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Elvis, new season of 'Twisted Metal' out this week

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Gunman who killed 4 in NYC was targeting NFL headquarters >> Page 10

STARS AND STRIPES

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

US Navy eyes new ideas for production of sea drones

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy said this week that it wants new ideas from industry on how it can ramp up production of unmanned attack vessels, marking the latest push by the service to incorporate more sea drones into the fleet.

The Navy issued a solicitation for companies to submit proposals for an array of modular sea drones that leverage cutting-edge technology and can counter evolving threats.

Proposed solutions will be “swiftly” prototyped, the Navy said. The aim is for the sea drones to “seamlessly maneuver with other Navy surface vessels or operate independently.”

The Navy is seeking three unmanned systems with varying capabilities, payloads and ranges, but did not specify a timeline for deployment.

Drone warfare has featured prominently in the Russia-Ukraine war, which the Pentagon has studied closely for lessons from the ongoing conflict.

SEE DRONES ON PAGE 5



GAVIN MCKENNA/U.S. Navy

The sea drone Ranger returns to Naval Base Ventura County, in Port Hueneme, Calif., following an exercise in January 2024.



TREVARES JOHNSON/Stars and Stripes

Kendra Brokaw and her son, Lincoln, explore an interactive toy station at the Army Community Service annex on Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on July 22. A summer playgroup for infants and toddlers meets twice a week at the facility.

Not just child's play

Army summer program in South Korea helps spot developmental delays

By ERIC MENDIOLA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — A summer playgroup for infants and toddlers offers more than a social outlet for children and their parents. It also allows health care professionals to casually observe the children for early signs of development delays or disabilities.

The playgroup meets twice a

month at the Army Community Service annex, said Sara Ortiz, coordinator of the Exceptional Family Member Program at the largest U.S. military base overseas. It has been active at the base for the past four years.

Laughter filled the room as about 30 children played alongside their parents during a session on July 17. Some gravitated toward group play, while others pre-

ferred to explore on their own. Many favored simpler options, such as building blocks, over more intricate toys.

Meanwhile, a rotating team of specialists — speech, occupational and physical therapists and a developmental pediatrician from the base's Educational and Developmental Intervention Services — interacted with the children and their parents.

“They can get some help in the early 0-to-3 child development because that's a critical time for children to grow and develop,” said Anna Suh, a nurse specializing in families and children, said during a session on July 22.

Suh and other specialists keep an eye on the children's physical coordination, cognitive thinking,

SEE PROGRAM ON PAGE 5

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Stellantis faces \$1.7B hit from US tariffs this year

Associated Press

MILAN — Stellantis has forecast that U.S. tariffs would cost it 1.5 billion euros (\$1.7 billion) this year, five times the hit taken in the first six months of the year when the carmaker tallied losses of 2.3 billion euros (\$2.65 billion).

The maker of Jeep, Chrysler, Fiat and Peugeot cars said net profits plummeted from 5.6 billion euros (\$6.5 billion) in the same period last year as it burned 3.3 billion euros (\$3.8 billion) in cash for the cancellation of a hydrogen fuel

cell project, changes in the fine regime for U.S. carbon emission regulations, and write-downs on platform investments.

President Donald Trump's tariffs cost the company 300 million euros (\$346 million) in the first six months of the year, Stellantis said. During the period, U.S. shipments were down by nearly a quarter as the carmaker reduced the importation vehicles produced abroad.

Stellantis said it expected net revenues to increase over the next six months compared with the

first half, when they dropped 13% to 74.3 billion euros (\$85.7 billion). The carmaker also said cash flow would improve.

Incoming CEO Antonio Filosa, who was confirmed in the role last month, said the new executive team "will continue to make the tough decisions needed to re-establish profitable growth and significantly improve results."

"My first weeks as CEO have reconfirmed my strong conviction that we will fix what's wrong with Stellantis," Filosa said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (July 30)	0.84	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3743
British pound (July 30)	\$1.30	Britain (Pound)	1.3327
Japanese yen (July 30)	144.00	Canada (Dollar)	1.3756
South Korean won (July 30)	1,355.00	China (Yuan)	7.1778
		Denmark (Krone)	6.4595
		Egypt (Pound)	48.6583
		Euro	0.8658
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8498
		Hungary (Forint)	346.05
		Israel (Shekel)	3.3710
		Japan (Yen)	148.51
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3050
		Norway (Krone)	10.2124
		Philippines (Peso)	56.62
		Poland (Zloty)	3.70
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7464
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.2883
		South Korea (Won)	1,391.89
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8053		
Thailand (Baht)	32.44		
Turkey (NewLira)	40.5741		

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

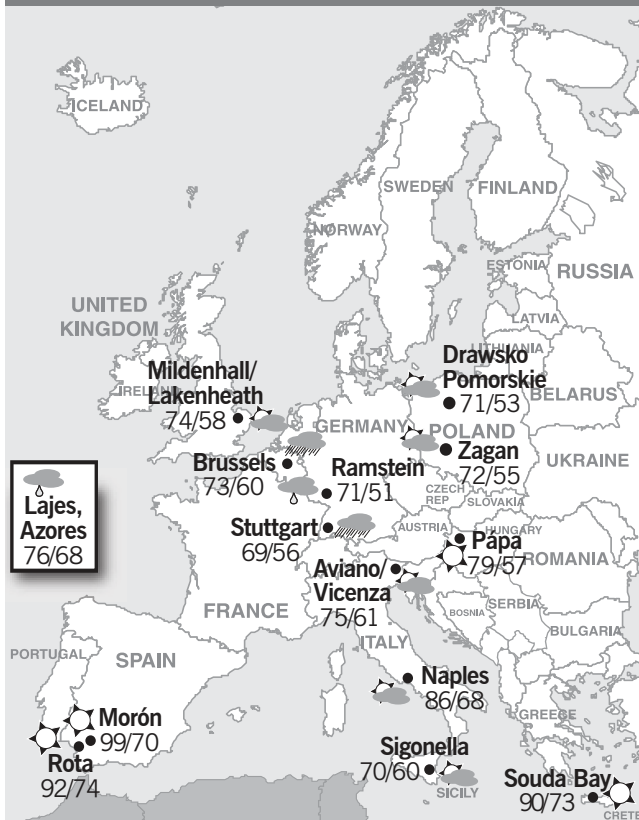
INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	7.50
Interest Rates Discount rate	4.33
Federal funds market rate	4.38
3-month bill	4.35
30-year bond	4.96

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is compiled from weather.com

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MILITARY

US has likely moved nuclear weapons to UK

BY ELLEN MILLIGAN,
GERRY DOYLE
AND TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg News

The U.S. has likely stationed nuclear weapons in the UK for the first time since 2008, in a signal to Russian President Vladimir Putin that it remains committed to European security.

On July 16, a U.S. military aircraft flew with its transponder on-making its identification and location publicly visible — from a U.S. nuclear weapons depot at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M., to RAF Lakenheath, according to defense analysts and open-source data.

The C-17 flight involved the U.S. Air Force's Prime Nuclear Airlift Force, which transports nuclear weapons, and didn't fly over any other nation's territory, according to William Alberque, a Europe-based senior fellow at the Pacific Forum.

The U.S. and U.K. governments have long-standing policies of not commenting on the status or location of their nuclear weapons.

Department of Defense budget documents show that millions of dollars of work on "surety" facilities — the term the Pentagon uses to describe nuclear weapon security — has been in progress at Lakenheath for several years.

The weapons the aircraft most likely delivered were the new B61-12 thermonuclear bombs, increasing the number of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons in Europe for the first time since the Cold War.

"There are strong indications" that the U.S. has returned nuclear



SELEENA MUHAMMAD-ALI/U.S. Air Force

Airmen load cargo onto a C-17 Globemaster III at RAF Lakenheath, England, last year. Analysts say a C-17 with the Air Force's Prime Nuclear Airlift Force recently landed at Lakenheath.

weapons to the U.K., said Hans Kristensen, director of the Federation of American Scientists' Nuclear Information Project.

Alberque said the decision to leave the flight transponders on indicates the U.S. wants to show Russia that it is not reducing its nuclear capability in Europe. NATO officials declined to immediately comment.

"This is a down payment that there's more to come on shifting NATO's deterrence posture toward strengthening," Alberque

said. "Returning U.S. nuclear weapons to the U.K. is no small feat."

The move also signals that the U.S. is committing more flexible nuclear capabilities to Europe, creating a wider range of options for its forces, said Sidharth Kaushal, a senior research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute.

"Capabilities such as the B61 can contribute to limiting the impact of Russia's large advantage in theater-level nonstrategic nuclear

weapons," Kaushal said.

U.S. President Donald Trump has hardened his approach to Putin in recent weeks, agreeing to send Ukraine more U.S.-made Patriot missiles through European purchases and threatening to hit Russia with secondary tariffs if it doesn't agree to a cease fire within 50 days. On Monday, Trump said that he would reduce that deadline, adding that he was "disappointed" in Putin.

The U.K. announced last month that it would purchase at least a

dozen new U.S.-made F-35A fighter jets capable of carrying B61-12 nuclear bombs. This week, its Ministry of Defense stated in an updated policy document that "NATO's nuclear deterrence also relies on U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in Europe and supporting capabilities and infrastructure provided by Allies."

The new jets will be available to fly NATO's nuclear mission, according to the document.

"This decision reintroduces a nuclear role for the RAF for the first time since the U.K. retired its sovereign air-launched nuclear weapons after the Cold War," the MoD said in the document.

B61-12 thermonuclear gravity bombs carry a warhead with a yield adjustable between 0.3 kilotons and 50 kilotons, according to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. They can be carried on F-35A fighter jets as well as other U.S. and NATO aircraft.

Yield measures the explosive power of a nuclear weapon, measured in the equivalent in tons of conventional explosives.

Designed to be much more accurate than previous B61 models, its variable yield means it can be used against small military targets as well as population centers. The apparent shipment to the U.K. means the bomb is now fully deployed in Europe at seven bases across six NATO countries, Kristensen said.

U.S. nuclear weapons, even those on other countries' territory, can only be used after the direct authorization of the U.S. president.

Germany aims for NATO goal with 162B euro defense budget by 2029

BY KAMIL KOWALCZE
Bloomberg News

Germany's push to rearm in response to mounting Russian aggression in Europe will see its annual defense budget double to as much as 162 billion euros — or \$189 billion — within four years.

That annual tally should be achieved by 2029, well ahead of the NATO alliance's target for military outlays to reach 3.5% of gross domestic product by 2035, according to a senior government official. The total includes 9 billion euros a year for Ukraine to support its fight against Russia.

With defense spending currently at 2% of output, the new figures underscore just how drastically Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil are driving rearmament in European Union's most populous country, against the

grain of pacifism instilled in its society in the post-1945 period.

That shift reflects Germany's return to a military posture reminiscent of the Cold War — a response to the combination of relentless Russian assaults on Ukraine, and the fear that the U.S. commitment to Europe's defense is wavering under President Donald Trump.

The ruling coalition consisting of Merz's conservatives and Klingbeil's Social Democrats have vowed to steer the economy back to growth after two years of contraction, and to make up for decades of underinvestment in infrastructure and the military.

To do that, they exempted defense spending exceeding 1% of GDP from the country's constitutional debt limit and set up a 500 billion euro special fund to build roads, rails, power grids and schools.

One of the biggest challenges for Berlin will be to get the extra military budget actually disbursed in light of acute production bottlenecks, long waiting lists and repeated delays for big-ticket procurement orders.

Among potential purchases, Germany is considering buying up to 2,500 GTK Boxer armored fighting vehicles and as many as 1,000 Leopard 2 battle tanks as part of a joint European effort to create new NATO brigades, people familiar with the matter told Bloomberg News earlier this month.

The order under consideration by Defense Minister Boris Pistorius and the Bundeswehr's top generals could be worth as much as 25 billion euros, the people said.

The regular budget for next year includes net new debt of 89.9 billion euros, which will rise



ANDREY RUDAKOV/Bloomberg

Germany is considering buying as many as 1,000 Leopard 2 tanks.

to 126.9 euros billion in 2029, according to a document distributed Monday by the government in Berlin.

Additional burdens such as recently approved tax breaks and an increase in social spending have widened the budget gap to 172 billion euros in the finance ministry's mid-term planning over the four next years. The government intends to close it

through consolidation and austerity measures, the official said.

Next year's budget and the mid-term finance plan are scheduled to be passed by the cabinet on Wednesday. After that they will be sent to the lower house of parliament for review, before going to the upper house — where the country's 16 states are represented — for approval by the end of the year.

PACIFIC

Japan to expand its missile reach

By BRIAN McELHINEY
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

Japan plans to deploy upgraded long-range missiles on its southernmost main island by spring as it continues to bolster defenses in the Nansei Islands, according to local media.

The Japan Ground Self-Defense Force is finalizing arrangements to station an upgraded version of its Type-12 surface-to-ship missile at Camp Kengun in Kumamoto prefecture on Kyushu by March 31, Kyodo News reported Monday.

Defense Minister Gen Nakatani confirmed Tuesday that the ministry intends to deploy the missiles this fiscal year but is still evaluating potential locations.

“The Ministry of Defense intends to continue working to build standoff defense capabilities more quickly in light of the most severe and complex security environment since the end of the war,” Nakatani said.

Japan faces mounting security concerns from China, which contests Japan’s claim to the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, along with North Korea’s advancing ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs. Nakatani also cited Russia, which has participated in recent joint military training with China near Japan, in the ministry’s 2025 white paper.

A ministry spokesperson declined to say Tuesday how many missiles will be delivered.

The upgraded Type-12 missile, a successor to the Type-88, has an



Japan Ground Self-Defense Force

Japan fires its Type 12 surface-to-ship missile for the first time in July 2023.

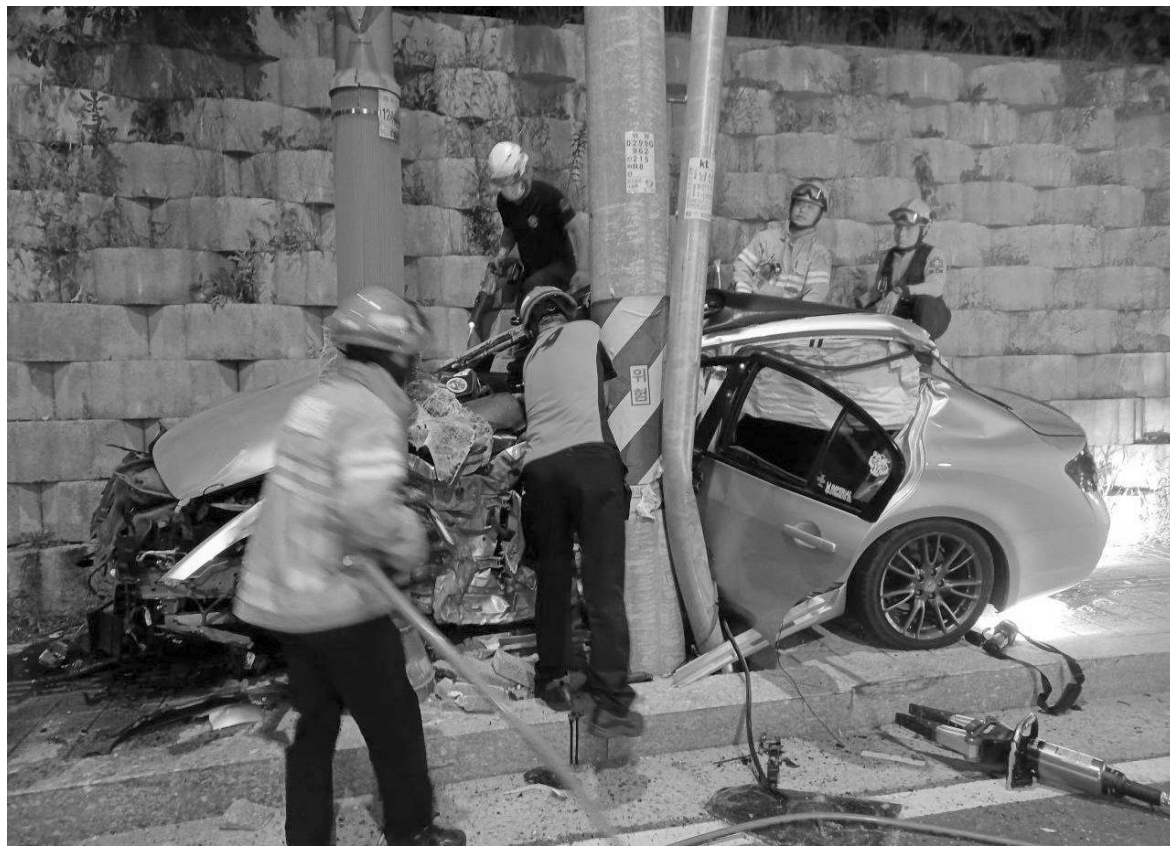
extended range of approximately 620 miles, up from 62 miles. Positioning the missiles on Kyushu would place parts of China’s coast and North Korea within range.

In March, North Korea criticized the planned deployment, accusing Japan of promoting a “history of aggression” and possessing “preemptive strike capability”.

Japan also plans to deploy the missiles at Camp Yufuin in Oita prefecture, also on Kyushu, and at Vice-Camp Katsuren on Okinawa, Kyodo reported.

Japan conducted three successful test launches of the upgraded missile in October at the Air Systems Research Center on Niiijima, an island southwest of Tokyo.

In 2023, the Ground Self-Defense Force opened a missile base on Ishigaki Island, at the far end of the Nansei chain stretching from Kyushu to Taiwan. The base houses Type-12 and Type-03 surface-to-air missiles, aimed at countering China’s growing presence in waters around Taiwan and the East China Sea.



Gyeonggi-do Fire Services

Emergency workers respond to a crash Sunday that killed a U.S. airman near Osan Air Base, South Korea.

Single-vehicle crash kills Air Force maintainer in South Korea

By DAVID CHOI
AND YOOJIN LEE
Stars and Stripes

An airman assigned to Osan Air Base in South Korea was killed in a car crash near the installation this week, the 51st Fighter Wing and local police said Tuesday.

Senior Airman James Daniels, 28, of Mililani, Hawaii, died around 10:20 p.m. Sunday, the wing said in an unattributed email. He served as an aircraft structural maintenance journeyman assigned to Osan’s 51st Maintenance Squadron.

Daniels’ vehicle struck the rear

bumper of a truck parked on the roadside then crashed into a nearby utility pole and concrete wall, a Pyeongtaek police officer said.

Emergency service personnel found Daniels — the vehicle’s sole occupant — unresponsive and took him to an unspecified hospital, the officer said.

Some South Korean government officials may speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

No other casualties were reported. The wing is coordinating with local authorities to investigate the incident, according to the wing and the police officer. No further

information was provided.

Osan, roughly 30 miles south of Seoul, is headquarters for the wing and 7th Air Force, the primary Air Force command in South Korea. Approximately 5,500 U.S. troops are stationed at the base.

The maintenance squadron is responsible for the upkeep of the wing’s F-16 Fighting Falcons. Aircraft structural maintenance specialists are tasked with repairing aircraft and undergo 76 days of training at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., according to the Air Force’s website.

N. Korea reaffirms claim it’s not giving up its nuclear weapons

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un dismissed the U.S.’s intent to resume diplomacy on North Korea’s denuclearization, as she urged Washington to accept her country as a nuclear weapons state and find a new approach to restart talks.

Kim Yo Jong’s statement suggested North Korea would only return to talks if the U.S. rewards it for a partial surrender of its nuclear capability. Some experts say U.S. President Donald Trump could still pursue talks with North Korea to make a diplomatic achievement.

Trump has recently bragged of his personal ties with Kim Jong Un and expressed hopes of restarting nuclear diplomacy between them. Their high-stakes di-

plomacy in 2018-19 that occurred during Trump’s first term unraveled after Trump rejected Kim’s calls for extensive sanctions relief in return for dismantling his main nuclear complex, a limited denuclearization step. Kim has since executed weapons tests to modernize and expand his arsenal.

In a statement carried by state media, Kim Yo Jong said she doesn’t deny the personal relationship between her brother and Trump “is not bad.” But she said if their personal relations are to serve the purpose of North Korea’s denuclearization, North Korea would view it as “nothing but a mockery.”

She said North Korea’s nuclear capability has sharply increased since the first round of the Kim-Trump diplomacy and any attempt to deny North Korea as a nuclear weapons state would be

rejected.

“If the U.S. fails to accept the changed reality and persists in the failed past, the DPRK-U.S. meeting will remain as a ‘hope’ of the U.S. side,” Kim Yo Jong said, referring to her country by its official name, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

She said it would be “advisable to seek another way of contact.”

Kim Yo Jong is a key official on the Central Committee of the North’s ruling Workers’ Party. She handles the country’s relations with South Korea and the United States, and South Korean officials and experts believe she is the North’s second-most powerful person after her brother.

Kim Yo Jong said she was responding to reported comments by a U.S. official that Trump is open to talks on denuclearization. She likely was referring to a Sat-

urday article by Yonhap news agency that cited an unidentified White House official as saying Trump “remains open to engaging with Leader Kim to achieve a fully denuclearized North Korea.”

“North Korea wants to say it’s not interested in talks on denuclearization, and the U.S. must determine what benefits it can give to the North first,” said Nam Sung-wook, a former head of the Institute for National Security Strategy, a think tank run by South Korea’s spy agency.

Nam said Trump’s likely desire to win a Nobel Peace Prize would prompt him to seek talks with Kim Jong Un and give him corresponding benefits for taking phased denuclearization steps. Nam said North Korea would want broad sanctions relief, a suspension of U.S.-South Korea military drills that it regards as invasion re-

hearsals and other economic incentives.

Kim Yeol Soo, an analyst at South Korea’s Korea Institute for Military Affairs, said U.S. and North Korean officials could meet if they narrow differences on terms for restoring talks. But he said Trump’s unpredictability makes it difficult to predict what concessions America would offer.

Other experts have earlier said that North Korea — now preoccupied with its expanding cooperation with Russia — sees no urgent need to resume diplomacy with the U.S. and South Korea. On Monday, Kim Yo Jong rebuffed overtures by South Korea’s new liberal government, saying its “blind trust” in the country’s alliance with the U.S. and hostility toward North Korea make it no different from its conservative predecessor.

MILITARY

US airman charged in fatal German crash

BY LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A Spangdahlem Air Base airman is facing a negligent homicide charge in German court over a wrong-way autobahn crash that killed a 23-year-old German woman.

Charges against the unidentified airman stemming from the May 3 head-on collision were announced Tuesday in a statement by the Trier public prosecutor's office, which took jurisdiction in the case.

The Trier District Court issued an arrest warrant for the airman, who is in U.S. military custody, ac-

ording to prosecutors. In addition to negligent homicide, he's also charged with negligent bodily harm and endangering road traffic.

The crash occurred on the A60 near Landscheid a few miles east of the base in the rural Eifel region.

Prosecutors say the airman had a blood alcohol level of 0.14% at the time of the crash. The legal limit in Germany is 0.05% in most cases.

Driving the wrong way in his Jeep Wrangler, he collided with a small car carrying three people. The German woman driving the car was taken to a hospital, where

she later died of her injuries. Two 24-year-old passengers also suffered serious injuries.

The airman was treated for minor injuries.

Germany has primary jurisdiction in cases involving a U.S. service member and a German citizen, but it usually waives that right in accordance with the 1951 NATO Status of Forces Agreement.

However, the agreement allows the waiver to be withdrawn within 21 days for egregious offenses such as robbery, rape or crimes that result in death.

Prosecutors decided to revoke the waiver against the Spangdah-

lem airman, meaning the criminal proceedings will take place in German courts.

A date for the main hearing has not yet been set.

The prosecutor's office said in May that the decision to retain jurisdiction was based on the number of victims involved.

A trial in the German court system would allow for family members of the deceased and the victims who were injured to participate as joint plaintiffs with their own attorneys, in contrast with procedures in American military courtrooms.

In the past six years, German authorities have ceded jurisdic-

tion to the U.S. military in at least two fatal cases involving American service members.

One was the highly publicized murder trial of a Spangdahlem airman in October.

A military court found Airman 1st Class Grant Harrison not guilty of unpremeditated murder in the 2023 stabbing death of martial artist Michael Ovsjannikov in Wittlich.

Harrison's acquittal sparked outrage in the communities around Spangdahlem and led to several protests outside the base. Residents at the protests said the outcome had created mistrust in the U.S. military's judicial system.



TREVARES JOHNSON/Stars and Stripes

Toddlers and parents take part in early learning activities during a morning play session at the Army Community Service annex on Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on July 22.

Program: Sensory-friendly activities, toys give families safe space for kids in need

FROM PAGE 1

communication and social skills. Some families attend purely for social interaction, while others are referred by health care providers.

"It's nice to be surrounded by other people who are going through what you may be going through, as far as maybe their kid isn't hitting certain specific milestones," said Brandy Jones, a mother and Army spouse attending the July 22 playgroup.

The summer session, dubbed Play to Learn, is open to children ages 3 and younger. During the rest of the year, the program meets weekly on Tuesdays and is

divided into two groups: One monitored like the summer sessions and another specifically for children identified as neurodiverse.

Ortiz is an Army veteran and the mother of a child with special needs.

"It's important to me because we are supporting our military families, and when you have a family member that has special medical or educational needs, they are the most vulnerable in our population," she said. "At the end of the day, it's to support families."

In addition to the playgroup, the program offers sensory-friendly

movie nights, a sensory afternoon group, and a lending locker where families can check out sensory-friendly toys and activities.

Sensory friendly "refers to environments, products, or experiences designed to reduce sensory overload and accommodate diverse sensory needs," according to the SensoryFriendly.net website.

These spaces are intended to be welcoming for individuals with sensory sensitivities, including those with autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder or sensory processing differences.

Drones: DOD uses Russia and Ukraine war as lesson

FROM PAGE 1

While most of the fighting has involved ground forces and their deployment of drones to take out opposing troop formations and combat vehicles, Ukraine also has used unmanned systems at sea.

At the start of the full-scale war in 2022, Ukraine possessed only a small navy. But the country's creative use of sea drones enabled Kyiv to destroy numerous Russian warships and force the Kremlin to pull back its naval position in the Black Sea.

The approach has highlighted the risks unmanned systems pose to larger navies.

But it also has put a spotlight on how such systems could help the U.S. Navy better counter China's

fast-growing fleet in the Asia-Pacific region.

"There is a mismatch between the U.S. Navy force structure and the requirements posed by (China's) posturing," stated a July 17 report by the Rand Corp., which asserted that the Navy lacks sufficient ships to meet its global security commitments.

To address its unmanned vessel needs, the Navy should use the domestic industrial base "to the extent that it can," but also consider tapping into the ship-construction capability of countries such as South Korea, Japan and Germany.

"If the U.S. industrial base does not support the requirement, there are options with its partners and allies," the report said.

Crews search for missing sailor off coast of Australia

BY GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

The aircraft carrier USS George Washington and its strike group of warships and aircraft are searching the Timor Sea off Australia for a sailor reported missing Monday, the Navy confirmed.

The search-and-rescue operations for a possible sailor overboard began after the command staff received word of a missing crew member.

"The ship initiated search-and-rescue procedures after receiving reports of a possible sailor overboard," the USS George Washington said in a statement released by the Navy. "Australian Defence Force and Australian Border Force assets are also supporting the U.S. Navy with the search-and-rescue efforts."

The sailor's name is being with-

held at this time, the Navy said.

The search includes the destroyer USS Shoup, the cruiser USS Robert Smalls, Helicopter Squadron 12 and Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 78. Fixed-wing aircraft from the USS George Washington, a Nimitz-class carrier, are also involved in the search.

The George Washington strike group is in the Timor Sea as part of the Talisman Sabre 25 exercise.

"Talisman Sabre is the largest bilateral military exercise between Australia and the United States, advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific by strengthening relationships and interoperability among key allies and partners, while enhancing our collective capabilities to respond to a wide array of potential security concerns," the Navy said.

NATION

Government shutdown talk starting early

BY KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's become tradition. Congressional leaders from both major political parties blame each other for a potential government shutdown as the budget year draws to a close.

But this year, the posturing is starting extraordinarily early.

The finger-pointing with more than two months to go in the fiscal year indicates the threat of a stoppage is more serious than usual as a Republican-controlled Congress seeks to make good on its policy priorities, often with no support from the other political party.

Democratic leadership from both chambers and the two panels responsible for drafting spending bills met behind closed doors recently to discuss the strategy ahead. The leaders emerged demanding that Republicans work with them but were careful to avoid spelling out red lines if Republicans don't.

"We are for a bipartisan, bicameral bill. That's what always has been done," said Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer. "The onus is on the Republicans to help us make that happen."

On the Republican side, law-



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks with reporters at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday.

makers describe the Democrats as itching for a shutdown. Senate Majority Leader John Thune said Schumer had threatened a shutdown should Republicans pass a bill to roll back \$9 billion in public broadcasting and foreign aid funds. Republicans subsequently passed those cuts.

"It was disturbing to see the Democratic leader implicitly

threatening to shut down the government in his July 'Dear Colleague' letter, but I'm hopeful that he does not represent the views of Senate Democrats as a whole," Thune said.

The federal government is operating on a full-year continuing resolution that provided about \$1.7 trillion in spending for defense and non-defense programs.

The funding expires Sept. 30.

President Donald Trump requested a comparable amount for the coming fiscal year, but the Republican proposed dramatically overhauling how that money is distributed to include more for defense and border security and significantly less for health, education, housing and foreign assistance.

So far, the House has approved two of the 12 annual spending bills. The Senate has yet to approve any, but those bills that have advanced out of the Senate Appropriations Committee are enjoying bipartisan support while the House bills are generally advancing out of committee on party line votes.

This week, the Senate is expected to consider the appropriations bill to fund military construction projects and the Department of Veterans Affairs, generally one of the easier spending bills to pass. One or two others could get added to the package.

Congress got off to a late start on the funding process. Republicans prioritized Trump's tax and spending cut bill. Most lawmakers agree Congress will need to pass a stop-gap measure before Sept. 30 to avoid a shutdown and allow law-

makers more time to work on the full-year spending measures.

Democrats overwhelmingly opposed this year's funding bill that expires in two months. But in the end, Schumer and nine Democratic colleagues decided a government shutdown would be even worse. They voted to allow the bill to proceed and overcome a filibuster, giving Republicans the ability to pass it on their own on a final vote.

Republicans control all the levers of power in Washington. That could make it harder to blame Democrats for a shutdown. But in the end, any bill will need some Democratic support to get the 60 votes needed to overcome a filibuster.

Sen. John Barrasso, the No. 2-ranked Republican in the Senate, said Republicans were determined to hold votes on the 12 spending bills. He said that Schumer "had unilaterally shut down the appropriations process" in previous years by not holding such votes, moving instead to negotiate directly with GOP leadership in the House and then-President Joe Biden's Democratic administration on an all-encompassing spending package.

Trump says he ended friendship with Epstein over employees

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Monday that he ended his friendship with Jeffrey Epstein and threw the now-disgraced financier out of his private club in Florida after Epstein betrayed him more than once by hiring people who had worked for him.

Trump did not say what his employees did or where they worked, and the White House declined further comment. But the White House had previously offered a different explanation for the falling-out. Steven Cheung, the White House communications director, said in a statement last week: "The fact is that the President kicked him out of his club for being a creep."

Epstein killed himself, authorities say, in a New York jail cell in 2019 as he awaited trial on sex trafficking charges. Trump and his top allies stoked conspiracy theories about Epstein's death before Trump returned to power.

They are now struggling to manage the fallout after the Justice Department said Epstein did, in fact, die by suicide and that it would not release additional documents about the case.

The president and his allies, some of whom are now in the administration, had promised to re-

lease official files.

The case has dogged Trump at home and abroad and even followed Vice President JD Vance during an appearance in his home state of Ohio on Monday.

A small group of protesters assembled outside a factory in Canton that Vance toured, holding signs that spelled out "JD Protects Pedophiles" and indicating that "GOP" stands for "Guardians Of Pedophiles."

The Republican president spoke at his golf property in Turnberry, Scotland, as he sat with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer after the leaders had met and were answering questions from U.S. and U.K. journalists. Asked to explain why the relationship had faltered, Trump said, "That's such old history, very easy to explain, but I don't want to waste your time by explaining it."

He then explained, saying he stopped talking to Epstein after "he did something that was inappropriate."

"He hired help and I said, 'Don't ever do that again,'" Trump said. "He stole people that worked for me. I said, 'Don't ever do that again.' He did it again, and I threw him out of the place, persona non grata."

"I threw him out and that was it. I'm glad I did, if you want to know the truth," Trump added.



JANE BARLOW/AP

A photograph of US President Donald Trump and Jeffrey Epstein is displayed on the side of a van in Aberdeen city centre, during US President Donald Trump's five-day private trip to Scotland, Monday.

Trump recently directed Attorney General Pam Bondi to seek the public release of sealed grand jury transcripts in the case. One federal judge has denied that request; a second judge has yet to rule.

Vance on Monday visited the

factory to promote Trump's tax cut and border bill but also addressed the Epstein matter, saying the president wants "full transparency" in the case.

"The president has been very clear. We're not shielding anything," Vance said in response to a

reporter's question. "The president has directed the attorney general to release all credible information and, frankly, to go and find additional credible information related to the Jeffrey Epstein case."

"Some of that stuff takes time," Vance said, adding that Trump has been "very clear. He wants full transparency."

Trump had said back in 2019 that Epstein was a fixture in Palm Beach but that the two had had a falling-out a long time ago and he hadn't spoken with Epstein for 15 years.

Trump on Monday also denied contributing to a compilation of letters and drawings to mark Epstein's 50th birthday, first reported on by the Wall Street Journal.

The newspaper said the letter, believed to be from Trump, included a drawing of a woman's body.

"I'm not a drawing person," Trump said. "I don't do drawings of women, that I can tell you."

Trump also said he declined Epstein's invitation to visit a private island the financier owned.

"I never had the privilege of going to his island, and I did turn it down, but a lot of people in Palm Beach were invited to his island," Trump said. "In one of my very good moments, I turned it down. I didn't want to go to his island."

NATION

Trump's tariffs could squeeze US factories

By **JOSH BOAK**
AND **PAUL WISEMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As President Donald Trump prepares to announce new tariff increases, the costs of his policies are starting to come into focus for a domestic manufacturing sector that depends on global supply chains, with a new analysis suggesting factory costs could increase by roughly 2% to 4.5%.

“There’s going to be a cash squeeze for a lot of these firms,” said Chris Bangert-Drowns, the researcher at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth who conducted the analysis. Those seemingly small changes at factories with slim profit margins, Bangert-Drowns said, “could lead to stagnation of wages, if not layoffs and closures of plants” if the costs are untenable.

The analysis, released Tuesday, points to the challenges Trump might face in trying to sell his tariffs to the public as a broader political and economic win and not just as evidence his negotiating style gets other nations to back down. The success of Trump’s policies ultimately depends on whether everyday Americans become wealthier and factory towns experience revivals, a goal outside economists say his Republican administration is unlikely to meet with tariffs.

Trump has announced new frameworks with the European Union, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia and Britain that would each raise the import taxes charged by the United States. He’s



Ty WRIGHT/Bloomberg

An employee installs the motor of a fan at a manufacturing facility in Lexington, Ky.

prepared to levy tariffs against goods from dozens of other countries starting on Friday in the stated range of 15% to 50%.

The U.S. stock market has shown relief the tariff rates aren’t as high as Trump initially threatened in April and hope for a sense of stability going forward. Trump maintains the tariff revenues will whittle down the budget deficit and help whip up domestic factory jobs, all while playing down the risks of higher prices.

“We’ve wiped out inflation,” Trump said last Friday before boarding Marine One while on his way to Scotland.

But there’s the possibility of backlash in the form of higher prices and slower growth once tariffs flow more fully through the world economy.

The Washington Center for Equitable Growth analysis shows how Trump’s devotion to tariffs

carries potential economic and political costs for his agenda. In the swing states of Michigan and Wisconsin, more than 1 in 5 jobs are in the critical sectors of manufacturing, construction, mining and oil drilling and maintenance that have high exposures to his import taxes.

The artificial intelligence sector Trump last week touted as the future of the economy is dependent on imports. More than 20% of the inputs for computer and electronics manufacturing are imported, so the tariffs could ultimately magnify a hefty multitrillion-dollar price tag for building out the technology in the U.S.

The White House argues American businesses will access new markets because of the trade frameworks, saying companies will ultimately benefit as a result.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in an interview last week on Fox Business Network’s “Ku-

slow” show countries were essentially accepting the tariffs to maintain access to the U.S. market. “Everyone is willing to pay a toll,” he said.

But what Bessent didn’t say is U.S. manufacturers are also paying much of that toll.

“We’re getting squeezed from all sides,” said Justin Johnson, president of Jordan Manufacturing Co. in Belding, Mich., northeast of Grand Rapids. His grandfather founded the company in 1949.

The company, which makes parts used by Amazon warehouses, auto companies and aerospace firms, has seen the price of a key raw material—steel coil—rise 5% to 10% this year.

Trump has imposed 50% tariffs on imported steel and aluminum. Jordan Manufacturing doesn’t buy foreign steel. But by crippling foreign competition, Trump’s tariffs have allowed domestic U.S. steel-makers to hike prices.

Johnson doesn’t blame them. “There’s no red-blooded capitalist who isn’t going to raise his prices” under those circumstances, he said.

The Trump White House insists inflation is not surfacing in the economy, issuing a report through the Council of Economic Advisers this month saying the price of imported goods fell between December of last year and this past May. “These findings contradict claims that tariffs or tariff-fears would lead to an acceleration of inflation,” the report concludes.

Ernie Tedeschi, director of economics at the Budget Lab at Yale University, said that the more ac-

curate measure would be to compare the trends in import prices with themselves in the past and that the CEA’s own numbers show “import prices have accelerated in recent months.”

The latest estimate from the Budget Lab at Yale is the tariffs would cause the average household to have \$2,400 less than it would otherwise have.

Josh Smith, founder and president of Montana Knife Co., called himself a Trump voter but said he sees the tariffs on foreign steel and other goods as threatening his business.

For instance, Smith just ordered a \$515,000 machine from Germany that grinds his knife blades to a sharp edge. Trump had imposed a 10% tax on products from the EU that is set to rise to 15% under the trade framework he announced Sunday. So Trump’s tax on the machine comes to \$77,250 — about enough for Smith to hire an entry-level worker.

Smith would happily buy the bevel-grinding machines from an American supplier. But there aren’t any. “There’s only two companies in the world that make them, and they’re both in Germany,” Smith said.

“The average American is not sitting in the position I am, looking at the numbers I am and making the decisions each day, like, ‘Hey, we cannot hire those extra few people because we might have to pay this tariff on this steel or this tariff on this grinder,’” he said. “I want to buy more equipment and hire more people. That’s what I want to do.”

Higher US tariffs are price Europe is willing to pay for security

By **LORNE COOK**
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — France’s prime minister described it as a “dark day” for the European Union, a “submission” to U.S. tariff demands. Commentators said EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen’s handshake with President Donald Trump amounted to capitulation.

The trouble is, Europe depends mightily on the United States, and not just for trade.

Mirroring Trump, von der Leyen gushed that the arrangement she endorsed over the weekend to set U.S. tariff levels on most European exports to 15%, which is 10% higher than currently, was “huge.” Her staff texted reporters insisting that the pact, which starts to enter force on Friday, is the “biggest trade deal ever.”

A month after NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte ingratiated himself with Trump by referring to him as “daddy,” the Europeans had again conceded that swallow-

ing the costs and praising an unpredictable president is more palatable than losing America.

“It’s not only about the trade. It’s about security. It’s about Ukraine. It’s about current geopolitical volatility. I cannot go into all the details,” EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic told reporters Monday.

“I can assure you it was not only about the trade,” he insisted, a day after “the deal” was sealed in an hour-long meeting once Trump finished playing a round of golf with his son at the course he owns in Scotland.

Indeed, Europe depends on the U.S. for its security and that security is anything but a game, especially since Russia invaded Ukraine. U.S. allies are convinced that, should he win, President Vladimir Putin is likely to take aim at one of them next.

So high are these fears that European countries are buying U.S. weapons to help Ukraine to defend itself. Some are prepared to



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

President Donald Trump and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen shake hands after reaching a trade deal in Turnberry, Scotland, Sunday.

send their own air defense systems and replace them with U.S. equipment, once it can be delivered.

“We’re going to be sending now military equipment and other equipment to NATO, and they’ll be doing what they want, but I

guess it’s for the most part working with Ukraine,” Trump said Sunday, sounding ambivalent about America’s role in the alliance.

The Europeans also are wary about a U.S. troop drawdown, which the Pentagon is expected to

announce by October. Around 84,000 U.S. personnel are based in Europe, and they guarantee NATO’s deterrent effect against an adversary like Russia.

At the same time, Trump is slapping duties on America’s own NATO partners, ostensibly due to concerns about U.S. security interests, using Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act, a logic that seems absurd from across the Atlantic.

“The EU is in a difficult situation because we’re very dependent on the U.S. for security,” said Niclas Poitiers at the Bruegel research institution in Brussels. “Ukraine is a very big part of that, but also generally our defense is underwritten by NATO.”

“I think there was not a big willingness to pick a major fight, which is the one (the EU) might have needed with the U.S.” to better position itself on trade, Poitiers told The Associated Press about key reasons for von der Leyen to accept the tariff demands.

NATION

Dems press for more effort in Gaza hunger aid

By **STEPHEN GROVES**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats are imploring President Donald Trump's administration to step up its role in addressing suffering and starvation in Gaza, with 40 senators signing onto a letter Tuesday urging the resumption of ceasefire talks and sharply criticizing an Israeli-backed American organization that had been created to distribute food aid.

In a letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio and the Republican president's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, the senators said the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, created in February with backing from the Trump administration, has "failed to address the deepening humanitarian crisis and contributed to an unacceptable and mounting civilian death toll around the organization's sites."

It marked a mostly united plea from Senate Democrats — who are locked out of power in Washington — for the Trump administration to recalibrate its approach after the collapse of ceasefire talks last week. Trump on Monday expressed concern about the worsening humanitarian situation and broke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's claim that people are not starving in the Gaza Strip. But it is unclear how Trump will proceed.

Democratic Sen. Brian Schatz of Hawaii said it was "not at all credible" to think the Israeli military — one of the most advanced in the world — is incapable of distributing food aid or performing

crowd control.

"They made a choice to establish a new way of doing food distribution," he said. "And it's not working at all."

The letter, obtained by The Associated Press, calls for a "large-scale expansion" of aid into Gaza channeled through organizations experienced working in the area. It also says efforts for a ceasefire agreement are "as critical and urgent as ever."

The message was led by four Jewish members of the Democratic Caucus — Sens. Adam Schiff of California, Chuck Schumer of New York, Jacky Rosen of Nevada and Schatz — and calls for the return of the roughly 50 hostages, 20 still believed to be alive, held by Hamas since its Oct. 7, 2023, attack.

The signatures from most of the Senate Democratic Caucus on the letter show the extent to which Democrats have achieved some unity on a foreign policy issue that deeply divided them while they held the White House last year. They called for an end to the war that sees Hamas no longer in control of Gaza and a long-term goal of both an Israeli and a Palestinian state and opposed any permanent displacement of the Palestinian people.

Meanwhile, Republicans are backing Trump's handling of the situation and supporting Israel. Sen. John Cornyn, a Texas Republican who sits on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he was satisfied with Trump trying "to referee that, but the Israelis need to get their hostages back."



MICHAEL DWYER/AP

A North Atlantic right whale feeds on the surface of Cape Cod bay off the coast of Plymouth, Mass., in 2018.

Fishing groups propose postponing endangered right whale protections

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — A Maine congressman and several commercial fishing groups are getting behind a push to delay rules designed to protect a vanishing species of whale for 10 years.

The North Atlantic right whale numbers only about 370 and has declined over the last 15 years. They have been the subject of proposed federal fishing laws that are backed by conservation groups because the whales are threatened by lethal entanglement in commercial fishing gear.

The federal government is in the midst of a pause on federal right whale rules until 2028. Democratic Rep. Jared Golden of Maine and a coalition of fishing organizations said in letters to congressional officials that they want to extend that moratorium

out to 2035.

Golden, who played a role in the initial moratorium, said extending the pause would give the government the time it needs to craft regulations that reflect science. He also said it would protect Maine's lifeblood lobster fishing industry, which is one of the fishing sectors that would have to comply with rules intended to protect right whales.

"Maine's lobster fishery has most recently been valued at more than half a billion dollars — and that's just the value of the catch. It also supports tens of thousands of jobs. It is an iconic part of our state's economy, heritage and appeal to visitors," Golden said in a July 22 letter to a subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee.

The extension of the moratorium was originally proposed by

Alaska Republican Nick Begich. It's one of several changes to the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act proposed by Begich, who like Golden represents a state with a large commercial fishing industry.

The changes have drawn condemnation from environmental organizations and praise from commercial fishing groups. A group of fishing organizations including the Maine Lobstermen's Association said in a July 21 letter to the subcommittee that "heavy regulation comes at a heavy cost."

The whales were once numerous off the East Coast, but they were decimated during the era of commercial whaling and have been slow to recover. They are also threatened by collisions with large ships.

The population of the whales fell about 25% from 2010 to 2020.

DOJ files misconduct complaint against judge in deportation case

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department on Monday filed a misconduct complaint against the federal judge who has clashed with President Donald Trump's administration over deportations to a notorious prison in El Salvador.

Escalating the administration's conflict with U.S. District Judge James E. Boasberg, Attorney General Pam Bondi said on social media that she directed the filing of the complaint against Boasberg "for making improper public comments about President Trump and his administration."

The complaint stems from re-

marks Boasberg allegedly made in March to Chief Justice John Roberts and other federal judges saying the administration would trigger a constitutional crisis by disregarding federal court rulings, according to a copy of the complaint obtained by The Associated Press.

The comments "have undermined the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary," the complaint says, adding that the administration has "always complied with all court orders." Boasberg is among several judges who have questioned whether the administration has complied with their orders.

The meeting took place days before Boasberg issued an order blocking deportation flights that Trump was carrying out by invoking wartime authorities from an 18th century law.

The judge's verbal order to turn around planes that were on the way to El Salvador was ignored. Boasberg has since found probable cause that the administration committed contempt of court.

The comments were supposedly made during a meeting of the Judicial Conference, the federal judiciary's governing body. The remarks were first reported by the conservative website The Fed-

eralist, which said it obtained a memo summarizing the meeting.

Boasberg, the chief judge in the district court in the nation's capital, is a member of the Judicial Conference. Its meetings are not public.

The complaint calls for an investigation, the reassignment of the deportations case to another judge while the inquiry is ongoing and sanctions, including the possible recommendation of impeachment, if the investigation substantiates the allegations.

Trump already has called for Boasberg's impeachment, which in turn prompted a rare response

from Roberts rejecting the call.

The complaint was filed with Judge Sri Srinivasan, chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

More than 250 Venezuelans who were deported to a Salvadoran mega-prison known as the Terrorism Confinement Center, or CECOT, were sent home to Venezuela earlier this month in a deal that also free 10 U.S. citizens and permanent residents who had been held by Venezuela.

But the lawsuit over the deportations and the administration's response to Boasberg's order remains in his court.

NATION

EPA moves to repeal basis for Clean Air Act

By MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's administration on Tuesday proposed revoking a scientific finding that has long been the central basis for U.S. action to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change.

The proposed Environmental Protection Agency rule would rescind a 2009 declaration that determined that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare.

The "endangerment finding" is the legal underpinning of a host of climate regulations under the Clean Air Act for motor vehicles, power plants and other pollution sources that are heating the planet.

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the proposed rule



Zeldin

change on a podcast ahead of an official announcement set for Tuesday in Indiana.

Repealing the endangerment finding "will be the largest deregulatory action in the history of America," Zeldin said on the Ruthless podcast.

"There are people who, in the name of climate change, are willing to bankrupt the country," Zeldin said.

"They created this endangerment finding and then they are able to put all these regulations on vehicles, on airplanes, on stationary sources, to basically regulate out of existence, in many cases, a lot of segments of our economy. And it cost Americans a lot of money."

The EPA proposal must go through a lengthy review process, including public comment, before it is finalized, likely next year. Environmental groups are likely to challenge the rule change in court. Zeldin called for a rewrite of the endangerment finding in March as part of a series of environmental rollbacks announced at the same time in what he said was "the greatest day of deregulation in American history."

A total of 31 key environmental rules on topics from clean air to clean water and climate change would be rolled back or repealed under Zeldin's plan. He singled out the endangerment finding as "the Holy Grail of the climate change religion" and said he was thrilled to end it "as the EPA does its part to usher in the Golden Age of American success."

The EPA also is expected to call

for rescinding limits on tailpipe emissions that were designed to encourage automakers to build and sell more electric vehicles. The transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

Environmental groups said Zeldin's action denies reality as weather disasters exacerbated by climate change continue in the U.S. and around the world.

"As Americans reel from deadly floods and heat waves, the Trump administration is trying to argue that the emissions turbocharging these disasters are not a threat," said Christy Goldfuss, executive director of the Natural Resources Defense Council. "It boggles the mind and endangers the nation's safety and welfare."

Under Zeldin and Trump, "the EPA wants to shirk its responsibility to protect us from climate pol-

lution, but science and the law say otherwise," she added.

"If EPA finalizes this illegal and cynical approach, we will see them in court."

Three former EPA leaders have also criticized Zeldin, saying his March announcement targeting the endangerment finding and other rules imperiled the lives of millions of Americans and abandoned the agency's dual mission to protect the environment and human health.

"If there's an endangerment finding to be found anywhere, it should be found on this administration because what they're doing is so contrary to what the Environmental Protection Agency is about," Christine Todd Whitman, who led EPA under Republican President George W. Bush, said after Zeldin's plan was made public.

Complaints from supplement industry bring HHS crackdown

By MATTHEW PERRONE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. health officials are warning Americans about the risks of an opioid-like ingredient increasingly added to energy drinks, gummies and supplements sold at gas stations and convenience stores, recommending a nationwide ban.

The chemical, known as 7-hydroxymitragynine, is a component of kratom, a plant native to Southeast Asia that has gained popularity in the U.S. as an unapproved treatment for pain, anxiety and drug dependence.

In recent months, dietary supplement companies that sell kratom have been urging the Food and Drug Administration to crack down on the products containing 7-OH, portraying them as dangerously strong, synthetic versions of the original ingredient.

The FDA action "is not focused on natural kratom leaf products," according to a statement Tuesday by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The agency said it was releasing

a report to educate about the risks of "7-OH and its distinction from the kratom plant leaf." Regulators are also recommending that the ingredient be placed on the federal government's most restrictive list of illegal drugs, which also includes LSD and heroin.

"7-OH is an opioid that can be more potent than morphine," said FDA Commissioner Marty Makary. "We need regulation and public education to prevent another wave of the opioid epidemic."

The agency's recommendation will be reviewed by the Drug Enforcement Administration, which sets federal rules for high-risk drugs including prescription medicines and illicit substances.

Federal regulators have been scrutinizing kratom for about a decade after reports of addiction, injury and overdose. But users and distributors have long opposed efforts to regulate it, saying kratom could be a safer alternative to opioid painkillers that sparked the ongoing drug addiction epidemic.

Last month, the FDA issued



MARY ESCH/AP

Kratom capsules, pictured above, have earned the ire of the supplement industry.

warning letters to seven companies selling drinks, gummies and powders infused with the drug. Regulators said the products violated FDA rules because they have not been evaluated for safety and, in some cases, claimed to treat medical conditions, including pain, arthritis and anxiety.

Supplement executives quickly

applauded the move.

The FDA "demonstrated the exact kind of data-driven, proactive regulatory excellence needed to safeguard unwitting consumers across the U.S.," said Ryan Niddel of Diversified Botanicals, a Utah-based company that sells kratom supplements.

An industry group, the Ameri-

can Kratom Association, has lobbied Congress for years against restrictions on the plant. Legislation supported by the group would prohibit the FDA from regulating kratom more strictly than food and dietary supplements.

Nearly a decade ago, the federal government came close to a national ban on the substance.

In 2016, the DEA announced plans to add kratom to the government's most restrictive schedule 1 of illegal drugs. But the plan stalled after a flood of public complaints, including a letter signed by more than 60 members of Congress.

The FDA then began studying the ingredient, concluding in 2018 that kratom contains many of the same chemicals as opioids, the addictive class of drugs that includes painkillers like OxyContin as well as heroin and fentanyl.

Since then, FDA regulators have continued to issue warnings about cases of injury, addiction and death with kratom supplements, which are usually sold in capsules or powders.

US job openings fell to 7.4 million last month as job market cools

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Employers posted 7.4 million job vacancies last month, a sign that the American job market continues to cool.

The Labor Department reported Tuesday that job openings in June were down from 7.7 million in May and were about what forecasters had expected.

The Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) showed that layoffs were little changed in June. But the number of people

quitting their jobs — a sign of confidence in their prospects elsewhere — dropped last month to the lowest level since December. Hiring also fell from May.

Posting on Bluesky, Glassdoor economist Daniel Zhao wrote that the report "shows softer figures with hires and quits rates still sluggish. Not dire, not amazing, more meh."

The U.S. job market has lost momentum this year, partly because of the lingering effects of 11 inter-

est rate hikes by the inflation fighters at the Federal Reserve in 2022 and 2023 and partly because President Donald Trump's trade wars have created uncertainty that is paralyzing managers making hiring decisions.

On Friday, the Labor Department will put out unemployment and hiring numbers for July. They are expected to show that the unemployment rate ticked up to a still-low 4.2% in July from 4.1% in June. Businesses, government

agencies and nonprofits are expected to have added 115,000 jobs in July, down from 147,000 in June, according to a survey of economists by the data firm FactSet.

The seemingly decent June hiring numbers were weaker than they appeared. Private payrolls rose just 74,000 in June, fewest since last October when hurricanes disrupted job sites. And state and local governments added nearly 64,000 education jobs in June — a total that economists sus-

pect was inflated by seasonal quirks around the end of the school year.

Sofar this year, the economy has been generating 130,000 jobs a month, down from 168,000 last year and an average 400,000 a month from 2021 through 2023 during the recovery from COVID-19 lockdowns.

Employers are less likely to hire, but they're also not letting workers go either. Layoffs remain below pre-pandemic levels.

NATION

Gunman kills 4, planned to target NFL's HQ

By PHILIP MARCELO,
ERIC TUCKER
AND MIKE BALSAMO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A gunman who killed four people at a Manhattan office building before killing himself claimed in a note to have a brain disease linked to contact sports and was trying to target the National Football League's headquarters but took the wrong elevator, officials said Tuesday.

Investigators believe Shane Tamura, of Las Vegas, was trying to get up to the NFL offices after

shooting several people in the lobby on Monday, but that he entered the wrong elevator banks, Mayor Eric Adams said in interviews.

Four people were killed, including an off-duty New York City police officer, Didarul Islam.

Tamura, who played high school football in California nearly two decades ago but never in the NFL, had a history of mental illness, police said. A three-page note found in his wallet suggested he had a grievance against the NFL over a claim that he suffered

from chronic traumatic encephalopathy. The degenerative brain disease has been linked to concussions and other repeated head trauma common in contact sports such as football, but it can only be diagnosed after someone has died.

In the note, Tamura repeatedly said he was sorry and asked that his brain be studied for CTE, according to the police department. The note also referenced former NFL player Terry Long, who was diagnosed with CTE, and the manner in which Long killed

himself in 2005. The note accused the NFL of concealing the dangers to players' brains for profit.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell called the shooting "an unspeakable act of violence in our building," saying he was deeply grateful to the law enforcement officers who responded and the officer who gave his life to protect others.

The shooting took place at a skyscraper that is home to the headquarters of both the NFL and Blackstone, one of the world's largest investment firms,

as well as other tenants.

Blackstone confirmed that one of its employees, real estate executive Wesley LePatner, was among those killed.

Islam, 36, had served as a police officer in New York City for 3½ years and was an immigrant from Bangladesh, Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said at a news conference.

His body was draped in the New York Police Department flag as it was moved from the hospital to an ambulance, with fellow officers standing at attention.

He heard 'he's got a knife,' then he ran to stop suspected stabber

By MICHAEL CASEY
Associated Press

Matthew Kolakowski was shopping for fishing gear and snacks with his daughter at a Michigan Walmart over the weekend when he heard an employee yelling "he's got a knife" followed by sounds of screaming.

Then he saw a man rushing toward the checkout counter.

"All of a sudden I see him pop up and I swear we locked eyes for a minute and I yelled at my daughter, 'Stay here.' So I just took off running," Kolakowski said, recalling the moment he decided to confront the man accused of stabbing 11 people at the Traverse City store on Saturday.

Bradford Gille was charged Monday with terrorism and 11 counts of attempted murder. Police said they had no apparent motive for the violent attack carried out with a 3½ inch knife.

The actions of Kolakowski and some other men drew effusive praise from Grand Traverse County Sheriff Michael Shea. Overnight, the strangers became online celebrities for their heroics as a video showing the confrontation spread swiftly on social media.

Kolakowski said that as he followed the man out of the store, he saw him plunge his blade into an older woman outside. Having no weapon himself, Kolakowski grabbed a shopping cart, hoping

to knock the man down as he gave chase.

"He just ran right behind her and buried his knife into her back, right in front of me," Kolakowski said. "He pulled the knife out of her and went to take off, then stopped and hesitated and turned around like he was going to go after her again. That's when he noticed me with the grocery cart ... I just went as hard as I could and just got him on his ankles with the grocery cart from behind."

Kolakowski, a 39-year-old disabled veteran, was quickly joined by another man with a shopping cart, stopping the man later identified by authorities as Gille. A third man pointed a gun toward the man, repeatedly demanding he drop the knife.

He eventually put the knife down and Kolakowski said he jumped on the man, restraining him until police quickly arrived.

"Honestly, I didn't hesitate at all," said Kolakowski, speaking from his home in nearby Kent City. Though he was wary of being stabbed himself, he said, "I just kept going."

Shea said the 11 victims were men and women ranging in age from 29 to 84, including one Wal-

mart employee. All were expected to survive, officials said.

Authorities said Gille, 42, has a history of mental health problems and has been arrested or ticketed numerous times in the Petoskey, Mich., area since 2001. He has also received jail sentences for assault and domestic violence-related offenses.

In 2017, he was found not guilty by reason of insanity after being charged with damaging a burial vault and tipping over grave markers at a Petoskey cemetery. And police in Petoskey reported speaking twice with Gille in recent days about loitering.

In a statement Monday, the Petoskey Department of Public Safety said the agency sought and received a court order Friday to place Gille in protective custody, deeming him a risk to himself or others.

But they could not find him — until the Traverse City stabbings occurred.

Gille's mother told the Petoskey News-Review in 2007 that her son had been in a long-term cycle of mental illness. Beverly Gille at that time praised police and judges, whom she said were trying to help him.

"He's fine when he's on his medication," she told the newspaper. "The problem is his illness tells him that he is fine and doesn't need to take his medication."



Gille



CHRIS O'BRIEN/AP

Stabbing suspect Bradford Gille of Afton, Mich., is confronted by bystanders at a Walmart parking lot at a gunpoint on Saturday in Traverse City, Mich.

At his arraignment Monday, Gille appeared agitated and seemed to suggest he was homeless. A not-guilty plea was entered for him, and bond was set at \$100,000.

Kolakowski said that as he and the other shoppers surrounded the man in the Walmart parking lot, it was clear that something was not right. He described the man as wild-eyed and sweating heavily and describing those in the store as "bad, like he was making an excuse why he stabbed everybody."

Kolakowski's brother-in-law, Chris O'Brien, who recorded the video, said the "crazy" scene unfolded incredibly fast and that Kolakowski's actions surely prevented several more stabbings.

"It's his courage that is the craziest part. It was something to witness," he said.

"A guy was stabbing people and we were just next on his list if we didn't do something right," O'Brien said. "Matt was determined to make sure it was stopping then and there and he sure as hell did that."

Shooter opens fire outside Reno casino, killing 3 and wounding others

Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — A gunman opened fire Monday outside the largest casino in Reno killing three people and wounding three others before police shot the suspect and arrested him, officials said.

The suspect had no known connection to the victims, and it was unclear if he was a guest or an em-

ployee at the Grand Sierra Resort, one of Reno's most prominent venues that has hosted concerts, sporting events and a campaign rally by President Donald Trump before the 2024 election. Near the California border and just northeast of Lake Tahoe, the town is a popular summer tourist destination.

Police were still trying to determine a motive for the shooting.

Two victims were in critical condition, while one was treated and released from the hospital, said Chris Crawforth, the police chief of the neighboring town of Sparks whose department is leading the investigation.

The shooting occurred around

7:30 a.m. when the gunman walked up to the casino-hotel's valet parking area, pulled out a handgun and pointed it at a group of people, police said. His gun initially malfunctioned, but he quickly was able to get it to shoot multiple times before fleeing on foot through the parking lot where he encountered an armed casino se-

curity guard. Crawforth said the gunman opened fire on the guard, who returned fire as the shooter fled again.

The suspect later shot at someone driving by in the parking lot, striking and killing the driver before officers arrived on the scene within three minutes of the first shots being fired.

NATION

Millionaire status becomes the new normal

By **MATT SEDENSKY**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — As a child, Heidi Barley watched her family pay for groceries with food stamps. As a college student, she dropped out because she couldn't afford tuition. In her twenties, already scraping by, she was forced to take a pay cut that shrunk her salary to just \$34,000 a year.

But this summer, the 41-year-old hit a milestone that long felt out of reach: She became a millionaire.

A surging number of everyday Americans now boast a seven-figure net worth once the domain of celebrities and CEOs. But as the ranks of millionaires grow fatter, the significance of the status is shifting alongside perceptions of what it takes to be truly rich.

"Millionaire used to sound like Rich Uncle Pennybags in a top hat," says Michael Ashley Schulman, chief investment officer at Running Point Capital Advisors, a wealth management firm in El Segundo, Calif. "It's no longer a backstage pass to palatial estates and caviar bumps. It's the new mass-affluent middleweight class, financially secure but two zeros short of private-jet territory."

Inflation, ballooning home values and a decades-long push into stock markets by average investors have lifted millions into millionairehood. A June report from Swiss bank UBS found about one-tenth of American adults are members of the seven-digit club, with 1,000 freshly minted millionaires added daily last year.

Thirty years ago, the IRS counted 1.6 million Americans with a net worth of \$1 million or more. UBS — using data from the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and central banks of countries around the globe — put the number at 23.8 million in the U.S. last year, a nearly 15-fold increase.

The expanding ranks of millionaires come as the gulf between rich and poor widens. The richest 10% of Americans hold two-thirds of household wealth, according to the Federal Reserve, averaging \$8.1 million each. The bottom 50% hold 3% of wealth, with an average of just \$60,000 to their names.



PHELAN M. EBENHACK/AP

Heidi Barley and her husband, Patrick, stand in front of their modest, 1,600-square-foot home and 2013 Honda Prius, left, and 2013 Honda Fit vehicles, Thursday, in Orlando, Fla.

Federal Reserve data also shows there are differences by race. Asian people outpace white people in the U.S. in median wealth, while Black and Hispanic people trail in their net worth.

Barley was working as a journalist when her newspaper ended its pension program and she got a lump-sum payout of about \$5,000. A colleague convinced her to invest it in a retirement account, and ever since, she's stashed away whatever she could. The investments dipped at first during the Great Recession but eventually started growing. In time, she came to find catharsis in amassing savings, going home and checking her account balances when she had a tough day at work.

Last month, after one such day, she realized the moment had come.

"Did you know that we're millionaires?" she asked her husband.

"Good job, honey," Barley says he replied, unfazed.

It brought no immediate change. Like many millionaires, much of her wealth is in long-term investments and her home, not easy-to-access cash. She still lives in her modest Orlando, Fla., house, socks away half her paycheck, fills the napkin holder with takeout napkins and lines trash cans with grocery bags.

Still, Barley says it feels powerful to cross a threshold she never



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Jason Breck and Daravy Khiev work in their home, Wednesday, in Fishers, Ind.

imagined reaching as a child.

"But it's not as glamorous as the ideas in your head," she says.

All wealth is relative. To thousandaires, \$1 million is the stuff of dreams. To billionaires, it's a rounding error. Either way, it takes twice as much cash today to match the buying power of 30 years ago.



Wang

A net worth of \$1 million in 1995 is equivalent to about \$2.1 million today, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A seven-figure net worth is, to some, as outdated a yardstick as a six-figure salary. Nonetheless, "millionaire" is peppered in ev-

erything from politics to popular music as shorthand for rich.

"It's a nice round number but it's a point in a longer journey," says Dan Uden, a 41-year-old from Providence, R.I., who works in information technology and who hit the million-dollar mark last month. "It definitely gives you some room to breathe."

No other country comes close to the U.S. in the sheer number of millionaires, though relative to population, UBS found Switzerland and Luxembourg had higher rates.

Kenneth Carow, a finance professor at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, says commonalities emerge among today's millionaires. The vast majority own stocks and a home. Most live below their means. They value

education and teach financial responsibility to their children.

"The dream of becoming a millionaire," Carow says, "has become more obtainable."

Jim Wang, 45, a software engineer-turned finance blogger from Fulton, Md., says even if hitting \$1 million was essentially "a non-event" for him and his wife, it still held weight for him as the son of immigrants who saved money by turning the heat off on winter nights.

The private jets he envisioned as a kid may not have materialized at the million-dollar threshold, but he still sees it as a marker that brings a certain level of security.

"It's possible, even with a regular job," he says. "You just have to be diligent and consistent."

The resilience of financial markets and the ease of investing in broad-based, low-fee index funds has fueled the balances of many millionaires who don't earn massive salaries or inherit family fortunes.

Among them is a burgeoning community of younger millionaires born out of the movement known as FIRE, for Financial Independence Retire Early.

Jason Breck, 48, of Fishers, Ind., embraced FIRE and reached the million-dollar mark nine years ago. He promptly quit his job in automotive marketing, where he generally earned around \$60,000 a year but managed to stow away around 70% of his pay.

Now, Breck and his wife spend several months a year traveling. Despite being retired, they continue to grow their balance by sticking to a tight budget and keeping expenses to \$1,500 a month when they're in the U.S. and a few hundred dollars more when they travel.

Hitting their goal hasn't translated to luxury.

There is no lawn crew to cut the grass, no Netflix or Amazon Prime, no Uber Eats. They fly economy. They drive a 2005 Toyota.

"It's not a golden ticket like it was in the past," Breck says. "For us, a million dollars buys us freedom and peace of mind. We're not yacht rich, but for us, we're time rich."

Tea app tables messaging system after second security issue

Associated Press

Tea, a dating discussion app that recently suffered a high-profile cybersecurity breach, announced late Monday that some direct messages were also accessed in the incident.

The app — designed to let women safely discuss men they date — rocketed to the top of the U.S. Apple App Store last week but then

confirmed on Friday that thousands of selfies and photo IDs of registered users were exposed in a digital security breach.

404 Media was the first to report on this second security issue, citing an independent security researcher who found it was possible for hackers to access messages between users discussing abortions, cheating partners, and

phone numbers.

In a statement posted on its social media accounts, Tea said it "recently learned that some direct messages (DMs) were accessed as part of the initial incident."

"Out of an abundance of caution, we have taken the affected system offline," the app said. "At this time, we have found no evidence of access to other parts of

our environment."

It is currently unknown how many messages were left exposed by the vulnerability.

Tea has said about 72,000 images were leaked online in the initial incident, including 13,000 images of selfies or selfies featuring a photo identification that users submitted during account verification.

Another 59,000 images publicly viewable in the app from posts, comments and direct messages were also accessed without authorization, a spokesperson said last week.

No email addresses or phone numbers were accessed, the company said, and the breach only affects users who signed up before February 2024.

WORLD

Officials: 60,000 Palestinians have died in war

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Over 60,000 Palestinians have been killed in the 21-month Israel-Hamas war, Gaza's Health Ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government, said the death toll has climbed to 60,034, with another 145,870 people wounded since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack.

It did not say how many were civilians or militants but has said women and children make up around half the dead.

The ministry is staffed by medical professionals. The United Nations and other independent experts view its figures as the most reliable count of casualties.

Israel's offensive has destroyed vast areas of Gaza, displaced around 90% of the population and caused a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, with experts warning of famine.

As international organizations warn of a "worst-case scenario of famine," Israel continued to strike the Gaza Strip, killing at least 77 Palestinians in the past day, according to local hospitals.

More than half were killed while attempting to access aid, hospitals said, and that number in-



ARIEL SCHALIT/AP

Israeli soldiers work on their tanks in a staging area on the border with the Gaza Strip, in southern Israel, Tuesday.

cludes a rising toll from a deadly incident on Monday as people attempted to access aid from a truck convoy passing through the southern Gaza Strip.

Local hospitals said they received the bodies of an additional 33 people who were killed by gunfire around an aid convoy in southern Gaza on Monday, bringing the

total from the single incident to 58. The Israeli military did not comment on the shooting.

An additional 14 Palestinians were killed while attempting to access aid near the American and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Fund site in central Gaza, according to local hospitals.

Airstrikes also targeted tents

hosting displaced people in the central city of Nuseirat, killing 30 people, including 12 children and 14 women, according to Al-Awda hospital.

The strikes come as international organizations continue to warn about the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, which has teetered on the brink of famine for two years.

Recent developments have "dramatically worsened" the situation, according to a report by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC.

Israeli foreign minister Gideon Saor on Tuesday rejected claims of "starvation policies" in Gaza and said the focus on starvation is a "distorted campaign of international pressure."

"This pressure is directly sabotaging the chances for a ceasefire and hostage deal, it is only pushing towards military escalation by hardening Hamas's stance," he said.

The U.S. and Israel have both recalled their negotiating teams over the past week as negotiations seem to have stalled.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the attack that sparked the war, and abducted another 251.

They are still holding 50 captives, around 20 believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefires or other deals.

The war took a major turn in early March when Israel imposed a complete 2½ month blockade, barring the entry of all food, medicine, fuel and other goods. Weeks later, Israel ended a ceasefire with a surprise bombardment and began seizing large areas of Gaza, measures it said were aimed at pressuring Hamas to release more hostages.

At least 8,867 Palestinians have been killed since then.

Israel eased the blockade in May, but U.N. agencies say it hasn't allowed nearly enough aid to enter and that they have struggled to deliver it because of Israeli restrictions and the breakdown of law and order. An alternative Israeli-backed system run by an American contractor has been marred by violence and controversy.

Near-daily Israeli strikes have hit schools, shelters, hospitals and other civilian buildings, killing men, women and children. The military usually says it was targeting militants hiding out among civilians, while occasionally acknowledging mistakes.

Russia remains defiant over Trump threats, relentlessly strikes Ukraine

BY HANNA ARHIROVA
AND ILLIA NOVIKOV
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian glide bombs and ballistic missiles struck a Ukrainian prison and a medical facility overnight as Russia's relentless strikes on civilian areas killed at least 27 people across the country, officials said Tuesday, despite U.S. President Donald Trump's threat to soon punish Russia with sanctions and tariffs unless it stops.

Four powerful Russian glide bombs hit a prison in Ukraine's southeastern Zaporizhzhia region, authorities said. They killed at least 16 inmates and wounded more than 90 others, Ukraine's Justice Ministry said.

In the Dnipro region of central Ukraine, authorities said Russian missiles partially destroyed a three-story building and damaged nearby medical facilities, including a maternity hospital and a city hospital ward. Officials said at least four people were killed, including a 23-year-old pregnant woman, and eight were injured.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that across the country, 22 people were killed in Russian strikes on 73 cities, towns and villages.

Trump said Monday he is giving Russian President Vladimir Putin 10 to 12 days to stop the killing in Ukraine after three years of war, moving up a 50-day deadline he had given the Russian leader two weeks ago. The move meant Trump wants peace efforts to make progress by Aug. 7-9.

Trump has repeatedly rebuked Putin for talking about ending the war but continuing to bombard Ukrainian civilians. But the Kremlin hasn't changed tactics.

Zelenskyy welcomed Trump's move on the timeline. "Everyone needs peace — Ukraine, Europe, the United States and responsible leaders across the globe," Zelenskyy wrote in a post on Telegram. "Everyone except Russia."

The Kremlin pushed back, with a top Putin lieutenant warning Trump against "playing the ultimatum game with Russia."

"Russia isn't Israel or even Iran," former president Dmitry Medvedev, who is deputy head of the country's Security Council, wrote on social platform X. "Each new ultimatum is a threat and a step towards war. Not between Russia and Ukraine, but with his own country."

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbor, the Kremlin



AP

Paramedics give first aid to an injured civilian Tuesday after a Russian missile hit a hospital in Kamianske, Ukraine.

has warned Kyiv's Western backers that their involvement could end up broadening the war to NATO countries.

The Ukrainian air force said Russia launched two Iskander-M ballistic missiles along with 37 Shahed-type strike drones and decoys at Ukraine overnight. It said 32 Shahed drones were intercepted or neutralized by Ukrainian air defenses.

Russia's Defense Ministry said Tuesday that air defenses downed 74 Ukrainian drones over several regions overnight, including 43 over the Bryansk region.

Thailand, Cambodia ceasefire tentatively holds

Associated Press

SURIN, Thailand — A ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia appeared to hold Tuesday as tensions lingered despite a truce agreement to end deadly border clashes following economic pressure from the U.S.

The ceasefire that was reached in Malaysia was supposed to take effect at midnight but was quickly tested. The Thai army accused Cambodia of launching attacks in multiple areas early Tuesday but Cambodia said there was no firing in any location.

The Thai army later said fighting has stopped after military commanders along the border from both sides met. They agreed to halt troop movements, avoid escalation and establish coordination teams ahead of a joint border committee meeting in Cambodia on Aug. 4, army spokesman Maj. Gen. Winthai Suvaree said.

Cambodian Defense Minister Tea Seiha said he spoke to his Thai counterpart about "incidents" that occurred during the implementation of the ceasefire but stressed the Cambodian army abided by the truce. He said Cambodian defense officials will lead a delegation of diplomats, foreign military attachés and others to observe the situation.

The Thai government separately said it has lodged complaints to Malaysia, the U.S. and China about Cambodia's alleged breach of the ceasefire agreement.

Along the border, there were signs of calm with some of the more than 260,000 people displaced by the fighting returning to their homes.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and Thailand's acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai had agreed Monday to an "unconditional" halt in fighting that have killed at least 41 people.

The meeting was hosted by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim as annual chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Cambodia and Thailand have clashed in the past over their 500-mile border. The fighting began Thursday after a land mine explosion along the border wounded five Thai soldiers. Tensions had been growing since May when a Cambodian soldier was killed in a confrontation that created a diplomatic rift and roiled Thailand's domestic politics.

Residents on both sides of the border expressed relief about the ceasefire but remained wary, unsure how long the peace would last.

WORLD

Trump caps his Scottish visit by opening new golf course

By WILL WEISSERT AND DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

BALMEDIE, Scotland — President Donald Trump opened a new golf course bearing his name in Scotland on Tuesday, capping a five-day foreign trip designed to promote his family's luxury properties and play golf.

"Let's go. 1-2-3," Trump said before he used a golden pair of scissors to cut a red ribbon and fireworks popped to mark the ceremonial opening of the new Trump course in the village of Balmedie on Scotland's northern coast.

"This has been an unbelievable development," Trump said beforehand. He thanked his son Eric for his work on the project,

saying it was "truly a labor of love for him." Son Don Jr. also was present.

Eric Trump said the course was a "passion project" for his father.

Immediately after the opening, Trump, Eric Trump and two professional golfers teed off on the first hole. Trump rarely allows the news media to watch his golf game, though video journalists and photographers often find him along the course wherever he plays. Trump planned to play 18 holes before he arrives back in Washington on Tuesday night.

The overseas jaunt let Trump escape Washington's sweaty summer heat and humidity while questions about the case of Jeffrey Epstein followed him across the At-

lantic Ocean. But it added to a lengthy list of ways the Republican president has used the White House to promote his brand.

Billing itself as the "Greatest 36 Holes in Golf," the Trump International Golf Links, Scotland, was designed by Eric Trump. The course is hosting a PGA Seniors Championship event later this week before it begins offering rounds to the public on Aug. 13. Signs promoting the event were seen all around the course on Tuesday, while temporary signage on the highway guided drivers onto the correct road.

Golfers hitting the course at dawn as part of that event had to put their clubs through metal detectors as part of the security procedures for Trump's arrival.



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

President Donald Trump arrives, followed by a bagpiper band, at the opening ceremony for the Trump International Golf Links golf course, near Aberdeen, Scotland, on Tuesday.

Trump worked some official business into the trip by holding talks with U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer and reaching a trade framework for tariffs between the U.S. and the European Union's 27

member countries — though scores of key details remain to be settled. But the trip has featured a lot of golf, and the presidential visit is sure to raise the new course's profile.

China, US to extend tariff pauses after 'constructive' talks

By JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — China and the U.S. have agreed to continue their tariff pauses on each other, China's top trade official said Tuesday in Stockholm, following a two-day meeting with U.S. officials.

Speaking with the press, Li Chenggang said the two sides had "constructive" and "candid" discussions and agreed to keep the tariffs at current levels — the U.S. taxing Chinese goods at 30% and China collecting 10% on U.S. products.

Li also said the two sides had "comprehensive and in-depth" discussions on microeconomic issues, agreeing to keep close contact and "communicate with each other in a timely manner on trade and economic issues."

Chinese and U.S. trade officials held their latest round of trade talks in the Swedish capital on Monday and Tuesday to try to break a logjam over tariffs that have skewed the pivotal commercial ties between the world's two largest economies.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott

Bessent was expected to speak with reporters later on Tuesday.

On the first day, the talks lasted nearly five hours behind closed doors at the Swedish prime minister's office Monday. Before the talks resumed Tuesday, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson met with Bessent and U.S. trade representative Jamieson Greer over breakfast.

The United States has struck deals over tariffs with some of its key trading partners — including Britain, Japan and the European Union — since U.S. President Do-

nald Trump announced "Liberation Day" tariffs against dozens of countries in April. China remains perhaps the biggest unresolved case.

"The Chinese have been very pragmatic," Greer said in comments posted on social media by his office late Monday. "Obviously we've had a lot of tensions over the years. We have tensions now, but the fact that we are regularly meeting with them to address these issues gives us a good footing for these negotiations."

"Whether there will be a deal or

not, I can't say," Greer added in the clip posted on X from MSNBC's "Morning Joe". "Whether there's room for an extension, I can't say at this point. But the conversations are constructive and they're going in the right direction."

Many analysts expect that the Stockholm talks, at a minimum, will result in an extension of current tariff levels that are far lower than the triple-digit percentage rates as the U.S.-China tariff tiff crescendoed in April, sending markets into a temporary tailspin.

STARS AND STRIPES

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market

Transportation

944

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WORLD

Scientist bury swine in hunt for cartel graves

Mexico using pigs, tech to search for 130,000 bodies

By **MARÍA VERZA**
Associated Press

ZAPOPAN, Mexico — First the scientists dress dead swine in clothes, then they dispose of the carcasses. Some they wrap in packing tape, others they chop up. They stuff the animals into plastic bags or wrap them in blankets. They cover them in lime or burn them. Some are buried alone, others in groups.

Then they watch.

The pigs are playing an unlikely role as proxies for humans in research to help find the staggering number of people who have gone missing in Mexico during decades of drug cartel violence.

Families of the missing are usually left to look for their loved ones with little support from authorities. But now, government scientists are testing the newest satellite, geophysical and biological mapping techniques — along with the pigs — to offer clues that they hope could lead to the discovery of at least some of the bodies.

130K lost and counting

The ranks of Mexico's missing exploded in the years following the launch of then-President Felipe Calderón's war against drug cartels in 2006. A strategy that targeted the leaders of a handful of powerful cartels led to a splintering of organized crime and the multiplication of violence to control territory.

With near complete impunity, owing to the complicity or inaction of the authorities, cartels found that making anyone they think is in their way disappear was better than leaving bodies in the street. Mexican administrations have sometimes been unwilling to recognize the problem and at other times are staggered by the scale of violence their justice system is unprepared to address.

Mexico's disappeared could populate a small city. Official data in 2013 tallied 26,000 missing, but the count now surpasses 130,000 — more than any other Latin American nation. The United Nations has said there are indications that the disappearances are "generalized or systematic."

If the missing people are found — dead or alive — it is usually by their loved ones. Guided by information from witnesses, parents and siblings search for graves by walking through cartel territory, plunging a metal rod into the earth and sniffing for the scent of death.

Around 6,000 clandestine graves have been found since 2007, and new discoveries are



PHOTOS BY ALEJANDRA LEYVA/AP

Jose Luis Silvan, left, researcher and coordinator of the project conducting experiments to improve the location of clandestine graves, reviews the location containing pig remains with his team in Zapopan, Mexico, on July 10.



A view of a burial site of pig carcasses that are proxies for humans in research to help find people who have gone missing in Mexico during decades of drug cartel violence, July 11.

made all the time. Tens of thousands of remains have yet to be identified.

Testing creative solutions

Jalisco, which is home to the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, has the largest number of people reported missing in Mexico: 15,500. In March, human bone fragments and hundreds of items of clothing were discovered at a cartel ranch in the state. Authorities denied it was the site of a mass grave.

José Luis Silván, a coordinator of the mapping project and scientist at CentroGeo, a federal research institute focused on geospatial information, said Jalisco's disappeared are "why we're here."

The mapping project, launched in 2023, is a collaboration by Guadalajara University, Mexico's National Autonomous University and the University of Oxford in England, alongside the Jalisco Search Commission, a state agency that organizes local searches with relatives.

"No other country is pushing so strongly, so creatively" to test and combine new techniques, said Derek Congram, a Canadian forensic anthropologist, whose expertise in geographic information systems inspired the Mexican project.

Still, Congram warns, technology "is not a panacea."

"Ninety percent of searches are resolved with a good witness and digging," he said.

Plants, insects and pigs

Silván walks by a site where scientists buried 14 pigs about two years ago. He says they may not know how well the technology works, where and when it can be used, or under what conditions, for at least three years.

"Flowers came up because of the phosphorous at the surface, we didn't see that last year," he said as he took measurements at one of the gravesites. "The mothers who search say that that little yellow flower always blooms over the tombs and they use them as a guide."

mal drones, laser scanners and other gadgets to register anomalies, underground movements and electrical currents. One set of graves is encased behind a pane of transparent acrylic, providing a window for scientists to observe the pigs' decomposition in real time.

The Jalisco commission compares and analyzes flies, beetles, plants and soil recovered from the human and pig graves.

Each grave is a living "micro ecosystem," said Tunuari Chávez, the commission's director of context analysis.

Science to serve society

Triggered by the disappearance of 43 students in 2014, Silván and his colleagues started gathering information about ground-penetrating radar, electric resistivity and satellite imagery from around the world. They studied University of Tennessee research on human corpses buried at a "body farm." They looked at grave-mapping techniques used in the Balkans, Colombia and Ukraine.

"What good is science or technology if it doesn't solve problems?" he said.

They learned new applications of satellite analysis, then began their first experiments burying pigs and studying the substances criminals use to dispose of bodies. They found lime is easily detected, but hydrocarbons, hydrochloric acid and burned flesh are not.

Chávez's team worked to combine the science with what they knew about how the cartels operate. For example, they determined that disappearances in Jalisco commonly happened along cartel routes between Pacific ports, drug manufacturing facilities and the U.S. border, and that most of the missing are found in the same municipality where they disappeared.

Expert relatives

The experience of the families of the missing also informs the research.

Some observed that graves are often found under trees whose roots grow vertically, so those digging the graves can remain in the shade. Mothers of missing loved ones invited by researchers to visit one of the pig burial sites were able to identify most of the unmarked graves by sight alone, because of the plants and soil placement, Silván said.

"The knowledge flows in both directions," he said.

Maribel Cedeño, who has been looking for her missing brother for four years, said she believes the drones and other technology will be helpful.

"I never imagined being in this situation, finding bodies, becoming such an expert," she said of her quest.



Creatures collected from graves are preserved in jars for study as part of the project.

Pigs and humans are closely related, famously sharing about 98% of DNA. But for the mapping project, the physical similarities also matter. According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, pigs resemble humans in size, fat distribution and the structure and thickness of skin.

A big Colombian drone mounted with a hyperspectral camera flies over the pig burial site. Generally used by mining companies, the camera measures light reflected by substances in the soil, including nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, and shows how they vary as the pigs decompose. The colorful image it produces offers clues of what to look for in the hunt for graves.

"This isn't pure science," Silván said. "It is science and action. Everything learned has to be applied immediately, rather than wait for it to mature, because there's urgency."

Researchers also employ ther-

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

3 found unresponsive after ocean plane crash

CA MONTEREY — Three people were found unresponsive Sunday morning after a small airplane crashed in the Pacific Ocean off the central California coast, authorities said.

Emergency crews responded late Saturday following reports of a plane down about 300 yards off Point Pinos in Monterey County, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

The twin-engine Beech 95-B55 Baron with three people aboard took off from the San Carlos airport at 10:11 p.m. and was last seen at 10:37 p.m. near Monterey, according to flight tracking data from FlightAware.com.

Searchers in a boat found one person around 3 a.m. Divers found the remaining two people inside the aircraft between 6:30 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. All three were unresponsive, the Coast Guard said.

Chief probed for allowing detective to care for mom

NY NEW YORK — An unusual arrangement that allowed an NYPD detective to work for nearly a year on a special police detail assigned to her cancer-stricken mother has emerged as the trigger for an Internal Affairs investigation and may well have accelerated the retirement of Brooklyn North Chief Scott Henderson.

Henderson, a 30-year veteran who has led Brooklyn North since 2020, has come under scrutiny for allegedly allowing Detective Jaenice Smith, 51, to stay with her ailing mother, Barbara Ann Smith, the longtime president of Bushwick's 83rd Precinct Community Council.

Smith spent 11 months on the special detail before her mom died in December and three more months on bereavement leave.

The investigation was triggered by an anonymous tip earlier this year that Jaenice Smith was not showing up to work. The NYPD then placed her on desk duty and demand the return of \$150,000 in pay, the sources said.

There has been no disciplinary action against Henderson.

Barbara Ann Smith was so prominent in Bushwick as a president of the precinct community council that since her death the precinct's muster room has been renamed in her honor.

Virgin Voyages launches true crime-themed cruise

FL ORLANDO — Virgin Voyages is hopping on the pop-culture bandwagon of popular podcasts by presenting its first true crime voyage in partnership with iHeartMedia.

Departing Oct. 10 from Miami on the Valiant Lady, the one-time five-night itinerary sails to Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic and Virgin's Beach Club at Bimini in the Bahamas. The cruise focus-



ROD LAMKEY JR./AP

A long way to the top

As the temperature reaches the 90s, people make their way along the zig zag ramp at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, on July 23.

es on popular titles including "Stuff They Don't Want You to Know," "Betrayal" and "Buried Bones."

During the special voyage, guests can experience live podcast recordings of their favorite shows, attend "how to podcast" workshops, find meet-and-greets with top hosts, participate in giveaways and enjoy themed cocktails and bites.

Campground at Yosemite reopens after renovation

CA YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK — The largest campground in Yosemite National Park — and one of the largest at any national park in the United States — is reopening after being closed for three years for a major upgrade.

Workers have finished construction on a \$26.2 million renovation of Tuolumne Meadows Campground. It is set to reopen Friday.

Located at 8,600 feet along the Tioga Road more than an hour's drive from Yosemite Valley, the campground has 336 campsites that serve more than 140,000 campers a year.

Crews rebuilt the campground's water and sewer systems, upgraded electrical equipment, and replaced every picnic table, fire ring and food locker at 336 campsites. They renovated the outdoor amphitheater, repaved the access road, added disabled parking

spaces, and moved 21 sites out of the floodplain of the Tuolumne River.

Project 2025 author vies for senate seat

DC WASHINGTON — A chief architect of Project 2025, Paul Dans, is launching a Republican primary challenge to Sen. Lindsey Graham in South Carolina, joining a crowded field that will test the loyalties of President Donald Trump and his MAGA movement in next year's midterm election.

Dans told The Associated Press the Trump administration's federal workforce reductions and cuts to federal programs are what he had hoped for in drafting Project 2025. But he said there's "more work to do," particularly in the Senate.

Dans, who is set to formally announce his campaign at an event Wednesday in Charleston, said Graham has spent most of his career in Washington and "it's time to show him the door."

Hurricane churns near Hawaii, poses no threat

HI HONOLULU — Hurricane Iona strengthened to a Category 3 hurricane several hundred miles south-southeast of Hawaii, but poses no threat to the islands, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said Tuesday.

Iona is one of two major weather

systems in the central Pacific Ocean.

In its latest advisory, the Miami-based center said Iona was about 790 miles off Honolulu, with maximum sustained winds near 115 mph.

Additional strengthening is forecast later on Tuesday, with steady weakening expected to begin by Wednesday.

Hurricane Iona is the first named storm of the hurricane season in the central Pacific and emerged Sunday from a tropical depression. It continues to trek west over warm, open waters. Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Keli is further south with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph. It was about 960 miles southeast of Honolulu and was moving west at about 12 mph.

City having its coldest summer in decades

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Time to cue that famed quote, often falsely attributed to Mark Twain: "The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco."

It's a cliché, sure. But this year it rings true. It really has been quite chilly in the City by the Bay, which is experiencing its coldest summer in decades, with no significant warm-up in sight and daytime highs topping out in the mid-60s.

In downtown San Francisco, the average temperature in July has been 59.3 degrees, about one de-

gree below normal, Matt Mehle, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Monterey, said Saturday.

Family Dollar store's roof collapses, killing one

MO KANSAS CITY — Part of the roof and front facade of a Family Dollar store in Kansas City, Mo., collapsed Sunday, killing a 68-year-old man and seriously injuring a 50-year-old woman, authorities said.

The building's partial collapse occurred about 2:45 p.m. Sunday, the Kansas City Fire Department said. Two other people also were injured outside the building but were treated at the scene and refused further medical care, according to local television news reports.

Those television reports showed part of the roof and front facade missing at what appeared to be the main entrance of the store, with brick, stone and wood debris on the ground.

Fire Department Battalion Chief Mike Hopkins said the man who died may have been walking by the building at the time. The woman remained hospitalized.

KMBC-TV reported that a public inspection record said that someone reported Friday that the building had begun "slowly tilting."

STARS AND STRIPES

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'Big Beautiful Bill' doesn't reflect America's priorities

BY LYNN SCHMIDT

The Fulcrum

If a budget is a mirror of values, what does the "Big Beautiful Bill" say about America?

On July 4, President Donald Trump signed into law congressional Republicans' "Big Beautiful Bill." If you held up the bill to a mirror, most Americans would probably say that what they saw in the reflection was anything but beautiful.

A budget is much more than numbers. It is a representation of one's values and priorities. So goes for the federal budget and our nation's ideals.

The BBB prioritizes immigration, deportation, and tax cuts for the wealthy, while cutting Medicaid and food stamp programs, and with no regard to fiscal responsibility.

While the 870-page bill covers a whole host of issues and federal programs, there are four big takeaways from the BBB: an exponential explosion on the amount spent on Immigration and Customs Enforcement, giving tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans, and wide-sweeping cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, all with the backdrop of adding \$3 trillion to the federal deficit, piling on to a national debt that is already out of control.

The Republican-led Congress set aside roughly \$170 billion for immigration enforcement and border security efforts through the legislation, including \$45 billion to ICE to expand its detention system over the next four years.

ICE will have more funding than the FBI; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and

Explosives; the U.S. Marshals Service; and the Bureau of Prisons combined.

The bill marks the largest investment in detention and deportation in U.S. history, and scholars have even noted that ICE will become the largest federal law enforcement agency "in the history of the nation."

In comparison, the FBI's fiscal year 2024 budget was approximately \$11.4 billion.

While most Americans will see a small tax benefit as well as the addition to some new tax breaks, such as no taxes on tips up to \$25,000 and a "senior deduction" that will allow more people over 65 to avoid Social Security taxes, the Tax Policy Center notes that the tax measure in the bill is regressive, which means it distributes most of its benefits to high-income households. They report that the bill's revenue provisions would cut 2026 taxes on average by about \$2,900.

The biggest beneficiaries would be households making between \$460,000 and \$1.1 million (the 95th-99th income percentile), who would get an average tax cut of \$21,000, raising their after-tax incomes by 4.4%.

The monetary cuts, in contrast, will likely affect the most vulnerable Americans. The legislation includes an estimated \$863 billion in budget cuts for Medicaid and \$295 billion in cuts for SNAP for fiscal years 2025 to 2034. The combined cuts exceed \$1 trillion.

The KFF, which was formerly known as The Kaiser Family Foundation, reports that the cuts to Medicaid represent 29% of state Medicaid spending per resident and are likely to lead to reduced access to care, increased uninsured rates, and potential strain on state budgets and health care systems.

SNAP currently provides basic food assis-

tance to more than 40 million people, including children, seniors, and non-elderly adults with disabilities, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonpartisan research and policy institute. These newly enacted changes to SNAP may cause 22.3 million families to lose some or all of their benefits, according to research from the Urban Institute.

Currently, many individuals are limited to three months of SNAP benefits every three years unless they are working for 20 hours per week or qualify for an exemption. The new legislation expands work reporting requirements for adults from an upper limit of age 54 to age 64 and lowers the age limit for dependent children from 18 to 7.

Finally, the bill shows that Republicans no longer value fiscal responsibility as the Congressional Budget Office estimates the bill could add \$3.3 trillion to federal deficits over the next 10 years.

The federal deficit is the annual shortfall between the U.S. government's revenue, primarily through taxes, and its spending in a given fiscal year. To pay for a deficit, the federal government borrows money by selling Treasury bonds, bills and other securities.

The national debt, on the other hand, is the total national debt owed by the federal government of the U.S. to treasury security holders. As of this writing, the United States' national debt is well over \$36 trillion.

The reflection of the "Big Beautiful Bill Act" in the country's moral compass mirror is downright ugly.

Lynn Schmidt is a columnist and Editorial Board member with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. She holds a master's of science in political science as well as a bachelor's of science in nursing.

Coldplay kiss-cam frenzy shows we need a culture shift

BY KATE WAGNER

Special to The Washington Post

Far be it from me to defend a powerful man who is locking lips with his employee on camera — almost certainly a violation of company policy, if not labor laws. But when I heard about the viral exposure of Astronomer CEO Andy Byron and his head of human resources, Kristin Cabot, at a Coldplay concert, my instant reaction wasn't "These people deserved their comeuppance." It was: "Why is the ruining of two strangers' lives so normalized?" To me, Byron and Cabot's moment of shame is more than just a scandal (and subsequent meme) — it's an edge case in what should become a broader debate about the harmful yet shockingly commonplace practices that are a scourge upon the way we as a society behave online.

The internet has become the surveillance state we were once warned about by sci-fi movies — except rather than some spooky Sky-net, it is we who are surveilling one another. Think about how often you see a viral photo of a stranger in the supermarket or on the subway that has been posted online without that person's consent. Or perhaps a screenshot of a dating profile or private conversation being shared for either amusement or validation. "Is my roommate being the crazy one?" "Isn't this random guy on Hinge soooo unfunny?"

It has become shockingly normal for everyday people to act like vigilantes who feel entitled to punish or police the (often benign) actions of others. The problem is not that Byron shouldn't be reprimanded for his actions, especially as an employer, but that the panopticon we've turned on him is one we are all too

willing to use on others, with just as much glee. As soon as the video appeared online, thousands of people took it upon themselves to identify these two individuals who appeared to experience a moment of unexpected embarrassment.

No one knew going into this that the couple would turn out to be a CEO and his employee. They could have been anyone and they still would've been doxed. What excuse is there for the doxers? To show that one is against infidelity? Cheating, though painful to the parties involved, is a pretty routine way people hurt each other. It's not a crime, nor is "cheater" a kind of immutable status one must be branded with. Couples often break up, but they also can and do reconcile.

Exposing strangers — or your ex — to the unbridled judgment of the internet (especially popular via short-form video) is an unacceptable escalation to something potentially life-ruining, all for entertainment. Those who do it with some pretense of serving justice — following Jeremy Bentham's concept of the panopticon — seek to make cheating so stigmatized that we, the inmates of our collective internet prison, police our own behavior. When vindictive exes post revenge porn of their former partners, or creepers make lewd deepfakes of celebrities, we rightly denounce this behavior as invasive and cruel. Yet there is not much distance between outright crimes and the still-harmful exposure we've come to accept when the content isn't explicit in nature.

This kind of collective policing is neither healthy nor appropriate. All it will do is drive people away from both intimacy and public life out of fear. Why dare to wear that outfit on

the subway? Why go on dating apps at all, since one popular genre of short-form video consists of scrolling through people's profiles on camera?

The fear of being filmed and photographed is increasingly seeping into what should be some of our happiest experiences. The rapper Tyler, the Creator recently held a no-phones album release party and saw a marked difference in energy and verve. Afterward, he posted on Instagram:

"I asked some friends why they don't dance in public and some said because of the fear of being filmed. I thought damn, a natural form of expression and a certain connection they have with music is now a ghost. It made me wonder how much of our human spirit got killed because of the fear of being a meme."

How do we get ourselves out of this mess? Even though public and private are blurred in online life, we need a serious culture shift away from the entitlement we claim to other people's lives and bodies. We have to begin by fighting this urge in our own lives. If someone hurts us, the answer is not to expose them to our audience as punishment or a form of self-validation. We need to stop being complicit in mass surveillance by pausing to think before we share.

To shift away from surveillance and punishment and back to freedom of self, movement and expression, we need to ask ourselves: What if it happened to me? Because it can — it always can. We're already living in fear of ending up as someone else's internet bit. The way to protect ourselves is to protect others, too.

Kate Wagner is the architecture critic at the Nation.

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

Grid for Eugene Sheffer Crossword with numbered squares from 1 to 59.

ACROSS

- 1 "Rats!"
5 Belief
8 Some GIs
12 Pulitzer winner James
13 Cyndi Lauper's "— Bop"
14 "Deal — Deal"
15 On-the-house meal
17 Beheld
18 Ankle bone
19 Strong points
21 "Hitch" actress Mendes
22 LummoX
23 TelevisE
26 Devoured
28 Bratty look
31 A/C measures
33 Hesitant sounds
35 Overconfident
36 Christmas Eve visitor
38 Stein filler
40 Recede
41 Crime lab fluids
43 "The Greatest"
45 Influence
47 Gold diggers?
51 Baby-feeding finale
52 Out of danger
54 Manitoba tribe

- 55 Vein yield
56 Aachen article
57 Coaster
58 Melancholy
59 Oboe insert

- 23 Tummy muscles
24 Call — day
25 Frolics off-leash
27 Mound stat
29 Massage
30 Old CIA foe
32 Brewed, as tea
34 Criticized
37 Curved line
39 Author Wiesel
42 A Musketeer
44 Draw a conclusion
45 Lessons for tots
46 Roll up
48 One of HOMES
49 Painter Magritte
50 Burpee buy
53 Mouths (Lat.)

DOWN

- 1 Loopy
2 Taj Mahal city
3 — -do-well
4 Gaggle members
5 Quarantine
6 HBO alternative
7 Military award
8 Pogo's family
9 Leisure
10 Tech news website
11 Male offspring
16 Bean variety
20 "Mayday!"

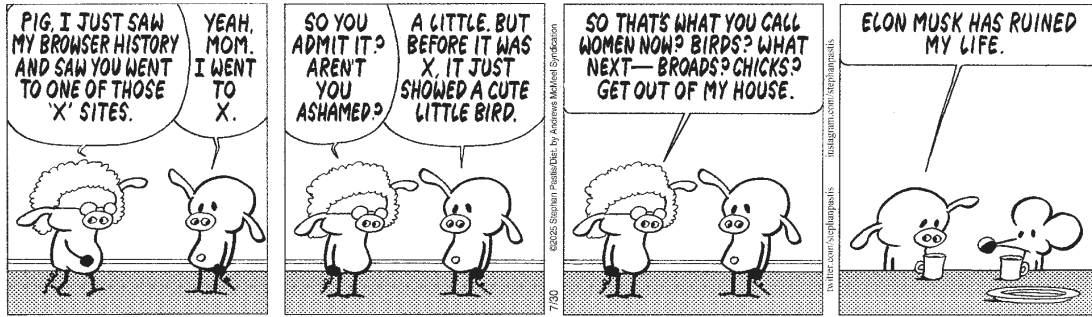
Answer to Previous Puzzle

Answer grid for the previous crossword puzzle with words like LIMA, ABA, PEAL, etc.

Frazz



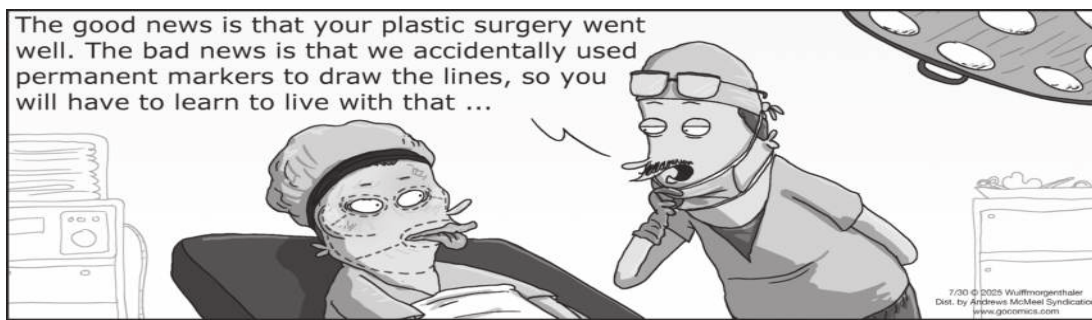
Pearls Before Swine



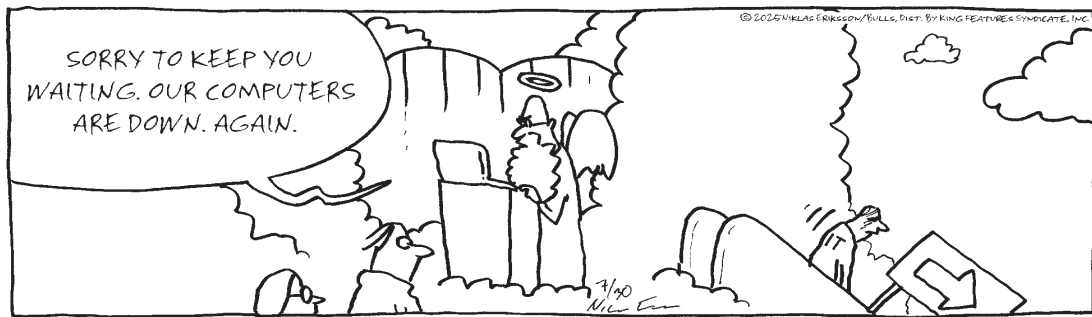
Non Sequitur



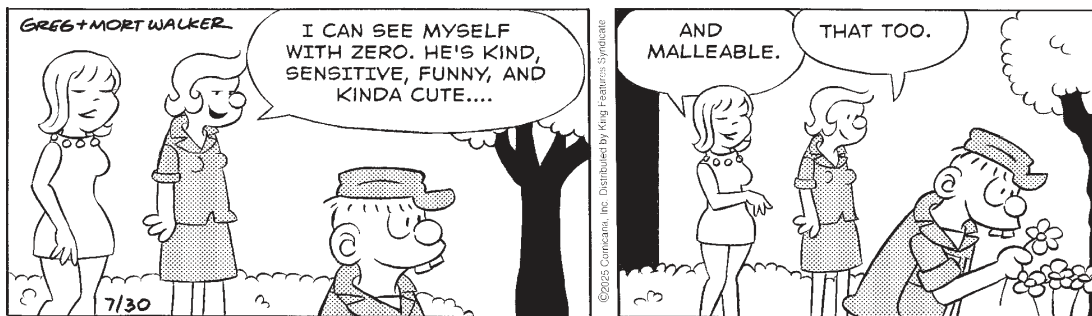
Wumbo



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



7-30

CRYPTOQUIP

ZOP LBOFFNZPKBOPA OKX ZF
MAJYU LIYUNKLLPL ZF GPKA
JY OJL BNKLL. OJL LZIXPYZL
GPAP ZFF MAJUOZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF FOLKS ARE IMPERSONATING CROONER SINATRA RIGHT ON THE MONEY, ARE THEY PERFECTLY FRANK? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals S

FACES

New this week: Anderson, Elvis and 'Twisted Metal'

Associated Press

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

Movies

■ Wes Anderson's "The Phoenician Scheme" (streaming now on Peacock) stars Benicio Del Toro as Anatole "Zsa-zsa" Korda, a wealthy and unscrupulous European industrialist. After the latest assassination attempt on his life, he decides to leave his estate to one of his many children, Lisel (Mia Threapleton), a novice. Michael Cera co-stars as a Norwegian insect expert named Bjorn. In her review, the AP's Jocelyn Noveck wrote that the film finds Anderson "becoming even more, well, Wes Anderson than before."

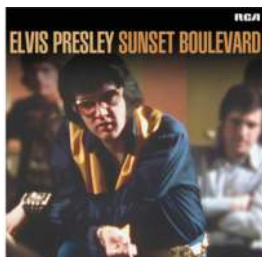
■ The Netflix romance "My Oxford Year" (streaming Friday) follows a young American student named Anna (Sofia Carson) in her long-dreamt-of year at Oxford University. Corey Mylchreest co-stars as a local love interest in the film directed by Iain Morris.

■ Movie soundtracks once played so much more of a role in popular culture. "90s Soundtrack Movies," a new series on the Criterion Channel, collects some of the films from the soundtrack's heyday, the 1990s, when songs from movies like "Trainspotting" (1996) and "Singles" (1992) dominated the airwaves and MTV. Also running this month on Criterion are "Grosse Pointe Blank" (1997), "So I Married an Axe Murderer" (1993) and "Judgment Night" (1993).

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

Music

■ The King of Rock 'n' Roll has returned. On Friday, to celebrate what would've been Elvis Presley's 90th birthday year, a massive collection of 89 rarities will be released as a



RCA/AP

Eighty-nine Elvis rarities come out Friday on "Sunset Boulevard."

breakups and good hookups abound. It'll put some pep in your step.

— AP Music Writer Maria Sherman

Television

■ "Project Runway" has had quite a life since it debuted in 2004 on Bravo. After its first six seasons, the competition show about fashion design moved to Lifetime for 11 seasons, then back to Bravo for a few years, and its new home for Season 21 is Freeform. Christian Siriano — who won the show's fourth season — is an executive producer, mentor and judge. He joins "Project Runway" OG host Heidi Klum, celebrity stylist extraordinaire Law Roach and fashion editor Nina Garcia. It premieres Thursday and streams on Disney+ and Hulu.

■ Comedian Leanne Morgan stars in her own multicam sitcom for Netflix called "Leanne," debuting Thursday. Inspired by her own stand-up, Morgan plays a woman whose husband leaves her for another woman after more than three decades of marriage. Morgan stars alongside sitcom

five-disc CD box set — and on all digital platforms. Titled "Sunset Boulevard," the series pulls from Presley's 1970-1975 Los Angeles recording sessions and rehearsals at RCA's studios. There is no greater gift for the Elvis aficionado.

■ Reneé Rapp will release her second studio album on Friday, the appropriately titled "Bite Me." The 12-track release is imbued with Rapp's edgy, lighthearted spirit — catchy R&B-pop songs about bad



PEACOCK/AP

Season 2 of "Twisted Metal," the show starring Anthony Mackie adapted from a video game, returns Thursday.

vets Kristen Johnston and Tim Daly.

■ Anthony Mackie's "Twisted Metal" is back on Peacock for a second season beginning Thursday. The show is adapted from a popular video game franchise and picks up about seven months after the events of Season 1.

■ Jason Momoa brings his passion project "Chief of War" to Apple TV+ on Friday. Set in the late 18th century, Momoa plays Kauai, a nobleman and warrior, who plays a major part in the unification of the Hawaiian islands. The series is based on true events and is told from an Indigenous point of view.

— Alicia Rancilio

'Lilo & Stitch' stars reflect on film's success

BY LIAM MCEWAN

Associated Press

A few things have changed for the stars of "Lilo & Stitch" since the movie became the breakout hit of 2025.

For 8-year-old star Maia Kealoha, it's meant no more Doritos — she's learned she has to keep her teeth clean, especially when doing interviews.

Kealoha, Sydney Agudong and Tia Carrere have been doing lots of those, taking a victory lap over the weekend at Comic-Con 2025 in San Diego and promoting the film's release for digital purchase.

Another change? Kealoha says with a big grin that she's been recognized at stores "like five thousand times."

Agudong says the movie is "an ode to Hawaii" and it's been really cool to "see how much the world has taken to it and how much impact 'Lilo & Stitch' really has had as just this lifelong and timeless story."

She says she's been fortunate to celebrate the film's success with family and friends and, despite premieres and whirlwind interviews, she still gets to "go to the beach and have fun all over again, and I'm just the same."

Kealoha and Agudong are the breakout stars of the film, which is the biggest blockbuster of 2025, earn-



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

From left, Sydney Agudong, Maia Kealoha and Tia Carrere pose for a portrait to promote "Lilo & Stitch" during Comic-Con International on July 25 in San Diego.

ing more than \$1 billion.

"Our little blue friend Stitch is now a billionaire, and we couldn't be more excited about it," Carrere says excitedly.

As for a sequel, Agudong says the trio are feeling "hana hou," a Hawaiian term for repeating or doing something again.

"Though, of course, we cannot confirm or deny the existence of any such project in this universe or the next. Sorry!" Carrere cheerfully noted.

Leno and Morgan weigh in on Colbert cancellation, late night

From wire reports

CBS' recent cancellation of "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" has had a reverberating effect on the television landscape. While most have expressed shock and even rallied support around the late-night comedy staple, former "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno and former CNN anchor Piers Morgan have some contrasting views about the state of late night.

Leno, who exited the late-night TV scene in 2014, says he doesn't subscribe to mixing politics and humor for a mass audience — a formula Colbert has favored since his Comedy Central heyday with "The Colbert Report."

"I like to think that people come to a comedy show to kind of get away from the things, the pressures of life, wherever it might be," he said during an interview with David Trulio for The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation. "And I love political humor, don't get me wrong, but what happens (is) people wind up cozying too much to one side or the other."

He added: "Funny is funny. ... I

don't think anybody wants to hear a lecture." Leno's chat was apparently conducted before CBS announced the end of "The Late Show" after more than 30 years.

Morgan, the British broadcaster and former winner of "The Apprentice," gloated about the Colbert cancellation on social media.

"This is so damning," he tweeted on Sunday. "Most of America's biggest late-night hosts have become nothing more than hyperpartisan activist hacks for the Democrats — a party that's rarely been more unpopular. No wonder Colbert got canned. More will follow."

Other news

■ **Tom Lehrer**, a song satirist who gained a popular following in the 1950s and '60s lampooning marriage, politics, racism and the Cold War, and then largely abandoned his music career to return to teaching math at Harvard and other universities, has died at 97. Longtime friend David Herder said Lehrer died July 26 at his home in Cambridge, Mass.

SCOREBOARD/SWIMMING

DEALS

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL Major League Baseball

MLB — Placed RHP Emmanuel Chase on the non-disciplinary paid leave through August 31st. Suspended Colorado Rockies minor league RHP Biembenido Brito 60 days and free agent OF Pablo Abad 56 games for violations of the Drug Prevention and Treatment Programs.

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Reinstated LHP Keegan Akin from the 15-day IL and C Adley Rutschman from the 10-day IL. Optioned RHP Yaramil Hiraldo to Norfolk (IL). Designated C Jacob Stallings for assignment. Signed RHP Todd Kniebbe to a minor league contract. Signed RHP Braylan Orantia.

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Placed RHP Emmanuel Clase on administrative leave. Recalled LHP Tim Herrin from Columbus (IL).

DETROIT TIGERS — Agreed to terms with SS Meridian Leffew. Recalled 3B Andy Ibanez and CF Ryan Kreidler from Toledo (IL). Placed CF Parker Meadows on the 10-day IL. Placed RHP Reese Olson on the 60-day IL.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Designated 1B Jon Singleton for assignment. Reinstated LF Jacob Melton from the 10-day IL. Sent 3B Luis Guillorme outright to Sugar Land (PCL).

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Seth Lugo on a two-year contract extension for 2026-2027.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Recalled RHP Jack Kochanowicz from Salt Lake (PCL). Optioned RHP Jose Fermin to Salt Lake.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Designated RHP Connor Gillispie for assignment. Optioned RHP Travis Adams to St. Paul (IL). Selected the contract of RHP Michael Tonkin from St. Paul. Acquired C Enrique Jimenez from the Detroit Tigers in exchange for RHPs Chris Paddack and Randy Dobnak.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Traded RHP Carlos Carrasco to the Atlanta Braves in exchange for cash considerations.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Agreed to terms with 1B Trace Phillips on a minor league contract. Sent 2b Coco Montes outright to Durham (IL).

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Optioned OF Alan Roden to Buffalo (IL). Transferred RHP Bowden Francis from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL. Reinstated 3B Will Wagner from the restricted list.

National League

ATLANTA BRAVES — Activated RHP Erick Fedde. Optioned RHP Hunter Stratton to Gwinnett (IL). Acquired RHP Erick Fedde and cash considerations from the St. Louis Cardinals in exchange for a player to be named later or cash considerations. Transferred RHP Grant Holmes to the 60-day IL.

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Sent RHP Trevor Richards outright to Reno (PCL).

CHICAGO CUBS — Signed president of baseball operations Jed Hoyer to a multi-year contract extension.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Reinstated RHP Victor Vodnik from the paternity list. Optioned RHP Nick Anderson to Albuquerque (PCL).

MIAMI MARLINS — Optioned RHP Freddy Tarnok to Jacksonville (IL). Reinstated RHP Lake Bachar from the paternity list. Agreed to terms with OF Cam Cannarella.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Acquired C Danny Jensen from Tampa Bay in exchange for INF Jader Areinamo. Recalled RHP Craig Yoho from Nashville (IL). Agreed to terms with SS CJ Hughes. Agreed to terms with RHP Chase Bentley. Agreed to terms with RHP Ma'Kale Holden. Agreed to terms with RHP Luke Rouse. Designated C Eric Haase for assignment.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Sent RHP Ryan Casick outright to Lehigh (IL).

AP SPORTLIGHT

July 30

1930 — Host Uruguay beats Argentina 4-2 for soccer's first World Cup in Montevideo.

1932 — The 10th modern Olympic Games open in Los Angeles.

1961 — Jerry Barber edges Don January by one stroke in a playoff to win the PGA title at Olympia Fields in Illinois.

1966 — England beats West Germany 4-2 at London's Wembley Stadium to capture soccer's World Cup.

1968 — Washington's Ron Hansen pulls off an unassisted triple play in a 10-1 loss to the Cleveland Indians.

1971 — In the NFL Chicago All-Star Game, the Baltimore Colts beat the All-Stars 24-17.

1976 — Caitlyn Jenner, then known as Bruce, sets the world record in the Olympic decathlon with 8,618 points, breaking Nikolai Avilov's mark by 164 points.

1980 — Houston pitcher J.R. Richard suffers a stroke during a workout at the Astrodome.

1984 — Michael Gross of West Germany sets a world record in the 200-meter freestyle with a time of 1:47.44 at a meet in Munich.

1996 — The American softball team wins the gold medal, beating China 3-1 behind a controversial two-run homer from Dot Richardson in the first Olympic competition in that sport.

2009 — Seven more world records on the fifth night of the world swimming championships in Rome are set, pushing the to-

tal to 29 and moving past last summer's Beijing Olympics. Ryan Lochte gets things rolling by breaking Phelps' mark in the 200-meter individual medley. The Chinese women finish it off, eclipsing the 800 freestyle relay mark by more than two seconds, with the Americans also breaking the previous record but only getting silver.

2012 — In London, Missy Franklin, a 17-year-old from Colorado, wins the women's 100-meter backstroke. Franklin has a brief 13-minute break after taking the final qualifying spot in the 200 freestyle semifinals before she had to get back into the water for the backstroke final. Ruta Meilutyte, 15, becomes the first Lithuanian to win an Olympic swimming medal by holding off a late charge from world champion Rebecca Soni of the United States in the 100 breaststroke.

2013 — Katie Ledecky crushes the world record in the 1,500 freestyle for her second gold medal at the world swimming championships in Barcelona, Spain. The 16-year-old American finishes with a time of 15:36.53 to beat the previous mark by more than 6 seconds — Kate Ziegler's 15:42.54 in 2007.

2015 — North Korea wins its first gold medal at the world aquatics championships through 16-year-old Kim Kuk Hyang in women's 10-meter diving. In her first international competition, Kim produces a stunning final dive, earning two perfect 10 scores from the seven judges, for a total of 397.05 points. On the next dive, the leader up to that point, world champion Si Yajie of China, makes an error to drop to fourth.

TENNIS

National Bank Open

**Monday
At Toronto**
Purse: \$9,193,540
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Seedings in parentheses
Men's Singles
Round of 128

Christopher O'Connell, Australia, def. Chun Hsin Tseng, Taiwan, 6-1, 6-2
Mackenzie McDonald, United States, def. David Goffin, Belgium, 6-4, 6-4
Ethan Quinn, United States, def. Yoshihito Nishioka, Japan, 7-6 (1), 6-2
Yunchaokete Bu, China, def. Vit Kopriva, Czechia, 7-6 (4), 6-2

Jaume Munar, Spain, def. Dan Martin, Canada, 6-3, 6-0
Dalibor Svrčina, Czechia, def. Alexander Blockx, Belgium, 6-4, 6-2
Hugo Gaston, France, def. Mattia Bellucci, Italy, 3-6, 6-4, 2-0, ret.

Aleksandar Vukic, Australia, def. Pedro Martinez, Spain, 7-5, 6-3
Yosuke Watanuki, Japan, def. Daniel Altmaier, Germany, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4
Tristan Schoolkate, Australia, def. Joao Fonseca, Brazil, 7-6 (5), 6-4

Francisco Comesana, Argentina, def. Damir Dzumhur, Bosnia-Herzegovina, 6-3, 7-5
Adrian Mannarino, France, def. Marcos Giron, United States, 6-4, 6-4
Tristan Boyer, United States, def. Aleksandar Kovacevic, United States, 7-5, 7-6 (3)

Roberto Carballes Baena, Spain, def. Camilo Ugo Carabelli, Argentina, 6-4, 4-1, ret.
Matteo Gigante, Italy, def. Borna Coric, Croatia, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (2)
Fabian Marozsan, Hungary, def. Hugo Dellien, Bolivia, 6-2, 6-2

Pablo Carreno Busta, Spain, def. Liam Draxl, Canada, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4
Alexis Galarneau, Canada, def. Arthur Rinderknech, France, 7-6 (2), 6-3

National Bank Open

**Monday
At Montreal**
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Seedings in parentheses
Women's Singles
Round of 128

Hanyu Guo, China, def. Yulia Putintseva, Kazakhstan, 6-3, 6-3
Kamilla Rakhimova, Russia, def. Kayla Cross, Canada, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2

Anna Blinkova, Russia, def. Caroline Dolehide, United States, 6-4, 6-1
Yuliia Starodubtseva, Ukraine, def. Wang Yafan, China, 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-4

Laura Siegemund, Germany, def. Tatjana Maria, Germany, 7-5, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (2)
Emma Raducanu, Britain, def. Elena-Gabriela Ruse, Romania, 6-2, 6-4
Eva Lys, Germany, def. Leolia Jeanjean, France, 6-1, 6-4

Lulu Sun, New Zealand, def. Sorana Cirstea, Romania, 6-3, 7-5
Marie Bouzkova, Czechia, def. Moyuka Uchijima, Japan, 6-2, 7-6 (4)

Naomi Osaka, Japan, def. Ariana Arsenault, Canada, 6-4, 6-2
Renata Zarazua, Mexico, def. Katie Boulter, Britain, 6-1, 7-5

Lucia Bronzetti, Italy, def. Elizabeth Mandlik, United States, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2
Anastasiya Sevastova, Latvia, def. Ajla Tomljanovic, Australia, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4
Eugenie Bouchard, Canada, def. Emiliiana Arango, Colombia, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2

Antonia Ruzic, Croatia, def. Anastasia Potapova, Russia, 2-6, 7-5, 6-0
Maria Sakkari, Greece, def. Carson Branstine, Canada, 6-2, 3-6, 7-5

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

Eastern Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	17	8	.680	—
Atlanta	15	10	.600	2
Indiana	14	12	.538	3½
Washington	12	13	.480	5
Chicago	7	18	.280	10
Connecticut	4	21	.160	13

Western Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	22	5	.815	—
Phoenix	16	9	.640	5
Seattle	16	11	.593	6
Las Vegas	13	13	.500	8½
Golden State	11	13	.458	9½
Los Angeles	11	14	.440	10
Dallas	8	19	.296	14

Monday's games

Seattle 101, Connecticut 85
Dallas 92, New York 82

Tuesday's games

Chicago at Washington
Golden State at Atlanta
Las Vegas at Los Angeles

Wednesday's games

Phoenix at Indiana
Atlanta at Dallas
New York at Minnesota

Thursday's game

Golden State at Washington



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

Katie Ledecky, of the United States, celebrates after winning the 1,500 freestyle at the world championships in Singapore on Tuesday.

Ledecky dominates 1,500 freestyle for another world title

By **STEPHEN WADE**

Associated Press

SINGAPORE — Katie Ledecky has ceded a tiny bit of ground in other events, but she's still unbeatable in the 1,500-meter freestyle.

She won it again Tuesday in the swimming world championships in Singapore, finishing in 15 minutes, 26.44 seconds. Simona Quadarella of Italy took silver in 15:31.79 — a European record — with bronze for Lani Pallister of Australia in 15:41.18 in a very quick-paced race.

"I was just trying to get out fast, but comfortable enough that I could go from there," Ledecky said. "I'm happy with the time and happy with the swim."

"I love this race," she added. "It was the race I broke my first world record in 2013. Lots of great races over the years."

Ledecky was ahead of her world-record pace through 1,250 meters, pushed early by Pallister. It was Ledecky's second medal in these games after taking bronze in the 400 free behind Canadian Summer McIntosh.

The numbers speak to Ledecky's dominance, the most decorated female swimmer in history who has been on top for more than a decade.

With Tuesday's swim, she now owns 25 of the top 26 1,500 times in history. Her time Tuesday was the fifth-fastest, not far off her world record of 15:20.48 set in 2018.

It was her 22nd gold medal in a world championships and 28th overall. Add to that nine Olympic gold medals and 14 overall. If you're not counting, that's 42 Olympic and world medals — 31 gold.

Watching from the stands was new International Olympic Committee President Kirsty Coventry. She was joined by former presi-

dent Thomas Bach. Coventry was an Olympic gold-medal winner for Zimbabwe in 2004 and 2008 in the 200-meter backstroke.

The Americans had the top qualifying times going into four finals and won one gold and three silver medals with very close finishes in all three.

The United States team has been battling what officials called "acute gastroenteritis" picked up at a training camp in Thailand before arriving in Singapore.

American head coach Greg Meehan said much of team had turned the corner.

"We're taking it a day at a time," he said in an interview with American network NBC. "Obviously, this is not how we thought the first few days of this competition would go. But I'm really proud of our team, our medical staff working overtime. You don't want your medical staff working overtime."

"If you were in our team area you would never know that the overall majority of the team has gone through something over the last few days," Meehan added, saying the team "vibe" was good.

McIntosh, who won two gold medals the first two days, did not race Tuesday, Day 3 of the competition. She will face Ledecky in the 800, maybe the most anticipated race of the worlds.

Paris Olympic champion David Popovici of Romania won the 200-meter freestyle, overtaking American Luke Hobson in the last 50 meters for the victory. Popovici swam 1:43.53 with Hobson across in 1:43.84.

Kaylee McKeown of Australia took the women's 100-meter backstroke, closing over the last 50 to beat American Regan Smith. McKeown finished in 57.16 — just .03 off the world record held by Smith.

MLB

ROUNDUP

Brewers rally for win over Cubs

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Andrew Vaughn, Sal Frelick and Christian Yelich homered and the Milwaukee Brewers overcame a shaky start from All-Star Jacob Misorowski to beat the Chicago Cubs 8-4 on Monday night and take sole possession of first place in the NL Central.

After allowing a bloop single and walk to begin the game, Misorowski took a line shot off the bat of Seiya Suzuki to his left knee. The 23-year-old rookie struck out Pete Crow-Armstrong but threw a wild pitch in the process, allowing a run to score. Then, after fielding a dribbler in front of the mound, Misorowski threw wildly to first as two runners scored.

“Just trust that the team is behind me and is going to help me out and they did,” Misorowski said of his mindset after the first inning. “I thought I did my job of getting us into a position to succeed.”

The Brewers stormed back with four runs off Matthew Boyd (11-4) in the third to take a 4-3 lead. Christian Yelich had an RBI double, Isaac Collins a two-run single and Brice Turang a sacrifice fly.

Vaughn hit a solo homer in the fifth and Frelick hit another in the sixth to give Milwaukee a 6-3 lead.

After Kyle Tucker’s run-scoring single in the seventh cut the margin to 6-4, Yelich hit a two-run shot to give the Brewers a four-run cushion.

Misorowski gave up three hits and three runs in four innings. He walked two and struck out seven while throwing 11 pitches of 100 mph or more.

Trevor Megill got the last out with two runners on to notch his 24th save in 27 tries.

Padres 7, Mets 6: Elías Díaz singled with two outs in the ninth inning to bring in Jose Iglesias with the winning run, and host San Diego beat New York to end its seven-game winning streak.

Iglesias reached on a bunt that new Mets reliever Gregory Soto fielded and threw wide of shortstop Francisco Lindor, allowing Xander Bogaerts to take second. Iglesias advanced on Jake Cronenworth’s bunt that forced Bogaerts at third and then scored on Díaz’s single to left-center.

Ronny Mauricio tied the game for NL East-leading New York with a one-out homer in the ninth off All-Star closer Robert Suarez, who was trying for his major league-leading 31st save.

Twins 5, Red Sox 4: Brooks Lee hit a two-run single off Jordan Hicks in the bottom of the ninth inning to give host Minnesota a victory over Boston after a 90-minute rain delay Monday night.

After Roman Anthony put the Red Sox in front with an RBI single off Twins closer Jhoan Duran (6-4) in the top of the ninth, the grounds crew hustled out the tarp to beat a downpour.

Hicks (1-7), who had warmed up before the delay, allowed a single to DaShawn Keirse Jr. and hit Mickey Gasper and Willi Castro with consecutive pitches. With one out, Lee delivered his third walk-off hit this season with a slap the other way with a few hundred fans standing in front of soaked seats.

Pirates 6, Giants 5: Andrew McCutchen hit a go-ahead homer and visiting Pittsburgh beat San Francisco for its third straight win on a night when Giants top pitching prospect Carson Wisenhunt made his major league debut.



JEFFREY PHELPS/AP

The Brewers' Sal Frelick (10) celebrates with Jackson Chourio after his home run against the Chicago Cubs during the sixth inning Monday in Milwaukee. The Brewers won 8-4.

McCutchen’s 10th homer this season and the 329th of his career put the Pirates in front 6-4 in the seventh.

Yohan Ramírez (1-0), the third of six Pittsburgh pitchers, got the win and David Bednar pitched the ninth for his 17th save in 17 chances this season.

Angels 6, Rangers 4: Kevin Newman, Taylor Ward and Luis Rengifo homered to help visiting Los Angeles beat Texas, snapping the Rangers’ six-game win streak.

Kenley Jansen pitched a 1-2-3 ninth inning for his 19th save.

Connor Brogdon (2-1) replaced Angels starter Jack Kochanowicz in the fifth and gave up one run in 1½ innings. Kochanowicz, called up from Triple-A Salt Lake earlier in the day, allowed two runs in 4½ innings.

Tigers 5, Diamondbacks 1: Rookie Troy Melton pitched seven scoreless innings in his second career start, and host Detroit beat Arizona.

Melton (1-1) gave up five singles and didn’t allow a runner to reach scoring position. He struck out five and walked none.

Orioles 11, Blue Jays 4: Ramón Laureano homered and drove in three runs, Adley Rutschman marked his return from the injured list with three hits and two RBIs, and host Baltimore beat Toronto.

Cedric Mullins, Coby Mayo and Colton Cowser also homered for the last-place Orioles, who amassed 16 hits against the AL East leaders.

Dodgers 5, Reds 2: Shohei Ohtani extended his hitting streak to nine games with a two-run double in the fifth inning and visiting Los Angeles defeated Cincinnati.

Dodgers’ right-hander Yoshinobu Yamamoto (9-7) went seven innings for the fifth time this season and struck out nine while Teoscar Hernández had two hits and drove in a pair of runs.

White Sox 6, Phillies 2: Luis Robert Jr. and Colson Montgomery homered to help host Chicago beat Christopher Sánchez and Philadelphia.

Davis Martin pitched six-hit ball into the sixth inning as the White Sox improved to 7-3 since the All-Star break. Lenyn Sosa had three

hits, including a run-scoring single.

Cardinals 7, Marlins 1: Andre Pallante allowed one hit in seven scoreless innings and host St. Louis beat Miami.

Pallante (6-7) retired the first 10 batters before walking Jesús Sánchez in the fourth. Graham Pauley singled in the sixth for the Marlins’ lone hit against the Cardinals right-hander. Pallante struck out four, walked one and threw 49 of his 81 pitches for strikes.

Rays 4, Yankees 2: Junior Caminero hit a two-run homer, Drew Rasmussen recovered from a rocky start on the mound and visiting Tampa Bay beat New York in the opener of a four-game series.

Caminero connected against Cam Schlichter (1-1) in the first inning for his 27th home run.

Nationals 2, Astros 1: Riley Adams hit a tie-breaking solo homer in the seventh inning to lift visiting Washington over Houston.

The game was tied 1-all with two outs in the seventh when Adams connected off Bryan King (3-2) on his 348-foot shot to the seats in right field to put the Nationals on top.

Braves 10, Royals 7: Ronald Acuña Jr., Marcell Ozuna and Austin Riley homered as visiting Atlanta snapped a five-game losing streak with a victory over Kansas City, who equaled a club record by walking 14 batters Monday night.

Acuña hit a two-run homer, his 14th, in the third and an inning later Ozuna added another two-run shot, also his 14th. Riley hit a solo homer, his 15th, in the seventh — and his three-run double in the eighth made it 9-3.

Rockies 8, Guardians 6: Tyler Freeman singled home the go-ahead run off Cade Smith as visiting Colorado scored four times in the ninth inning, rallying to a victory over Cleveland.

Colorado scored the tying run on a throwing error by Smith, bringing rookie Warming Bernabel around from second after his leadoff double.

Mariners 3, Athletics 1: Luis Castillo allowed a run in seven innings, Josh Naylor hit his first home run for visiting Seattle and the Mariners beat the Athletics.

Castillo (8-6) gave up five hits and had four strikeouts. Andrés Muñoz pitched a scoreless ninth inning for his 24th save.

Scoreboard

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	63	44	.589	—
New York	57	49	.538	5½
Boston	57	51	.528	6½
Tampa Bay	54	53	.505	9
Baltimore	48	58	.453	14½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	62	46	.574	—
Cleveland	52	54	.491	9
Kansas City	52	55	.486	9½
Minnesota	51	55	.481	10
Chicago	39	68	.364	22½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	60	47	.561	—
Seattle	57	50	.533	3
Texas	56	51	.523	4
Los Angeles	52	55	.486	8
Athletics	46	63	.422	15

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	62	45	.579	—
Philadelphia	60	46	.566	1½
Miami	50	55	.476	11
Atlanta	45	60	.429	16
Washington	44	62	.415	17½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	63	43	.594	—
Chicago	62	44	.585	1
Cincinnati	56	51	.523	7½
St. Louis	55	53	.509	9
Pittsburgh	45	62	.421	18½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	62	45	.579	—
San Diego	58	49	.542	4
San Francisco	54	53	.505	8
Arizona	51	56	.477	11
Colorado	28	78	.264	33½

Monday's games

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

Tuesday's games

Toronto at Baltimore, 2
 Arizona at Detroit
 Colorado at Cleveland
 Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees
 L.A. Dodgers at Cincinnati
 Philadelphia at Chicago White Sox
 Boston at Minnesota
 Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee
 Atlanta at Kansas City
 Miami at St. Louis
 Washington at Houston
 Texas at L.A. Angels
 N.Y. Mets at San Diego
 Pittsburgh at San Francisco
 Seattle at Athletics

Wednesday's games

Toronto (Berríos 7-4) at Baltimore (Kremer 8-7)
 Arizona (Nelson 6-2) at Detroit (Paddock 3-9)
 Boston (Bello 6-5) at Minnesota (TBD)
 Philadelphia (Walker 3-5) at Chicago White Sox (Houser 6-2)
 Chicago Cubs (Imanaga 7-4) at Milwaukee (Peralta 12-4)
 Atlanta (Wentz 2-2) at Kansas City (TBD)
 Washington (Gore 4-10) at Houston (TBD)
 Pittsburgh (Burrows 1-3) at San Francisco (Webb 9-8)
 N.Y. Mets (Holmes 9-5) at San Diego (Darvish 0-3)
 Colorado (Freeland 2-10) at Cleveland (TBD)
 Tampa Bay (Littell 8-8) at N.Y. Yankees (Warren 6-5)
 L.A. Dodgers (Ohtani 0-0) at Cincinnati (Martínez 9-9)
 Miami (Quantrill 3-8) at St. Louis (Mikolas 6-7)

Thursday's games

Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees
 Atlanta at Cincinnati
 Texas at Seattle

MLB

Salary cap continues to be hot-button issue

Harper allegedly confronts Commissioner Manfred during meeting

By JAY COHEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred and Philadelphia Phillies star Bryce Harper had a spirited exchange during a question-and-answer session between the commissioner and the team, according to a person with direct knowledge of the conversation.

The person spoke to the AP on Monday on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation. Phillies slugger Nick Castellanos previously confirmed some details from the meeting in interviews with The Bandwagon and ESPN.

Speaking before Philadelphia's 6-2 loss at the Chicago White Sox, Harper did not dispute the published descriptions of his confrontation with Manfred.

"I won't be getting into the details of what happened or how I felt or anything else like that," Harper said. "I don't think it does any good for anybody for that to happen. So, for me, I just, you know, trying to worry about baseball, trying to worry about everything in here."

Manfred met with the Phillies and Red Sox during their series last week in Philadelphia. The session with the Phillies lasted

more than an hour.

Manfred spoke with the NL team about the media landscape and working together to grow the sport, according to the person with knowledge of the conversation. At some point, Harper told Manfred if he was there to talk about a salary cap, he could "get the (expletive) out" of the clubhouse.

Baseball's collective bargaining agreement expires Dec. 1, 2026, and some players are concerned about a possible management push for a cap. A spokeswoman for the Major League Baseball Players Association declined comment Monday.

Harper is a two-time NL MVP and one of the game's marquee names, making his conversation with Manfred more noteworthy. The eight-time All-Star agreed to a \$330 million, 13-year deal with the Phillies in February 2019.

"Obviously, I don't want that to happen in those meetings," Harper said. "I don't want those things to be out there. I think, you know, when we have meetings with the commissioner or anybody else that comes to our clubhouse, those are good meetings to have."

Manfred and some owners have cited payroll disparity as one of baseball's biggest problems, and MLB is also working to address a revenue decline from regional

sports networks. Unlike the NFL, NBA and NHL, baseball has never had a salary cap because its players staunchly oppose one.

Manfred has been meeting with teams more often since he said in the aftermath of baseball's March 2022 labor agreement that he needed to work on his relationship with players.

"When I talk to the players, I don't try to convince them that a salary cap system would be a good thing," Manfred said during the All-Star break. "I identify a problem in the media business and explain to them that owners need to change to address that problem. I then identify a second problem that we need to work together and that is that there are fans in a lot of our markets who feel like we have a competitive balance problem."

Asked for his argument against a salary cap and why it's such an important issue for players, Harper responded: "I don't want to get into details as of right now." He also said he planned to remain vocal about labor issues behind closed doors.

"I've talked labor and I've done it in a way that I don't need to talk to the media about it," he said. "I don't need it out there. It has nothing to do with media or anybody else. It's what we can as players and owners and everybody else can come together to try to make this game great."



Manfred



NAM Y. HUH/AP

The Phillies' Bryce Harper reportedly got testy during a recent discussion between league commissioner Rob Manfred and the team.

Richest: Direct line between biggest payrolls, championships

FROM PAGE 24

Projected lineups and the ones in box scores have been markedly different.

The Mets have used 13 starting pitchers, losing Kodai Senga, Sean Manaea, Frankie Montas, Tylor Megill and Griffin Canning for significant stretches.

"We're not going to sit here and feel sorry for ourselves. Nobody will," manager Carlos Mendoza said.

"We're facing a lot of adversity, but every team goes through it."

Los Angeles had 14 pitchers on the injured list in early June and has used 16 different starters.

"It was very important to have the depth. We went through a lot last year and I didn't think that we would kind of match what we did last year, but sure enough we have," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "To kind of manage it hasn't been easy, but we're doing it."

The Yankees lost ace Gerrit Cole and Clarke Schmidt to torn UCLs and Luis Gil to a lat strain. They are now without two-time AL MVP Aaron Judge for at least 10 days



ANGELINA KATSANIS/AP

The injury-plagued Yankees patched a hole at third base by acquiring Ryan McMahon from Colorado on July 25.

because of a flexor injury.

Los Angeles leads the major leagues with 1,495 player days on the IL, the Mets are

fifth at 1,095 and the Yankees sixth at 1,022. Philadelphia, 1½ games back of the Mets in the NL East, has the fewest IL days at 214.

In addition to relievers, the Mets could use a center fielder and an upgrade at third. The Yankees added infielders Ryan McMahon and Amed Rosario, boosting payroll and tax by \$11.56 million.

Modern MLB is a sport for the wealthy. Just two of the current division leaders were not among the top seven spenders as of opening day: Detroit (19th at \$148 million) and the Chicago Cubs (14th at \$195 million).

And the spending doesn't include luxury tax, with seven teams projected to pay. The Dodgers were on track at the season's start to owe a record \$151 million — more than the payrolls of seven teams.

They were projected at \$73 million and the Yankees \$52 million, with Philadelphia, Toronto, San Diego and Boston at lesser amounts.

"I'm a piker now compared to the Dodgers," Mets owner Steve Cohen said during spring training.

All seven teams set to owe tax would be in the 12-club playoffs if the season ended now along with Houston, currently just below the tax threshold.

In the past decade, three teams outside the top 10 spenders have won titles: Atlanta in 2021 (14th), Houston in 2017 (18th) and Kansas City in 2015 (13th). While the biggest spender has won twice, the Dodgers in 2020 and Boston in 2018, a top six payroll has won six titles of the past 10 titles.

Some owners say MLB should push for a salary cap in negotiations to replace the collective bargaining agreement that expires in December 2026, a proposal the players' association would fight.

"Payroll disparity is such a fact of life among the ownership group that there's not a lot of need for talking about whether we have it or not," baseball commissioner Rob Manfred said.

Last year, the top three spenders reached the League Championship Series along with Cleveland, which finished at No. 25. Ten of 20 LCS teams in the past five years paid tax.

MLB

Guardians closer Clase on paid leave as part of gambling investigation

By JAY COHEN
Associated Press

Cleveland Guardians closer Emmanuel Clase has been placed on non-disciplinary paid leave as part of a Major League Baseball investigation into sports betting.

Clase, a three-time All-Star, becomes the second Cleveland pitcher to be placed on leave in connection with a sports gambling probe. Luis Ortiz is also on non-disciplinary leave through Aug. 31.

It was unclear if the cases were related. The Guardians said in a statement the organization “(has) been informed that no additional players or club personnel are expected to be impacted.”

The 27-year-old Clase is 5-3 with 24 saves in 48 games this year, but he also has a career-high 3.23 ERA. The right-hander led the AL in saves each of the previous three years and was believed to be on the market ahead of this week’s MLB trade deadline.

“I’m not happy. This stinks,” Cleveland manager Stephen Vogt said before Monday night’s 8-6 loss to lowly Colorado. “It’s a different part of our game now because it’s legal. Two of our guys are being investigated — and it hurts. It’s an unfortunate situation.”

Major League Baseball has been monitoring sports gambling more closely since a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in May 2018 struck down a federal law that had barred betting on football, basketball, baseball and other sports in most states.

MLB said in a statement that Clase — per an agreement with the players’ association — had been placed on leave while the league “continues its sports bet-

ting investigation.” It declined further comment.

A spokeswoman for the Major League Baseball Players Association declined comment Monday night.

Chris Antonetti, the president of baseball operations for the Guardians, said he was informed of the situation involving Clase on Sunday. He met with his coaching staff and the players before the series opener against the Rockies.

“You’re shocked, you’re upset, you’re frustrated. But I thought our guys, they did fine,” Vogt said. “It was a long day for our guys, for everybody. So we’re ready to get here tomorrow and get back after it.”

Cleveland dropped to 52-54 with the loss to Colorado. Cade Smith blew a save opportunity when the Rockies scored four times in the ninth inning.

Vogt said the plan is to go with a closer-by-committee approach for now.

“He’s a part of the team,” Smith said of Clase before the game. “It sucks for him to be not here today.”

The Ortiz investigation is related to in-game prop bets on two pitches thrown by the right-hander that received higher activity than usual during his starts at Seattle on June 15 and against St. Louis on June 27. The gambling activity on the pitches was flagged by a betting-integrity firm and forwarded to MLB.

The pair of Guardians pitchers on leave comes after MLB suspended five players for gambling in June 2024, including a lifetime ban for San Diego Padres infielder Tucupita Marcano. MLB said Marcano placed 387 baseball bets totaling more than \$150,000 with a legal sportsbook in 2022 and 2023.



SUE OGRACK/AP

Cleveland closer Emmanuel Clase is the second Guardians player to be placed on leave regarding a gambling probe this season after Luis Ortiz.



NAM Y. HUH/AP

Former Cubs second baseman and Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg walks to the mound to throw a ceremonial first pitch before a game against the New York Mets in Chicago on June 23, 2024.

Hall of Famer Sandberg dies at 65 after battling cancer

By JAY COHEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Ryne Sandberg, a Hall of Fame second baseman who became one of baseball’s best all-around players while starring for the Chicago Cubs, has died. He was 65.

Sandberg was surrounded by his family when he died at his home Monday, according to the team.

Sandberg announced in January 2024 that he had been diagnosed with metastatic prostate cancer. He had chemotherapy and radiation treatments, and then said in August 2024 that he was cancer-free.

But he posted on Instagram on Dec. 10 that his cancer had returned and spread to other organs. He announced this month that he was still fighting, while “looking forward to making the most of every day with my loving family and friends.”

Cubs chairman Tom Ricketts said Sandberg “will be remembered as one of the all-time greats in nearly 150 years of this historic franchise.”

Sandberg was born and raised in Spokane, Wash. He was selected out of high school by Philadelphia in the 20th round of the 1978 amateur draft.

He made his major league debut in 1981 and went 1-for-6 in 13 games with the Phillies. In January 1982, he was traded to Chicago along with Larry Bowa for veteran infielder Ivan De Jesus.

It turned into one of the most lopsided deals in baseball history. Sandberg hit .285 with 282 hom-

ers, 1,061 RBIs and 344 steals in 15 years with the Cubs. He made 10 All-Star teams — winning the Home Run Derby in 1990 — and took home nine Gold Gloves.

“Ryne Sandberg was a legend of the Chicago Cubs franchise and a beloved figure throughout Major League Baseball,” MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred said. “He was a five-tool player who excelled in every facet of the game thanks to his power, speed and work ethic.”

Even with Sandberg’s stellar play, Chicago made just two postseason appearances while he was there.

He was the NL MVP in 1984, batting .314 with 19 homers, 84 RBIs, 32 steals, 19 triples and 114 runs scored. The Cubs won the NL East and Sandberg hit .368 (7-for-19) in the playoffs, but Chicago was eliminated by San Diego after winning the first two games of the NLCS at Wrigley Field.

“I’ve never seen a player work harder, and it seemed like the better he got, the harder he worked,” former Cubs manager Jim Frey said.

The 1984 season featured what Chicago fans still call “The Sandberg Game,” when he homered twice and drove in seven runs in a 12-11 victory over St. Louis in 11 innings on June 23.

The Cubs paid tribute to Sandberg and that game when they unveiled a statue of the infielder outside Wrigley on that date in 2024.

“Ryno was a great teammate and obviously a great player,” Hall of Fame pitcher Greg Maddux told The Associated Press in a text message. “He led by example

on the field and a mentor off. I was lucky to know him.”

Sandberg led Chicago back to the playoffs in 1989, hitting .290 with 30 homers as the Cubs won the NLCS, but Chicago lost to San Francisco in five games.

Sandberg set a career high with an NL-best 40 homers in 1990 and drove in a career-best 100 runs in 1990 and 1991, but he never made it back to the postseason. When he retired after the 1997 season, he had the most homers as a second baseman in major league history.

“He was a superhero in this city,” Cubs president of baseball operations Jed Hoyer said during a TV broadcast of the team’s game July 20. “You think about (Michael) Jordan, Walter Payton and Ryne Sandberg all here at the same time, and I can’t imagine a person handling their fame better, their responsibility for a city better than he did.”

Sandberg was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2005. Chicago retired his No. 23 that same year.

Sandberg also managed in the minors with Chicago and Philadelphia before he became the third base coach for the Phillies. He was promoted to interim manager when Charlie Manuel was fired in August 2013, and he had a 119-159 record when he resigned during a difficult 2015 season.

“Not only was he a Hall of Famer, he was a man who personified class and dignity,” Philadelphia managing partner and CEO John Middleton said in a statement. “We were honored that he was part of our organization.”

FOOTBALL

Sanders to remain as Colorado coach after cancer scare

By PAT GRAHAM
Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — Colorado coach Deion Sanders disclosed Monday that he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of bladder cancer, but after surgery his oncologist has considered him cured, so he plans to coach this season.

Dr. Janet Kukreja, director of urologic oncology at the CU Cancer Center/UCHealth University of Colorado hospital, said Sanders had his bladder removed as part of the surgical plan.

“It was dynamic. It was tough. It wasn’t a cakewalk. It wasn’t easy,” said Sanders, who arrived to his news conference wearing a cowboy hat and overalls along with sunglasses, which he removed after getting choked up. “That was a fight, but we made it.”

Sanders, who turns 58 next month, has drawn headlines for his health, but the focus largely was on two toes he’s had amputated and concerns over blood clots. He said he’s had 14 surgeries since 2021, when he was still the coach at Jackson State, but kept his cancer fight private.

Sanders spoke on the eve of fall

camp as he enters his third season overseeing the Buffaloes. He brought his medical team with him to discuss his diagnosis. It was revealed that a section of his intestine was reconstructed to function as a bladder. He won’t need radiation or chemotherapy, Kukreja said.

“The ‘C’ word, when we hear that word there’s normally a life sentence attached to it,” Sanders said. “But not this time. But not this time.”

Sanders said he lost about 25 pounds, leading him to joke, “I was like Atlanta Falcons Prime at one point.”

He later added: “I truly depend on Depend, if you know what I mean. I can’t control my bladder. ... Let’s not be ashamed of it. Let’s deal with it head on.”

Just Sanders being Sanders — he remained upbeat throughout the entire process, his medical team said.

“He never folded one time and never wavered,” team trainer Lauren Askevold said. “You couldn’t ask for a better patient because he wants to get up and get going right away. ... It’s been a hectic journey. It’s been a lot. But



AARON ONTIVEROS/AP

Colorado football head coach Deion Sanders, center, speaks about beating bladder cancer during a news conference Monday in Boulder, Colo. Sanders will remain as coach after undergoing surgery.

there’s a blessing in disguise with all of this.”

Never once did Sanders waver in his belief that he would return to the sideline.

“I always knew I was going to coach again. It was never in my spirit, in my heart, that God wouldn’t allow me to coach again,” he said. “I just didn’t want to be running down to the hospital once a week when I have all of this on my plate. I don’t want that. I was like, ‘OK, can they bring one of those machines and put them in the office?’”

Athletic director Rick George echoed Sanders.

“He’s so positive, and he said he’d be back,” George said. “I had

every confidence that he would be.”

Sanders repeatedly stressed the importance of early detection. His cancer was discovered when he went for an annual CT scan as a precaution given his history with blood clots.

“We’re lucky to have found it at this stage where I could say the word cure,” Kukreja said, “because I don’t use that word lightly as a cancer doctor.”

The charismatic coach missed football camps in Boulder this summer amid reports that he’s been ill. He returned to campus last week and announced on social media, “Back and Feeling Great!”

Colorado kicks off the season on

Aug. 29 against Georgia Tech at Folsom Field. It will be the first season in quite some time Sanders hasn’t coached one of his sons. Quarterback Shedeur Sanders was drafted by the Cleveland Browns while Shilo, a safety, is in camp with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Deion Sanders and the Buffaloes went 4-8 in his first season and 9-4 last season, with an appearance in the Alamo Bowl. They have big shoes to fill in replacing Shedeur Sanders and Heisman Trophy winner Travis Hunter.

“I never look down. I’m always looking up and I’m always trying to go get it,” Deion Sanders said. “I want to be the best Prime I can be for everybody. For everybody.”

Swinney rooting for Renfrow’s NFL comeback with Panthers

By STEVE REED
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Hunter Renfrow remembers being cut by the Las Vegas Raiders on March 13, 2024, and not even caring all that much.

He had no desire to play football.

Physically, he felt awful. He’d lost 35 pounds, went a week with a 103-degree fever and was completely zapped of the energy and fire he was once known to bring to the football field. Running routes, catching passes and being blasted by defensive backs was the last thing on his mind.

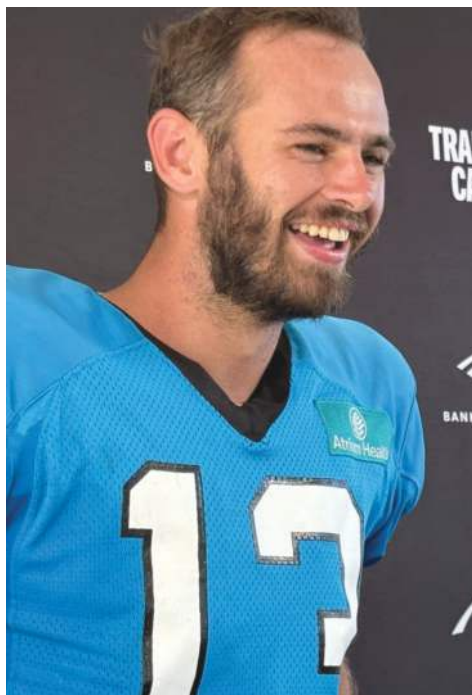
But after being diagnosed with a severe case of ulcerative colitis, a chronic inflammatory bowel disease that causes inflammation and ulcers in the lining of the large intestine and rectum, the 2021 Pro Bowler is now feeling like himself again. He’s trying to make an NFL comeback with the Carolina Panthers, the team he rooted for as a kid growing up in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Dabo Swinney, his college coach at Clemson, believes if anyone can make it back it’s Renfrow.

“You’re playing football at the highest level and he just couldn’t eat,” Swinney said. “It affected him, and he was really done (with football). I didn’t think he was gonna play again.”

Neither did Renfrow.

“I was like, I’m never playing a football



STEVE REED/AP

Carolina Panthers wide receiver Hunter Renfrow is looking to make a comeback in the NFL after sitting out all of last season.

again,” Renfrow said. “Like when you feel like that, you feel like you’re letting your teammates down.”

Renfrow’s problems surfaced late in the

2021 season in which he caught a career-high 103 passes for 1,038 yards and nine touchdowns. He noticed his energy level had dropped off significantly and he could never seem to get it all the way back, even after taking a month off to prep for his first Pro Bowl appearance.

The Raiders rewarded Renfrow with a two-year, \$32 million contract extension that offseason, but he never came close to reaching that level of production again. He caught just 36 passes for 330 yards and two touchdowns in 2022 and 25 passes for 255 yards and no touchdowns in 2023, leading to his release.

But after several hospital visits and a referral to a Charlotte-area pediatrician, Renfrow finally received a diagnosis. He began receiving treatment, started a new diet and saw his appetite return. By September, he’d put back on the 35 pounds he’d lost and then some.

As the 2024 NFL season went out without him, Renfrow privately began discussing a possible comeback with Swinney, who has remained a close friend and father figure.

“I was like Hunter, listen, you know you’re gonna be 40 one day,” Swinney said. “So if you got more left in you ...”

In January, Renfrow took Swinney’s advice and began to work his way back into football shape. He asked his agent if Carolina might be interested in giving him a work-

out. They were, and that ultimately led to a one-year, \$1.22 million contract that included a modest \$50,000 signing bonus.

It was a no-lose proposition for the Panthers. But if Monday is any indication, Renfrow might just be a solid under-the-radar free agent addition for them.

With Swinney observing from the Carolina sideline as a guest of coach Dave Canales, the 5-foot-10 Renfrow made two impressive catches reminiscent of the player who went from walk-on to catching the game-winning touchdown pass with 1 second remaining in Clemson’s dramatic 35-31 win over Alabama in the national championship game in the 2016 season.

Renfrow said he feels appreciative as he continues “pushing toward something special.”

Renfrow is no lock to make the Panthers roster.

Carolina has upgraded its wide receiver position in recent years, drafting Xavier Legette and Tetairoa McMillan in the first round in 2024 and 2025, respectively. They also have veteran wide receivers Adam Thielen and David Moore, and the team remains high on last year’s surprise undrafted rookie standout Jalen Coker.

But Canales likes what he’s seen so far from Renfrow.

“He looks like the Hunter that I remember,” Canales said.

SPORTS



Sandberg dies at 65

Hall of Famer, Cubs legend had been battling cancer » **MLB, Page 22**

MLB



AP photos

Mets pitcher Kodai Senga reacts after an injury to his hamstring June 12 against the Washington Nationals. New York has used 13 starting pitchers this season due to injuries.

Rough patch for richest teams

Baseball's biggest spenders stumbling with Dodgers, Mets, Yankees beset by injuries

BY RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baseball's biggest spenders are stumbling, slowed by injuries and scrambling to patch rosters with help for battered bullpens and other positions ahead of Thursday's trade deadline.

Opening the season with a top payroll of \$326 million, the New York Mets have a 1½-game NL East lead but are 17-20 since mid-June.

Just \$200,000 behind them in spending, according to Major League Baseball's figures, the World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers are four games ahead in the NL West but are 5-13 since July 3.

Third at \$294 million, the defending AL champion New York Yankees blew a seven-game divi-

sion lead and trail AL East-leading Toronto by 5½ games after a 22-28 skid that started in late May.

"It is in a lot of ways a game of survival," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

While all three are in playoff positions, they have not had the seasons they hoped for.

All three teams were considered "winners" of the offseason. The Mets lured Juan Soto from the Yankees for a record \$765 million, 15-year contract. The Dodgers added prized pitcher Roki Sasaki and left-hander Blake Snell along with reliever Tanner Scott, outfielder Michael Conforto and second baseman Hyeeseong Kim. The Yankees brought in Max Fried, Cody Bellinger, Paul Goldschmidt and Devin Williams.

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"To kind of manage it hasn't been easy, but we're doing it."

Dave Roberts
Dodgers manager



"We're facing a lot of adversity, but every team goes through it."

Carlos Mendoza
Mets manager



"It is in a lot of ways a game of survival."

Aaron Boone
Yankees manager

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