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STARS AND STRIPES

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CONTINGENCY EDITION

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2022

Free to Deployed Areas



PHOTOS BY EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

Ukrainian self-propelled artillery shoots toward Russian forces at a frontline in the Kharkiv region of Ukraine on Wednesday.

Deadly floods in Appalachia spark search for missing

By BRUCE SCHREINER AND DYLAN LOVAN
Associated Press

JACKSON, Ky. — Search and rescue teams backed by the National Guard searched Friday for people missing in record floods that wiped out entire communities in some of the poorest places in America. Kentucky's governor said 16 people have died, a toll he expected to grow.

"The tough news is 16 confirmed fatalities now, and folks that's going to get a lot higher," the governor said in a briefing. He said the deaths were in four eastern Kentucky counties.

Powerful floodwaters swallowed towns that hug creeks and streams in Appalachian valleys and hollows, swamping homes and businesses, trashing vehicles and crunching runaway equipment and debris against bridges. Mudslides marooned people on steep slopes and at least 33,000 customers were without power.

"We've still got a lot of searching to do," said Jerry Stacy, the emergency management director in Kentucky's hard-hit Perry County. "We still have missing people."

Emergency crews made close to 50 air rescues and hundreds of water rescues on Thursday, and more people still needed help, Be-shear said: "This is not only an ongoing disaster but an ongoing search and rescue. The water is not going to crest in some areas until tomorrow."

Rachel Patton said floodwaters filled her Floyd County home so quickly that her mother, who is on oxygen, had to be evacuated on a door that was floated across the

Is Ukraine turning the tide again?

As Russian advances stall, analysts say Moscow's force may be reaching its limits

By LIZ SLY

The Washington Post

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian advances in Ukraine have slowed almost to a standstill as newly delivered Western weapons help Ukrainian forces reclaim much of the advantage they had lost in recent months, opening a window of opportunity to turn the tide of the war in their favor again.

Russian troops have made no significant territorial gains since the Ukrainian retreat on July 2 from the eastern city of Lysys-

chank under withering artillery fire. The retreat gave Russia full control over Luhansk, one of the two oblasts, or regions, that make up the broader eastern Donbas area, and it marked Russia's only meaningful strategic success since its retreat from territory around Kyiv in April.

The lack of progress may be explained at least in part by the "operational pause" declared by Russia's Defense Ministry after the

SEE TIDE ON PAGE 5



A Ukrainian self-propelled artillery vehicle drives into position to fire toward Russian forces in the Kharkiv region on Wednesday.

SEE FLOODS ON PAGE 7

MILITARY

\$792B spending plan for Pentagon released

BY SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats released a \$792 billion spending plan for the Pentagon on Thursday as lawmakers work to boost the White House's request for the fiscal 2023 military budget to account for inflation and threats from adversaries such as China and Russia.

The Senate appropriations bill is \$31 billion more than a \$761 billion defense funding measure that House appropriators adopted last month and nearly \$20 billion more than the \$773 billion that the White House requested for the Pentagon.

The House last month passed a \$839 billion National Defense Authorization Act, which authorizes defense spending levels and sets

policy. The Senate's version of the bill, which has yet to be voted on by the full chamber, authorizes \$847 billion for military and national security programs at the departments of Defense and Energy.

Democrats on the Senate Appropriations Committee are proposing \$850 billion in total defense discretionary spending, a nearly 9% increase over the current fiscal year's level. Republicans have advocated for an even larger increase.

The Senate panel's funding bill for the Pentagon allots \$53 billion to address record inflation and increase troops' purchasing power, including \$7 billion more for fuel, utilities and supplies for deployed forces as well as an additional \$921 billion for basic housing allowances, \$300 million for special

pay and \$228 million for subsistence allowances.

"Inflation ... has impacted government programs at every level — both defense and non-defense," Senate Appropriations Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said in a statement. "This is a strong bill for our national security."

The bill also supports the 4.6% troop pay raise requested by the White House — the largest in 20 years — and invests \$373 million in military family support programs, including \$85 million for the National Guard Youth Challenge for at-risk young people and \$25 million for Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, a program supporting those affected by military deployments.

Senators are additionally proposing to allocate \$2.2 billion to

accelerate the development of space capabilities, \$1.4 billion to expand industrial base capacity and \$4.7 billion to upgrade aging infrastructure.

Other initiatives would provide \$3.2 billion to modernize the National Guard's equipment and weapons systems and \$805 million to help the Pentagon in its flailing recruitment efforts. Officials have described the current recruiting environment as the worst since the end of the Vietnam War.

"This bill modernizes our armed forces to address the evolving threats of the 21st century, ensuring the Defense Department is able to compete with China and other adversaries across the globe," Leahy said.

Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., chair-

man of the committee's subpanel on defense, said it was critical to pass the budget on time to help fight the effects of inflation and avoid a stopgap funding measure that would "undermine our military and national security at a time when the world is looking to America for steadfast leadership."

The 2023 fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

Lawmakers are set to work on a compromise budget plan and reconcile differences with various versions of the NDAA in the coming weeks. House members are departing for an August recess on Friday and senators will follow a week later.

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DC mayor seeks help from Guard to address city's migrant 'crisis'

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser has asked the Pentagon to activate the D.C. National Guard to help address a swelling number of migrants arriving in buses at the city's Union Station, she told reporters Thursday.

"We need the federal government to be involved, so I've asked for the deployment of the Guard [for] as long as we need the Guard to deal with the humanitarian crisis that we expect to escalate," Bowser said.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott in April began chartering buses to send asylum-seeking migrants from his state to Washington, D.C. Since then, 6,100 migrants riding on 155 buses have traveled to Washington, according to his office. Most of the migrants are from countries in Central and South America.

To board a bus to D.C., migrants must volunteer for the trip and must have been processed and released from federal custody, according to Abbott's office. He has blamed this and other measures he's taken at

the Texas border with Mexico on President Joe Biden.

"Washington, D.C., finally understands what Texans have been dealing with every single day, as our communities are overrun and overwhelmed by thousands of illegal immigrants thanks to President Biden's open border policies," said Renae Eze, a spokeswoman for Abbott. "If the mayor wants a solution to this crisis, she should call on President Biden to take immediate action to secure the border — something he has failed to do."

Abbott has used the Texas National Guard to deter people in Mexico from entering his state illegally across the Rio Grande. Nearly 6,000 Texas troops are now deployed to the state's southern border on a mission known as Operation Lone Star.

While the troops are not involved with the state's busing operation, which the governor has raised more than \$118,000 to fund privately, they do have the authority to detain anyone who is believed to have crossed into the U.S. illegally.

Bowser said she previously se-



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

Migrants at Union Station near the U.S. Capitol in Washington hold Red Cross blankets after arriving in April on buses from Texas.

cured a \$1 million grant to help set up "a respite center in a neighboring jurisdiction" and is now asking for the Defense Department to step up, as well.

"The number of people crossing the border seeking asylum we expect to only go up, and we need to ensure that there is a national response — not an ad hoc city-by-city,

state-by-state response," she said.

The mayor said the federal government has been able to help with Afghan and Ukrainian refugees with "a robust federal response that helps people with transportation on to their final destinations, [and a] legal route to work."

"We need a parallel system for the increasing numbers of people

that we will see crossing the border seeking asylum," Bowser said.

The D.C. National Guard confirmed it had received a request from Bowser to activate but declined to say the purpose.

Stars and Stripes reporter Rose L. Thayer contributed to this report.
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US to fill four wide border wall gaps at open area in southern Arizona

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Biden administration on Thursday authorized completion of the Trump-funded U.S.-Mexico border wall in an open area of southern Arizona near Yuma that has become one of the busiest corridors for illegal crossings.

Biden had pledged during his campaign to cease all future wall

construction, but the administration later agreed to some barriers, citing safety. The Department of Homeland Security said Thursday the work to close four wide gaps in the wall near Yuma will better protect migrants who can slip down a slope or drown walking through a low section of the Colorado River.

The agency said in a statement that Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas authorized completion of the project near the Morelos Dam, reflecting the administration's "priority to deploy modern, effective border measures and also improving safety and security along the Southwest Border." It was initially to be funded by the Defense Department but will now be paid for out of Homeland Security's 2021 budget.

The Border Patrol Yuma sector has quickly emerged as the third busiest of nine sectors along the border, with much of the traffic funneling through the Morelos Dam. Migrants arrive in the small town of Algodones and walk unencumbered across a concrete ledge on the dam to U.S. soil, where they wait for Border Patrol agents to take them into custody.

Completion of the wall was at the top of former President Donald Trump's agenda, and border security remains a potent issue for candidates of both parties going into this year's primary elections. President Joe Biden halted new wall construction after he took office, but he has since made closing the gaps just south of Yuma a priority.

EUROPE

Russia, Ukraine trade blame for deadly attack

Dozens of POWs said to be killed, wounded in shelling

BY SUSIE BLANN
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia and Ukraine accused each other Friday of shelling a prison in a separatist region of eastern Ukraine, an attack that reportedly killed dozens of Ukrainian prisoners of war captured after the fall of Mariupol, the city where troops famously held out against a month-long Russian siege.

Both sides said the assault was premeditated with the aim of covering up atrocities.

Russia claimed that Ukraine's military used U.S.-supplied rocket launchers to strike the prison in Olenivka, a settlement controlled by the Moscow-backed Donetsk People's Republic. Separatist authorities and Russian officials said the attack killed 53 Ukrainian POWs and wounded another 75.

Moscow opened a probe into the attack, sending a team to the site from Russia's Investigative Committee, the country's main criminal investigation agency. The state RIA Novosti agency reported that fragments of U.S.-supplied precision High Mobility Artillery Rocket System rockets were found at the site.

The Ukrainian military denied making any rocket or artillery strikes in Olenivka, and it accused the Russians of shelling the prison to cover up the alleged torture and execution of Ukrainians there. An adviser to Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the shelling as "a deliberate, cynical, calculated mass murder of Ukrainian prisoners."

Neither claim could be independently verified.

Video shot by The Associated Press showed charred, twisted bed frames in the wrecked barracks, as well as burned bodies and metal sheets hanging from the destroyed roof. The footage also included bodies lined up on the ground next to a barbed-wire fence and an array of what was claimed to be metal rocket fragments on a wooden bench.

Denis Pushilin, the leader of the internationally unrecognized Donetsk republic, said the prison held 193 inmates. He did not specify how many were Ukrainian POWs.

The deputy commander of the Donetsk separatist forces, Eduard Basurin, suggested that Ukraine decided to strike the prison to prevent captives from revealing key military information.

Ukraine "knew exactly where they were being held and in what place," he said. "After the Ukrainian prisoners of war began to talk about the crimes they committed, and orders they received from Kyiv, a decision was made by the political leadership of Ukraine: carry out a strike here."

Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak called for a "strict investigation" into the at-

tack and urged the United Nations and other international organizations to condemn it. He said the Russians had transferred some Ukrainian prisoners to the barracks just a few days before the strike, suggesting that it was planned.

"The purpose — to discredit Ukraine in front of our partners and disrupt weapons supply," he tweeted.

Ukraine's security agency, the SBU, said it had intercepted phone calls "in which the occupiers confirm that Russian troops are to blame for this tragedy."

The intercepted conversations indicate that the Russians may have placed explosives in the prison, the agency said in a statement. "In particular, none of the eyewitnesses heard any missile flying towards the correctional facility. There was no characteristic whistling, and the explosions occurred on their own."

In addition, online video footage showed that the windows remained whole in some rooms of the facility, according to the SBU. That "indicates that the epicenter of the explosion was inside the destroyed building, and its walls took the hit from the blast waves, protecting some of the neighboring rooms."

A Russian Defense Ministry spokesperson, Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, described the strike as a "bloody provocation" aimed at



DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

A fisherman watches smoke rise after Russian forces launched a missile attack on a military unit in the Vyshhorod district on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, on Thursday.

discouraging Ukrainian soldiers from surrendering. He too claimed that U.S.-supplied HIMARS rockets were used, and said eight guards were among the wounded.

Holding POWs in an area with active fighting appeared to defy the Geneva Convention, which requires that prisoners be evacuated as soon as possible after capture to camps away from combat zones.

The Ukrainian POWs at the Donetsk prison included troops captured during the fall of Mariupol. They spent months holed up with civilians at a giant steel mill in the southern port city. Their resistance during a relentless Russian bombardment became a symbol of Ukrainian defiance against Russia's aggression.

In other developments Friday:

■ The Ukrainian presidential office said at least 13 civilians were killed and another 36 wounded in Russian shelling over the last

24 hours. In the southern city of Mykolaiv, at least four people were killed and seven others wounded when Russian shelling hit a bus stop. The Russian barrage also hit a facility that distributed humanitarian aid where three people were wounded, officials said. Ukrainian officials also said at least four civilians were killed and five hurt in the eastern town of Bakhmut in the Donetsk region.

■ An appeals court in Kyiv on Friday reduced to 15 years the life sentence of a Russian soldier convicted in the first war crimes trial since Russia invaded Ukraine. Critics had said the sentencing of Vadim Shishimarin, 21, was unduly harsh given that he confessed to the crime and expressed remorse. He pleaded guilty to killing a civilian and was convicted in May. His defense lawyer argued that Shishimarin shot a Ukrainian man on the orders of his superiors.

Zelenskyy visits port set to export grain

BY INNA VARENYTSIA
Associated Press

ODESA, Ukraine — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited a Black Sea port Friday as crews prepared terminals to export grain trapped by Russia's 5-month-old war, work that was inching forward a week after a deal was struck to allow critical food supplies to flow to millions of impoverished people facing hunger worldwide.

"The first vessel, the first ship is being loaded since the beginning of the war," Zelenskyy said at a port in the Odesa region.

He said, however, that the departure of wheat and other grain will begin with several ships that were already loaded but could not leave Ukrainian ports after Russia invaded in late February. Ukraine is a key global exporter of wheat,

barley, corn and sunflower oil, and the loss of those supplies has raised global food prices, threatened political instability and helped push more people into poverty and hunger in already vulnerable countries.

Ukraine's military is committed to the safety of ships, Zelenskyy said, adding that "it is important for us that Ukraine remains the guarantor of global food security."

His unannounced visit to the port is part of a broader push by Ukraine to show the world that it is nearly ready to export millions of tons of grains after last week's breakthrough agreements, which were brokered by Turkey and the United Nations and signed separately by Ukraine and Russia.

The sides agreed to facilitate the shipment of wheat and other grains from three Ukrainian ports

through safe corridors on the Black Sea, as well as fertilizer and food from Russia.

But a Russian missile strike on Odesa hours after signing the deal has thrown Moscow's commitment into question and raised new concerns about the safety of shipping crews, who also have to navigate waters strewn with explosive mines.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Friday emphasized the importance of maintaining a "link between taking grain out of Ukrainian ports and unblocking direct or indirect restrictions on the export of our grain, fertilizers and other goods to global markets."

The security concerns and complexities of the agreements have set off a slow, cautious start, with no grains having yet left Ukrainian ports. The sides are facing a

ticking clock — the deal is only good for 120 days.

The goal over the next four months is to get some 20 million tons of grain out of three Ukrainian sea ports blocked since the Feb. 24 invasion. That provides time for about four to five large bulk carriers per day to transport grain from the ports to millions of people in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, who are already facing food shortages and, in some cases, famine.

Getting wheat and other food out is also critical to farmers in Ukraine, who are running out of storage capacity amid a new harvest.

"We are ready," Ukraine's minister of infrastructure, Oleksandr Kubrakov, told reporters at the port of Odesa on Friday.

But he said Ukraine is waiting



UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE/AP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visits a port in Chornomorsk during loading of grain on a Turkish ship Friday.

on the U.N. to confirm the safe corridors that will be used by ships navigating the waters. In the meantime, a ship at the port of Chornomorsk was being loaded with grains, he said.

EUROPE

Tide: HIMARS vital but not of use regaining territory

FROM PAGE 1

seizure of Lysyschank — to allow Russian troops a chance to “rest and develop their combat capabilities,” in the words of President Vladimir Putin.

But the so-called pause did not halt Russian attempts to probe and penetrate Ukrainian lines — and the official end of the pause, announced by Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu on July 15, has brought no noticeable increase in the intensity of Russia’s assaults, said George Barros, a geospatial and Russia analyst with the Institute for the Study of War.

Rather, Barros and many Western officials and analysts suspect that the Russians are close to exhausting their capacity to make further territorial gains as their depleted army confronts Ukrainian forces with newly acquired capabilities. Already forced to abandon their hopes of capturing the capital, Russian forces may soon have to reckon with their inability to conquer the entirety of the Donbas region — the only publicly declared goal of the initial invasion and the focus of current offensive ambitions.

Russia may succeed in capturing one or two more of the Donbas towns in its immediate line of fire, such as Siversk and the nearby town of Bakhmut, said Barros, but it is hard to see its existing army pressing much farther than that.

“It does seem the Russians’ ability for forward movement is petering out,” said Phillips O’Brien, a professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. “I don’t see them being able to advance much more in the Donbas.”

It is still too early to dismiss the Russian force, analysts say. A massive recruitment campaign is underway across Russia that may yet generate the manpower it desperately needs to compensate for its enormous losses. Russia adapted its goals and tactics after stumbling around Kyiv and may adapt them again, said a Western official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record. He noted that Russia also has capabilities it has not yet utilized that could take the war in a different and alarming direction, an ominous reference to Russia’s chemical and nuclear stockpiles.

In the meantime, the Ukrainian army has the chance to seize back the initiative, taking advantage of the extra range and precision offered by the more advanced artillery provided by Western allies in recent weeks, notably the U.S. High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) that Ukraine had long sought.

“Right now, the Russians are losing the initiative, and the Ukrainians either have it or are about



ANASTASIA VLASOVA/For The Washington Post

A Ukrainian serviceman opens the door to a HIMARS vehicle in eastern Ukraine on July 1.

EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

A Ukrainian serviceman runs toward a self-propelled artillery vehicle to shoot towards Russian forces at a front line in the Kharkiv region, Ukraine, Wednesday.

to have it,” Barros said. “The HIMARS are key to that.”

The HIMARS give the Ukrainians the ability to strike almost 50 miles behind Russian lines with a high degree of accuracy, and Ukrainians have used them to destroy more than 100 high-value Russian targets, including command and control centers, ammunition storage sites and logistics and support facilities, according to a senior U.S. defense official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to divulge the information.

Most recently, Ukrainian forces have been utilizing the HIMARS to press a fledgling counteroffensive toward the strategically vital southern city of Kherson, which was occupied by Russia in the first days of the war.

The Ukrainian counteroffen-

sive is “gathering momentum,” Britain’s Ministry of Defense said in a tweet on Thursday, after a third HIMARS attack Tuesday against the Antonovskiy Bridge across the Dnieper River severely damaged a vital road link.

The bridge, almost a mile long, provides the main supply route between Russia’s 49th Army stationed on the west bank of the river and the rest of the Russian force, and the attack leaves the troops there “highly vulnerable,” the tweet added.

It remains unclear whether strikes had permanently rendered the bridge unusable, but videos posted on social media showed significant damage and signs indicating the bridge is at least temporarily closed.

“The Ukrainians have changed the character of the conflict with

their ability to attack behind Russian lines,” O’Brien said. “What we will see in the next few months is the initiative swing back to the Ukrainians, and then we will have to see if the Ukrainians can push the Russians back.”

The biggest effect of the HIMARS so far has been to erode the Russians’ overwhelming artillery advantage, both in terms of the number of guns and also the number of rounds they can fire, said Rob Lee of the Philadelphia-based Foreign Policy Research Institute.

After Russia pivoted to the eastern front and began slowly taking territory from the Ukrainians, the artillery edge “was probably a deciding factor,” he said. “They were firing by an enormous magnitude more rounds a day than Ukraine was, and over time it becomes really hard. Soldiers can’t withstand that.”

By using the HIMARS to destroy ammunition stocks, Ukraine has forced the Russians to move ammunition depots farther away from the front, lengthening their supply lines and complicating the logistics of getting artillery shells to the units that need them. “Russia doesn’t have a good automated logistical system; it requires a lot of manual labor, and that means it’s not very efficient,” Lee said.

By striking command and control centers, Ukraine is taking out the officers and commanders who would issue the orders to mitigate the impact of the HIMARS. “We know from the way that the Russians fight that they need someone to tell them what to do. And when you are able to kill the people that tell them what to do, you’re able to

stop those folks from moving forward,” the U.S. official explained.

But while the HIMARS have blunted Russia’s ability to advance, they won’t help Ukraine make territorial gains, said Lee, a former infantry officer in the U.S. Marines. That will depend more on Ukraine’s ability to field sufficient manpower, conventional artillery and ammunition to roll back Russian troops, and Russia still maintains an overall numerical edge, he said.

There are particular concerns about whether the West will be able to continue to supply the Ukrainians with the amount of ammunition they need for their artillery, including for the HIMARS, Lee added.

That concern was echoed last week by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Mark Milley, in a briefing with reporters. Although the Ukrainians have sought a bigger number of systems, “the issue will become ammunition and the consumption rates,” he said. “We think we’re OK right now.”

But looking beyond the next three months will require careful study by the Pentagon to ensure that U.S. military readiness isn’t compromised, as well as an effort to ramp up U.S. ammunition production, Milley said.

“One reason the Russians are not advancing is the HIMARS, but that doesn’t mean Ukraine is able to retake territory, either. We could see a stalemate-ish situation with not much advancing on either side,” Lee said.

“It comes down to sustainability, and it’s not clear which side has the better angle there.”

NATION

Official: Aides told to plan meeting between Biden, Xi

BY JENNY LEONARD
AND KRystal CHIA
The Washington Post

U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping told aides to plan an in-person meeting during a Thursday call, a U.S. official said, as both leaders staked out their positions in a simmering dispute over Taiwan.

If confirmed, it would be their first face-to-face exchange since Biden became president, and a sign that Xi plans to return to in-person diplomacy after not leaving China for more than two years due to COVID-19 controls. The Chinese Foreign Ministry statement didn't mention any such meeting, saying only that the two men agreed to keep up communications.

The fifth conversation between the leaders of the world's two largest economies centered on Taiwan, a longtime flashpoint exacerbated by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's possible visit to the island next month. Beijing has warned of a "firm and strong" response if the trip goes ahead.

Both sides described the two hour, 20 minute conversation as "candid" and the U.S. also said it was substantive. Neither side described the discussions as "constructive," a term the Chinese had used after past calls between the leaders. U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns had said in June that relations with Beijing have deteriorated to probably "the lowest moment" since former President Richard Nixon's landmark visit to China in 1972.

Stephen Orlins, president of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, said the call was productive because it had "put a floor" under the relationship, despite the "elephant in the room" of

Pelosi's trip. "The fact that it occurred, the fact that there were reasonably positive statements put out by both the United States and China, is progress because you have to start from the baseline that the relationship is deeply, deeply troubled," he told Bloomberg Television.

A senior U.S. administration official declined to say in a news briefing Thursday whether the two men had discussed Pelosi's trip. When pressed on that point at a regular news briefing Friday in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said only that the call was made "against the background of the potential visit to Taiwan by Speaker Pelosi."

Readouts of the exchange from both sides showed the two leaders had restated their well-established positions on Taiwan.

Xi told Biden it was the Chinese people's will to "safeguard China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity" over Taiwan, which the Communist Party considers a breakaway province, according to the Chinese statement. He added that "whoever plays with fire will get burnt," repeating a warning he's used in past calls with the U.S. president.

Biden said the U.S. "strongly opposes unilateral efforts to change the status quo or undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," according to a White House statement released after the Chinese one. He also reiterated the U.S. 'One China' policy that established ties between Washington and Beijing a half century ago, under which only Beijing is recognized as the government of China.

China views any Taiwan trip by Pelosi as a violation of that deal.



DANIEL G. PROVIDAKES/U.S. Navy

The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan approaches the Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS Tippecanoe to conduct a fueling in the South China Sea on Wednesday.

China rebukes Navy secretary for remarks on South China Sea

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — China blasted a top U.S. Navy official Friday after he criticized Beijing's increasingly aggressive actions in the South China Sea, saying it's America's military deployments in the disputed waters — which it called "navigation bullying" — that could spark confrontations.

The Chinese Embassy in Manila said it strongly deplored U.S. Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro's remarks, which were "unfounded accusations against and maliciously smeared China" and inflated the "China threat."

In an interview Tuesday with The Associated Press while on a visit to Manila, Del Toro underscored how Beijing has encroached in sovereign waters of its Asian neighbors in violation of international law.

U.S. military focus in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in the disputed South China Sea, would never slacken and, in fact, has intensified despite the war in Ukraine, he said in an assurance to Asian allies, including the Philippines.

China has had increasingly tense

territorial spats in recent years with the Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia in the South China Sea, which China claims virtually in its entirety on historical grounds. Brunei and Taiwan also have claims in the contested waters.

Washington lays no claims to the strategic waters but has said the peaceful resolution of the disputes — along with freedom of navigation and overflight in the waterway where a bulk of world trade transits — are in the U.S. national interest.

Beijing rejected a 2016 international arbitration ruling that invalidated its claims and continues to defy the landmark decision on a case brought up by the Philippine government.

Del Toro renewed assurances by President Joe Biden that the U.S. would honor its obligations under a 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty in case Philippine forces, ships and aircraft come under attack in the contested waters.

"As President Biden has said, if one country violates one inch of Filipino sovereignty, whether it be at sea or on shore or an offshore island, we will be there to support the

Filipino nation and the Filipino people in every possible way," Del Toro said.

China's move to transform seven disputed reefs into missile-protected island bases in the Spratlys, the most hotly contested section of the South China Sea, "is very concerning" and prompted the U.S. and other Western nations to press on with freedom of navigation patrols around the Chinese-claimed territories.

But the Chinese Embassy said the U.S. military deployments "from half a globe away" aimed to "to flex muscles, make military provocations and create maritime and air tensions," conducting "navigation bullying" in the name of freedom of navigation.

"In an attempt to preserve its hegemony, the U.S. keeps intensifying power projection in this region, and deliberately seeks to widen differences and provoke tensions," it said.

China and other rival claimants "have exercised restraint, kept their differences and disputes in a proper place, and got them on the track of consultation and management," the embassy said.

Key inflation gauge jumps 6.8% as prices keep surging

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An inflation gauge that is closely tracked by the Federal Reserve jumped 6.8% in June from that of a year ago, the biggest increase in four decades, and leaving Americans with no relief from surging costs.

Friday's government figures underscored the persistence of the inflation that is eroding Americans' purchasing power, dimming their confidence in the economy and threatening Democrats

in Congress in the run-up to the November midterm elections.

On a month-to-month basis, prices rose 1% from May to June, faster than the 0.6% rise from April to May and the biggest such jump since 2005.

A separate government report Friday reinforced the fact that the economy remains gripped by inflation pressures. A measure of employees' wages, excluding government workers, jumped 1.6% in the April-June quarter, match-

ing a record high reached last fall. Higher wages can fuel inflation if companies pass their higher labor costs on to their customers, as they typically do.

The Fed closely watches this report, known as the employment cost index, and takes account of it in its interest rate decisions. Last fall's sharp increase in the index contributed to the Fed's policy shift toward tightening credit.

The government also reported Friday that consumer spending

managed to just outpace inflation last month, rising 0.1% from May to June after adjusting for price changes. Consumer spending, the main driver of the economy, has weakened in the face of high inflation. But for now, it's still helping fuel inflation, with demand still strong for services, ranging from airline tickets and hotel rooms to restaurant meals and autos.

Many retail and consumer goods chains, though, say inflation is squeezing shoppers and limit-

ing how far their money goes — a sign that consumer spending could further weaken.

For example, this week, Walmart said its profits would fall because its customers are spending more on pricier food and gas, leaving them less able to buy clothes and other discretionary items. Likewise, Best Buy downgraded its sales and profit forecasts because surging inflation has forced consumers to reduce their purchases of electronics appliances.

NATION

Floods: President declares disaster area

FROM PAGE 1

high water. Patton's voice faltered as she described their harrowing escape.

"We had to swim out and it was cold. It was over my head so it was, it was scary," she told WCHS TV.

The water was so swift that some people trapped in their homes couldn't be reached on Thursday, said Floyd County Judge-Executive Robbie Williams.

Just to the west in Perry County, some people remained unaccounted for and almost everyone in the area had suffered some sort of damage, firefighter Glenn Caudil said.

"Probably 95 percent of the people in this area lost everything — houses, cars, animals. It's heart-breaking," Caudil told WCHS.

Determining the number of people unaccounted for is tough with cell service and electricity out across the disaster area, he said: "This is so widespread, it's a challenge on even local officials to put that number together."

More than 290 people have sought shelter, Beshear said. He deployed National Guard soldiers to the hardest-hit areas. Three parks set up shelters, and with property damage so extensive, the governor opened an online portal for donations to the victims.

President Joe Biden called to express his support for what will be a lengthy recovery effort, Beshear said, predicting it will take more than a year to fully rebuild.

Biden also declared a federal disaster to direct relief money to more than a dozen Kentucky counties, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency appointed an officer to coordinate the recovery. FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell joined Beshear at a briefing.

Beshear had planned to tour the disaster area on Friday, but postponed it because conditions at an airport where they planned to

"There are hundreds of families that have lost everything. And many of these families didn't have much to begin with."

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear

land are unsafe, his office said.

More rain Friday tormented the region after days of torrential rainfall. The storm sent water gushing from hillsides and surging out of streambeds, inundating roads and forcing rescue crews to use helicopters and boats to reach trapped people. Flooding also damaged parts of western Virginia and southern West Virginia, across a region where poverty is endemic.

"There are hundreds of families that have lost everything," Beshear said. "And many of these families didn't have much to begin with. And so it hurts even more. But we're going to be there for them."

Poweroutage.us reported more than 33,000 customers remained without electricity Friday in eastern Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia, with the bulk of the outages in Kentucky.

Beshear said portions of at least 28 state roads in Kentucky are blocked due to flooding or mudslides. Rescue crews also worked in Virginia and West Virginia to reach people in places where roads weren't passable. Gov. Jim Justice declared a state of emergency for six counties in West Virginia where the flooding downed trees, power outages and blocked roads.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin also made



RYAN C. HERMENS/TNS

Buildings and roads are flooded in Garrett, Ky., on Thursday.



BILL ESTEP/TNS

Flash flooding in Perry County, Ky., on Thursday washed a mobile home down Grapevine Creek and smashed it against a bridge.

an emergency declaration, enabling Virginia to mobilize resources across flooded areas of southwest Virginia.

"With more rainfall forecasted over the next few days, we want to lean forward in providing as many resources possible to assist those affected," Youngkin said in a statement.

The National Weather Service said another storm front adding misery to flood victims in St.

Louis, Mo., on Friday could bring more thunderstorms to the Appalachians, where flash flash flooding remained possible through Friday evening in places across the region.

Brandon Bonds, a weather service meteorologist in Jackson, said some places could see more rain Friday afternoon and begin to dry out on Saturday "before things pick back up Sunday and into next week."

The hardest hit areas of eastern Kentucky received between 8 and 10½ inches over a 48-hour period ending Thursday, Bonds said. Some areas got more rain overnight, including Martin County, which was pounded with another 3 inches or so leading to the new flood warning.

The North Fork of the Kentucky River rose to broke records in at least two places. A river gauge recorded 20.9 feet in Whitesburg, more than 6 feet over the previous record, and the river crested at a record 43.47 feet in Jackson, Bonds said.

In Whitesburg, Ky., floodwaters seeped into Appalshop, an arts and education center renowned for promoting and preserving the region's history and culture.

"We're not sure exactly the full damage because we haven't been able to safely go into the building or really get too close to it," said Meredith Scalos, its communications director.

"We do know that some of our archival materials have flooded out of the building into Whitesburg streets."

St. Louis area hit by more flooding

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Heavy rains brought another round of flooding to the St. Louis region that was already recovering from record rains earlier this week, prompting firefighters to help dozens of people escape the floodwaters.

No injuries were reported from Thursday's flooding, but the St. Louis Fire Department said on Twitter that it responded to 75 flooding-related emergencies and 60 people were rescued or helped to safety.

Among the rescues, the depart-

ment said firefighters carried six children to safety from a daycare at Cornerstone Institutional Baptist Church, where 15 children and three adults were trapped.

The storms that began Thursday lasted for a few hours and dropped about 2 to 4 inches of rain, according to early National Weather Service estimates.

Debbie Boshans, her husband and their cat had been rescued Tuesday from their home due to flooding, and they were working to load belongings onto a trailer Thursday when rain began falling

again, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. Their street flooded a second time.

"I can't believe this happened again," Boshans' son-in-law, Kyle Mathes, told the newspaper. "It's a double whammy."

Earlier in the week, a storm system dropped more than a foot on St. Charles County and up to 10 inches in other areas on Tuesday and Wednesday.

That prompted widespread flooding. Parts of southern Illinois also saw flooding after heavy rains.

Scores of buildings burned in wildfire near Yosemite

Associated Press

JERSEYDALE, Calif. — At least 135 homes and other structures have been destroyed by a California forest fire near Yosemite National Park, officials said Thursday.

The Oak Fire in Mariposa County has charred nearly 30 square miles of trees and brush, with 42% containment, Cal Fire said in an incident update.

Assessment teams are moving through remote communities in

the Sierra Nevada foothills looking for more damage.

At its height, some 6,000 people were told to flee their homes after the blaze erupted last Friday near the town of Midpines.

Thousands have since returned as many evacuation orders were lifted. Lower temperatures and increased humidity in recent days helped firefighters slow the fire's growth.

The fire's cause is under investigation.

NATION

West Virginia Senate takes up abortion bill

By JOHN RABY
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — A bill up for a final vote in West Virginia's Senate could make the state the first to pass new legislation restricting access to abortions after the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling removing its protected status as a constitutional right.

Senators were set to meet Friday afternoon for a third reading of the bill, which some complained was not vetted in any of the chamber's committees. If passed, it would head to the Republican governor, who has signaled he favors a statewide ban.

Gov. Jim Justice said during a media briefing earlier this week that the abortion bill "is so important, it's off the chart. We need

modernization to our law, and what we have on the books is ancient." He didn't indicate whether he would sign the bill that passed the House, and the governor's office didn't immediately return an email Thursday requesting comment on that version.

The House of Delegates passed the bill that would mandate prison time for medical providers who perform abortions earlier this week after allowing exemptions for victims of rape and incest up to 14 weeks of pregnancy.

The exemption also requires victims to report their assault to law enforcement. The bill provides other exceptions for an ectopic pregnancy, a "nonmedically viable fetus" or a medical emer-

gency.

The vote in the GOP-dominated House on Wednesday came amid a protest from dozens inside the Capitol and followed a raucous public hearing in which most speakers — given just 45 seconds each to voice their opinions or be cut off — opposed the bill.

A parade of 90 speakers stepped to the microphone, including 12-year-old Addison Gardner of Buffalo Middle School, who posed a vivid hypothetical situation for lawmakers.

"If a man decides that I'm an object and does unspeakable and tragic things to me, am I, a child, supposed to carry and birth another child?" she said. "Am I to put my body through the physical trauma of pregnancy? Am I to

suffer the mental implications? A child who had no say in what was being done with my body. Some in here say they are pro-life. What about my life? Does my life not matter to you?"

The legislation advancing in a special session called by Justice to "clarify and modernize" the state's abortion laws would make providing an abortion a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

After the Supreme Court ruling in June, West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey said abortion was banned in the state because of an 1800s-era law that had been unenforceable while abortion was federally protected. But on July 18, a Charleston judge barred the state from enforcing

the ban, ruling it had been superseded by a slew of conflicting modern laws such as a ban on abortion after 20 weeks.

During hours of House debate, the sound of screams and chants from protesters outside the chamber rang throughout the room. "Face us!" the crowd yelled.

"What's ringing in my ears is not the noise of the people here," said one of the bill's supporters, Republican Del. Brandon Steele of Raleigh County. "It's the cries of the unborn, tens of thousands of unborn children that are dead today. ... Their blood screams from the ground today that you end this scar on our state, that you remove this curse from this land that was put upon us by a court so long ago."



ARLEIGH RODGERS/AP

Anti-abortion protesters sing outside the Indiana Senate chamber Thursday in Indianapolis.

Push to tighten abortion ban bill falls short in Indiana Senate

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's Republican-dominated Senate rejected a push by conservative lawmakers Thursday night to strip exceptions for rape and incest victims in a proposal that would ban most abortions in the state.

The Senate voted 28-18 against the amendment following a debate that was delayed for five hours as GOP senators met privately amid days of public division over how strict such exceptions should be limited — and intense objections to those exceptions from anti-abortion activists.

Republican Sen. Mike Young of Indianapolis called for removing the rape and incest exceptions, a move that would have left the bill only allowing abortions deemed

necessary to save the pregnant woman's life.

"Exceptions equal death for unborn innocent children," Young said.

The Indiana proposal followed the political firestorm over a 10-year-old rape victim who traveled to the state from neighboring Ohio to end her pregnancy. The case of the Ohio girl gained wide attention when an Indianapolis doctor said the child had to go to Indiana because Ohio banned abortions at the first detectable "fetal heartbeat" after the U.S. Supreme Court's decision last month overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

Republican Sen. Sue Glick of LaGrange, the abortion bill's sponsor, urged senators to protect rape and incest victims who've

been subjected to violence.

"Give them that choice," Glick said. "Don't foster that evil on them after the evil they've already suffered."

Eighteen Republicans joined 10 Democrats in voting to keep the rape and incest exceptions in the proposal. But the votes of many of the 18 Republicans who want to strip out those exceptions will be needed for the bill to advance from the Senate for consideration in the GOP-controlled House.

The proposal would prohibit abortions from the time a fertilized egg implants in a uterus with the limited exceptions, including a requirement that a woman or girl seeking an abortion because of rape or incest to sign an affidavit attesting to the attack.

No bond for accused rapist of girl who traveled for abortion

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A man accused of raping and impregnating a 9-year-old Ohio girl who traveled to Indiana for an abortion was ordered held without bond Thursday by a judge who cited overwhelming evidence and the fact that he apparently is living in the U.S. illegally.

Gerson Fuentes, 27, faces two counts of raping the girl, who turned 10 before having the abortion in a case that has become a flashpoint in the national discussion about access to the procedure since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. He has pleaded not guilty.



Fuentes

If convicted, Fuentes, who is from Guatemala, faces the possibility of life in prison with no chance of parole. That penalty and "not having any ties to this community that can be proved legally makes it a substantial flight risk," Franklin County Judge Julie Lynch said after a 35-minute hearing.

The girl confirmed that Fuentes attacked her, Fuentes confessed to Columbus police detectives, and DNA testing of the aborted fetus confirmed Fuentes was the father, Franklin County Prosecutor Dan Meyer and detective Jeffrey Huhn said in court Thursday.

Huhn said he was unable, when searching multiple databases, to find any evidence that Fuentes was in the country legally.

In denying bond, Lynch cited

that evidence, the violence of the crime and the fact that Fuentes had been living in the same home with the girl and her mother.

"To allow him to return to that home, the traumatic and psychological impact would be underserving to an alleged victim," Lynch said. She also cited the "physical, and mental and emotional trauma" the girl suffered from enduring the rapes and the abortion, and finding her case at the center of the country's abortion debate.

The case gained national attention after an Indianapolis physician, Dr. Caitlin Bernard, said the child had to travel to Indiana due to Ohio banning abortions at the first detectable "fetal heartbeat" after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the landmark *Roe v. Wade* ruling.

President Joe Biden cited the case when he signed an order July 8 trying to protect abortion access. Some conservatives and prominent Republicans, including Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, cast doubt on the story initially, then condemned the attack after Fuentes was arrested.

Fuentes' attorney, Bryan Bowen, argued against a no-bond hearing and unsuccessfully asked Lynch to set a reasonable bond. He said there was no evidence that there was physical abuse outside of the rapes or that the girl had been put under the influence of drugs or alcohol. He also said that Fuentes had family ties in Columbus, that he had a job, and that there was no evidence of a criminal history. Fuentes has lived in the area about seven years.

NATION

Evidence adds to mystery of ID theft case

By JENNIFER SINCO
KELLEHER
AND BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

HONOLULU — Bobby Edward Fort was 27 when he enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1994 and retired 22 years later with a secret security clearance that allowed him to land a job in Honolulu as a defense contractor.

But in reality, Bobby Fort was long dead. He was just short of 3 months old when he choked and died in a Texas hospital in 1967.

The Bobby Fort who enlisted in the Coast Guard had stolen the dead baby's identity 35 years ago. A false birth certificate helped him get five passports, drivers' licenses and Department of Defense credentials.

The fraud was uncovered last week. On Thursday, the man authorities said had posed as Fort was before a judge, who asked him to state his name: "Walter Glenn Primrose," the 66-year-old said.

Primrose was ordered held without bail by a U.S. District Court judge after a prosecutor provided new details about how he and his wife had been fraudulently living for decades under the stolen identities of two dead Texas infants.

While the hearing further deepened the mystery of why the couple shed their past, it provided little clarity about whether the case

against them goes beyond stolen identity, though a prosecutor suggested it could have ties overseas.

"We think the defendant is obviously quite adept at impersonating other people, obtaining government ID documents, fraud, avoiding detection," Assistant U.S. Attorney Wayne Myers said. "He may — we're not saying for sure — but he may have some troubling foreign connections. And if he does, he might be able to use those to enlist help."

A search of the couple's Hawaii home turned up faded Polaroids of the two wearing jackets that appear to be authentic Russian KGB uniforms, Myers said. An expert determined the snapshots were taken in the 1980s.

The search also yielded an invisible ink kit, documents with coded language and maps showing military bases, Myers said.

When the couple were left in a room together, they were recorded saying "things consistent with espionage," Myers said.

Federal defender Craig Jerome said the government only provided "speculation and innuendo" that the couple was involved in something more nefarious than "purely white-collar nonviolent offenses."

"If it wasn't for the speculation that the government's injected into these proceedings without providing any real evidence ... he



Walter Glenn Primrose, also known as Bobby Edward Fort, allegedly seen in a KGB uniform.

would certainly be released," Jerome said.

Prosecutors feared Primrose would flee if freed. They noted in court papers that he was an avionics electrical technician in the Coast Guard and was highly skilled to communicate secretly if released.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Rom Trader said he based his detention order on the alleged fraud "over multiple occasions spanning a long period of time."

Gwynn Darle Morrison faces a bail hearing Tuesday.

Her lawyer said the couple — regardless of the names they used — had lived law-abiding lives. Attorney Megan Kau told The Associated Press the couple posed for photos in the purported KGB jacket for fun.

"She wants everyone to know she's not a spy," Kau said. "This has all been blown way out of proportion. It's government overreaching."

The couple's story begins in Texas, where Primrose and Morrison went to high school and college together and married in 1980, according to court documents.

In the early 1980s, they told family they were going into the witness protection program before abruptly abandoning their house and leaving Texas, Myers said. They handed over the keys to their Nacogdoches home and told family members to take anything they wanted. The house was later foreclosed on.

When they reemerged they had new names and different explanations of what happened.

In 1987, Primrose took on the identity of Fort, an infant who died in 1967 in Burnet, Texas. Morrison took the identity of Julie Lyn Montague, who died in 1968 at the same hospital as Fort. Primrose and Morrison, both born in 1955, were more than a decade older than the birth dates listed on their new IDs.

"The defendant and his wife reportedly told yet other associates that they needed to change their names because of legal and financial reasons," Myers said. "And that going forward they can be contacted using their new names,

Fort and Montague."

At some point, Primrose told someone he was a government agent and couldn't share photos of himself.

The couple remarried under their assumed names in 1988, according to court records.

Primrose had a longstanding interest in espionage, Myers said. His wife had anti-government and anti-military sentiments and was said by an associate to live in Romania when it was part of the communist bloc.

Kau denied that Morrison ever lived in Romania.

The couple, who were arrested Friday at their Kapolei home, are charged with conspiracy to commit an offense against the U.S., false statement in passport application and aggravated identity theft. They face up to 17 years in prison if convicted of all charges.

Inside their house, investigators discovered correspondence in which an associate believed Primrose had joined the CIA or had become a terrorist, Myers said.

Morrison used her real name to open a post office box, where she told family to contact her. When her father died, her family couldn't reach her and enlisted local law enforcement to track her down.

"Even the defendant's family cannot find him when they need to," Myers said.

Emergencies declared for monkeypox

The Washington Post

San Francisco and the state of New York declared public health emergencies Thursday amid the growing monkeypox outbreak, the latest in a series of escalating measures responding to the rapidly spreading virus.

The action by two of the hardest-hit areas comes after the World Health Organization declared a global emergency last weekend and as the Joe Biden administration weighs a national emergency declaration.

More than 40% of the nation's confirmed 4,907 monkeypox cases have been reported in California and New York.

San Francisco Mayor London Breed, D, announced a local public health emergency Thursday, noting cases of monkeypox had nearly doubled, to 261, in a week. She said the move would mobilize resources, accelerate emergency planning and allow for future spending to be reimbursed by the state and federal governments.

California state Sen. Scott Wien-



HAVEN DALEY/AP

A sign urges the release of the monkeypox vaccine during a protest in San Francisco on July 18.

er, D, who had called for the emergency declaration, said the decision would make it easier to expand testing and vaccines and pressure the federal government to take the outbreak more seriously.

After the state of New York recorded more than 1,200 cases, State Health Commissioner Mary T. Bassett on Thursday declared an imminent threat to public health, retroactive to June 1.

Monkeypox infections result in an illness that lasts several weeks with symptoms including fever, swollen lymph nodes and a rash that

can spread throughout the body. No U.S. deaths have been recorded, but some patients have reported intense pain from lesions.

The outbreak has overwhelmingly been concentrated in men who have sex with men. Gay leaders such as Wiener and longtime HIV activists have urged health officials to act decisively to contain monkeypox and avoid repeating mistakes from the AIDS crisis when the suffering of gay men was minimized and the world failed to act quickly. Vaccines are believed to be effective before and after exposure.

Congress passes bill to aid computer chip firms

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House on Thursday passed a \$280 billion package to boost the semiconductor industry and scientific research in a bid to create more high-tech jobs in the United States and help it better compete with international rivals, namely China.

The House approved the bill by a solid margin of 243-187, sending the measure to President Joe Biden to be signed into law and providing the White House with a major domestic policy victory. Twenty-four Republicans voted for the legislation.

"Today, the House passed a bill that will make cars cheaper, appliances cheaper, and computers cheaper," Biden said. "It will lower the costs of every day goods. And it will create high-paying manufacturing jobs across the country and strengthen U.S. leadership in the industries of the future at the same time."

As the vote was taking place, Biden was discussing the economy with CEOs at the White House. During the event, he was handed a note informing him it was clear

the bill would pass — a development that produced a round of applause before the tally was final.

Republicans argued the government should not spend billions to subsidize the semiconductor industry and GOP leadership in the House recommended a vote against the bill, telling members the plan would provide enormous subsidies and tax credits "to a specific industry that does not need additional government handouts."

Rep. Guy Reschenthaler, R-Pa., said the way to help the industry would be through tax cuts and easing federal regulations, "not by picking winners and losers" with subsidies — an approach that Rep. Joseph Morelle, D-N.Y., said was too narrow.

"This affects every industry in the United States," Morelle said. "Take, for example, General Motors announcing they have 95,000 automobiles awaiting chips. So, you want to increase the supply of goods to people and help bring down inflation? This is about increasing the supply of goods all over the United States in every single industry."

WORLD

Russia's Lavrov open to talks on US prisoner swap

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Friday that he's open to a call with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken to discuss a possible prisoner swap involving American basketball star Brittney Griner.

Blinken said Wednesday that Washington had offered Russia a deal that would bring home Griner and another jailed American, Paul Whelan. A person familiar with the matter said the U.S. government proposed trading convicted Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout for Whelan and Griner.

Speaking on a visit to Uzbekistan, Lavrov said his ministry had received an official U.S. request for a call after Blinken made the statement. Russia's top diplomat said he would be ready once he returns to Moscow and that the timing of the call was being worked out.

Lavrov said he was open to discussing the prisoner exchange, even though the Foreign Ministry hasn't been involved in previous discussions on the issue.

"I will listen to what he has to say," Lavrov added.

Asked Thursday about the U.S. offer, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov replied that prisoner swaps were typically negotiated discreetly behind the scenes.

"We know that such issues are discussed without any such release of information," Peskov

told reporters during a conference call. "Normally, the public learns about it when the agreements are already implemented."

Blinken's comments marked the first time the U.S. government publicly revealed any concrete action it has taken to secure Griner's release. The two-time Olympic gold medalist and player for the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury was arrested at a Moscow airport in mid-February when inspectors found vape cartridges containing cannabis oil in her luggage.

Griner's arrest came at a time of heightened tensions between Moscow and Washington ahead of Russia sending troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24. Griner's five months of detention have raised strong criticism among teammates and supporters in the United States.

Whelan, a corporate security executive from Michigan, was sentenced to 16 years in prison on espionage charges in 2020. He and his family have vigorously asserted his innocence. The U.S. government has denounced the charges as false.

Russia has for years expressed interest in the release of Bout, a Russian arms dealer once labeled the "Merchant of Death." He was sentenced to 25 years in prison in 2012 on charges that he schemed to illegally sell millions of dollars in weapons.



A massive video screen suspended above the stage falls onto performers at a concert of Cantopop boy band Mirror, in Hong Kong, Thursday. The image is from a video posted on social media.

2 hurt as giant video screen falls at Hong Kong concert

By ZEN SOO
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong officials said Friday they would open an investigation into a concert accident in which a giant video screen fell down onto the stage and injured two dancers.

Video clips from the Cantopop group Mirror concert Thursday night show a massive LED screen suspended above the stage crashing down, directly landing on one dancer before toppling over onto another as audience members scream in horror.

The injured performers were both sent to the hospital, with one of the dancers reported to be in "serious condition."

Hong Kong leader John Lee said Friday that authorities will "comprehensively investigate the incident" and review safety requirements for future performances, according to a government statement.

Concert organizer MakerVille said in a statement it was "deeply saddened" over the injuries of two performers and that it would work with authorities in the probe.

"If we find anything suspicious, or if any person or unit is involved in misconduct, we will immediately report it to the police," the statement read.

Authorities also revealed their initial findings after inspecting the show venue — the Hong Kong

Coliseum — on Friday. The concert on Thursday was the fourth of 12 scheduled concerts by Mirror, with tens of thousands of fans having bought tickets.

Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism Kevin Yeung told reporters Friday the government was "very concerned" about the incident and that an investigation would be conducted, likely over several weeks.

"We will do research to find out whether (the steel cable broke) due to an operational or material problem. It cannot currently be concluded at this stage," said Yeung, adding that the incident will affect "all future performances."

Turkmenistan restricts departure of dog breed

Associated Press

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan — The Central Asian nation of Turkmenistan says if you're trying to smuggle its prized native dog breed out of the country, you're barking up the wrong tree.

The government is now requiring that its celebrated Alabay dogs receive a passport before they can leave the country.

A law that took effect Tuesday requires that all puppies of the breed, which is also known as the Central Asian shepherd dog, be marked in the government's pedigree book and register of pedigreed dogs. Passports will be issued including data on the dog's sex, date of birth, color, as well as

details about the owner. Special government export permission will be required.

Turkmenistan, an isolated desert country of 6 million people, prides itself on its horses and dogs, honoring centuries-old herding traditions. Alabay, traditionally used for guarding livestock herds, are among the world's largest dogs, weighing as much as 175 pounds.

In 2020, then-President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov established a holiday honoring the dogs.



Alabay

Studies indicate COVID came from markets

Associated Press

Two new studies provide more evidence that the coronavirus pandemic originated in a Wuhan, China market where live animals were sold — further bolstering the theory that the virus emerged in the wild rather than escaping from a Chinese lab.

The research, published online Tuesday by the journal Science, shows that the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market was likely the early epicenter of the scourge that has now killed nearly 6.4 million people around the world. Scientists conclude that the virus that causes COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, likely spilled from animals into people two separate times.

"All this evidence tells us the same thing: It points right to this particular market in the middle of

Wuhan," said Kristian Andersen, a professor in the Department of Immunology and Microbiology at Scripps Research and co-author of one of the studies. "I was quite convinced of the lab leak myself until we dove into this very carefully and looked at it much closer."

Many scientists believe the virus jumped from bats to humans, either directly or through another animal. But in June, the World Health Organization recommended a deeper probe into whether a lab accident may be to blame. Critics had said the WHO was too quick to dismiss the lab leak theory.

"Have we disproven the lab leak theory? No, we have not," Andersen said. "But I think what's really important here is there are possible scenarios and there are plausible

scenarios and it's really important to understand that possible does not mean equally likely."

The pandemic's origins remain controversial. Some scientists believe a lab leak is more likely and others remain open to both possibilities. But Matthew Aliota, a researcher in the college of veterinary medicine at the University of Minnesota, said in his mind the pair of studies "kind of puts to rest, hopefully, the lab leak hypothesis."

"Both of these two studies really provide compelling evidence for the natural origin hypothesis," said Aliota, who wasn't involved in either study. Since sampling an animal that was at the market is impossible, "this is maybe as close to a smoking gun as you could get."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Coyote to get more room but not a new home

IL NORTHBROOK — A coyote on public display in suburban Chicago will get a larger den but not a transfer to a wild animal sanctuary in Colorado.

A report for the Cook County Forest Preserve District said the coyote, named Rocky, is “happy and healthy” in his 266-square-foot home but will get more room. Critics, however, said his constant pacing is proof that he’s bored.

“You put an animal in a cage they’re not happy,” said Jodie Wiederkehr, director of the Chicago Alliance for Animals.

Rocky has been at the River Trail Nature Center in Northbrook since 2018, the Chicago Sun-Times reported. He was found as a pup in Tennessee.

An expanded habitat is in the works at the nature center.

A petition to relocate the coyote to a wild animal sanctuary in Keenesburg, Colo., has more than 6,000 signatures.

Vandals hit sculpture garden by local artist

LA CHAUVIN — Authorities in south-central Louisiana are looking for those responsible for vandalizing the Chauvin Sculpture Garden, a local landmark created by a self-taught artist.

Three concrete sculptures were broken, and one is missing, said Gary LaFleur, head of the Center for Bayou Studies at Nicholls State University.

“The one that hurts everybody’s feelings the most is this sculpture of a little girl, kind of sweet. We call her ‘Girl in White Dress,’” he said. The vandals tipped the statue onto the grass, but the only part broken was where it was mounted, so he was able to put the girl back in place.

A concrete sculpture known as “Waterfall Girl” also was damaged, caretakers told The Houma Courier. Vandals also damaged a sculpture of an angel that held an amber globe, similar to how the Statue of Liberty holds its torch.

Police find 2 bodies after explosion levels home

MN HOPKINS — Two people were killed Wednesday morning when an explosion and fire demolished a suburban Minneapolis home, police said.

Hopkins Fire Chief Dale Specken said it was a “pretty violent explosion” that reportedly shook many other homes in the neighborhood. The cause of the blast has not been determined. Specken said crews found no gas leaks on the exterior of the home.

Two bodies were recovered from the debris, a Hopkins police spokeswoman said. They have not been identified. Police said two elderly people lived in the home.



ERIC RISBERG/AP

Ocean cleanup

Bags filled with plastics and debris from the North Pacific are unloaded from the Ocean Voyages Institute sailing cargo ship Kwai in Sausalito, Calif., on Wednesday. The ship returned with plastics from the ocean after 45 days in the area more commonly known as the “Great Pacific Garbage Patch.” The plastics are to be recycled, upcycled and repurposed.

Society chapter to drop ‘Audubon’ from name

WA SEATTLE — The Seattle chapter of the Audubon Society says it is dropping “Audubon” from its name because the man the organization is named after was a slave owner and opposed abolition.

KNKX reported that Seattle Audubon is one of the largest chapters of the National Audubon Society, the nonprofit dedicated to protecting birds and their habitats. No deadlines or candidates for a replacement name have been established.

Earlier this month, the board voted to change the chapter’s name because the man the organization is named after — illustrator, painter and bird lover John James Audubon, author of the seminal work “The Birds of America” — owned enslaved people.

Felon gets added prison time for buying gun

VA RICHMOND — A Richmond man who was released from prison three years ago after serving 23 years for a federal drug trafficking conspiracy is going back behind bars for having a gun he bought on the street.

Following a hearing on Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Richmond, Keith L. Hopkins Jr., 54, was sentenced to 33 months in prison for his earlier guilty plea to

possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported.

Hopkins also admitted he was selling drugs again.

Richmond police caught Hopkins with a 9 mm semiautomatic pistol on Oct. 27 as they were executing an arrest warrant on another person at a convenience store. Officers observed Hopkins reach into his waistband, pull out a holstered gun and discard it in a vehicle with two people in it, according to the government’s case.

Hopkins subsequently told police that he purchased the gun “off the street” for \$325. He “further stated that he sells illegal narcotics and makes approximately \$500-\$600 per day doing so.”

Man arrested after flight is diverted to Utah

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A British man aboard a flight from London to Los Angeles grabbed a passenger seated in front of him by the throat and tried to hit and bite him, prompting the diversion of the flight to Utah, authorities said Wednesday.

William Stephen Hayes, 39, was arrested after the Virgin Atlantic flight landed Tuesday in Salt Lake City, police said in a statement. He was charged with assault and interfering with the flight crew, the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Utah said in charging documents.

Witnesses told authorities that after passengers and crew mem-

bers restrained and handcuffed Hayes following the alleged assault, he still tried to fight with people nearby and kick the plane’s windows, the charging documents said.

Local police took Hayes into custody after the plane landed and referred the case to the U.S. Attorney’s office, which typically has authority over international flights. The plane then resumed its flight to Los Angeles.

2 dead, 10 injured in SUV rollover near border

NM SUNLAND PARK — Two people died and 10 were injured Wednesday when the SUV they were in rolled over in southeastern New Mexico about eight miles from the U.S.-Mexico border, officials said.

A 13th person also was in the Chevrolet Tahoe but it was unclear whether that person was injured, said Sunland Park Fire Chief Daniel Medrano. His agency responded to the crash, which occurred around 4:45 a.m. about 13 miles northwest of El Paso, Texas.

New Mexico State Police confirmed the two fatalities but did not respond to repeated requests for comment on whether law enforcement officers were pursuing the SUV when the rollover happened. Medrano said two of the people who were hurt suffered critical injuries and that all of the injured were taken to hospitals.

Federal officials in a statement said U.S. Border Patrol agents provided assistance at the crash scene, but declined to specify what type of help or whether agents were involved in a pursuit.

Pipeline company to pay nearly \$1M over oil spill

CA HUNTINGTON BEACH — The owner of an underwater oil pipeline that spilled some 25,000 gallons of crude into the ocean off Southern California last year will pay nearly \$1 million in cleanup costs.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday agreed to accept a proposed claim settlement with Amplify Energy Corp. over the costs of dealing with last October’s spill off of Huntington Beach.

The ruptured pipeline spilled the oil about 4 miles offshore. While less severe than initially feared, the spill shuttered beaches for a week and fisheries for more than a month, oiled birds and threatened wetlands that Orange County communities have been striving to restore.

Investigators believe the San Pedro Bay Pipeline that ferried crude from offshore oil platforms to the coast was weakened when a cargo ship’s anchor snagged it in high winds in January 2021, months before it ultimately ruptured Oct. 1

VIDEO GAMES

Pawsibly purrfect

Satisfying gameplay and brilliant storytelling, design make *Stray* the cat's meow

BY ALYSE STANLEY
The Washington Post

Several days after finishing *Stray*, I'm still chewing over the right words to describe it. It's adorable. It's devastating. It unspools a haunting thread about humanity but also encourages you to lose a lot of time just running around doing silly cat things — leaving a trail of kitty prints through fresh paint, snoozing in a comfy corner, etc. — that have zero effect on the game. That juxtaposition had me invested in the game from start to finish, and its poignant themes haven't left my mind in the days since.

You play as an unnamed orange cat trying to return home after an ill-fated jump sends you plummeting into the sewers of a dilapidated cybercity. The androids that walk its neon-lit streets call it the Dead City, where they live among what appear to be relics of a once-human population. You team up with a small drone, B-12, that connects to a harness and can hack terminals, translate the language of the city's robotic inhabitants and unlock clues called "memories" to learn more about what the hell happened to this place.

Before you ask, yes, the cat freezes up and falls over when it's first put in the harness, just like a real cat would. The developers took great pains to authentically capture all the cuteness and chaos of cats in its gameplay. Playing *Stray* felt like a surreal 4D experience at times: There's a dedicated "meow" button, and my orange cat Cheeto, who lay beside me as I played, perked up whenever I hit it and the sound echoed through the PS5 controller (the cat will also meow randomly — again, just like a real cat).

You can claw at doors and furniture by alternating the L2 and R2 triggers, leaving behind scratch marks, or knock things off tables just because or jump on a stack of books to send it toppling over. Some of these behaviors relate to gameplay — in one puzzle I pushed a paint can off a ledge to break a glass enclosure below, unlocking a new area — but many do not, such as getting the cat's head stuck in a bag or curling up to take a nap.

The controller also vibrates when you purr.

Your ability to move through the world like a cat informs much of *Stray*'s level design, which focuses heavily on verticality. The cramped alleyways, neon signs and towering apartment buildings crumbling in disrepair become a jungle gym as you parkour across the city, jumping from air conditioning unit to apartment balcony to telephone pole with ease. The platforming is broken up by puzzle-solving sequences that call to mind *Half-Life 2* in how they seamlessly incorporate the envi-



BlueTwelve Studio, Annapurna Interactive photos

Stray is relatively accurate in depicting feline behavior. Players control an orange cat as it explores a sci-fi dystopian city.

ronment into physics-based puzzles, forcing you to examine your surroundings in new ways to figure out the solution. You push planks to create walkways, for example, or slip into an overturned barrel to roll it hamster-wheel-style a few feet over to use as a step.

Stray is not a difficult game by any means, and the stakes are low: You have an infinite number of lives, and there's no fall damage. Even still, it has no trouble establishing tension during its more action-packed sequences. The residents of the city's slum live in constant fear of Zurks, little chittering critters that eat everything in sight and will swarm you on sight. They look like *Half-Life* headcrabs and latch onto you in a similar fashion. Though I knew I could just restart the level if I died, their disturbing high-pitched sounds and jerky movements were no less terrifying, and whenever one got a hold of me I would panic and mash the button to shake it off. Even after you get a weapon (a ray gun operated by B-12 that fires UV rays) to fight against them, they still feel dangerous — especially in numbers. The gun can easily overheat and has to recharge when it does, and that sound of a fuse blowing with a horde of Zurks scrambling toward me never failed to make my stomach drop.

Stray is a master class in environmental storytelling and level design. From your first moments in the slums, it feels like the city is alive (despite its name), a character in its own right that not only knows you're there, but is looking out for this poor stray kitty that's wandered into something bigger than itself. An unseen mechanical force, quickly revealed to be B-12, guides the way. Neon signs light up with arrows pointing you in the right direction, string lights that crisscross alleyways flash one by one to reveal which ledges you can jump to, and you're followed by the gentle mechanical whir of security cameras as they track you trotting by.

After B-12 joins you directly, *Stray* incorporates the lights of the city — the signs, the streetlights, the soft glow from a window — in incredibly subtle ways to direct you where to go. During a chase sequence with a horde of Zurks hot on my



Stray is full of adorable situations, such as a cat traveling via bucket.

tail, I felt like I was making split-second decisions, but I never hit a dead end. In the city itself, it rarely felt like I was being steered this way or the other, but instead like I was wandering around of my own accord, curious about whatever I caught a glimpse of in the distance. *Stray*'s quest structure mirrors this: Whenever I felt like I had stumbled upon a side quest, it almost always ended up looping back into the main plot somehow.

The bulk of *Stray*'s narrative is told through memories and the bits and pieces of information you glean from your surroundings as you trek upward through the city's levels. This steady trickle of insight meant I never stopped scouring every area I entered for clues, eager to piece together the mystery of the city's past. And I was absolutely okay with that, because *Stray*'s world is one you're all too happy to bask in. I don't think I've ever spent so much time in a video game doing absolutely nothing. Whenever the kitty curled up for a nap, I would just sit and vibe, watching the camera slowly zoom back to reveal more of the gorgeous setting as gentle music played, listening to the city breathe while a gentle purr echoed through my controller. No achievements or in-game incentives were needed to encourage me to be my most annoying cat self.



Gameplay isn't difficult, but there are sewer vermin called Zurks to battle.

I suspect one of the reasons it's so compelling to luxuriate in *Stray*'s world is because, for a city of robots, it's full of life. Playing as a cat makes this easy to convey without explicit explanation: A heart will appear on a robot's face when you nuzzle up against its leg; an angry face flashes when you cause mischief; they trip if you dart between their legs.

Stray isn't without its faults. It flags in the third act, where it trades in platforming for stealth mechanics that feel out of place. You sneak around a stark, generic-looking concrete facility, which is a particular shame given how memorable the other parts of the city are. Its controls are finicky at times, too, especially when trying to navigate back down to ground level. It wasn't always clear why I could jump to one surface but not another, and a lot of frustration could have been saved with some kind of mechanic to highlight the climbable ledges.

Minor complaints aside, *Stray* is an enrapturing experience, the kind of game that doesn't leave your brain after the credits roll. Immediately after beating the game, I jumped into the chapter select function, excited to unlock more memories and replay areas with fresh eyes.

Platforms: PlayStation 5, PlayStation 4 and PC

Online: stray.game

HEALTH & FITNESS

New options for 'old' eyes

Presbyopia can be treated with traditional reading glasses, recently approved eye drops



iStock

By JILL U. ADAMS
The Washington Post

The restaurant had tablecloths, low lighting and large, leather-bound menus with a fanciful script describing the fare. But these otherwise appealing features forced me to hold the over-size menu above the table at arm's length to make out my choices. My table mates chuckled as they reached for their reading glasses.

Doctors call it presbyopia, a term rooted in Greek and meaning "old eye," and it happens to everyone at some point. Some people notice their near vision starting to blur in their 40s, many of us experience this in our 50s and practically everyone deals with it after age 60.

"Your odds are 100%," says Peter McDonnell, an ophthalmologist and the director of the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

The good news is that there are many ways to manage presbyopia. But first, let's see what's happening in the eye to cause the blurriness.

Loss of elasticity

The lens of your eye sits right behind the colored iris. In young people, the lens is soft and flexible and able to change shape to switch one's focus from far to near. As people age, however, "the internal lens loses its elasticity," says ophthalmologist Brian Boxer Wachler, the founder of the Boxer Wachler Vision Institute in Beverly Hills, Calif.

The change happens gradually, McDonnell says, and the process begins when you are still a young adult. People don't notice until they're in middle age because "we have accommodative reserve," he says.

That means we start life with internal lenses so flexible that people can manage focus changes even after the stiffening begins. The age when people first experience vision changes varies a great deal and might be influenced by a person's activities. For instance, people whose work requires close vision might notice their deficit sooner than those who don't face such demands.

"We can compensate with things like long arms and large fonts," says Karolinne Rocha, ophthalmologist at the Medical University of South Carolina's Storm Eye

Institute in Charleston. Rocha recently reviewed various treatments for presbyopia.

Working or reading in brighter light can help, too. "It's giving more light to the retina at the back of the eye," Boxer Wachler says. Bright light also causes the pupil to contract, fostering a pinhole effect, which reduces distortion by limiting your eyes to the straightest and most focused light rays.

A grab bag of other lifestyle and environmental considerations: High contrast between text and page (or screen) aids reading as compared with yellowed pages or restaurant lighting. Fatigue plays a role; people may find it harder to focus first thing in the morning or when they're sick. Distance matters, naturally, which means you might need those reading glasses when reading a novel but not when working at the computer.

What 'cheaters' do

There is a host of technological and medical fixes, too. Reading glasses, of course, also called "readers" or "cheaters," are the first choice for many. They're cheap, available at drugstores and come in a range of strengths. The ratings of +1, +1.25, +1.5 are in units of diopter strength. (Diopter refers to the focal length of a lens.)

McDonnell recommends trying on a few different-strength glasses and reading something — perhaps on your phone or in a magazine.

Choose the lowest reading power that allows you to focus while reading, Boxer Wachler says.

Presbyopia, Rocha says, "can be the first sign of aging for people with perfect vision." Farsighted people might notice a need for reading glasses, while nearsighted people typically take off their regular glasses to read.

If you already wear corrective lenses of some sort — glasses or contacts — you might consider bifocals or progressive lenses. These are lenses with distance correction at the top and reading correction on the bottom, allowing people to change their focus by adjusting the part of the lens they peer through.

Another option is the monovision approach. That means correcting one eye for distance (typically the dominant eye) and correcting the other eye for reading. It can take a little getting used to as the eyes and brain adapt to giv-

ing each eye a distinct job.

"In 90% of people that we test in the office, they adapt very well," Boxer Wachler says. "In the other 10%, it doesn't work."

The eye drop alternative

An alternative to reading glasses or corrective contact lenses is prescription eye drops, sold under the brand name Vuity and approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2021 for use. The drops, meant to be used once a day, contain a drug called pilocarpine that contracts the pupil to create the pinhole effect, limiting extraneous light rays from entering the eye with their extraneous information.

In studies, the drops were shown to improve near vision without affecting far vision for about six hours. Some people reported headaches as a side effect.

But the benefits were limited, Boxer Wachler says. Of those who used the drops daily for one month, 30% were able to read three additional lines of letters on a near-vision assessment chart.

"That means that 70% of people saw either no improvement or less than three lines improvement," he says.

This modest effect might be most useful for people in the early stages of presbyopia, who don't need much corrective help.

A second eye drop treatment, still under investigation, is purported to soften the lens itself.

Ophthalmologists might offer surgical procedures to fix presbyopia, such as corneal inlays, LASIK, photorefractive keratectomy and lens implants.

If you experience changes in your vision, you can buy a pair of reading glasses. But McDonnell says it might be worth a visit to an eye doctor.

"When you start to reach the age of wisdom," he says, meaning one's 60s, it's worth getting checked for other age-related eye conditions such as cataracts, macular degeneration and glaucoma. Eye doctors can help advise you about the many options for presbyopia.

It's a universal problem that affects quality of life — a subject McDonnell studied some years ago. But with all the options out there, you should be able to customize a fix that works for you.

LIFESTYLE

BY KAREN HELLER

The Washington Post

On a cloudless summer morning, a begoggled Rong Wang paddles in the backyard with her husband and two children among a flotilla of floats. The speaker sparks tunes; watermelon chills in the cooler. Their friends, the Varams, arrive and plunge right in, eight swimmers splashing about in the 80-degree water.

“There’s nothing better than this,” says Wang, 49, an information technology director. “It kind of feels like our pool.”

And, yet, it isn’t.

It’s Karl Tradewell’s baby. Where others see 25,000 gallons of clear salt water shimmering in an azure kidney-shaped vessel, Tradewell sees opportunity. Also, revenue — \$68 an hour or more on weekends depending on the number of guests. Last summer, the Paoli, Pa. resident began listing his pool on Swimpily, the Airbnb of aquatic recreation: “Mainline Paoli Pool Party/Vacation for the day.” The two families split the \$140 fee for a two-hour frolic.

Tradewell, 40, a biotech recruiter, has never again viewed his pool as his alone because humans cannot swim every moment of every day, no matter how great the desire. Indeed, for far, far too many hours, these shimmering blue idylls go tragically unused, so much still water, barely producing a splash.

“I’m very business minded,” Tradewell says, watering his immaculate yard while Wang and her family swims. “They don’t have the enjoyment in their own backyard. Why not share?”

This Sunday in early July, the pool is rented three times, from breakfast until after the sun sets. The day before, Tradewell hosted a birthday bash for 25, and banked \$500. It was for 5-year-olds, not a college frat. Tradewell is not that generous — or foolish. He’s mindful of whom he rents to. Like 80% of Swimpily hosts, his bathroom is available for guests — a smart thing with a throng of kindergartners. For \$35 extra, folks can rent the grill. Instead of an innkeeper, Tradewell has become a pool keeper.

Observe the new \$5,500 heater tucked behind the tasteful landscaping. Rentals paid for that. (It’s \$15 an hour extra for heat.) He’s booked the pool 45 times this summer and August has yet to swelter. Wang and husband Jason Qiu have already rented three times, and booked again for next month.

Does Qiu want his own pool? The 47-year-old software engineer gives a look as though he’s been doused with ice water. Never.

“I don’t want the responsibility,” he says. “This is a win-win for us.”

Summer separates those who



RACHEL WISNIEWSKI/For The Washington Post

Mabel Qiu, 16, swims with Sudhan Varam, 5, in Karl Tradewell’s pool, which her family rented through Swimpily in Paoli, Pa., in July. Their parents split Tradewell’s \$140 fee to use the pool for two hours.

No pool? No problem

Rental site Swimpily offers a soak in strangers’ backyards for a fee

melt from those who float, the sweat-drenched from the habitually chlorinated, the hot-and-bothered from the cool-and-collected, we poor schmoe afflicted with profound pool lust and those fortunate few flush with chlorinated water.

During this moment when everything is for rent, you, too, can borrow a pool and a dream, adopt a stranger’s lifestyle and co-opt his or her backyard, an hour or two at a time.

Cool, you may say. Literally.

It is a sad, sweltering, sobering truth that only 8.7 million fortunate American homes are graced with pools, and merely 5.4 million of them with an in-ground baby, the Shangri-Lap of backyard delight.

Now, we, too, can be positively poolish, fleeting lawn tourists and voyeurs in a stranger’s aquatic Eden.

“An absolutely genius move,” says Liz Jaff, 37, a Washington political consultant and freshly minted mother. On a Friday morning in June, she and a friend and the friend’s baby booked a pool within hours. The babies frolicked on the lawn; the mothers frolicked in the water. “It felt like a completely spontaneous vacation.”

Granted, Jaff notes, “it is weird to go into some random somebody’s backyard.”

Indeed, it is. Wang says exactly the same thing. What do renters know about the owner? What do owners know of their guests? In a time of diminishing trust, it’s

weird — until it isn’t.

Consider the acres and acres of fences and hedges, often erected at considerable cost to transform a yard, and certainly a pool, into an owner’s sylvan duchy. The booming sharing-and-charging marketplace inverts the imperative for privacy, opening those personalized border walls to anyone willing to pay \$45 an hour on average. (Prices range from \$15 to \$300.)

“I’m very business minded. They don’t have the enjoyment in their own backyard. Why not share?”

Karl Tradewell
Swimpily host

Goodbye, NIMBY (not in my backyard). Welcome, YIMBY (yes, in my backyard). It’s “C’mon in, stranger, the water’s fine!”

Swimpily is a modern variation on “Queen for a Day,” the 1950s and 1960s Cinderella game show that bestowed a night on the town and avocado-tinted appliances on a lucky woman. It’s “A Pool for Two Hours,” an evanescent dive into someone’s good life. Like travel or dining, Swimpily presents another aspirational opportunity, a new lane

in the eternal quest to place yourself in more splendid surroundings. Merely by being there, you feel like a better you, as though transported into a Slim Aarons’ poolside reverie.

The website offers an excess of choice — more than 25,000 pools in all 50 states, as well as Canada and Australia. Theoretically, as in John Cheever’s 1964 short story “The Swimmer,” renters might attempt to swim across a county, or side stroke through several states.

As with other rental sites, Swimpily offers a wardrobe of opportunity. Like Tinder or Hinge, it is a chance to date a pool. Some of them, Jaff concedes, look a tad skeezy. “They seem to suggest a place where you can hook up,” she says. (Not that that’s ever happened.) There may be more above-ground listings than there are willing dippers.

“We’re democratizing luxury, something that was impossible to access for many people,” says Swimpily CEO and co-founder Bunim Laskin, who’s all of 25. During the first two years of the coronavirus pandemic, with so many people stuck at home — home being pool-less for 96% of Americans — Swimpily’s business doubled, according to Laskin, a former Yeshiva student and the eldest of 12. In 2018, he paid a neighbor to use her pool — and realized this could be a business. Then, he went on Google Earth and found other pools near his family’s Lakewood, N.J.,

home and asked if he could rent them out. Later this year, Swimpily plans to move into rentals of other recreational spaces: basketball and tennis courts, industrial kitchens, recording studios.

With listings accommodating as many as 50 swimmers, what’s to stop a renter from staging a wet hot American summer rager in a stranger’s backyard? Swimpily extends hosts a \$1 million liability insurance policy and \$10,000 in property-damage protection, but many of them, like Tradewell and Jim Battan, find the best insurance is to remain on the premises during rentals.

Battan happens to be — and this is his precise title — the Numero Uno Swimpily Host, netting \$170,000 since first listing Paradise in September 2020 and netting 386 five-star reviews. The place rents for \$65 to \$85 an hour, depending on the number of guests and time of week. It is, according to the listing, “LGBTQIA2S+, Orthodox Judaism, and nudity friendly.” He’s hosted a wedding in the pool.

That Battan, a 57-year-old IT consultant, lives outside consistently drenched Portland, Ore., comes as a revelation, but the pool is heated and folks are game. Also, Battan’s wife, Lisa, operates a large rescue-animal sanctuary, to the delight of guests.

In the past couple of years, Mary Horngren has been a regular at Paradise.

“My nirvana, an oasis,” says the 63-year-old retired medical hypnotherapist. “During COVID, where else was I going to go?”

Since COVID-19 restrictions relaxed, community pools reopened and more regional pools started listing on Swimpily, Battan’s bookings are down 50%.

Jaff found her saltwater-pool mate in suburban Maryland.

“I was so grateful to share my pool with the community,” says the pool’s owner. The owner says she earned \$25,000 in rentals last year. “It’s nice to get the money, but I love to share.”

The owner is speaking on condition that her name not be used because YIMBY has its limits, limits being the neighbors. Someone has repeatedly reported her to local authorities for renting a private pool. She ceased operations for a while but recently reactivated her Swimpily listing. So far, no fine. She suspects the neighbor is more bothered than the county.

As the Numero Uno Swimpily Host, Battan has often earned more from his pool than his job. With some of the proceeds, he built a \$70,000 custom outdoor man cave.

“It’s the perfect little spot,” he says. It is not for rent. “The man cave is mine alone.”

Lending private space, it appears, has its limits.

MOVIES

The first kiss

Cherokee actor Wes Studi cast, for once, as the romantic co-star in 'A Love Song'

BY JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

In Wes Studi's potent and pioneering acting career, he has played vengeful warriors, dying prisoners and impassioned resistance leaders. For three decades, he has arrestingly crafted wide-ranging portraits of the Native American experience. But one thing he had never done in a movie is give someone a kiss.

"I thought it was about time, yeah," Studi, 74, says chuckling.

In "A Love Song," a tender indie drama starring another long-pigeonholed character actor, Dale Dickey, Studi is for the first time cast as a romantic co-star. Dickey ("Winter's Bone," "Hell or High Water") plays a woman camping by a mountain lake awaiting the visit of an old flame.

Studi, the Cherokee actor who masterfully played the defiant Huron warrior Magua in Michael Mann's "The Last of the Mohicans" and who got his first big break playing the character credited only as "the toughest Pawnee" in "Dances with Wolves," hasn't been limited entirely to what he calls "leather and feathers" roles. But it's sometimes taken some extra effort. When he heard Mann was making "Heat," Studi called up the director and got himself a part as a police detective.

But recently, Studi is increasingly getting a chance to play a wider array of characters. Along with Max Walker-Silverman's "A Love Song," which opens in theaters this weekend, he's a recurring, funny guest star on Sterlin Harjo's "Reservation Dogs," the second season of which debuts Aug. 3 on Hulu.

"Hopefully it has to do with creating a better understanding of Native people by the general public," Studi said in an interview earlier this summer. "It does still exist, the misconception that we were all killed off and we don't exist anymore as peoples."

"That's essentially what I want to work on, and being a godfather to Native people in the industry," he adds.

With that, Studi, sitting outside the lobby of his East Village hotel in New York, lets out such a howl of laughter that he nearly doubles over.

Why does that notion, one many would eagerly endorse, strike him as so hysterical? He entered Hollywood at a time when Indigenous people were regularly played by white actors.

("Sam Waterston is the one that kills me," Studi says, smiling.) A 2019 honorary Oscar made Studi the first Native American actor ever given an Academy Award.

"I can't take myself seriously when I say that, that's why," he answers, wiping tears from his eyes. "I guess it could be."

In person, Studi bears little resemblance to his fiercer screen roles. He's more like his characters in "A Love Song" and "Reservation Dogs." Amiable. Quick to laugh. Self-deprecating. A good storyteller. He exudes a bemused gratitude for the life he's found as an actor despite spending half his life without Hollywood ambitions. Studi grew up outside of Tahlequah, Okla., and spoke only Cherokee until he was 5. His father was a ranch hand.

"I had never thought of acting, really, except once early in my life when I asked my dad when I saw Jay Silverheels on 'The Lone Ranger': 'Do you think anybody else can do what he does?'" Studi recalls. "He said, 'Probably not. Most of the actors you find are 6-foot tall, blond and blue-eyed.'"

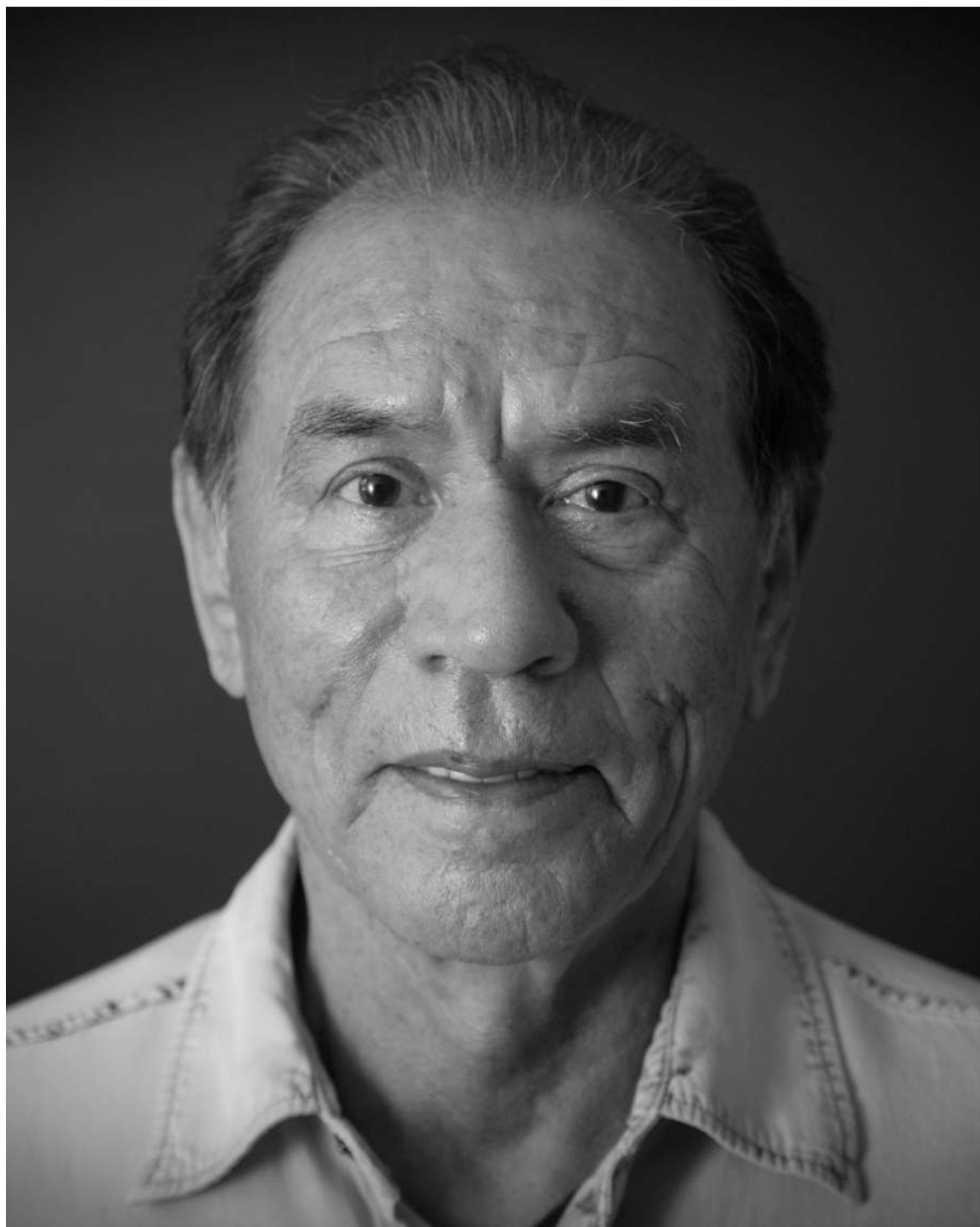
At 17, Studi joined the National Guard and volunteered to fight in Vietnam. He served a tour in South Vietnam and saw heavy action. When he returned home, Studi joined the American Indian Movement, taking part in the 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee. It wasn't until after he divorced in his late 30s that Studi gave acting a shot with a Tulsa community theater company his friend was involved with. Studi thought: What do I have to lose?

Studi performed wherever the theater company could mount a stage or in gaslight dinner theaters. In one play, he co-starred with Will Sampson and David Carradine. After a few years, Studi headed out to Los Angeles. He was in his early 40s.

"I still get the feeling of: Will I ever work again? That's always been a part of it," said Studi. "On the other hand, things have worked out that I have continued to work. I don't take that lightly. I'm especially grateful that I've been able to buy a home and stay in a good car for an extended period of time."

Studi remembers the Screen Actors Guild book of actors being a hefty tome while the then-newly founded American Indian Registry for the Performing Arts, listing Native actors, was a thin sliver. The parts available to him were also limited.

"The only real opening for a



ANDY KROPA, INVISION/AP

Actor Wes Studi poses for a portrait in New York to promote his film "A Love Song." Studi plays a romantic co-star for the first time and has his first on-screen kiss.

guy who looked like me was in Westerns," says Studi. "That's the only real door that was open to us ... It was simply a matter of being able to deliver lines and look like you mean it."

After a few roles, Studi landed

"That this was maybe the first time they had ever kissed someone on screen says perhaps all sorts of sad things about who's been allowed to fall in love in movies."

Max Walker-Silverman

Director and writer of "A Love Song"

"Dances with Wolves." Two years later, Mann cast him as Magua in "The Last of the Mohicans," the cunning Huron warrior who fervently believes in fighting, ruthlessly, for survival. With time, Studi's steely, determined performance has only grown more searing.

"Any Native that's cognizant of history and the back and forth we've had with the colonizers, if you will, can have empathy with how he felt about things," said Studi. "When you're backed into a corner, you gotta fight. It's one

way or the other. All those things had an emotional consistency to them that I could identify with having been through the turmoil of the '70s."

When first-time director Walker-Silverman reached out to Studi, he had little reason to expect that the actor of "Geroni-

mo: An American Legend," "The New World," "Avatar" and "Hostiles" would say yes to a production as small as "A Love Song."

"What are the chances he'd want to come up here, eat my mom's food, hang out with my friends and make this tiny film?" says Walker-Silverman. "But fortunately, Wes loves acting more than anything."

In the film, Studi and Dickey share a gentle duet, with Studi on guitar. Walker-Silverman planned for Studi to play an acoustic but Studi — who has toured with his band Firecat of Discord — came to the set with a red electric and a small amp. Walker-Silverman could tell the electric suited him better. During the shoot, Studi often strummed it with a big smile on his face.

"Well over a hundred films between them," the director adds. "That this was maybe the first time they had ever kissed someone on screen says perhaps all sorts of sad things about who's been allowed to fall in love in movies."

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

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In rural West, 'self-reliance' can affect mental health

By MADDY BUTCHER

Special to The Washington Post

MONTEZUMA COUNTY, Colo. In "The Homesman," a 2014 movie starring Tommy Lee Jones and Hilary Swank, three traumatized pioneer women are transported back East to get help from a women's relief society. There is no solace in open spaces, we learn. Only devastating isolation and social censure.

While many are working today to change the status quo, echoes of frontier mental health tragedies, like those depicted in the movie, resound in the rural West, where an appointment with a doctor of any kind might entail a two-hour drive one way. That's if you can find a provider, if you have transportation and, as is often the case with mental health, if you can overcome the stigma surrounding your care.

Rural suicide rates increased 48% between 2000 and 2018, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Men in rural areas are 40% more likely than their urban counterparts to end their lives. Women, universally less prone to suicide, are more likely to do so if they live with the specific challenges of ruralness, including those cited above, and higher poverty rates.

Turns out that the very elements we celebrate as rural Westerners — self-reliance, mental and physical fortitude, and being alone a lot — put our well-being at risk. According to the CDC, Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Wyoming have the seven highest suicide rates in the country.

In this part of Colorado, Joel Watts runs Integrated Insight Therapy, which employs about 40 therapists for clients in five counties, covering an area the size of New Jersey. (But imagine an early 19th-century New Jersey, with fewer than 240,000 people.) About 90% of

their clients are on Medicaid.

When Watts considers the challenges to providing mental health services, he names lack of access and "rugged individuality" as big factors, along with some clients' struggles with the boom-and-bust cycles of the oil, gas and mining industries.

"The mind-set is the biggest hindrance. 'I can do it on my own. I don't need help.' People see it as a sign of weakness to reach out for help," said Lee Halberg, until recently the director of the Mancos Public Library in Mancos, Colo.

Last summer, he was in his office when 15-year-old Dustin Ford and a young woman walked past the small brick building and toward the nearby Mancos River. Minutes later, a gunshot sounded. Dustin died, and the girl survived with injuries. They had apparently planned on dying together.

For the Mancos high school, which has about 40 students per grade, it was the second suicide in about a year.

Alanda Martin, a counselor at the school, is part of a team trying to help. Each year, they teach students about suicide prevention and distribute suicide screening forms. But 87% of the kids don't complete the forms, she said.

"There is a ton of resistance here, from students and their parents. Accessing mental health services is not something they do," she said.

Watts maintains a separate office in Delta, Colo., with a discreet alleyway entrance, he said, for "folks who don't want to be found" seeking treatment.

Retaining staff, who mostly come from somewhere else, is another constant challenge. To be a therapist here means confronting outsider bias (if you're from away) or insider bias (if you grew up here and have some kind of history or connection with everyone). No wonder clients are discouraged by turnover.

Help for those most at risk is increasing. In Montezuma County, public and private agencies pooled resources to form the Community Intervention Program. Operating from a single, unmarked van, two emergency medical technicians and a social worker responded to nearly 100 calls in CIP's first two months. Most involve mental health, drug or alcohol addiction, homelessness or a personal crisis, according to Haley Leonard, spokeswoman for the nonprofit Axis Health System, one of the groups involved.

When summer visitors pour into this region, I wonder if they sense the quiet desolation that some of us who live here — no matter how fiercely we love it — must guard against.

In the middle of a snowstorm last winter, I thought of those women who had caught "prairie madness" in "The Homesman." Squinting through sideways snow, with darkness falling, I struggled with chores. The horses were hungry and skittish when I gave them hay, most of which was taken by the wind. The chickens hunched their shoulders and looked straight ahead as I closed them in their coop.

The temperature dropped below zero. My thoughts ricocheted between concerns over livestock, livelihood, aloneness. As the house rattled and creaked, I considered my willful isolation, with miles of national forest and only a handful of neighbors nearby. The dogs and I slept by the wood stove, as we would for weeks, to keep the fire fed so my small house would stay above 50 degrees.

In the morning, the snow shone blindingly across the high desert, south to New Mexico and west to Utah. On my front stoop sat an ice-encrusted pan of lasagna. I never learned who left it. I hadn't asked for help, but someone thought I needed it.

Maddy Butcher is the author of "Beasts of Being: Partnerships Unburdened" and director of the Best Horse Practices Summit.

Biden should act to save Tunisia's fading democracy

By BOBBY GHOSH

Bloomberg Opinion

On the day Tunisia's democracy died, it fell to a State Department spokesperson to deliver the Biden administration's mealy-mouthed pieties. Asked about the July 25 constitutional referendum that allowed President Kais Saied to institutionalize one-man rule in the North African nation, Ned Price offered the following observations:

"Well, we note the outcome that has been reported by the Independent High Authority for Elections and civil society election observers. The referendum has been marked by low turnout. That is something we do note. A broad range of Tunisia's civil society, media, and political parties have expressed deep concerns regarding the referendum. And in particular, we note the widespread concerns among many Tunisians regarding the lack of an inclusive and transparent process and limited scope for genuine public debate during the drafting of the new constitution. We also note concerns that the new constitution includes weakened checks and balances that could compromise the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms."

Note the absence of any direct criticism of the man who has garroted the Arab world's most promising democracy. Instead of calling out Saied for his appropriation of near-absolute authority, the Biden administration once again failed to live up to its own billing as a de-

fender of democracy.

There would have been plenty to criticize. Saied seized control of the election commission ahead of the vote, in addition to muzzling the media, jerry-rigging the judiciary, and jailing political opponents. And the overwhelming majority of Tunisians chose not to vote, undermining the autocrat's attempt to legitimize his power grab by refusing to participate in the stage-managed exercise.

Even taking at face value the election commission's claim of a 30.4% turnout, it was an abysmal showing for Saied. (In contrast, the Egyptian strongman Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi managed a 38.6% turnout for his 2014 constitutional referendum.) The president offered the lamest of excuses: More people would have voted if they had had two days, instead of one, Saied said.

Saied will hope that the Biden administration does for him what the administration of President Barack Obama did for el-Sissi: Accept the new constitution as a fait accompli and look the other way as the Tunisian president uses it to tighten his grip over all levers of the state.

President Joe Biden should deny Saied that satisfaction. Instead, the president can start making up for his failure to protect Tunisia's democracy by making it clear his administration has done more than "note" Saied's attempt to institutionalize authoritarianism.

Biden is no slouch at using strong language in situations like this. Only last November, he

condemned Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega for staging a "pantomime" election. Saied should get similar treatment.

Presidential rhetoric aside, the official U.S. position should be that the referendum was too flawed for the results to hold any validity. And any move by Saied to exercise the powers arrogated to the presidency in the new constitution should be met by condemnation and, where possible, economic sanctions.

Biden should demand that Saied restore the independence of Tunisia's judiciary as well as the freedom of its press, and work with opposition parties toward a power-sharing arrangement and fresh elections.

If Saied refuses, the United States should withhold all aid for Tunisia and encourage its European partners to do likewise. The Biden administration should also be prepared to exercise the U.S. veto on any International Monetary Fund assistance for Tunisia. That would hit Saied where it hurts the most. He desperately needs foreign funding and the IMF's help to start repairing Tunisia's crumbling economy. Failure to deliver on that front will swiftly remove even the limited support he enjoys, and put paid to any claims to legitimacy.

Biden has much to answer for his failure to live up to his professed values. In Tunisia, he has an opportunity to do something of note.

Bobby Ghosh is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering foreign affairs. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

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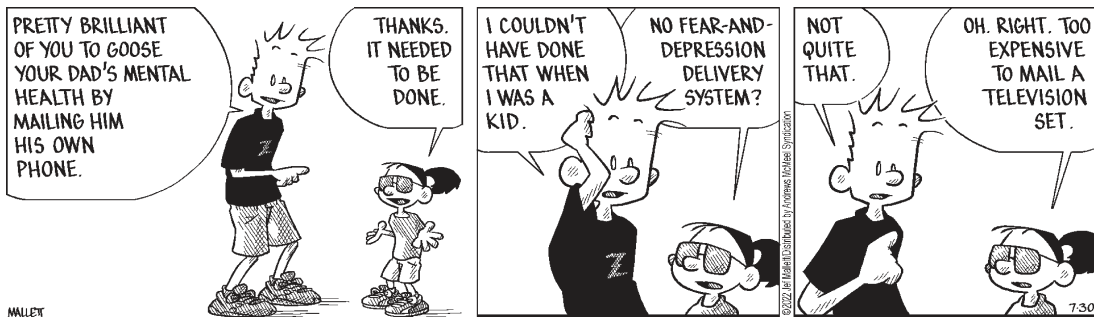
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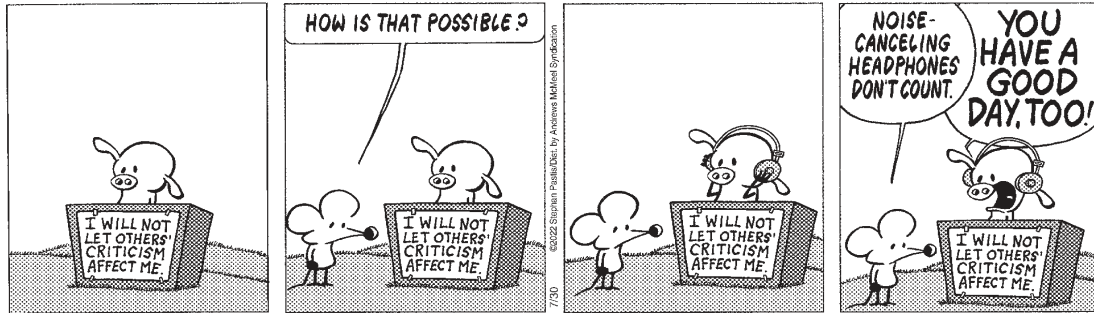
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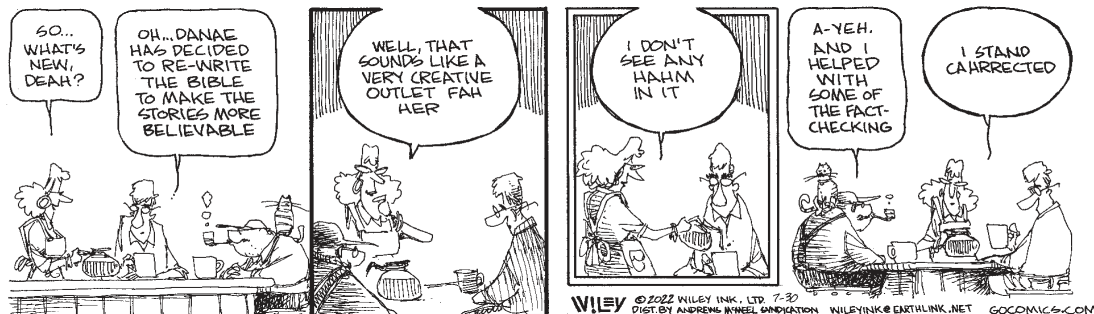
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



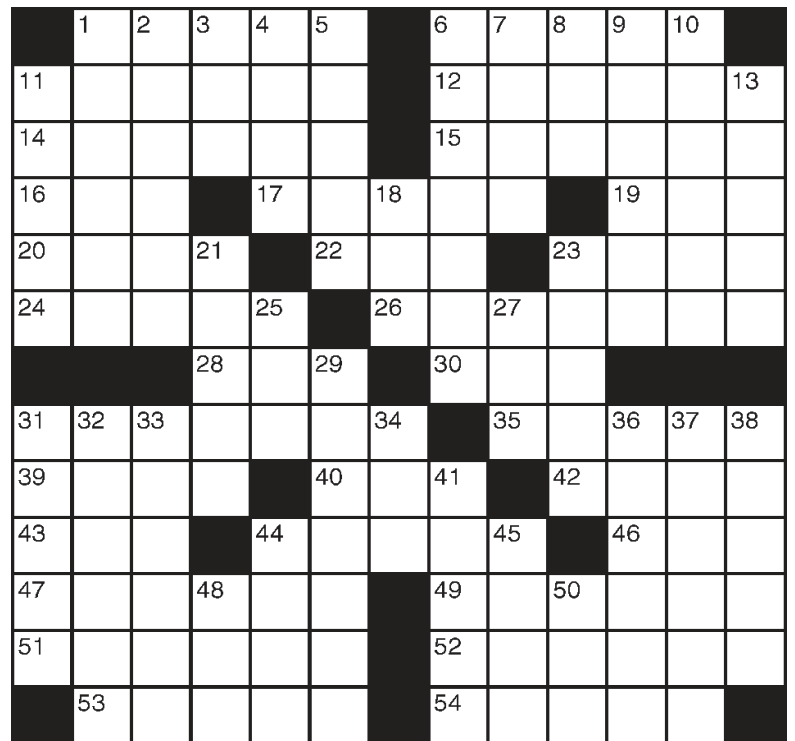
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Clutch
- 6 Modern messages
- 11 "Queen of Soul" Franklin
- 12 Used a modern car service
- 14 Irish singer O'Connor
- 15 More promising
- 16 "— Mine" (Beatles song)
- 17 "Zorba the Greek" star
- 19 Hit CBS series
- 20 Morning droplets
- 22 Pump up the volume
- 23 Bit of dust
- 24 Road curves
- 26 Test monitor
- 28 Wardrobe malfunction
- 30 Sharing word
- 31 Driving instructor?
- 35 Flavor
- 39 "Les États- —"
- 40 Hosp. areas
- 42 Earth sci.
- 43 Astern
- 44 "Star Trek" doctor
- 46 Computer acronym
- 47 Band aide

- 49 Fly
- 51 Blood givers
- 52 Evening prayer
- 53 Newbies
- 54 Perfume compound

- 11 Stage comment
- 13 Less damp
- 18 Little rascal
- 21 Feudal farmers
- 23 Jazz singer Carmen
- 25 Use a straw
- 27 Ump's call
- 29 Method
- 31 Sentry
- 32 Walking
- 33 Lengthy list
- 34 Tolkien creature
- 36 Abrasion
- 37 Horn blower
- 38 Gantry of fiction
- 41 Italian wine
- 44 Surrealist Joan
- 45 Saint Laurent of fashion
- 48 "Le Coq —"
- 50 Follower (Suff.)

DOWN

- 1 Tony winner Tammy
- 2 Extends, as a lease
- 3 Devoured
- 4 Cager O'Neal, for short
- 5 City near Venice
- 6 Start playing for pay
- 7 Black, in verse
- 8 Ballot marks
- 9 Lingerie fabric
- 10 Handles

Answer to Previous Puzzle



7-30

CRYPTOQUIP

DLSXCV QWVYMR DWJS TWUF L
 EGWYHMVV TFX'V TWJQ LZXCU
 HLUHFR GFRUFSV: "ZMLCUR
 LYQ UFM ZMLUV."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A FELLOW COMPETING IN A MARATHON TRIPS AND FALLS, WHAT HAS HE DONE? HIT THE GROUND RUNNING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals Y

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SCOREBOARD

PRO SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	11	2	9	42	34	15
NYFC	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.

Friday's game

Seattle at Los Angeles FC

Saturday's games

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

Sunday's game

Orlando City at D.C. United

Tuesday's games

Colorado at New York
FC Dallas at Seattle

Wednesday's games

D.C. United at Charlotte FC
 CF Montréal at Columbus
 Nashville at Portland
 Miami at San Jose

Friday, Aug. 5

Houston at Vancouver

Saturday, Aug. 6

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

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's games

San Diego at Chicago
OL Reign at Angel City

Sunday's games

Houston at Gotham FC
Orlando at Kansas City

Tuesday's game

OL Reign at Louisville

Friday, Aug. 5

Washington at Louisville
North Carolina at Portland

Sunday, Aug. 7

Kansas City at San Diego
Gotham FC at Chicago

Houston at OL Reign
Angel City at Orlando

TENNIS

Atlanta Open

Thursday
 At Atlanta Station
 Atlanta
 Purse: \$708,530
 Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
 Men's Singles
 Round of 16

Adrian Mannarino, France, def. Andres Martin, United States, 7-5, 6-3.
 Jenson Brooksby (6), United States, def. Mackenzie McDonald, United States, 6-3, 6-4.
 Alex de Minaur (3), Australia, def. James Duckworth, Australia, 6-4, 6-4.
 John Isner (2), United States, def. Ben Shelton, United States, 7-6 (8), 4-6, 7-6 (3).

Men's Doubles

Quarterfinals

Jason Kubler and John Peers, Australia, def. Matthew Ebden and Max Purcell (4), Australia, 4-6, 7-6 (0), 10-6.
 Mackenzie McDonald and Christopher Eubanks, United States, def. Santiago Gonzalez, Mexico, and Andres Molteni, Argentina, 3-6, 6-3, 10-5.

Croatia Open

Thursday
 At ITC Stella Maris
 Umag, Croatia
 Purse: Euro 534,555
 Surface: Red clay
 Men's Singles
 Round of 16

Marco Cecchinato, Italy, def. Lorenzo Musetti (8), Italy, 6-4, 6-3.
 Facundo Bagnis, Argentina, def. Corentin Moutet, France, 6-3, 6-1.
 Franco Agamenone, Italy, def. Sebastian Baez (4), Argentina, 3-6, 6-1, 7-5.
 Carlos Alcaraz (1), Spain, def. Norbert Gombos, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-3.

Men's Doubles

Quarterfinals

Tomislav Brkic, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Francisco Cabral, Portugal, def. Nathaniel Lammons and Jackson Withrow, United States, 6-4, 7-5.
 Harri Heliövaara, Finland, and Lloyd Glasspool (3), Britain, def. Nino Serdarušić and Mili Poljičak, Croatia, 6-3, 6-3.

Simone Bolelli and Fabio Fognini (1), Italy, def. Franko Skugor and Antonio Sancic, Croatia, 7-6 (1), 6-7 (6), 10-7.

Prague Open

Thursday
 At TK Sparta Praha
 Prague
 Purse: \$251,750
 Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
 Women's Singles
 Round of 16

Anastasia Potapova (7), Russia, def. Zhu Lin, China, 6-4, 7-6 (8).
 Anett Kontaveit (1), Estonia, def. Lucie Havlickova, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-3.
 Nao Hibino, Japan, def. Barbora Krejčíková (2), Czech Republic, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-3.
 Linda Noskova, Czech Republic, def. Alize Cornet (5), France, 7-5, 1-6, 7-6 (7).

Women's Doubles

Quarterfinals

Yana Sizikova and Anastasia Potapova (4), Russia, def. Monica Niculescu, Romania, and Viktoriia Kuzmova, Slovakia, 7-6 (4), 3-6, 10-3.
 Samantha Murray Sharan, Britain, and Miyu Kato (3), Japan, def. Lucie Hradecka and Andrea Sestini Hlavackova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-1.

Generali Open

Thursday
 At Tennis Stadium Kitzbuhel
 Kitzbuhel, Austria
 Purse: Euro 534,555
 Surface: Red clay
 Men's Singles
 Quarterfinals

Albert Ramos-Vinolas (5), Spain, def. Pedro Martinez (7), Spain, 6-4, 6-2.
 Roberto Bautista Agut (3), Spain, def. Jiri Lehecka, Czech Republic, 4-6, 7-5, 7-5.

Men's Doubles

Quarterfinals

Pedro Martinez, Spain, and Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, def. Jurij Rodionov and Neil Oberleitner, Austria, 4-6, 6-4, 10-8.
 Robin Haase, Netherlands, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, def. Fabien Reboul and Sadio Doumbia, France, 6-4, 6-3.

DEALS

Thursday's transactions

BASEBALL

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLOS — Recalled RHPs Logan Gillespie and Beau Sulser from Norfolk (IL). Optioned LHP Nick Vespi to Norfolk. Placed RHP Tyler Wells on the 15-day IL.

BOSTON RED SOX — Agreed to terms with SS Danny Santana on a minor league contract.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Placed RHP Renaldo Lopez on the 15-day IL, retroactive to July 25.

DETROIT TIGERS — Placed LHP Andrew Chafin on the restricted list. Selected the contract of RHP Bryan Garcia from Toledo (IL).

HOUSTON ASTROS — Agreed to terms with RHPs Andrew Taylor and Joey Mancini, OFs Ryan Clifford and Zach Dezo, SSS Tommy Sacco Jr. and Tim Borden, 1B Garrett McGowan and C Ryan Wroblewski on minor league contracts. Agreed to terms with RHPs Austin Temple and Logan Van-Way on major league contracts.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Recalled SS Maikel Garcia from Northwest Arkansas (TX).

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Transferred 3B Matt Duffy from the 10-day IL to the 60-day IL. Reinstated SS David Fletcher from the 60-day IL. Optioned 2B Michael Stefanic to Salt Lake (PCL).

NEW YORK YANKEES — Added OF Andrew Benintendi to the active roster. Optioned OF Tim Locastro to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Reinstated 1B/OF Seth Brown from the paternity list. Optioned INF Sheldon Neuse to Las Vegas (PCL).

SEATTLE MARINERS — Recalled RHP Matt Brash from Tacoma (PCL). Placed RHP Diego Castillo on the 15-day IL, retroactive to July 26.

TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with RHPs Luis Ramierez, Andrew Owen, SS Chandler Pollard and OF Tommy Specht on minor league contracts.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Reinstated LHP Yusei Kikuchi from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Jeremy Beasley to Buffalo (IL).

National League

MIAMI MARLINS — Placed RHP Jordan Holloway on the 15-day IL, retroactive to July 26. Recalled LHP Daniel Castano from Jacksonville (IL). Agreed to terms with 1B Torin Montgomery and 3B Jacob Berry on minor league contracts.

NEW YORK METS — Placed RHP Drew Smith on the 15-day IL, retroactive to July 25. Acquired OF Tyler Naquin and LHP Philip Diehl from Cincinnati in exchange for OF Hector Rodriguez and RHP Jose Acuna. Designated RHP R.J. Alvarez for assignment.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Agreed to terms with 1B Josiah Sightler on a minor league contract. Recalled OF Bligh Madris from Indianapolis (IL). Placed OF Bryan Reynolds on the paternity list.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

— Reinstated 1B Paul Goldschmidt, 3B Nolan Arenado and C Austin Romine from the restricted list. Optioned CF Conner Capel and C Ivan Herrera to Memphis (IL). Returned 2B Cory Spangenberg to Memphis.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Agreed to terms with RHPs William Kempner, Tyler Vogel, Liam Simon, Davis Hare, Spencer Miles, Sam Bower, Hayden Birdsong, LHPs Hayden Wynn, Jack Choate, John Bertrand, Carson Whisenhunt, OFs Carter Howell, Tanner O'Tremba, Wade Meckler, Matt Higgins, Cs Zach Morgan, Nomar Diaz, Thomas Gavello, 2B Andrew Kachel, SS Justin Bench and TWP Reggie Crawford on minor league contracts.

BASKETBALL

Women's National Basketball Association

MINNESOTA LYNX — Re-signed G Lindsay Allen to a seven-day contract.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ATLANTA FALCONS — Signed S Henry Black. Waived TE Brayden Lenius.

BALTIMORE RAVENS — Activated WR Devon Williams from the physically unable to perform (PUP) list.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Signed RB Jacques Patrick. Placed RB Elijah Holyfield on injured reserve.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Waived RB Nick Ralston. Signed WR KaVontae Turpin.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed WR Ishmael Hyman.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Activated DT Eric Johnson II from the non-football injury (NFI) list.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed DE Carlos Dunlap. Waived TE Mark Vital. Placed DL Cortez Broughton on the physically unable to perform (PUP) list.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed WR Josh Hammond.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed LB Austin Calitro. Waived LB Justin Hilliard.

NEW YORK JETS — Signed LB Kwon Alexander and DBs Jovante Moffatt and Luq Barcoo.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Placed LB K.J. Wright on the retired list.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed WR Terry Godwin. Waived WR Juwan Green.

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS — Announced the retirement of TE Antonio Gandy-Golden. Activated C Chase Roullier from the physically unable to perform (PUP) list.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Named John MacLean assistant coach.

NEW YORK RANGERS — Signed RW Kaapo Kakko to a two-year contract.

VEGAS KNIGHTS — Signed D Brayden Pachal to a one-year extension.

SOCCER

National Women's Soccer League

ORLANDO PRIDE — Agreed to terms with M Angharad James on a mutual contract termination.

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Chicago	21	7	.750	—
x-Connecticut	20	9	.690	1½
Washington	18	11	.621	3½
Atlanta	12	17	.414	9½
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	11	.621	2½
Phoenix	13	16	.448	7½
Los Angeles	12	16	.429	8
Dallas	12	16	.429	8
Minnesota	11	19	.367	10

x-clinched playoff spot

Thursday's games

Connecticut 88, Seattle 83
 Minnesota 92, Atlanta 85
 Washington 87, Dallas 77
 Phoenix 90, Los Angeles 80

Friday's games

Las Vegas at Indiana
 New York at Chicago

Saturday's games

Seattle at Washington
 Dallas at Atlanta

CYCLING

Tour de France Women

Thursday

Fifth Stage

A 175-kilometer (108.7-mile) Bar-le-Duc to Saint-Dié-des-Vosges

1. Lorena Wiebes, Netherlands, Team DSM, 4:32:16.
2. Elisa Balsamo, Italy, Trek-Segafredo, same time.
3. Marianne Vos, Netherlands, Team Jumbo-Visma, same time.
4. Rachele Barbieri, Italy, Liv Racing Xstra, same time.
5. Maïke Van Der Dunn, Netherlands, Le Col-Wahoo, same time.
6. Maria Giulia Confalonieri, Italy, Ceratizit-WNT Pro Cycling Team, same time.
7. Silvia Persico, Italy, Valcar-Travel & Service, same time.
8. Vittoria Guazzini, Italy, FDJ Suez Futuroscope, same time.
9. Tamara Dronova, Russia, Roland Coegas Edelweiss Squad, same time.
10. Alexandra Manly, Australia, Team BikeExchange-Jayco, same time.

Also

42. Veronica Ewers, United States, EF Education-Tibco-SVB, same time.
68. Kristin Faulkner, United States, Team BikeExchange-Jayco, same time.
100. Emily Newsom, United States, EF Education-Tibco-SVB, :39 behind.
120. Leah Thomas, United States, Trek-Segafredo, 2:22.
122. Krista Doebel-Hickok, United States, EF Education-Tibco-SVB, 2:31.
128. Lily Williams, United States, Human Powered Health, 19:47.

Overall Standings

1. Marianne Vos, Netherlands, Team Jumbo-Visma, 16:20:58.
2. Silvia Persico, Italy, Valcar-Travel & Service, :20 behind.
3. Katarzyna Niewiadoma, Poland, Canyon//Sram Racing, same time.
4. Elisa Longo Borghini, Italy, Trek-Segafredo, :25.
5. Ashleigh Moolman-Pasio, South Africa, Team SD Worx, :55.
6. Demi Vollering, Netherlands, Team SD Worx, 1:01.
7. Juliette Labous, France, Team DSM, 1:09.
8. Annemiek Van Vleuten, Netherlands, Movistar Team, 1:18.
9. Cecilie Ludwig, Denmark, FDJ Suez Futuroscope, 1:52.
10. Elise Chabbey, Switzerland, Canyon//Sram Racing, 2:24.

Also

13. Veronica Ewers, United States, EF Education-Tibco-SVB, 2:59 behind.
28. Kristin Faulkner, United States, Team BikeExchange-Jayco, 5:15.
54. Krista Doebel-Hickok, United States, EF Education-Tibco-SVB, 16:28.
102. Leah Thomas, United States, Trek Segafredo, 27:45.
114. Emily Newsom, United States, EF Education-Tibco-SVB, 32:45.
125. Lily Williams, United States, Human Powered Health, 40:58.

Young Riders Standings

1. Julie De Wilde, Belgium, Plantar-Pura, 16:25:30.
2. Julia Borgstrom, Sweden, AG Insurance-NXTG Team, :16 behind.
3. Pfeiffer Georgi, Britain, Team DSM, :22.
4. Shirin Van Anrooi, Netherlands, Trek-Segafredo, 1:24.
5. Mischa Bredewold, Netherlands, ParkHotel Valkenburg, 1:51.
6. Eleonora Camilla Gasparini, Italy, Valcar-Travel & Service, 9:29.

Mountain Standings

MLB

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	67	33	.670	—
Toronto	55	44	.556	11½
Tampa Bay	53	46	.535	13½
Baltimore	50	49	.505	16½
Boston	50	50	.500	17
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	52	46	.531	—
Cleveland	50	48	.510	2
Chicago	49	49	.500	3
Detroit	40	60	.400	13
Kansas City	39	60	.394	13½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	65	35	.650	—
Seattle	54	46	.540	11
Texas	44	54	.449	20
Los Angeles	42	57	.424	22½
Oakland	38	63	.376	27½
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	61	37	.622	—
Atlanta	59	41	.590	3
Philadelphia	52	47	.525	9½
Miami	47	52	.475	14½
Washington	34	66	.340	28
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	55	44	.556	—
St. Louis	52	47	.525	3
Chicago	40	58	.408	14½
Pittsburgh	40	59	.404	15
Cincinnati	38	60	.388	16½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	66	32	.673	—
San Diego	55	45	.550	12
San Francisco	49	50	.495	17½
Arizona	45	53	.459	21
Colorado	45	55	.450	22

Thursday's games	
Baltimore 3, Tampa Bay 0	Boston 4, Cleveland 2
N.Y. Yankees 1, Kansas City 0	Toronto 5, Detroit 3
Houston 4, Seattle 2	Texas 2, L.A. Angels 0
Miami 7, Cincinnati 6	Philadelphia 8, Pittsburgh 7
L.A. Dodgers 13, Colorado 0	San Francisco 4, Chicago Cubs 2
Friday's games	
Kansas City at N.Y. Yankees	Detroit at Toronto
Cleveland at Tampa Bay	Oakland at Chicago White Sox
Seattle at Houston	Texas at L.A. Angels
Baltimore at Cincinnati	N.Y. Mets at Miami
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh	St. Louis at Washington
Milwaukee at Boston	Arizona at Atlanta
L.A. Dodgers at Colorado	Minnesota at San Diego
Chicago Cubs at San Francisco	
Saturday's games	
Cleveland (Plesac 2-8) at Tampa Bay (Kluber 6-6)	Kansas City (Greinke 3-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Cortes 8-3)
Detroit (Hutchison 1-4) at Toronto (Stripling 5-3)	Seattle (Flexen 7-8) at Houston (Valdez 9-4)
Oakland (Blackburn 6-6) at Chicago White Sox (Cueto 4-4)	Texas (Otto 4-7) at L.A. Angels (Silseth 1-3)
Milwaukee (Lauer 6-3) at Boston (Pivetta 8-7)	N.Y. Mets (Carrasco 10-4) at Miami (Rogers 4-10)
Baltimore (TBD) at Cincinnati (Mahle 4-7)	Minnesota (Gray 5-3) at San Diego (Mugger 8-3)
Philadelphia (Suárez 7-5) at Pittsburgh (Keller 3-7)	St. Louis (Hudson 6-6) at Washington (Fedde 5-7)
Arizona (Martin 0-0) at Atlanta (Anderson 8-6)	L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 7-2) at Colorado (Freeland 5-7)
Chicago Cubs (Smyly 3-5) at San Francisco (Junis 4-2)	

Calendar	
Aug. 3	— Last day during the season to trade a player.
Aug. 11	— Chicago Cubs vs. Cincinnati at Dyersville, Iowa.
Aug. 21	— Boston vs. Baltimore at Williamsport, Pa.

ROUNDUP

Walk-off HR lifts Yank over Royals

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aaron Judge hit his third walk-off homer this year, his major league-leading 39th home run, to lift the New York Yankees over the Kansas City Royals 1-0 Thursday night.

New York was held to one hit before Judge drove a first-pitch fastball from Scott Barlow (4-3) into the Kansas City bullpen with one out in the ninth, giving the Yankees their 12th walk-off win this season.

Judge joined Mickey Mantle as the only Yankees with three walk-off home runs in one season. Judge had been 0-for-2 with a pair of strikeouts and a walk before the homer.

Andrew Benintendi went 0-for-4 with one strikeout in his Yankees debut, facing Kansas City one day after the Royals dealt him to New York for three minor league pitchers.

Clay Holmes (5-1) worked around two walks in a hitless ninth, combining on a four-hitter with Jameson Taillon and Ron Marinaccio.

Marlins 7, Reds 6: Miami pitcher Daniel Castano was hit on the forehead by a 104 mph line drive off the bat of Donovan Solano in the first inning of his team's road win over Cincinnati.

Miami said Castano showed mild concussion symptoms and was bruised, and a CT scan was normal.

Miami earned a four-game split by overcoming a 5-4, ninth-inning deficit. Pinch-hitter Jesús Sánchez homered off Hunter Strickland (2-3), Joey Wendle hit a go-ahead double against Buck Farmer and Jesús Aguilar followed with a sacrifice fly for his fourth RBI.

Dodgers 13, Rockies 0: Tyler Anderson and two relievers — including infielder Hanser Alberto — combined on a seven-hitter, and visiting Los Angeles routed sloppy



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

The Yankees' Aaron Judge watches his game-winning home run during the ninth inning of Thursday's game against the Kansas City Royals in New York. It was the only run of the game.

Colorado for its seventh shutout of the season.

Trea Turner had three hits for Los Angeles, including a three-run double. Gavin Lux also had three hits, and Will Smith finished with two hits and three RBIs.

The MLB-leading Dodgers scored two runs in the first and four in the second against José Ureña (1-3). LA's 10th win in 12 games extended its NL West lead to a season-high 12 games over San Diego.

Blue Jays 5, Tigers 3: Matt Chapman hit two home runs, Yusei Kikuchi came off the injured list to pitch five solid innings and host Toronto beat Detroit for its 10th victory in 12 games.

Chapman hit a two-run homer off left-hander Tyler Alexander in the fourth and a solo shot off Angel De Jesus in the sixth, the ninth

multi-homer game of his career and first this season. He has 18 homers this season.

Jonathan Schoop and Willi Castro each hit a solo homer for the Tigers, who have lost five of eight since the All-Star break.

Red Sox 4, Guardians 2: Xander Bogaerts hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning, and host Boston beat Cleveland for its fifth win in 20 games.

Guardians starter Triston McKenzie took a one-hit shutout into the sixth before putting two on with one out for Bogaerts, who hit an 0-2 slider out to turn a one-run deficit into a 3-1 lead.

Boston scored another when Bobby Dalbec's drive off the Green Monster plated Franchy Cordero, who led off the seventh with a double.

Rangers 2, Angels 0: Nathaniel Lowe homered and tripled, and Corey Seager had an RBI double among his three hits off Shohei Ohtani in visiting Texas' win over Los Angeles.

Ohtani (9-6) racked up 11 strikeouts in his sixth consecutive start with double-digit whiffs, but he also yielded eight hits and two runs over six innings. The AL MVP lost his second straight start and the Angels were shut out for the 10th time this season.

Astros 4, Mariners 2: Alex Bregman hit a two-run homer early, and his tiebreaking RBI double in the eighth inning led host Houston past Seattle, snapping a three-game losing streak.

Bregman was shaken up in a collision while scoring the Astros' final run in the eighth, but remained in the game.

The game was tied at 2 when Andrés Muñoz (1-4) hit Yuli Gurriel to start Houston's eighth. Gurriel stole second with one out, and Bregman, who homered in the first, doubled off the wall in left-center field for a 3-2 lead. Bregman scored on a two-out wild pitch, colliding with a diving Muñoz as the reliever tried to make the tag.

Giants 4, Cubs 2: Alex Wood took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and host San Francisco stopped a seven-game skid with a win over Chicago.

Yermín Mercedes hit an early two-run single, and four Giants pitchers combined on a three-hitter to snap Chicago's six-game winning streak.

Wood (7-8) allowed two hits in 6½ innings, striking out two and walking two.

Orioles 3, Rays 0: Trey Mancini hit an eighth-inning, inside-the-park home run in what may have been his final home plate appearance with Baltimore in a win over visiting Tampa Bay.

Jordan Lyles (7-8) allowed three hits in 5½ innings. Lyles and Mancini both could be dealt by Tuesday's trade deadline.

Phillies 8, Pirates 7: Kyle Schwarber hit his NL-leading 32nd homer and Zack Wheeler pitched seven strong innings as visiting Philadelphia built a large lead and held on to edge Pittsburgh.

Schwarber's three-run shot off Zach Thompson (3-8) in the sixth inning gave the Phillies a 7-0 lead. In the seventh, rookie Cal Mitchell ended Wheeler's shutout bid with a two-run homer.



JEFF DEAN/AP

Miami Marlins catcher Jacob Stallings, left, checks on starting pitcher Daniel Castano after he was hit by a line drive from the Reds' Donovan Solano during the first inning Thursday in Cincinnati.

SPORTS BRIEFS/NFL

BRIEFLY

Mets get Naquin, reliever from Reds

Associated Press

NEW YORK — With the trade deadline drawing closer, the first-place New York Mets have been busy getting better from the left side of the plate.

New York acquired left-handed-hitting outfielder Tyler Naquin and lefty reliever Phillip Diehl from the Cincinnati Reds on Thursday night in a deal for two teenage minor leaguers.

Cincinnati received outfielder Hector Rodríguez and right-hander Jose Acuña.

It was the second time in seven days the Mets traded for a left-handed hitter with some pop. New York upgraded at DH last week, acquiring Daniel Vogelbach from the Pittsburgh Pirates for rookie reliever Colin Holderman.

Naquin, a first-round draft pick 10 years ago, was batting .246 with seven homers and 33 RBIs in 56 games for the Reds, who are last in the NL Central. He homered and drove in two runs Thursday afternoon in a 7-6 loss to the Miami Marlins.

As the NL East leaders look to add offense before Tuesday's trade deadline, Naquin provides depth for an outfield that already includes All-Star right fielder Starling Marte, center fielder Brandon Nimmo and left fielder Mark Canha.

Sources: Metcalf to get extension from Seahawks

RENTON, Wash. — The Seattle Seahawks are expected to sign wide receiver DK Metcalf to a three-year contract extension that will be worth up to \$72 million, according to two people with knowledge of the deal.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on Thursday on the condition of anonymity because the team had not announced the signing. ESPN first reported the deal, which includes \$58 million guaranteed. The deal runs through the 2025 season, when he'll have another shot at free agency.

Metcalf is the latest in a string of top pass catchers to get locked up with new deals this offseason. He is entering the final year of his rookie contract after being a second-round pick by Seattle in 2019 and getting him signed was a priority for the Seahawks this offseason.

In other NFL news:

■ Chase Young will not be ready to play Week 1 for the Washington Commanders, coach Ron Rivera confirmed Friday in ruling out the standout pass-rusher for at least the season opener.

Young could miss more than just Washington's first game,

Sept. 11 against Jacksonville, if he goes on injured reserve or remains on the physically unable to perform list. The 2020 Defensive Rookie of the Year is working back from surgery to repair a torn ACL in his right knee.

Rivera said Young, who injured the knee Nov. 14 against Tampa Bay, did not have a setback in his recovery and is on schedule.

IndyCar's Newgarden cleared for qualifying

INDIANAPOLIS — Josef Newgarden has been cleared to qualify for Saturday's IndyCar race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway after being re-evaluated by doctors following Friday morning's practice session.

The two-time series champ collapsed in his motorhome, striking the back of his head after crashing during last weekend's race at Iowa and was airlifted to a hospital. Newgarden was leading the race and in position to sweep the two Iowa races when his suspension apparently broke, sending him spinning hard into the wall.

He was initially cleared at the infield care center.

Series officials gave Newgarden the OK to practice Thursday — with the stipulation he would be rechecked between practice and qualifying.

The popular 31-year-old driver from Tennessee posted the second-fastest lap in practice, completing Indianapolis' road course in 1 minute, 10.1121 seconds. He had Team Penske's quickest car.

Only Alexander Rossi, the 2016 Indianapolis 500 winner, was faster at 1:10.0919.

Finau, Pendrith share Rocket Mortgage lead

DETROIT — Tony Finau, coming off his third career victory on the PGA Tour, and Taylor Pendrith shared the first-round lead at 8-under 64 on Thursday in the Rocket Mortgage Classic.

The leaderboard was filled with players who took advantage of favorable scoring conditions with morning tee times. In the afternoon, the wind picked up and the scores did as well.

Former U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson, Michael Thompson, Cameron Champ, Lee Hodges and Matt Wallace were two shots back.

Si Woo Kim and Kurt Kitayama, both ranked among the top 70 in the world, were in the pack at 67.

Pendrith, a 31-year-old Canadian and PGA Tour rookie, is atop a leaderboard for the first time on the tour following an opening round.



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Washington Commanders owner Dan Snyder poses for photos during an event to unveil the NFL team's new identity on Feb. 2 in Landover, Md. Snyder testified Thursday before a congressional committee which is investigating the team's history of workplace misconduct.

House committee hears testimony from Snyder

By STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

Washington Commanders owner Dan Snyder testified before a congressional committee investigating the NFL team's history of workplace misconduct Thursday, speaking for more than 10 hours in a deposition conducted virtually and in private.

A spokesperson for the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and a spokesperson for Snyder independently verified his testimony wrapped up after 6:30 p.m. EDT. It was scheduled to begin at 8 a.m., with Snyder appearing via Zoom from Israel.

"Washington Commanders co-owner Dan Snyder today voluntarily testified under oath for nearly 11 hours, on top of the previous cooperation provided to the committee," a spokesperson for Snyder said in a statement. "Mr. Snyder fully addressed all questions about workplace misconduct, described the Commanders' dramatic two-year transformation and expressed hope for the organization's bright future."

A committee spokesperson said it had no comment Thursday night.

Snyder agreed to testify voluntarily after committee members worked out some issues with his legal team on the terms of his deposition. The committee had previously agreed to have Snyder testify under the terms of a subpoena it had initially issued.

The committee has the discretion to decide what, if any, information it releases from Snyder's deposition. The hearing was not recorded, though a transcript is expected to be produced.

Snyder testified a month after NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell appeared before the committee via Zoom to discuss Washington's workplace culture and the league's investigation into it. Snyder was invited to testify at the same hearing and, through a lawyer, declined.

The committee launched this investigation last year after the league fined Washington \$10 million following its review of workplace misconduct but did not release a written report of attorney Beth Wilkinson's findings.



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell testifies virtually on June 22 during a House Oversight Committee hearing investigating the Washington Commanders' workplace conduct.

Snyder's testimony came on the second day of practice of Washington's training camp in preparation for the 2022 season, which begins in September. While players and coaches are trying to focus on football, the congressional investigation was just one of a few off-field story lines around the team that made headlines in recent months, including an assistant's comments about the Jan. 6 insurrection and a deal for a new stadium falling through.

Earlier Thursday, a committee spokesperson said Snyder had "committed to providing full and complete testimony, and to answer the committee's questions about his knowledge of and contributions to the Commanders' toxic work environment, as well as his efforts to interfere with the NFL's internal investigation, without hiding behind nondisclosure or other confidentiality agreements."

NFL

Jackson says there could be 'cutoff' for talks

Ravens QB focused on training camp, not contract status

By NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Lamar Jackson's contract negotiations are lingering into training camp, and the Baltimore quarterback says at a certain point, it could be time to put those talks aside.

"There's probably going to be a cutoff at some point, yes," Jackson said Thursday.

The latest update from the Ravens' star quarterback wasn't exactly earth shattering: Yes, negotiations are ongoing. No, he wasn't going to publicize details about topics such as guaranteed money. Yes, he thinks a deal will eventually get done, and yes, he hopes that will be before the season.

The most significant takeaway was probably the fact that Jackson seems willing to put a deadline on negotiations. That's not a huge shock — contract talks during the season can be a distraction — but it suggests that if the Ravens don't reach a long-term



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson talks to reporters Thursday in Owings Mills, Md. Jackson has shown no interest in publicizing details about contract negotiations with the team.

deal with him soon, this saga could stretch into next offseason.

"I get to talk to both sides, and both sides are very motivated to get the job done," coach John Harbaugh said. "So, I feel like that's kind of where it's at."

This season is Jackson's fifth-year option, and it's surprising that his contract status remains so uncertain. Josh Allen, another star quarterback drafted the same year as Jackson, signed his big extension last offseason. Kyl-

er Murray received one earlier this month, and he was drafted a year after Jackson.

Still, the fact that this negotiation is going differently doesn't mean it needs to cause drama.

"If Lamar is not concerned

about the contract, nobody should be concerned about the contract," receiver Rashod Bateman said. "That's not up to us. We're going to let whoever handles that handle it. We're just going to play football. That's what we're called here to do, and that's what we're going to focus on."

The franchise tag means the Ravens don't have to worry too much about losing Jackson after this season, and neither side has shown any significant acrimony publicly. Jackson missed voluntary OTAs but was in attendance for mandatory minicamp, and he was on the field for the start of training camp this week.

"I want to win, at the end of the day. I just want to be great," he said. "I just want to work with my brothers, at the end of the day. I don't want to leave them out there hanging. That's not me. That's never been me."

Jackson sounds comfortable with the fact that the negotiations between him and the team have generally been kept private.

"I don't like people in my business at all. It's my business," he said. "If I wanted it out there, I'd put it out there myself, if anything."

Allen: Even after big contract, Bills QB remains down to earth

FROM PAGE 24

"I tried to make sure I thanked the O-line first, trying to model my answers after some of the guys that were in the league at the time," Josh Allen recalled, noting his father would critique his sons if their answers bordered on being self-centered. "It was just one of those things that he knew from a young age that sports were my passion. And it was something fun for him to do on the drive, too."

The future Buffalo Bills quarterback was 5, never realizing that one day his weekly routine would involve conducting news conferences where he discussed an array of topics from dramatic wins to frustrating losses and even real-life issues. In May, he consoled the families of victims of a racist rampage at a Buffalo supermarket.

Allen drew on the memory of those morning drives, passing the fruit farms in Firebaugh, Calif., by crediting his father for instilling in him the confidence to address most any situation.

"A lot of good people in my life have shown me the ropes on how to be yourself and be true to you," Allen said. "If you don't know who you are, I don't think you can lead a group of men. So it's knowing who you are first, and then the guys will follow."

The Bills are, indeed, following Allen.

Entering his fifth season, the 26-



JOSHUA BESSEX/AP

Fans stretch to get an autograph from Josh Allen after practice Monday in Pittsford, N.Y. Allen became the Buffalo Bills' highest-paid player after signing a six-year, \$258 million contract last summer.

year-old is the team's unquestioned leader. He has catapulted himself among the NFL's elite young stars by rewriting many of the franchise's single-season passing and scoring records while leading Buffalo to two consecutive AFC East titles and three consecutive playoff berths.

Allen became the franchise's highest-paid player after he signed a six-year, \$258 million contract last summer and boosted his celebrity status around town and beyond.

Allen attracted a small gallery following his foursome during the Bills' media golf tournament in June.

Outside of Buffalo, he's hobnobbed with Formula One drivers at the Miami Grand Prix and drew interest from the paparazzi, who snapped pictures of him and his longtime girlfriend entering a Los Angeles restaurant.

For all that's changed since the Bills were second-guessed for trading up five spots to select the raw, erratic and relatively unpro-

ven player out of Wyoming in the first round of the 2018 draft, what's notable is how much Allen has stayed true to himself amid the distractions.

"I think that's what's great about him," general manager Brandon Beane said. "I think he's still the kid from Firebaugh."

At training camp, Allen can be found playing the board game Catan, binge-watching "Breaking Bad" and amusing teammates with daily rounds of groan-inducing teenage bathroom humor.

"They say money doesn't change you, money makes you more of the person you already are. So he's that same person," receiver Stefon Diggs said. "It wasn't the money. He's a good guy. He's a goofball."

Tight end Dawson Knox became the victim of Allen's latest prank while the two were signing autographs at camp. Allen snuck up behind Knox and signed the back of his neck.

"He's just the same old guy cracking jokes and quoting movies that no one's ever heard of," Knox said. "Yeah, the dude's hilarious, and he's one of the greatest competitors I've ever played with."

It's not all fun and games with Allen, whose offseason non-football commitments included participating alongside Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers and Patrick Ma-

homes in the made-for-TV golf event called "The Match" in Las Vegas in June. Rather than stay overnight, Allen took the earliest flight to Buffalo and was back on the field for voluntary practice the next day.

Allen joked that it was because he played golf poorly and needed to get back to what he does best, football.

Coach Sean McDermott saw it differently.

"The way he handled that as a professional and in particular as a leader of this football team just added to the stack of things that he's done," McDermott said. "He's authentic and genuine in his approach."

Beane saw Allen grow as a leader while pulling the Bills out of a troubling funk last season.

With their record falling to 7-6 after losing three of six, the Bills trailed Tampa Bay 24-3 when Allen addressed the team at halftime. With Allen playing on a sprained left foot, Buffalo rallied before losing 33-27 in overtime and closed the season winning its final four.

"We needed somebody to grab everybody by their shirt tails and say, 'Let's go,' and I thought Josh did that down the stretch," Beane said. "The light came on for him. He knew those guys are wanting that out of him. And he's led ever since."

SPORTS



Matching the Mick

Judge joins Mantle as only Yankees to hit 3 walk-off HRs in season » **MLB, Page 21**

NFL TRAINING CAMPS



PHOTOS BY JOSHUA BESSEX/AP

Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen (17) takes the field for practice at the team's training camp in Pittsford, N.Y., on Monday.

Allen unchanged

As his NFL star rises, Bills fifth-year QB has stayed true to himself amid distractions

BY JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

PITTSFORD, N.Y.

A young Josh Allen couldn't wait to clamber into the front seat of his father's Chevy Silverado for the 20-minute ride to school each morning, knowing he'd have an opportunity to regale an imaginary TV audience with his latest sports exploit.

With his left hand on the wheel and his right pretending to hold out a microphone, Joel Allen would pepper his two sons with

INSIDE

Lamar Jackson not letting contract talks become a distraction
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questions about buzzer-beating baskets, walk-off home runs and game-deciding touchdown drives.

SEE ALLEN ON PAGE 23



"If you don't know who you are, I don't think you can lead a group of men. So it's knowing who you are first, and then the guys will follow."

Josh Allen
Bills QB

Commanders owner testifies before House committee » NFL, Page 22