're not," he said recently. "Anytime there's anything under FAA's control, they will work on it, but I want to be very, very clear here: That is not explaining the majority of delays."

Experts said the dispute between airlines and air traffic control probably reflects a desire by industry leaders to spread the blame after months of difficulties. Senior figures in the industry this past week signaled that they are ready to set aside the dispute, striking a more conciliatory tone.

In a Thursday earnings call, United Airlines chief executive Scott Kirby said he had personally apologized to Buttigieg after an internal company memo appeared to fault air traffic controllers for many of the carrier's tardy flights.

"I think the whole system is strained," Kirby said. "There's tight staffing everywhere, and that's a part of it. It's not unique to the FAA. It's everything in the whole economy, and certainly a big chunk of things that touch on aviation are tight."

Sharon Pinkerton, senior vice president for legislative and regulatory policy at the trade group Airlines for America, added: "We really are not interested in engaging in a finger-pointing exercise. We are focused on collaboration and trying to make sure that we're all focused on the things that are going to improve the operational reliability."

There are signs the labor issues that have plagued the industry are improving. Southwest Airlines employs more people than it did before the pandemic. Delta Air Lines officials said this month that the company has hired 18,000 people since 2021 and its workforce is 95% of pre-pandemic levels.

Airlines and the FAA routinely communicate to manage the skies. Air traffic controllers and airline managers meet virtually each afternoon to plan the next day's flights, with other meetings at least every two hours to share updates.



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Jay Acey, right, dressed as A-Train from the television series "The Boys," mingles with Maddox Cruz, 1, of Orange, Calif., outside Preview Night at the 2022 Comic-Con International on Wednesday, in San Diego.

Marvel teases new Avengers movies, 'Black Panther' sequel

Associated Press

Marvel Studios unveiled the first trailer for "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" — set to "No Woman No Cry" — to fans at Comic-Con on Saturday in San Diego.

It was just one part of the massive Hall H presentation, which also included first-looks at "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3," "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" and new information about Phase 6 of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, which will conclude with two Avengers movies in 2025: "Avengers: The Kang Dynasty" and "Avengers: Secret Wars."

"Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" director Ryan Coogler was on site in San Diego to preview the highly anticipated film, which is due to arrive in theaters on Nov. 11 and serve as the conclusion to Phase 4. Coogler paid tribute to Chadwick Boseman, who died in August 2020.

"The impact that he made on this industry will be felt forever," Coogler said.

After the massive success of "Black Panther" in 2018, plans for a sequel were quickly set into motion. But those were altered after Boseman's unexpected death from colon cancer. The studio said it would not recast Boseman's role of T'Challa, but very little has come out about the film in the years since. Production wrapped in March after several delays, one of which was due to an injury sustained by Letitia Wright, who plays T'Challa's brainy sister Shuri. Also returning are Lupita Nyong'o, Danai Gurira, Winston Duke and Angela Bassett, but not Daniel Kaluuya, whose "Nope" schedule conflicted.



MAX ULICHNEY, INVISION/AP

Daniel Golden, dressed as Captain Kirk, shines the shoes of Paul Forest, of Toronto, dressed as Spock, characters from "Star Trek," at day one of Comic-Con International on Thursday in San Diego.

Phase 5, Marvel Studios head Kevin Feige said, will kick off in February with "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" and conclude with "Thunderbolts" in July 2024. The new "Blade," starring Oscar-winner Mahershala Ali, also got a release date of Nov. 3, 2023, and "Captain America and the New World Order," featuring Anthony Mackie's Sam Wilson, will hit theaters on May 3, 2024.

The "Guardians of the Galaxy" will also come to an end in the midst of Phase 5 in May. Director James Gunn showed up in San Diego to confirm that "Vol. 3" would be the last for the space rogues. Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Karen Gillan and Dave Bautista are all returning for the film. New cast members include Will Poulter, as Guardians adversary Adam Warlock, and Maria Bakalova.

WORLD



AARON FAVILA/AP

Armed police walk inside the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon city, Philippines, on Sunday.

Shooter kills former mayor, 2 others on Philippine campus

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A gunman opened fire on a university campus in the Philippine capital region on Sunday, killing a former town mayor and two others in a brazen attack ahead of a graduation ceremony, police said.

The suspect was armed with two pistols and a silencer and was captured in a car he commandeered trying to escape the Ateneo de Manila University in suburban Quezon City, police said. He was blocked by witnesses and authorities outside the university gates.

The sprawling university was put under lockdown and the graduation rite at the law school on campus was canceled, police said.

Investigators were trying to determine a motive for the attack,

but Quezon City police chief Brig. Gen. Remus Medina said the suspect, apparently a medical doctor, had a long-running feud with Rosita Furigay, a former mayor of Lamitan town in southern Basilan province.

She died in the attack together with her aide and a university guard. Furigay's daughter, who was supposed to attend the graduation, was wounded and taken to a hospital, a police report said.

Video of the aftermath of the shooting showed students and officials in graduation gowns screaming and running away in panic in the lobby of the school building, while others tended to the victims who were sprawled on the ground in the driveway.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo, who was

supposed to be a speaker at the ceremony, was advised to turn back en route to the event, officials said.

Newly elected President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. promised to have the attack swiftly investigated and those behind the killings brought to justice. He is scheduled to address a joint session of Congress at the House of Representatives on Monday also in Quezon city, where police and other law enforcers had imposed a gun ban and heightened security before the shooting.

"We are shocked and saddened by the events at the Ateneo graduation today," Marcos said. "We mourn with the bereaved, the wounded and those whose scars from this experience will run deep."

Alleged Abe assassin to be mentally evaluated

Associated Press

TOKYO — The alleged assassin of Japan's former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will be detained until late November for mental evaluation so prosecutors can determine whether to formally press charges and send him to trial for murder, officials said Monday.

The suspect, Tetsuya Yamagami, was arrested immediately after he allegedly shot Abe from behind when the former leader was making a campaign speech outside a busy train station in western Japan on July 8.

The Nara District Court said it had granted permission for district prosecutors to detain the suspect for psychiatric examination until Nov. 29, when they must de-

cide whether to file formal charges. His current detention was to expire later this month.

Yamagami, 41, has told police he killed Abe because of his links to a religious group he hated. His reported statements and other evidence suggest he was distressed because his mother's massive donations to the Unification Church had bankrupted the family.

Abe's assassination has shed a light on his and his party's decadeslong questionable links to the conservative church.

Members of the country's main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan met on Monday and confirmed plans to pursue an investigation into how the

church influenced the governing Liberal Democratic Party's objections to a legal change to allow same-sex marriages or for married couples to keep separate surnames.

The party also said it will investigate if the new government's unit for children, to be launched next spring, added "families" as part of its agency name because of the church's pressure.

The church was founded in Seoul in 1954, a year after the end of the Korean War, by the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon, the self-proclaimed messiah whose teachings are backed by new interpretations of the Bible and conservative, family-oriented value systems and strong anti-communism.

Pope apologizes for assimilation tactics in Canada

Associated Press

MASKWACIS, Alberta — Pope Francis has apologized for the Catholic Church's cooperation with Canada's "devastating" policy of Indigenous residential schools, saying the forced assimilation of Native peoples into Christian society destroyed their cultures, severed their families and marginalized generations in ways still being felt today.

"I humbly beg forgiveness for the evil committed by so many Christians against the Indigenous peoples," Francis said near the site of the former Ermineskin Indian Residential School, now largely torn down, on lands of four Cree nations south of Edmonton, Alberta.

The long-awaited apology opened Francis' weeklong "penitential pilgrimage" to Canada, which is meant to help the church on its path of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and help victims heal.

Francis' words on Monday went beyond his earlier apology for the "deplorable" acts of missionaries and instead took responsibility for the church's institutional cooperation with the "catastrophic" assimilation policy, which Canada's

Truth and Reconciliation Commission has said amounted to a "cultural genocide."

When Francis arrived at the site Monday, he prayed at a cemetery near the site of the former school before being escorted by four chiefs to a gathering of thousands of Indigenous peoples. After a traditional Indigenous hand drummer played and sang to welcome Francis, the pope prayed in silence and the sun peeked out after a morning of rain.

One of the hosts of the event, Chief Randy Ermineskin of the Ermineskin Cree Nation, waited for the pope in a nearby parking lot and took stock of the historic import of the day.

"My late family members are not here with us anymore, my parents went to residential school, I went to residential school," he told The Associated Press, dressed in a traditional feathered Cree head-dress. "I know they're with me, they're listening, they're watching."

Many in the crowd wore traditional dress, including ribbon skirts and vests with Native motifs. Others donned orange shirts, which has become a symbol of residential school survivors.

Mideast nations face full effects of climate change

Associated Press

CAIRO — Temperatures in the Middle East have risen far faster than the world's average in the past three decades. Precipitation has been decreasing, and experts have predicted droughts will come with greater frequency and severity.

The Middle East is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to the impact of climate change — and already the effects are being seen.

In Iraq, intensified sandstorms have repeatedly smothered cities this year, shutting down commerce and sending thousands to hospitals. Rising soil salinity in Egypt's Nile Delta is eating away at crucial farmland. In Afghanistan, drought has helped fuel the migration of young people from their villages, searching for jobs. In recent weeks, temperatures in some parts of the region have topped 122 Fahrenheit.

This year's annual U.N. climate

change conference, known as COP27, is being held in Egypt in November, throwing a spotlight on the region. Governments across the Middle East have awakened to the dangers of climate change, particularly to the damage it is already inflicting on their economies.

"We're literally seeing the effects right in front of us. ... These impacts are not something that will hit us nine or 10 years down the line," said Lama El Hatow, an environmental climate change consultant who has worked with the World Bank and specializes on the Middle East and North Africa.

"More and more, states are starting to understand that it's necessary" to act, she said.

Egypt, Morocco and other countries in the region have been stepping up initiatives for clean energy. But a top priority for them at COP-27 is to push for more international funding to help them deal with the dangers they are already facing from climate change.



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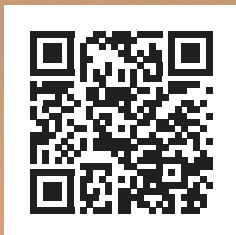


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WORLD

Bus drives off Kenyan bridge, lands in river

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — The death toll from a bus accident in central Kenya has risen to 30, police said Monday.

The passenger bus carrying an unknown number of people on Sunday evening fell off a bridge and plunged into a river along a highway from Meru to the capital, Nairobi.

The bus “must have developed brake failure, because it was at a very high speed when the accident happened,” said senior police offi-

cial Rono Bunei. Bunei said early Monday that the death toll grew to 30 from 24 overnight, with others hospitalized with injuries.

The accident is the latest in a series of deadly crashes in Kenya — and across the wider East African region — where roads are often narrow and police blame speeding drivers for crashes.

At least 20 passengers were killed on July 8 in a crash along the highway from Nairobi to the coastal city of Mombasa.



DENNIS DIBONDO/AP

People look Monday at the wreckage of a bus that plunged from the Nithi bridge on Sunday, in Kenya.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market




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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Sailfish leaps from water, injures woman off coast

FL STUART — A 70-year-old woman was stabbed by the bill of a 100-pound sailfish that leapt out of the water and attacked her as her companions were trying to reel it in on a boat near the Florida coast, authorities said.

The sailfish stabbed the woman from Arnold, Md., in the groin area with its pointed bill Tuesday while she was standing in the boat as two companions tried to bring it in on a fishing line about two miles offshore from Stuart, Fla., according to a report from the Martin County Sheriff's Office.

The companions applied pressure to the wound, and the woman was taken to Stuart for medical treatment.

Sailfish are among the fastest fish species in the ocean and, like the swordfish, are recognizable by their extended, pointed bills.

Driver crashes into crowd in Savannah, injuring 4

GA SAVANNAH — An elderly person accidentally drove through a popular tourist and shopping district in downtown Savannah on Saturday evening, injuring four people, police said.

Savannah police tweeted that two adults were seriously injured and two juveniles suffered minor injuries after the driver drove through Ellis Square.

The square is surrounded by restaurants and shops and features a large water fountain that is a popular attraction for kids to splash around in.

Police did not immediately say what caused the driver to crash or whether the driver would be charged.

Stock trader out of jail after tunnel fire sentence

MD BETHESDA — A wealthy stock trader has been released from prison early after he was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the death of a man he'd hired to dig tunnels under his home.

News outlets reported that Daniel Beckwitt was released from prison Friday.

The Bethesda resident was initially convicted of murder in the September 2017 death of 21-year-old Askia Khafra. But an appeals court tossed out the murder conviction and he was resentenced in March to five years in prison for involuntary manslaughter.

His release was not unexpected; he had already been incarcerated for about three years and was already eligible for parole when the judge imposed his 5-year sentence in March.

Beckwitt, who had a paranoid fear about a North Korean nuclear attack, hired Khafra to dig tunnels that would connect his home to a bunker. Firefighters found Khafra's body in the basement of Beckwitt's home. Prosecutors said the extreme



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Gone fishing

An angler casts a line at Ranger Lake outside the moose visitor center in State Forest State Park on Saturday near Walden, Colo.

hoarding conditions in the home prevented him from escaping.

Authorities say man killed while robbing dispensary

OK THACKERVILLE — A man was fatally shot while trying to rob a marijuana dispensary at gunpoint, according to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.

Two men who have not been identified entered Border Buds in Thackerville near the Oklahoma-Texas state line about 125 miles south of Oklahoma City on Thursday night and demanded money and marijuana, the OSBI said.

One of the men then showed his gun to the clerk, who said he was also armed, according to the OSBI. The robber then shot at the clerk, who returned fire and killed the man.

The second man fled and has not been found, authorities said.

3 funeral attendees shot outside of Chicago church

IL CHICAGO — A drive-by shooter wounded three men who were taking a picture outside of a Chicago church as they gathered for a funeral service Saturday afternoon, police said.

All three victims were transported to local hospitals in good condi-

tion, according to Chicago police.

At approximately 2:30 p.m., someone inside a gray sedan drove by and opened fire at a group of funeral attendees who were taking a picture outside of Universal Community Missionary Baptist Church in the Roseland neighborhood on Chicago's South Side, The Sun-Times reported.

A 20-year-old man was shot in the abdomen, a 37-year-old man was shot in the thigh and a 25-year-old man was shot in the back.

Man allegedly fired shots, damaged federal building

TN KNOXVILLE — A man accused of firing shots at a federal courthouse in Tennessee has been charged with destruction of government property.

Mark Thomas Reno is accused of firing at the federal building in Knoxville on July 3 and damaging three windows, according to court documents. Reno was remanded to custody during a detention hearing Thursday on the single charge.

An FBI affidavit said Reno was under surveillance as part of an undercover investigation and a tracking device showed his vehicle at the federal building at the time shots were fired. Security cameras on the federal building also captured video of the vehicle, the affidavit said.

An undercover FBI agent who

met with Reno before the building was damaged said the defendant attended the U.S. Capitol riot on Jan. 6, 2021, but there's no evidence he broke any laws. The affidavit also said Reno belongs to a group with a mission to resist actions that oppose Catholic orthodoxy and that he made a number of statements about identifying targets and destroying property, including government buildings.

Man accused of threats to shoot grocery shoppers

WA SEATTLE — A suburban Seattle man has been arrested and accused of threatening to shoot Black customers at a grocery store in Buffalo, N.Y., according to a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court.

Joey George, 37, is charged with making interstate threats, The Seattle Times reported.

George phoned a Buffalo grocery store twice this month threatening to shoot Black people in the store and ranting about a "race war," the complaint said.

On May 14, a shooter killed 10 Black people and hurt several others at Tops Friendly Supermarket in Buffalo. A 19-year-old white man with ties to white supremacy has pleaded not guilty to federal hate crime charges.

George did not call the same store

but referenced it in his threat, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said George is also being charged in connection with a May call to a restaurant in San Bruno, Calif., in which he allegedly threatened to shoot Black and Hispanic patrons, and with making other threatening calls to businesses in Maryland, Connecticut and Washington over the last year.

5 killed in head-on collision of 2 vehicles on highway

TX TYLER — A car driving on the wrong side of a two-lane highway in East Texas early Friday collided with an SUV, killing all five people in the vehicles, authorities said.

The collision happened at about 5 a.m. on Texas 110, about 6½ miles northwest of Tyler and 85 miles east of Dallas, the Texas Department of Public Safety said.

A Dodge Charger was on the wrong side of the unlit highway and erupted into flames after rounding a curve and slamming head-on into a Chevrolet Tahoe, DPS Sgt. Jason Bundy said.

No evidence of alcohol or drug use was found at the crash scene, but excessive speed by the car may have been a factor, Bundy said. No identities have been released.

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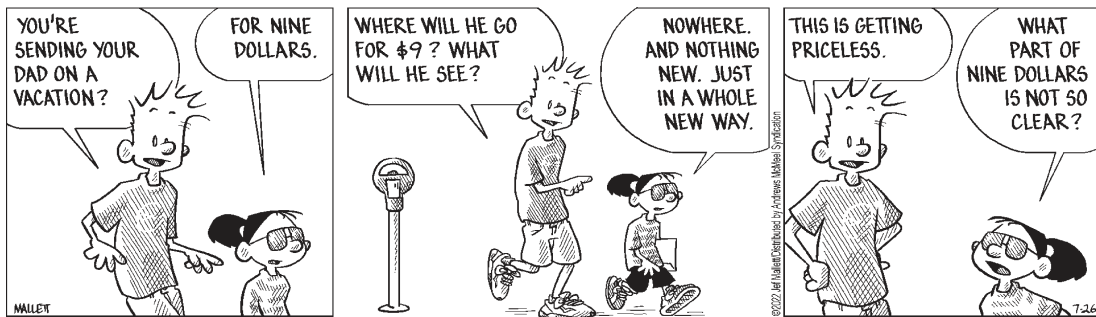
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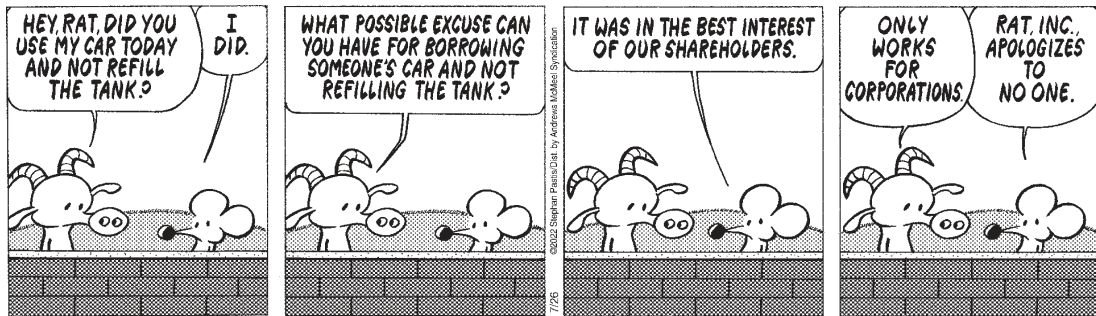
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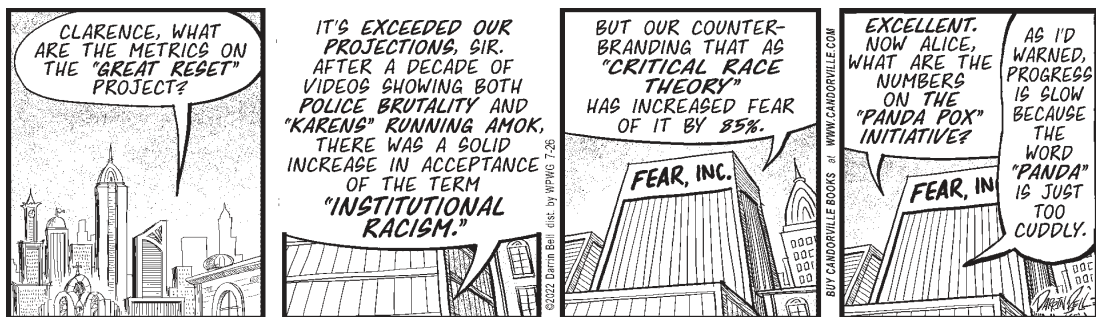
Pearls Before Swine



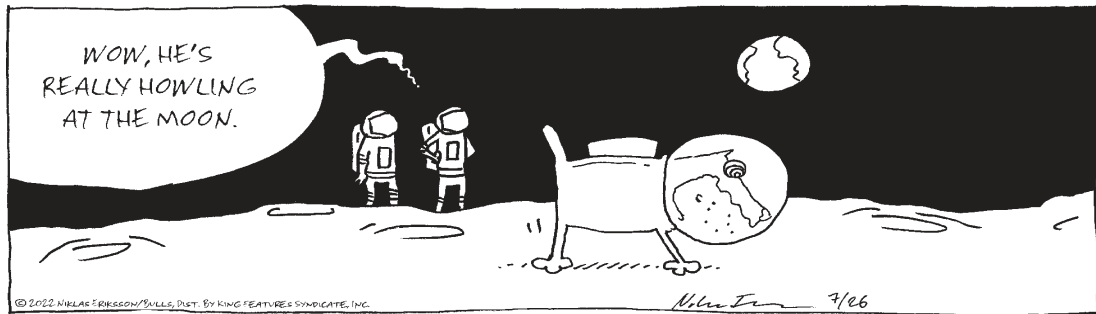
Non Sequitur



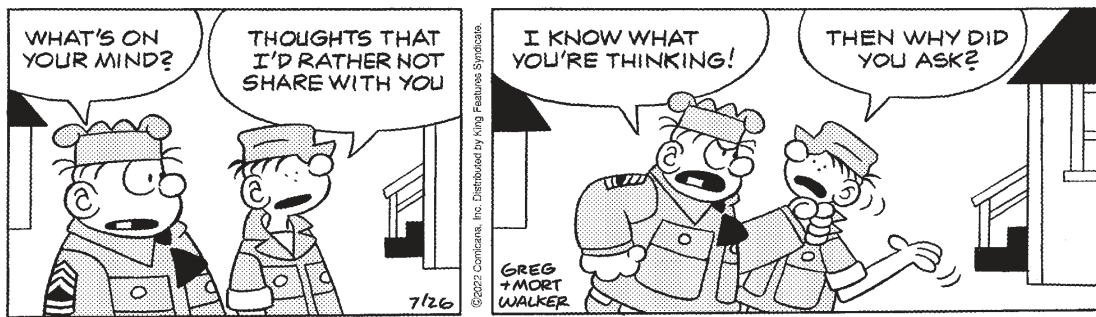
Candorville



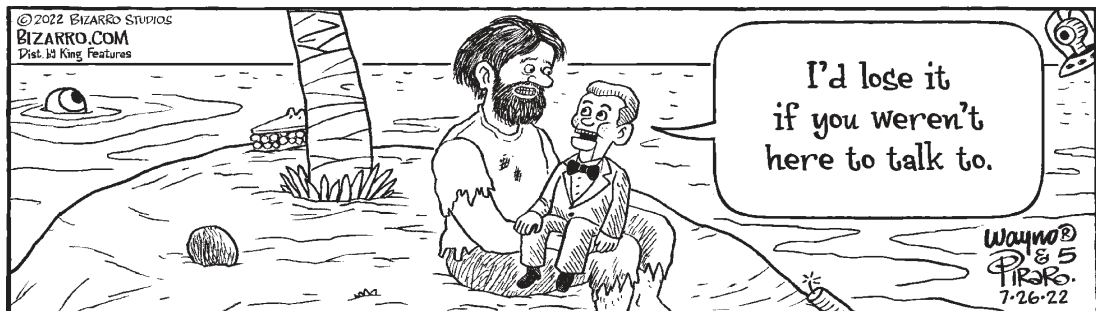
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

11x11 crossword grid with numbers 1-53 indicating starting positions for clues.

ACROSS

- 1 Pop singer Céline
5 "It's c-c-cold!"
8 Cicatrix
12 Vicinity
13 Fib
14 Sharpen
15 Huge kudos
17 Assess
18 Blue
19 Shadowed
21 Pretended
24 Decorate
25 Rascallions
26 Campus cafeteria offering
30 Carnival city
31 Long skirts
32 Oklahoma tribe
33 '80s arcade game
35 Castle defense
36 Eyeglass frames
37 Smooths, as wood
38 Source of gum arabic
41 Numerical prefix
42 Composer Bartok
43 Performance bonus
48 Japanese noodle
49 "Rocks"
50 Rights org.

- 51 Head, to Henri
52 Fine, at NASA
53 Detail

- 23 Music genre for BTS
24 Plano's state
26 Abba-inspired musical
27 Lake bird
28 Slightly
29 Forget-me- (flowers)
31 1102, to Nero
34 Esoteric
35 Rum cocktail
37 Hindu honorific
38 Border on
39 Give up
40 Oodles
41 Arduous journey
44 Author Umberto
45 Agt.'s cut
46 Hearty brew
47 "Tasty!"

DOWN

- 1 River blocker
2 A Gershwin brother
3 British ref. work
4 Italian port
5 Huff and puff
6 Wardrobe malfunction
7 Check
8 Tempura choice
9 Furnace fuel
10 Pay to play
11 Clarinet insert
16 Scepter
19 Japanese noodle
20 Feels unwell
21 Mattress option
22 Writer Kingsley

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Grid for crossword answers with clues and a solution time of 22 mins.

7-26

CRYPTOQUIP

Q J B U V W P J U R U N W Y P
W Y R U N K V G Y U B D W R U R T Y E I T L B I T
Q J W D G B U B V K R W I J B D D ' R
L B N N E E V ? I G D D E R J E U R .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PARCEL OF PROPERTY SPECIALLY ALLOCATED FOR HUMPED ANIMALS TO CONSTRUCT HOMES ON: CAMEL-LOT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals G

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

Biden's Mideast trip was promising in context

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By ARTHUR I. CYR

Special to Stars and Stripes

President Joe Biden's trip to Israel and Saudi Arabia highlights the stark contrasts between two very different, very important nations in the Mideast. The former, our closest ally in the region, is a democracy with tremendous assets.

The latter is a fragile entity, entirely dependent on one asset — petroleum. Biden was effective in referencing the grotesque murder of dissident Jamal Khashoggi, without publicly insulting the Saudi government. The radical regime in Iran reinforces United States ties for both nations.

Regional instability, reinforced by terrorist groups, plus U.S. self-interest makes the Mideast especially challenging.

The 1956 Suez Crisis remains particularly important. President Dwight Eisenhower used leverage to end a secretly planned old-style colonial military invasion by Britain, France and Israel to recapture the Suez Canal, nationalized by Egypt's new military regime, and seize the Sinai Peninsula.

Ike's instincts were on target, as usual, and our alliance relationships survived. In Britain, Harold Macmillan succeeded Victorian Prime Minister Anthony Eden, who belatedly acknowledged that the U.S. is the principal diplomatic and strategic leader, source of weapons as well as positive foreign aid, and other capabilities, in the Mideast and around the world.

Approximately two years after Suez brought strategic disaster for the three invading nations, Eisenhower decided U.S.

forces should intervene directly in Lebanon with a sizable military force. Given the volatile nature of the region, the intervention was risky.

American troops suffered only one soldier killed by hostile fire. Our forces were concentrated in Beirut's city center, the port and the airport. The crisis did not escalate, and Eisenhower withdrew our forces. In Washington, opposition to the operation was largely partisan in nature.

Disciplined decision-making by Eisenhower contrasts sharply with the undisciplined, arrogant manner in which the George W. Bush administration in 2003 invaded and structurally destroyed Iraq. Our forces went to Lebanon in 1958 to occupy specific, potentially vulnerable areas, on a mission strictly limited in time as well as space.

In 1973, disciplined hard work of the Nixon administration was crucial to Israel's successful defense against a combined attack by Arab states. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger led follow-up efforts to ease tensions in the region.

This led to major peace agreements. President Jimmy Carter's own determination and discipline achieved the historic 1978 Camp David peace agreement between Egypt and Israel.

In 1990-91, President George H.W. Bush and associates orchestrated an enormous international effort to drive invading Iraq forces from Kuwait. Immediately thereafter, the U.S. pursued efforts for peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Secretary of State James Baker demon-

strated extraordinary energy and dedication in sustained diplomacy that followed. The Madrid conference at the end of October 1991 led to the Oslo accords between Israel and the Palestinians. This in turn facilitated the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan in 1994.

U.S. military involvement in the Middle East in recent years has tended to be less substantial. The U.S. has spearheaded the sustained international effort that successfully defeated and largely destroyed the radical fundamentalist Islamic State movement. The Obama administration engaged in limited efforts to assist armed opponents of the Bashar Assad regime in Syria.

Today, scholars rightly respect Eisenhower, always revered by average Americans. The rarely discussed Lebanon intervention deserves review any time our forces may become directly engaged in the explosive, unpredictable Middle East.

After the Suez crisis, the Soviet Union cemented ties with Arab states. This ended with the end of the Cold War; President George H.W. Bush cemented American leadership.

Today Iran, Russia and Turkey expand Mideast influence. The first is hostile to stability; the second, our principal enemy during the Cold War; the last, our formal ally but antagonistic.

The Trump administration deserves credit for brokering recognition between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, plus Bahrain. The Biden administration can build on this.

Arthur I. Cyr is author of "After the Cold War."

Refugee camp is incubating the next-generation ISIS

By JOSEPH L. VOTEL

Special to The Washington Post

Soon after taking over as commander of U.S. Central Command in April, Gen. Michael "Erik" Kurilla visited the al-Hol refugee camp in northeastern Syria. The visit brought welcome and necessary attention to the camp, where roughly 60,000 people — a large majority of whom are women and children — live in squalid conditions.

Most of the inhabitants are family members of Islamic State fighters who were killed or captured as their so-called caliphate collapsed. The need to relieve their plight by arranging long-term resettlement was obvious as the general toured the camp.

Unfortunately, al-Hol is not a new problem. As commander of U.S. Central Command from 2016 to 2019, I saw this problem brewing late in 2018, when the fight against ISIS neared its conclusion, and both the victims and families of ISIS fighters had nowhere to go. By the spring, with the allied military campaign ending, we had begun working with our Syrian Democratic Forces partners to evacuate ISIS family members left behind to a location where they could be safeguarded, supported and ultimately returned to their countries of origin.

That place was al-Hol. We did not intend for it to be a long-term displacement camp, because consolidating these ISIS family members for an extended period could mean planting the seeds of future violence. We knew a massive, concerted effort to repatriate, rehabilitate and reintegrate these families was required. Hauntingly, as they boarded buses after the last battles and headed for al-Hol,

many were singing songs about the glory of ISIS and reminding us they would return to slaughter us all.

The best opportunity to address a problem like this is always at the beginning — when appreciation for the threat is at its highest, providing the attention and momentum for resolution. Unfortunately, we — the U.S. government and all of our coalition partners — failed to do that, and the situation at al-Hol has now festered for nearly three and a half years — with little discernible progress.

Only 25 of almost 60 countries have stepped up and repatriated their citizens who are at al-Hol, according to a 2021 Human Rights Watch study. That response is certainly inadequate — if anything, the camp's population is swelling, with not enough to address the volume of people housed at this camp, where more than 60 babies are born monthly.

There are reports that violence in the camp is rising dramatically, with more than 90 murders in the previous year, the United Nations said in March. Visits by humanitarian organizations are met with disdain, suspicion and outright threats.

Moreover, we are leaving the security of this camp to our Syrian Democratic Forces partners, sandwiched between the Russians and Turks, all while securing a restless foreign-fighter camp, disrupting ISIS remnants and with little political support.

It is a lousy and irresponsible situation — and I am alarmed to see that what we feared several years ago is coming to fruition.

The region has a sad history of long-term displaced-person camps. Lebanon stands out as one of several states where they have existed for decades. Al-Hol threatens U.S. national

security interests by nurturing instability, promoting violent rhetoric and indoctrination, and allowing those who harbor ill-will against the United States and its allies to continue recruiting and radicalizing. Resolving this problem would mitigate a long-term threat to U.S. security at home and in the region.

An international interagency task force is urgently needed to develop concrete solutions. The United States or another major Western nation should lead it. Military resources can help — but they should not lead the effort; instead, diplomatic, legal and international nongovernmental organization leadership is required. Every option should be considered for motivating and incentivizing countries to repatriate, rehabilitate and reintegrate their citizens from al-Hol.

Iraq is a central challenge in this problem, as the majority of families at the camp trace back to that country, with its ever-turbulent political landscape. None of this will be easy — there will be thorny issues around the citizenship of children at al-Hol, and many adults there lack legal documentation. Undoubtedly, there will be countless difficult matters to resolve. But that shouldn't deter us from taking the action we know is necessary.

Al-Hol is a job unfinished. I can almost guarantee that if we allow conditions there to go on, unresolved, in the coming years we will find ourselves being drawn back to the region, to deal with a next-generation ISIS that got its start at al-Hol.

Joseph L. Votel, a retired four-star general in the U.S. Army, served as commander of U.S. Central Command from 2016 to 2019. He is a distinguished senior fellow on national security at the Middle East Institute.

FACES

TV with bite

Shark Week developers hope to thrill, educate viewers with celebrity hosts, new discoveries

BY MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

If you think you're safe avoiding sharks by simply staying out of the water, think again.

A few species of epaulette sharks have evolved to move their pectoral fins in the front and pelvic fins in the back to plod along outside the water at low tide. Just to be perfectly clear: That's on land.

Relax, none are going to chase you home. They're just wriggling.

"They're not sprinting. There are no ankle-biters coming to get anybody. It's just this fascinating behavior taking place," says wildlife conservationist and biologist Forrest Galante.

So-called walking sharks of Papua New Guinea are among the stars of this year's Shark Week, with 25 hours of programming through July 31 dedicated to all varieties of the apex predators. The shows will air on the Discovery Channel and AFN-Spectrum and stream on discovery+.

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson will be the week's recurring master of ceremonies — a first such role in the 34 years of Shark Week. Celebrities with shows include the stars of truTV's "Impractical Jokers," the cast of "Jackass" and comedian Tracy Morgan making his Shark Week debut.

Morgan teams up with shark experts — including his 9-year-old shark-crazy daughter, Maven So-nae, who has a 20,000-gallon fish tank in her backyard — to identify the craziest and most ferocious in the ocean. "She's my best co-star ever," says Morgan. "She's always been into marine life since she was a baby."

The programming includes a

look at giant makos off the Azores, great whites off Cape Cod and in South Africa, hammerheads in The Bahamas, mysterious cold-water sharks in Alaska and tiger sharks in Turks and Caicos.

As always, there is a deep respect for the creatures and strong science beneath the amusing titles and premises, like "Jaws vs Kraken," "Dawn of the Monster Mako" and "Great White Serial Kill: Fatal Christmas."

"Sharks are an incredibly vital part of our ocean. And as a scientist and science communicator, I want to do everything in my power to spread what wonderful, interesting and unique creatures they are and how important the protection of these creatures is," says Galante, whose show "Island of Walking Sharks" airs Wednesday.

One of the more spectacular sights is never-before-seen footage of a pack of orcas killing a great white off the coast of South Africa. "It's just such an incredible but very sinister and worrying set of events," said Alison Towner, a marine biologist at the Dyer Island Conservation Trust. "I think it's going to really blow the world's mind."

Towner is also part of the all-female-led show "Shark Women: Ghosted by Great Whites," which tries to unravel the mystery of why great white populations are thinning and highlights Zandile Ndhlovu, South Africa's first Black African free diving instructor.

Veteran filmmaker Jeff Kurr is behind the 90-minute documentary "Great White Open Ocean," which centers on shark diving expert Jimi Partington as he works to overcome the post-traumatic



WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY/AP photos

Shark Week offers 25 hours of programming dedicated to a wide spread of the apex predators including the great white shark (pictured). Shows air through Sunday on AFN-Spectrum and stream on discovery+.

stress disorder he developed following a recorded, near-fatal run-in with a great white shark in 2020.

"We captured a sequence where he was actually hit by a 16-foot great white, knocked into the air — the shark with its mouth agape, literally an inch away from him — and somehow he survived this without a scratch," says Kurr. "Still when I watch it, I get heart palpitations. I was there. I was standing there watching it happen and I thought he was dead."

Shark Week was born as a counterpoint for those who developed a fear of sharks and a desire to eradicate them after seeing "Jaws." It has lured scientists eager to protect an animal older than trees.

"Shark Week allows me to share my work on these amazing stories with millions of people," says Galante. "I want millions of people to fall in love with sharks. And that's what Shark Week allows me to do year after year."



Biologist Forrest Galante displays a Papuan epaulette shark, which has fins that enable it to "walk" back to water if stranded at low tide.

Jordan Peele's 'Nope' takes out 'Thor' sequel at box office

From wire reports

"Nope," the latest freaky film directed by Jordan Peele, scared up \$44 million in its opening weekend to win the North American box office.

The victory ended a two-week streak for Marvel's "Thor: Love and Thunder," which added \$22.1 million during its third weekend in theaters.

"Nope," which Peele also wrote and produced, stars Daniel Kaluuya and Keke Palmer as Hollywood horse trainers who try to capture definitive proof of aliens as a mysterious terror wreaks havoc in the sky.

The science fiction horror film is the third movie to be written and directed by Peele, who previously earned acclaim for 2017's "Get Out" and 2019's "Us."

With "Nope," Peele has achieved a rare Hollywood hat trick: His first three feature films have debuted at No. 1 at the domestic box office.

The latest weekend haul for "Thor: Love and Thunder" boosted the superhero sequel's domestic earnings to \$276 million. It's made \$598 million worldwide.

"Minions: The Rise of Gru" made \$17.7 million, enough for third place. The Steve Carell-led family flick has made \$297 million in North America and \$640 million worldwide since its July 1 release.

The mystery thriller "Where the Crawdads Sing" added \$10.3 million in its second weekend in theaters to come in fourth, while "Top Gun: Maverick" made another \$10 million to finish fifth. The sequel starring Tom Cruise has made \$635 million in North America and more than \$1.2 billion globally.

WWE's McMahon says he is retiring amid misconduct probe

World Wrestling Entertainment impresario Vince McMahon announced July 22 that

he is retiring amid an investigation into alleged misconduct involving the flamboyant showman who turned a small wrestling company into a worldwide entertainment business.

In a brief statement issued by WWE, McMahon said he is retiring as the company's chairman and CEO. He noted that he remains its majority shareholder.

McMahon stepped down temporarily as CEO and chairman of WWE in mid-June during an investigation into alleged misconduct. The Wall Street Journal reported this month that McMahon has agreed to pay more than \$12 million over the past 16 years to suppress allegations of sexual misconduct and infidelity.

McMahon said his daughter, Stephanie, who was named interim CEO and chairperson last month, will serve as chairperson and share CEO duties with Nick Khan, who joined the company in 2020.

Other news

■ Actor **James Caan** died of a heart attack and coronary artery disease, the Los Angeles County medical examiner confirmed July 23, according to Deadline. Caan, best known for his Oscar-nominated turn as Sonny Corleone in 1972's "The Godfather," died on July 6 at 82.

■ The **2023 Eurovision Song Contest** will be hosted by the UK, as the war in Ukraine prevents the reigning champions from holding the competition. Eurovision 2022, held in Italy, attracted 161 million views, according to its website. Ukrainian entrants Kalush Orchestra performed the winning song "Stefania."

■ Iconic Mexican painter **Frida Kahlo** will be the subject of an upcoming musical with music by Mexican composer Jaime Lozano and lyrics by playwright Neena Beber. The musical has the blessing of the Kahlo family.

SCOREBOARD

SOCCER

MLS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	11	2	9	42	34	15
NYCFC	12	4	5	41	41	21
New York	10	6	6	36	34	25
CF Montréal	11	8	2	35	36	36
Orlando City	8	8	6	30	26	31
Columbus	7	5	9	30	27	22
Cincinnati	7	8	7	28	33	38
Charlotte FC	8	12	2	26	25	31
Chicago	7	10	5	26	24	28
New England	6	7	8	26	32	34
Inter Miami CF	7	10	4	25	22	33
Atlanta	6	9	6	24	29	33
Toronto FC	6	12	4	22	30	39
D.C. United	5	12	3	18	26	43

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LAFC	14	4	3	45	42	22
Austin FC	12	5	5	41	45	28
Minnesota	10	8	4	34	31	26
Real Salt Lake	9	7	6	33	28	27
FC Dallas	8	6	8	32	32	25
Nashville	8	7	7	31	28	28
LA Galaxy	9	9	3	30	30	27
Portland	7	6	9	30	35	31
Seattle	9	10	2	29	28	25
Vancouver	7	10	5	26	24	37
Houston	7	11	4	25	28	31
Colorado	6	9	6	24	25	29
San Jose	5	9	7	22	34	43
Sporting KC	5	13	5	20	19	40

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

Sunday's games

New York 4, Austin FC 3
LA Galaxy 2, Atlanta 0

Friday's game

Seattle at Los Angeles FC

Saturday, July 30

Portland at Minnesota
Atlanta at Chicago
Columbus at Charlotte FC
New York City FC at CF Montréal
Houston at Philadelphia
Cincinnati at Miami
Vancouver at Nashville
Toronto FC at New England
Austin FC at Sporting Kansas City
LA Galaxy at FC Dallas
Real Salt Lake at San Jose

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego	6	3	4	22	19	11
Portland	5	1	6	21	29	10
Chicago	5	2	5	20	20	16
Houston	5	4	3	18	20	14
Kansas City	5	4	3	18	12	14
OL Reign	4	3	5	17	11	9
Angel City	5	4	2	17	10	11
Orlando	3	5	4	13	12	26
Gotham FC	4	6	0	12	7	18
Louisville	2	5	5	11	13	18
Washington	1	5	7	10	11	15
North Carolina	2	5	2	8	14	16

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

Friday's games

Washington at North Carolina
Portland at Louisville

Saturday, July 30

San Diego at Chicago
OL Reign at Angel City

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Chicago	21	7	.750	—
Connecticut	19	9	.679	2
Washington	17	11	.607	4
Atlanta	12	16	.429	9
New York	10	17	.370	10½
Indiana	5	25	.167	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Las Vegas	20	8	.714	—
Seattle	18	10	.643	2
Los Angeles	12	15	.444	7½
Dallas	12	15	.444	7½
Phoenix	12	16	.429	8
Minnesota	10	19	.345	10½

x-clinched playoff spot

Sunday's games

Dallas 96, Indiana 86
Seattle 82, Atlanta 72
Connecticut 86, Minnesota 79

Monday's games

No games scheduled.

CYCLING

Tour de France

Sunday 21st (Final) Stage

A 115.6-km (71.8-mile) Paris La Defense Arena—Paris Champs-Elysees

1. Jasper Philipsen, Belgium, Alpecin-Deceuninck, 2:58:32.
2. Dylan Groenewegen, Netherlands, Team BikeExchange-Jayco, same time.
3. Alexander Kristoff, Norway, Inter-marche-Wanty-Gobert, same time.
4. Jasper Stuyven, Belgium, Trek-Segafredo, same time.
5. Peter Sagan, Slovakia, Total Energies, same time.
6. Jeremy Lecoq, France, B&B Hotels-KTM, same time.
7. Danny van Poppel, Netherlands, BO-RA-hansgrohe, same time.
8. Caleb Ewan, Australia, Lotto Soudal, same time.
9. Hugo Hofstetter, France, Team Arkea-Samsic, same time.
10. Fred Wright, Great Britain, Bahrain Victorious, same time.

Also

24. Matteo Jorgenson, United States, Movistar Team, same time.
45. Neilson Powless, United States, EF Education-EasyPost, same time.
79. Sepp Kuss, United States, Jumbo-Visma, :51 behind.
83. Brandon McNulty, United States, UAE Team Emirates, :53.
90. Joe Dombrowski, United States, Astana-Qazaqstan, :53.
114. Quinn Simmons, United States, Trek Segafredo, 1:52.

Overall Standings

1. Jonas Vingegaard, Denmark, Jumbo-Visma, 79:33:20.
2. Tadej Pogacar, Slovenia, UAE Team Emirates, 2:43 behind.
3. Geraint Thomas, Great Britain, Ineos Grenadiers, 7:22.
4. David Gaudu, France, Groupama-FDJ, 13:39.
5. Aleksandr Vlasov, Russia, Bora-Hansgrohe, 15:46.
6. Nairo Quintana, Colombia, Team Arkea-Samsic, 16:33.
7. Romain Bardet, France, Team DSM, 18:11.
8. Louis Meintjes, South Africa, Inter-marche-Wanty-Gobert Materiaux, 18:44.
9. Alexey Lutsenko, Kazakhstan, Astana-Qazaqstan Team, 22:56.
10. Adam Yates, Great Britain, Ineos Grenadiers, 24:52.

Young Riders Standings

1. Tadej Pogacar, Slovenia, UAE Team Emirates, 79:36:03.
2. Thomas Pidcock, Great Britain, Ineos Grenadiers, 58:32 behind.
3. Brandon McNulty, United States, UAE Team Emirates, 1:28:36.
4. Matteo Jorgenson, United States, Movistar Team, 1:31:14.
5. Andreas Leknessund, Norway, Team DSM, 1:54:48.

Mountain Standings

1. Jonas Vingegaard, Denmark, Jumbo-Visma, 72 points.
2. Simon Geschke, Germany, COFIDIS, 65.
2. Giulio Ciccone, Italy, Trek-Segafredo, 61.
4. Tadej Pogacar, Slovenia, UAE Team Emirates, 61.
5. Wout van Aert, Belgium, Jumbo-Visma, 59.

TENNIS

Swiss Open

Sunday At Roy Emerson Arena Gstaad, Switzerland

Purse: Euro 534,555
Surface: Red clay

Men's Singles Championship

Casper Ruud (1), Norway, def. Matteo Berrettini (2), Italy, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2.

Men's Doubles Championship

Tomislav Brkic, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Francisco Cabral, Portugal, def. Robin Haase, Netherlands, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, 6-4, 6-4.

Palermo Ladies Open

Sunday At Country Time Club Palermo, Italy

Purse: Euro 203,024
Surface: Red clay

Women's Singles Championship

Irina-Camelia Begu (6), Romania, def. Lucia Bronzetti, Italy, 6-2, 6-2.

Women's Doubles Championship

Kimberley Zimmermann, Belgium, and Anna Bondar (3), Hungary, def. Amina Anshba, Russia, and Panna Udvardy, Hungary, 6-3, 6-2.

Hamburg European Open

Sunday At Am Rothenbaum Rot-Weiss Tennis Club

Hamburg, Germany
Purse: Euro 1,770,865
Surface: Red clay

Men's Singles Championship

Lorenzo Musetti, Italy, def. Carlos Alcaraz (1), Spain, 6-4, 6-7 (6), 6-4.

Men's Doubles Championship

Harri Heliövaara, Finland, and Lloyd Glasspool, Britain, def. Rohan Bopanna, India, and Matwe Middelkoop (4), Netherlands, 6-2, 6-4.

DEALS

Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL

American League

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Optioned RHP Davis Marin to Charlotte (IL).

DETROIT TIGERS — Optioned INF Zack Short to Toledo (IL). Reinstated RHP Rony Garcia from the 15-day IL. Placed RHP Michael Pineda on the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP Angel De Jesus from Toledo.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Optioned LHP Parker Mushinski to Sugar Land (PCL). Activated RHP Ryan Pressly from the pater-nity list.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Reinstated RHP Ron Marinaccio from the 15-day IL. Designated RHP Shane Greene for assignment.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Recalled RHP Corbin Marin from Reno (PCL). Op-

tioned RHP Edwin Uceta to Reno.

MIAMI MARLINS — Placed INF Brian Anderson on the 10-day IL. Placed RHPs Max Meyer and Tommy Nance on the 15-day IL. Selected contracts of INF Williams Astudillo and RHPs Huascar Brazoban and Jeff Brigham from Jacksonville (IL). Transferred RHPs Anthony Bender and Cody Po-teet and INF Jazz Chisholm Jr. to 60-day IL.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Sent RHP Fred-dy Peralta to Nashville (IL) on a rehab as-signment.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Placed LHP on the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP James Naile.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Placed INF Evan Longoria on the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Gregory Santos from Sacramento (PCL).

FOOTBALL

National Football League

DETROIT LIONS — Placed CB Jerry Ja-

cobs, LB Romeo Okwara and DR Joshua Paschal on the physically unable to per-form (PUP) list. Placed LB Natrez Patrick and WR Jameson Williams on the active/non-football injury list.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Placed LB Daris Leonard, DE Tyquan Lewis, S Rodney McLeod and WR Michael Strachan on the physically unable to perform (PUP) list. Placed DT Eric Johnson II on the active/non-football injury list.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed CB An-drew Booth Jr. and G Ed Ingram.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Signed TE Cade Otton.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

MINNESOTA WILD — Placed C Alexander Khovanov on unconditional waivers.

SEATTLE KRACEN — Signed C Morgan Geekie to a one-year contract.

AUTO RACING

Fan Appreciation 400

NASCAR Cup Series

Sunday

At Pocono Raceway

Long Pond, Pa.

Lap length: 2.50 miles

(Start position in parentheses)

1. (3) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 160 laps, 53 points.
2. (16) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet, 160, 35.
3. (9) Daniel Suárez, Chevrolet, 160, 47.
4. (11) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 160, 35.
5. (4) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 160, 45.
6. (25) Michael McDowell, Ford, 160, 32.
7. (8) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 160, 35.
8. (7) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 160, 29.
9. (34) Erik Jones, Chevrolet, 160, 7.
10. (15) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 160, 27.
11. (17) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 160, 26.
12. (18) William Byron, Chevrolet, 160, 36.
13. (12) Aric Almirola, Ford, 160, 24.
14. (26) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 160, 23.
15. (13) Chase Briscoe, Ford, 160, 22.
16. (10) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, 160, 0.
17. (32) Cole Custer, Ford, 160, 20.
18. (19) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 160, 19.
19. (23) Corey Lajoie, Chevrolet, 160, 20.
20. (14) Joey Logano, Ford, 160, 17.
21. (30) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 160, 16.
22. (27) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 160, -20.
23. (28) Harrison Burton, Ford, 160, 14.
24. (22) Noah Gragson, Chevrolet, 160, 0.
25. (29) Todd Gilliland, Ford, 160, 12.
26. (36) Cody Ware, Ford, 160, 11.
27. (24) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 160, 20.
28. (33) JJ Yeley, Ford, 159, 0.
29. (5) Chris Buescher, Ford, 158, 8.
30. (35) BJ McLeod, Ford, 158, 0.
31. (20) Austin Cindric, Ford, 154, 6.
32. (21) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, acci-dent, 142, 15.
33. (6) Ryan Blaney, Ford, accident, 135, 20.
34. (31) Josh Bilicki, Chevrolet, accident, 35, 0.
35. (1) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, disquali-fied, 160, 2.
36. (2) Kyle Busch, Toyota, disqualified, 160, 1.

Race Statistics

Average Speed of Race Winner: 122.441 mph. **Time of Race:** 3 hours, 15 minutes, 59 seconds.

Margin of Victory: .927 seconds.

Caution Flags: 9 for 37 laps.

Lead Changes: 15 among 10 drivers.

Lap Leaders: D.Hamlin 0; K.Busch 1-12; K.Larson 13-30; H.Burton 31-34; C.Bell 35-48; K.Busch 49-64; M.Truex 65-66; R.Blaney 67-73; E.Jones 74-84; B.Wallace 85-87; K.Busch 88-122; R.Chastain 123; D.Hamlin 124-126; B.Wallace 127; R.Chastain 128-142; D.Hamlin 143-160

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led): K.Busch, 3 times for 63 laps; D.Hamlin, 2 times for 21 laps; K.Larson, 1 time for 18 laps; R.Chastain, 2 times for 16 laps; C.Bell, 1 time for 14 laps; E.Jones, 1 time for 11 laps; R.Blaney, 1 time for 7 laps; B.Wallace, 2 times for 4 laps; H.Burton, 1 time for 4 laps; M.Truex, 1 time for 2 laps.

Wins: C.Elliott, 4; R.Chastain, 2; J.Logano, 2; W.Byron, 2; D.Hamlin, 2; K.Larson, 1; C.Bell, 1; Ky.Busch, 1; A.Bowman, 1; D.Suárez, 1; T.Reddick, 1; A.Cindric, 1; C.Briscoe, 1; Ku.Busch, 1.

Top 16 in Points: 1. C.Elliott, 787; 2. R.Chastain, 682; 3. R.Blaney, 676; 4. K.Larson, 661; 5. M.Truex, 654; 6. C.Bell, 605; 7. J.Logano, 599; 8. Ky.Busch, 595; 9. W.Byron, 572; 10. K.Harvick, 571; 11. A.Bowman, 536; 12. D.Suárez, 526; 13. A.Almirola, 514; 14. T.Reddick, 509; 15. A.Cindric, 495; 16. C.Briscoe, 487.

French Grand Prix

F1

Sunday

At Paul Ricard Circuit

Le Castellet, France.

Lap length: 5.00 kilometers

(Start position in parentheses)

1. (2) Max Verstappen, Netherlands, Red Bull Racing, 53 laps, 1:30:02.112, 25 points.
2. (4) Lewis Hamilton, Great Britain, Mer-cedes, 53, +10.587 seconds, 18.
3. (6) George Russell, Great Britain, Mer-cedes, 53, +16.495, 15.
4. (3) Sergio Perez, Mexico, Red Bull Rac-ing, 53, +17.310, 12.
5. (19) Carlos Sainz Jr, Spain, Ferrari, 53, +28.872, 11.
6. (7) Fernando Alonso, Spain, Alpine, 53, +42.879, 8.
7. (5) Lando Norris, Great Britain, McLa-ren, 53, +52.026, 6.
8. (10) Esteban Ocon, France, Alpine,

MLB

ROUNDUP

Alonso's 3-run HR sets stage for Mets-Yanks

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pete Alonso lifted the ball into the left-field seats and sent the New York Mets soaring into their high-profile Subway Series matchup against the Yankees and Aaron Judge.

Alonso hit a go-ahead, three-run homer off Joe Musgrove and had four RBIs to retake the major league lead, leading the Mets over the San Diego Padres 8-5 on Sunday night and avoiding a three-game sweep.

Next up: a two-game series against the Yankees at Citi Field starting Tuesday night. Both teams lead their divisions, and Alonso's 82 RBIs are one more than Judge's total.

"I wouldn't really call it toe to toe, me versus him," Alonso said. "This is a moment where the city can come together over the game of baseball."

San Diego had won the first two games of the weekend series behind Yu Darvish and Blake Snell. The Padres took a 1-0 lead in the sixth behind Joe Musgrove and had not trailed in 25 innings.

New York's NL East lead was down to a half-game over defending World Series champion Atlanta.

"We just ran into two buzz saws," Alonso said. "We needed this one. This one was huge for us today."

Alonso hit his 25th home run in a five-run sixth and added an RBI double high off the center-field wall in a three-run seventh that built an 8-1 lead.

Yankees 6, Orioles 0: Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 37th home run, fellow All-Star Nestor Cortes pitched six sharp innings and visiting New York beat Baltimore.

Jose Trevino, another Yankees All-Star, produced the first four-hit game of his career. New York, with the best record in the big leagues, took two of three and has now won 22 of its 32 completed series this year.

Judge has seven home runs in his past nine games and leads the majors with 81 RBIs.

Astros 8, Mariners 5: Jose Altuve and Jeremy Peña hit back-to-back home runs off Robbie Ray to begin the game, and visiting Houston roughed up the reigning AL Cy Young Award to complete a three-game sweep of Seattle.

Martín Maldonado had three RBIs from the No. 9 spot in the li-

neup and All-Star lefty Framber Valdez (9-4) took a shutout into the seventh inning for the Astros, who won their fifth straight and increased their AL West lead to 13 games over second-place Seattle.

Dodgers 7, Giants 4: Trayce Thompson drove in two runs with an RBI double during the decisive rally in the seventh inning while host Los Angeles surged past San Francisco for its season-high eighth consecutive victory.

Unlikely cleanup hitter Jake Lamb delivered a tiebreaking double during that three-run rally by the NL-leading Dodgers, who have 15 victories in 16 games overall. Los Angeles swept a four-game series with the Giants at Chavez Ravine for the first time since 1995 and only the third time in the archrivals' long history.

Gavin Lux also drove in two runs as the Dodgers' offense overcame a mediocre start by Clayton Kershaw to earn the club's 11th consecutive victory at Dodger Stadium.

Blue Jays 8, Red Sox 4: Raimel Tapia had three hits and drove in four runs, giving him 10 RBIs for the series, and Vladimir Guerrero had four hits as visiting Toronto beat stumbling Boston for a three-game sweep.

Two days after Tapia had an inside-the-park grand slam in a record-setting 28-5 victory, he had a bases-loaded triple to spot the Blue Jays to a 5-0 lead off top Red Sox prospect Brayan Bello (0-2).

The Blue Jays also took advantage of three errors and a series of other blunders by Boston, which is just a half-game out of last place in the AL East.

Angels 9, Braves 1: Taylor Ward homered in a five-run first, Reid Detmers pitched five scoreless innings and visiting Los Angeles cooled off Atlanta.

Max Stassi went 3-for-4 and drove in three runs, and Ward had three hits for the Angels, who snapped a five-game skid.

The defending World Series champion Braves had won 14 of 19 and were 35-11 since June 1, the best record in the majors during that span.

Reds 6, Cardinals 3: Joey Votto hit a three-run homer to back Tyler Mahle's sharp return from injury as host Cincinnati beat St. Louis.

The last-place Reds overcame Paul Goldschmidt's two opposite-field homers to take two of three in



JULIA NIKHINSON/AP

Mets Francisco Lindor, right, and Pete Alonso celebrate Alonso's three-run homer in the sixth inning against San Diego on Sunday.

the series. They've won eight of their last 12 games.

Before their finale in Cincinnati, the Cardinals announced that Goldschmidt and star third baseman Nolan Arenado — two of their best players — won't make the trip to Toronto for a short series because they haven't received the COVID-19 vaccination.

Twins 9, Tigers 1: Sonny Gray allowed two hits in six innings to lead visiting Minnesota over Detroit.

Jose Miranda had three hits and scored twice for the Twins, who are 2-0 since the All-Star break.

Cubs 4, Phillies 3: Yan Gomes hit two home runs, Drew Smyly tossed six sharp innings and visiting Chicago completed a three-game sweep of Philadelphia.

Nelson Velázquez also went deep for the Cubs, who have won four in a row. It was the Cubs' first three-game sweep in Philadelphia since July 2000.

Marlins 6, Pirates 5 (10): Nick Fortes and Miguel Rojas hit RBI singles in the 10th inning and visiting Miami topped Pittsburgh.

Marlins ace Sandy Alcantara struck out 10 in six innings, allowing two runs and two hits and leaving with a 1.81 ERA.

Miami let a 4-2 lead slip away in the ninth, when Yoshi Tsutsugo hit a two-run single off reliever Anthony Bass (2-3).

White Sox 6, Guardians 3: Dylan Cease threw six innings in his third straight scoreless start, Eloy Jiménez, Leury Garcia and AJ Pollock homered, and host Chicago beat Cleveland to salvage a four-game split.

The reigning AL Central champions finished a stretch of 19 straight games against division opponents at 10-9.

Royals 4, Rays 2: Kris Bubic went seven strong innings, Hunter Dozier and MJ Melendez had late-inning RBIs and host Kansas City won a series against Tampa Bay for the first time in five years.

Dozier snapped a 2-all tie with two outs in the seventh when he singled off Brooks Raley (1-1) to score Whit Merrifield. Melendez added an insurance run with a double in the eighth.

Rangers 11, Athletics 8: Martín Pérez allowed four hits in seven strong innings to extend his undefeated streak and beat fellow All-Star Paul Blackburn, leading visiting Texas over Oakland.

Pérez (8-2) had six strikeouts and won his career-best eighth straight decision. The first-time All-Star is unbeaten in his past 17 starts.

Corey Seager hit his 23rd home run. Adolis García also connected and had a career-high four hits and three RBIs for the Rangers.

Brewers 10, Rockies 9: Andrew McCutchen's tiebreaking, two-run double capped a two-out rally in the eighth inning that lifted host Milwaukee over Colorado.

Hunter Renfroe homered for the third straight day and Tyrone Taylor also went deep for the NL Central leaders.

Kris Bryant had three hits for the Rockies, including a homer and a double.

Nationals 4, Diamondbacks 3: Keibert Ruiz had three hits, including a go-ahead single in the eighth inning, and visiting Washington avoided a three-game sweep by beating Arizona.

The Nationals were sloppy in the field with three errors and a couple other questionable decisions. But they stayed close and tied the game 3-3 on Josh Bell's RBI double in the seventh.

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	66	31	.680	—
Toronto	53	43	.552	12½
Tampa Bay	52	43	.547	13
Boston	48	48	.500	17½
Baltimore	47	48	.495	18

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	52	44	.542	—
Cleveland	48	46	.511	3
Chicago	48	48	.500	4
Kansas City	38	57	.400	13½
Detroit	38	58	.396	14

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	64	32	.667	—
Seattle	51	45	.531	13
Texas	43	51	.457	20
Los Angeles	40	55	.421	23½
Oakland	35	63	.357	30

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	59	37	.615	—
Atlanta	58	39	.598	1½
Philadelphia	49	46	.516	9½
Miami	45	50	.474	13½
Washington	32	65	.330	27½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	53	43	.552	—
St. Louis	51	46	.526	2½
Pittsburgh	40	56	.417	13
Chicago	38	57	.400	14½
Cincinnati	36	58	.383	16

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	64	30	.681	—
San Diego	54	43	.557	11½
San Francisco	48	47	.505	16½
Colorado	43	53	.448	22
Arizona	42	53	.442	22½

Sunday's games				
Chicago	White Sox	6	Cleveland	3
Minnesota	9	Detroit	1	
L.A. Angels	9	Atlanta	1	
N.Y. Yankees	6	Baltimore	0	
Kansas City	4	Tampa Bay	2	
Toronto	8	Boston	4	
Houston	8	Seattle	5	
Texas	11	Oakland	8	
Chicago	Cubs	4	Philadelphia	3
Cincinnati	6	St. Louis	3	
Miami	6	Pittsburgh	5	10
Milwaukee	10	Colorado	9	
L.A. Dodgers	7	San Francisco	4	
Washington	4	Arizona	3	
N.Y. Mets	8	San Diego	5	

Monday's games				
Tampa Bay	at	Baltimore		
Cleveland	at	Boston		
San Diego	at	Detroit		
L.A. Angels	at	Kansas City		
Houston	at	Oakland		
Texas	at	Seattle		
Miami	at	Cincinnati		
Atlanta	at	Philadelphia		
Pittsburgh	at	Chicago	Cubs	
Colorado	at	Milwaukee		
San Francisco	at	Arizona		
Washington	at	L.A. Dodgers		

Tuesday's games					
Tampa Bay	(McClanahan 10-3)	at	Baltimore	(Watkins 3-1)	
St. Louis	(Pallante 3-4)	at	Toronto	(Berrios 7-4)	
Cleveland	(TBD)	at	Boston	(Winckowski 3-4)	
N.Y. Yankees	(Montgomery 3-2)	at	N.Y. Mets	(Walker 7-2)	
San Diego	(Clevinger 2-3)	at	Detroit	(TBD)	
L.A. Angels	(Suarez 1-4)	at	Kansas City	(TBD)	
Minnesota	(Bundy 6-4)	at	Milwaukee	(TBD)	
Chicago	White Sox	(Kopech 3-6)	at	Colorado	(TBD)
Houston	(TBD)	at	Oakland	(Montas 3-9)	
Texas	(Dunning 1-6)	at	Seattle	(Kirby 2-3)	
Pittsburgh	(Wilson 1-5)	at	Chicago	Cubs	
(Thompson 7-4)					
Miami	(López 6-5)	at	Cincinnati	(Greene 3-11)	
Atlanta	(Strider 4-3)	at	Philadelphia	(Nola 6-7)	
San Francisco	(Rodón 8-5)	at	Arizona	(Kelly 9-5)	
Washington	(Gray 7-6)	at	L.A. Dodgers	(White 1-2)	

MLB/NFL

Big Papi a big hit at induction

Dominican-born player cheered at Hall event by legions of Red Sox fans

By JOHN KEKIS
Associated Press

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — David Ortiz promised to speak from the heart. As usual, Big Papi delivered.

His megawatt smile tinged with a tad of emotion, the former Boston Red Sox slugger was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday — after his daughter Alexandra sang the national anthem — and was humbled by his surroundings.

“I want to thank God for giving me the opportunity to be here today and for giving me the joy of being able to travel this path, this path that has allowed me to be here today and hopefully inspire everyone to believe in yourself,” Ortiz said.

Ortiz was greeted by a raucous crowd chanting “Papi! Papi!” as many fans made the four-hour drive from the vicinity of Fenway Park to attend the festivities.

When he took the stage, Ortiz pointed skyward as is his wont in special moments, a way of honoring his late mother, who died two decades ago after a car accident.

“I always tried to live my life in a way ... so I can make a positive influence in the world,” said the 46-year-old Ortiz, just the 58th player elected in his first year on the ballot. “And if my story can remind you of anything, let it remind you that when you believe in someone you can change the world, you can



PHOTOS BY JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

Above: David Ortiz, left, laughs with former Boston Red Sox teammate Pedro Martinez, during the National Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony Sunday in Cooperstown, N.Y. Below: Clockwise from top left, Josh Rawitch, president of the Hall of Fame and Museum, holding the plaque of inductee Bud Fowler, inductee Jim Kaat, inductee Tony Oliva, inductee Ortiz, Sharon Rice-Minoso, holding the plaque of her husband and inductee Minnie Minoso, Dr. Angela Terry, holding the plaque of her uncle and inductee John Jordan O’Neil, and Irene Hodges, holding the plaque of her father and inductee Gil Hodges.

change their future, just like so many people believed in me.”

Ortiz, who survived a nightclub shooting in the Dominican Republic three years ago, soaked in the celebration.

Legions of fans crowded onto the field adjacent to Clark Sports Center, sun umbrellas and Dominican Republic flags sprinkled all around. Ortiz’s No. 34 was seemingly everywhere as fans chanted and sang in Spanish. A

sign that read ‘I Love U’ summed up the admiration for Big Papi on his special day.

Six Era Committee selections also comprised in the Class of 2022 — former Twins teammates Jim Kaat and Tony Oliva, the late Minnie Miñoso, former Dodgers star and Mets manager Gil Hodges, and Black pioneers Buck O’Neil and Bud Fowler.

In 14 years with the Red Sox, Ortiz hit 500 homers — 17 of them in the postseason.

If there was a blemish, there was a report by The New York Times that said he tested positive during the 2003 survey drug test conducted by MLB and the players’ association. Ortiz was never penalized for performance-enhancing drugs, and MLB and the union never confirmed there was a positive test. The sides said the survey test results never were vetted to the point of the testing with penalties that started in 2004.

That was far from the mind on this day as Ortiz paid tribute to

many in both English and Spanish.

“It’s an honor to be on this stage,” Ortiz said. “I can ask for no more.”

The 83-year-old Kaat, now a broadcaster for the Twins, pitched for a quarter of a century, winning a World Series a year before retiring in 1983. He thanked his dad for instilling the discipline needed to succeed, his wife for always being there, and his former minor league manager, 94-year-old Jack McKeon, who was in the audience.

“I am humbled and honored to be included in this fraternity, some of the greatest players to play the game, and I thank you for being part of this wonderful day,” said Kaat, a native of Zeeland, Mich.

Oliva was the American League Rookie of the Year in 1964, led the league in hits five times, and became the first player in major league history to win batting titles in each of his first two seasons, finishing with a lifetime average of .304 in 15 seasons with the Twins.



JAE C. HONG/AP

MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred made what was termed a “final offer” for an international draft, increasing proposed money for the first year in 2024 by \$10 million on Sunday to \$191 million.

Deadline looms for draft deal

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball made what was termed a “final offer” for an international draft, increasing proposed money for the first year in 2024 by \$10 million on Sunday to \$191 million.

The move came one day after the players’ association made a proposal that remained at \$260 million and left the sides far apart heading into a Monday night midnight EDT deadline for a deal.

Because an international draft was tied in the March lockout settlement to dropping direct draft-pick compensation for qualified free agents, these negotiations will start to determine the market for a free agent group that includes Anthony Rizzo, J.D. Martinez, Chris Sale and Charlie Morton.

While the loss of draft picks hasn’t inhibited teams from chasing top free agents since the current system began in 2012 — this year’s group includes Aaron Judge, Jacob deGrom and Trea Turner — a slightly lesser level has been impacted. Craig Kimbrel and Dallas Keuchel delayed signing in 2019 until June, after the draft pick compensation no longer was attached.

“We want to do whatever it takes for those guys to make sure they get good deals and get good contracts,” New York Mets shortstop Francisco Lindor, of the union’s eight-man executive subcommittee, said Sunday.



NFL enters streaming marketplace with NFL+

By JOE REEDY
Associated Press

The NFL is making its move into offering its own media streaming platform.

The league announced that “NFL+” launched on Monday. Owners were briefed about it during the league meetings in May, while Brian Rolapp, the NFL’s chief media and business officer, confirmed in a column for “Sports Illustrated” last week that it would be starting this season.

Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a phone interview with The Associated Press that the direct-to-consumer offering gives the league the ability to understand what fans and nonfans are seeking in terms of content and customize it for them.

“We think this is a major step forward. It will evolve, build and get better as more and more content becomes available on this platform. The work that we’ve done either with other offerings or research has helped us sort

of frame this in a way that we think would be very attractive and engage our fans.”

The launch of “NFL+” comes as 15 games on Thursday night will be carried exclusively on Amazon Prime Video. The “Sunday Ticket” package of out-of-market Sunday games currently will expire at the end of this season. Amazon, Apple and Google have emerged as the frontrunners to take over the rights that DirecTV has held since 1994.

“NFL+” will allow fans to view out-of-mar-

ket preseason games on all devices; local and national regular-season and postseason games on mobile devices; team and national radio feeds, NFL Network shows on-demand along with the NFL Films archive. It could also include content produced by teams. It will be able to be accessed through the NFL app and website.

It is an upgrade of the “Game Pass” service that has been available to fans in the United States since 2015.

AUTO RACING

Elliott given Pocono win after Hamlin, Busch disqualified

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

LONG POND, Pa. — The siren at the Dawsonville, Ga., pool hall that sounds whenever Chase Elliott wins a race did indeed go off Sunday night without the hometown star ever leading a lap at Pocono Raceway.

“Winner, winner Joe Gibbs Racing are cheaters!” the Dawsonville Pool Room tweeted.

In an extraordinary decision for a NASCAR Cup Series race, Joe Gibbs Racing driver Denny Hamlin had his Pocono win thrown out and runner-up and teammate Kyle Busch also was disqualified after their Toyotas failed inspections.

Elliott shot up from third place and the Hendrick Motorsports driver was awarded his fourth victory of the season. He never led a lap in the No. 9 Chevrolet — and his car also was inspected by NASCAR.

Hamlin lost his record seventh victory at Pocono and his third win of the season. Busch led a race-high 63 laps.

NASCAR believed the last time it disqualified an apparent winner was April 17, 1960, when Emanuel Zervakis' victory at Wilson Speedway in North Carolina was thrown out because of an oversized fuel tank.

“We were shocked to learn of the infraction that caused our two cars to fail NASCAR's post-race technical inspection,” Joe Gibbs said in a statement. “We plan to review every part of the process that led to this situation.”

The penalties can be appealed and both Toyotas were sent to NASCAR's research and development center in North Carolina for further evaluation. NASCAR said the infractions were not caught in the pre-race inspection be-



DAN GELSTON/AP

NASCAR Cup Series managing director Brad Moran explains why the first and second place cars of Denny Hamlin and Kyle Busch were disqualified.

cause the wrap was not removed from the cars until after the race.

“There was some issues discovered that affect aero in the vehicle,” NASCAR Cup Series managing director Brad Moran said. “There really was no reason why there was some material that was somewhere it shouldn't have been. And that does basically come down to a DQ.”

Moran said the parts in question were the front fascia — essentially the nose cone — and final decisions “should be sorted out by next week.”

Moran said the inspection “rules have tightened up” with the introduction this season of a new car. NASCAR's newest version is pretty much a kit car. Teams get all the same pieces from varying vendors and have detailed instructions regarding how to put it together.

“We don't want to be here talking about this problem,” Moran said. “But the teams and the owners and everybody was well aware that



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Denny Hamlin, left, gets a hug from his daughter, Taylor James Hamlin, as he is interviewed after the NASCAR Cup Series race at Pocono Raceway, Sunday in Long Pond, Pa. NASCAR stripped Hamlin of his win when his No. 11 Toyota failed inspection and was disqualified, awarding Chase Elliott the Cup Series victory.

this new car was going to be kept with some pretty tight tolerances. There's some areas that all the teams are well aware that we can not go down the path that we had in the past with the other car.”

The failures marred what had been a banner day for JGR.

Hamlin had seemingly won for the third time this season and passed Hall of Fame driver Jeff Gordon for most wins at Pocono with seven. Hamlin swept two races at Pocono in his rookie season in 2006, and added wins in 2009, 2010, 2019 and 2020. Now, he remains tied with the four-time NASCAR champion.

Hamlin had plenty to handle from the start, when the pole sitter tagged the wall on the opening lap. He recovered — at 400 miles on the 2½-mile tri-oval there's plenty of racing

ahead — then had to watch Busch lead the majority of the race. Oh, then there was this thorny issue of settling a lingering score with Ross Chastain.

Chastain wrecked Hamlin two times in a month earlier this season — Hamlin counted two more times from last season — and was fed-up with the aggressive driving of the watermelon farmer. Hamlin refused to give his rival an inch off a restart at Pocono and forced Chastain into the wall with 16 laps left in the race. Chastain slammed the wall and triggered a wreck that collected several drivers, including winless Kevin Harvick, who is fighting for a playoff spot.

“What did you want me to do? What did you expect me to do,” Hamlin asked in the immediate aftermath.

Newgarden hospitalized, O'Ward wins Iowa IndyCar race

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

NEWTON, Iowa — Josef Newgarden collapsed in the motorhome lot following his late crash Sunday at Iowa Speedway and was taken to a Des Moines hospital by helicopter for evaluation. Team Penske said he'd be held overnight.

“Following the conclusion of the race Newgarden lost consciousness and fell, sustaining a cut on the back of his head,” Team Penske said in a statement. “After being evaluated, all scans were negative. Newgarden will be held overnight for observation. Following IndyCar protocol, Newgarden will be evaluated by the IndyCar medical staff on Thursday.”



Newgarden

IndyCar medical director Dr. Geoffrey Billows said Newgarden was transported by helicopter to Mercy One Des Moines Medical Center because the infield care center lacked the equipment to properly evaluate the



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Pato O'Ward, of Mexico, celebrates after winning the IndyCar Series race Sunday at Iowa Speedway in Newton, Iowa.

American.

Billows said Newgarden was awake and alert, but the hospital was a 45-minute drive from the track and heavy traffic for the post-race Blake Shelton concert would have delayed the journey.

Newgarden dominated and led 148 of the 300 laps while trying to sweep the double-header weekend. But something on his Team Penske car broke with 64 laps remaining and the 31-year-old from Tennessee spun hard into the outside wall — creating an opening for Pato O'Ward of Arrow McLaren SP to win.

Newgarden, a two-time IndyCar champion, was visibly rattled after his mandatory check in the infield care center after the crash. He said the crash into the wall “definitely rocked me. I got a little bit shaken from it but I'm OK.”

“Definitely was a bit of a shot. I want to cry, so sad for my team. I don't know what happened,” Newgarden said. “Everything felt fine to me. Totally unexpected and it caught me by my surprise. Team Penske is the best. I never have this stuff, so maybe we were due.”

Chevrolet's initial diagnosis was that the suspension broke on Newgarden's car. There was no immediate word on the force in which Newgarden hit the outside wall.

Billows said Newgarden cleared all tests in the care center after the crash, and the medical staff spoke to him a second time before he

returned to the motorhome lot. IndyCar also had planned to reevaluate him Thursday in Indianapolis before he collapsed upon returning to the motorhome lot.

“Thinking of my bus brother right now,” tweeted Penske teammate Scott McLaughlin.

O'Ward made the pass for the win on pit road with a speedy stop by his Arrow McLaren SP team and held off Penske teammates Will Power and Scott McLaughlin. It's the second win of the season for the Mexican driver, who finished second on Saturday and remains firmly in the IndyCar title race with five races remaining.

O'Ward is fifth in the standings, 36 points behind leader Marcus Ericsson. His win halted Team Penske's dominance on the 0.894-mile oval, where Roger Penske's drivers had won six of the last seven races prior to Sunday.

Scott Dixon of Chip Ganassi Racing finished fourth and was followed by teammate Jimmie Johnson, who raced hard with Indianapolis 500 winner Ericsson to earn his best finish through two seasons of IndyCar racing.

TRACK AND FIELD

McLaughlin caps US record medal haul

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — It only made sense that Sydney McLaughlin would run the last, victorious lap of world championships for the United States.

It only made sense she would win that race by a lot.

America's burgeoning speed star turned a close 4x400-meter relay into a laughter on the anchor leg Sunday, putting the final stamp on the first worlds held in the U.S. and delivering America's record 33rd medal of the meet.

It was the 13th gold for the U.S., one short of the all-time mark.

"We're deep," McLaughlin said. "We have a lot of really amazing athletes and we all put our 100% best out there every time we perform."

After taking the baton from Britton Wilson, McLaughlin turned a .73-second lead into a 2.95-second blowout over Jamaica, adding this burst of speed to the world record she set two nights earlier in the 400 hurdles, when she finished in 50.68.

This one was especially sweet, as it also marked the 14th and final world gold for 36-year-old Allyson Felix, who came out of retirement to run in the preliminary of the 4x400 and, so, gets a medal. She finishes her career with a record 20 world medals, overall.

"She came back yesterday and I was like, I mean, if we're gonna go do it, we might as well do it big," McLaughlin said. "And I'm really happy for her amazing career."

The U.S. team, also featuring Talitha Diggs and Abby Steiner, who was part of the winning 4x100 relay team the night before, won the women's race in 3 minutes, 17.79 seconds.

The 33 medals were three more than the U.S. collected in 2017, and two more than East Germany won in 1987.

Other records fell, too — in the very first and very last action of the last session at hot-and-sunny Hayward Stadium, the 25,000-seat gem built at University of Oregon to bring the worlds to Eugene.

Nigeria's Tobi Amusan opened the evening by setting the record

for the 100-meter hurdles in the semifinals: 12.12 seconds. She came back about 90 minutes later to win the gold medal.

And after McLaughlin was done with her last lap, pole vaulter Armand Duplantis of Sweden cleared 6.21 meters (20 feet, 4½ inches) to best his world record by .01.

As was the case through most of these 10 days, America's medals came from every corner of the track — and the field.

Athing Mu said she struggled in capturing gold in the 800, busting through the two laps in 1:56.30 — a .08 margin over Britain's Keely Hodgkinson.

"I'm just glad I could make it to the line and finish the race," she said. "And thank God I won gold."

The 20-year-old Mu is now the Olympic and world champion at that distance and, along with McLaughlin, part of a bright future for the United States with the Paris Olympics now two years away.

In between, a sprinter named Champion — Champion Allison —



ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

Sydney McLaughlin, of the United States, wins the women's 4x400-meter relay at the World Athletics Championships Sunday.

anchored the men's 4x400 to an easy win for medal No. 32. The U.S. won in 2:56.17 for a 2.41-second margin over Jamaica.

Another medal went to U.S. pole vaulter Christopher Nilsen, who cleared 5.94 meters (19 feet, 5¾ inches), to clinch silver.

Race: Track, soccer face similar hurdles to popularity in US

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in the U.S., according to research commissioned by World Athletics. Coe said he'd like to get it into the top four — more in the realm of the NBA and baseball.

These discussions are similar to the hand-wringing that plays out in U.S. soccer circles during World Cups. If the U.S. teams are successful and millions of people play recreationally, what would it take for this to become more than a niche sport for fans?

"You've got to go to where the young people are. And the base of your sport, you've got to go where those people are, too," said Sheryl Shade, a longtime agent in the Olympic space, while noting the relatively light social media presence of track athletes and a dearth of human-interest stories connected to this year's worlds.

There is a potential audience out there. A Sports & Fitness Industry Association study estimated 50 million Americans (about one-seventh of the U.S. population) are runners.

The National Federation of State High School Associations says there are nearly 1.1 million students participating in track — more than the 1 million playing football — and nearly 500,000 in cross country. And that doesn't account for the sizable number who run, but aren't on teams.

"You have to look at the assets you have and figure out how to pour gas on them," said marketing expert Joe Favorito. "You have to



GREGORY BULL/AP

Half-empty stands in Eugene, Ore., show how much work the U.S. will have to do if it wants to boost track's popularity before 2028.

make sure you're showcasing personalities, and make sure everyone's doing it. More than the TV ratings, my question would be, what's the TikTok strategy, and how are people measuring that?"

There is no Usain Bolt-like personality on the horizon for the U.S., save the tantalizing possibility of the gregarious 200-meter champion Noah Lyles.

"They're quite boring," track legend Edwin Moses said of the current crop of athletes.

The newly crowned 100-meter champion Fred Kerley is a seemingly likeable character with a remarkable backstory — raised with 12 other kids by his aunt, who stepped in after Kerley's parents encountered troubles. But he has done little traditional media and

his social media posts leading into worlds were mainly a string of one-liners: "Let's get it," and "Yessir."

In an Instagram video posted shortly after his victory, Kerley declared himself "the greatest of all time" to his 134,000 followers. Bolt, retired for five years, has 11.5 million followers.

Sydney McLaughlin is a once-in-a-lifetime athlete who shattered her own record in the 400 meter hurdles on Friday and is the Olympic and national champion. McLaughlin is 22 — 10 years younger than Allyson Felix when she became a vocal advocate for women in sports — and has mostly chosen to let her hurdling to the talking.

Moses said the personalities now are a far cry from the 1980s

and '90s, when outsized personalities such as himself, Carl Lewis, Evelyn Ashford and Florence Griffith-Joyner were on the track during the day and on Johnny Carson's show at night.

Moses believes a flaw today is that top runners set their schedules based not on where they can go head to head against the best competition, but on where ranking points and appearance fees are available. Those venues are rarely, if ever, in the U.S.

"Eugene is great, but the stadium is a couple years old, and it's already had one of everything," Moses said of the national championships, Olympic trials and world championships that have been held in Oregon. "I don't think track and field is going to be big until they restore it in Los Angeles, and that becomes the track and field capital of the country."

LA will be the track capital of the world for 10 days in 2028. And Casey Wasserman, the chairman of the organizing committee for those Olympics, is well aware of the importance of bumping up track's profile.

"The American market is such an important economic and fan market for them," he said of the sport. "They need to come to the States with their biggest events and their most important athletes."

Los Angeles will mark only the second time this century that the Summer Games have been in a U.S. time zone, which might gen-

erate more buzz and viewers despite the realities of the growingly fractured TV audience. While the IOC has a multibillion-dollar TV deal with NBC locked in through 2032, the ratings from last year's Tokyo Games and the Winter Olympics earlier this year in Beijing were abysmal.

In Colorado Springs, Colo., the home of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, there's a growing awareness that things are not the way they used to be.

"We saw a troubling trend toward people being less engaged with the games," chair Susanne Lyons said in a recent interview. "And, to me, that is the ultimate issue. Because if people are not engaged with the games, they don't watch, then sponsors don't sign up, you don't get money and, eventually, the whole thing doesn't work."

NBC also did not hype track worlds nearly the way it would leading into an Olympics, and it showed in the opening-weekend ratings.

The most-watched session on NBC averaged 2.24 million, which was about 160,000 fewer viewers than a NASCAR race on USA Network at the same time. The final round of the British Open, which aired in the morning and led into the track coverage, drew almost double the audience.

"The U.S. has its challenges for us, and we've been completely open about that," Coe said. "But being here is really important."

SPORTS



Setting up Subway showdown

Alonso HR gives Mets momentum going into matchup with Yankees » **MLB, Page 20**

TRACK AND FIELD



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

American sprinter Fred Kerley, who won the men's 100 meters at the world championships in Eugene, Ore., is a prime example of the U.S. team's lack of star power. Kerley has 134,000 followers on Instagram. Jamaican superstar Usain Bolt, retired for five years, has 11.5 million.

Race against time

Track looks to pump up US fan base ahead of 2028 LA Olympics

By **EDDIE PELL**
Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — When international track and field officials wanted to place their world championships in the U.S. for the first time, the running mecca that embedded Nike into American culture was the easy choice.

But pictures of half-empty stands in a sparkling new 25,000-seat track stadium in Eugene, Ore., and readouts of TV ratings that didn't beat a routine NASCAR race reemphasized a decades-old reality: When it comes to spectating, not competing, track is a niche sport in the United States.

Track and field's leaders would like that to change over the next six years, especially

INSIDE
McLaughlin finishes off record US medal haul
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in view of sagging viewership totals and flat revenue across the broader Olympic world. It's critical, they say, to bring the cornerstone sport of the Summer Games back to its former glory in the U.S. before Los Angeles hosts in 2028.

"For the games to really work, the U.S. needs a really powerful track and field presence," World Athletics president Sebastian Coe said. "You have the best athletes in the

world. You have all those other assets. And we have to make sure that people understand a whole heap more about our sport by the time we get to 2028."

The U.S. won 33 medals in Eugene, breaking its world-championships record of 30. And yet, track is, at best, the eighth most popular sport

SEE RACE ON PAGE 23

Sydney McLaughlin, who holds the world record in the 400 hurdles, might have limited value as a promoter of the Olympics because of her low-key personality.

ASHLEY LANDIS/AP



Elliott gets win after Hamlin, Busch DQ'd » Auto racing, Page 22

