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STARS AND STRIPES®

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ETHAN J. SOTO/U.S. Navy

Aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson in dry dock at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in June 2020. The U.S. Navy plans to build a new dry dock at the shipyard to accommodate its largest carriers and submarines that operate in the Pacific.

Bigger, better in West Coast

Navy plan would build dry dock for largest carrier, subs in Pacific

BY GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

BREMERTON, Wash. — The Navy plans to build a new dry dock at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard that can accommodate its largest aircraft carriers and nuclear-powered submarines into the 22nd century.

Details of the proposal were released Thursday evening during a briefing for the public at a community center in Bremerton near the waterfront.

Capt. John Hale, commanding officer of Naval Base Kitsap, which includes the shipyard, said the plan would help ensure the Navy remains a major presence in the Seattle area well into the next century.

"This is the only place on the West Coast that you can do maintenance on aircraft carriers," he said. "The new dry dock maintains the capability here in the Pacific Northwest for the next 80 to 100 years."

The shipyard has the only dry dock along the Pacific Ocean that can be used to repair Nimitz-class aircraft carriers and a variety of nuclear-powered submarines. But the new Gerald R. Ford-class carriers weigh enough to displace more than 100,000 gallons of water and are just under 1,100 feet long.

David Gibson, a project manager for the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command,

SEE BETTER ON PAGE 6



GARY WARNER/Stars and Stripes

A Hammerhead crane is shown at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in May.

USAF cuts retirement benefits for trans troops

BY KONSTANTIN TOROPIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Air Force said Thursday it would deny all transgender service members who have served between 15 and 18 years the option to retire early and would instead separate them without retirement benefits. One Air Force sergeant said he was "betrayed and devastated" by the move.

The move means that transgender service members will now be faced with the choice of either taking a lump-sum separation payment offered to junior troops or be removed from the service.

An Air Force spokesperson told The Associated Press that "although service members with 15 to 18 years of honorable service were permitted to apply for an exception to policy, none of the exceptions to policy were approved." About a dozen service members had been "prematurely notified" that they would be able to retire before that decision was reversed, according to the spokesperson who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal Air Force policy.

A memo issued Monday announcing the new policy, which was reviewed by the AP, said that the choice to deny retirement benefits was made "after careful consideration of the individual applications."

All transgender members of the Air Force are being separated from the service under the Trump administration's policies.

The move comes after the Pentagon was given permission in early May by the Supreme Court to move forward with a ban on all transgender troops serving in the military.

SEE TRANS ON PAGE 8

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Commercial fishing in Pacific nature area halted by judge

Associated Press

HONOLULU — Commercial fishing that recently resumed in a vast protected area of the Pacific Ocean must halt once again, after a judge in Hawaii sided last week with environmentalists challenging a Trump administration rollback of federal ocean protections.

The remote Pacific Islands Heritage Marine National Monument is home to turtles, marine mammals and seabirds, which environmental groups say will get snagged by longline fishing, an industrial method involving baited hooks from lines 60 miles or longer.

President Donald Trump's executive order to allow this and other types of commercial fishing in part of the monument changed regulations without providing a process for public comment and rulemaking and stripped core protections from the monument, the groups argued in a lawsuit.

U.S. District Judge Micah W. J. Smith granted a motion by the environmentalists on Friday. The ruling means boats catching fish for sale will need to immediately cease fishing in waters between 50 and 200 nautical miles around Johnston Atoll, Jarvis Island and Wake Island, said Earthjustice, an environmental law organization representing the plaintiffs.

President George W. Bush created the marine monument in 2009. It consists of about 500,000 square miles in the remote central Pacific Ocean southwest of Hawaii. President Barack Obama expanded it in 2014.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 11)	0.84
British pound (Aug. 11)	$1.31
Japanese yen (Aug. 11)	144.00
South Korean won (Aug. 11)	1351.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3717
Britain (Pound)	1.3448
Canada (Dollar)	1.3751
China (Yuan)	7.181
Denmark (Krone)	6.411
Egypt (Pound)	48.1507
Euro	0.8584
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8499
Hungary (Forint)	339.38
Israel (Shekel)	3.4300
Japan (Yen)	147.653
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3050
Norway (Krone)	10.2796
Philippines (Peso)	56.65
Poland (Zloty)	3.6436
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7488
Singapore (Dollar)	1.285
South Korea (Won)	1387.77
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8081
Thailand (Baht)	32.19
Turkey (NewLira)	40.793

(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

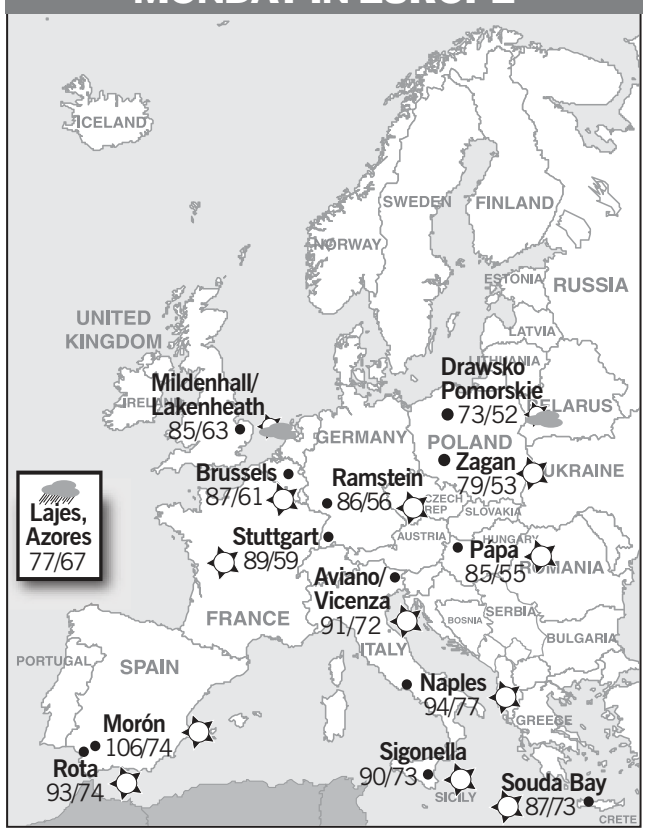
Prime rate	7.50
Interest Rates Discount rate	4.50
Federal funds market rate	4.38
3-month bill	4.24
30-year bond	4.85

WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE



TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



This weather is compiled from weather.com reports.

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MILITARY

Arrest made in death that led to M18 halt

By Corey Dickstein
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force has charged an airman with making false statements, obstructing justice and involuntary manslaughter in the July 20 shooting death of a security forces airman at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming, the service announced Friday.

The suspect was arrested recently as the investigations into the shooting and the safety of the military's M18 pistols launched in the wake of Airman Brayden Lovan's death progressed, the Air Force said in a brief statement. The suspect was not named in the statement.

"The investigation in this case is ongoing and further details are not available," the statement read.

Air Force Global Strike Command, which oversees the service's nuclear capabilities including the intercontinental ballistic missiles at F.E. Warren, ordered a pause in the use of the M18 pistol after Lovan's death.

The concern was the shooting might have been the result of a so-called "uncommanded discharge," which occurs when a gun fires without the trigger being pulled.

The suspect's charges indicate investigators believe Lovan's death was likely the result of a negligent discharge in which the gun's trigger was accidentally pulled and the gun fired.

Global Strike Command's pause in the use of the M18 pistol remained in place Friday, a spokesman for the command said. It was not expected to be lifted until after the investigations were completed and provided to Gen. Thomas Bussiere, who leads Air Force Global Strike Command.

Some commanders in Air Force Combat Command — the service's largest four-star command — also ordered temporary halts of the pistol's use "as a precautionary measure until airmen undergo refresher training," that command announced last week.

As of Friday, the Air Force was continuing efforts to inspect all its roughly 125,000 M18 pistols to ensure safety, another Air Force spokesperson said.

The M18 is one of two variants of the Sig Sauer-built P320 handgun made for the U.S. military, along with a larger version — the M17. The two striker-fired, semiautomatic 9mm pistols replaced the Beretta M9 as the U.S. military's primary handguns in recent years.

But Sig Sauer has been plagued by numerous claims — and more than one dozen lawsuits — that its P320 models, including the M18 and M17, had fired without trigger pulls, injuring individuals including police officers and civilians. Those claims have resulted in dozens of law enforcement agencies — including some federal agencies — barring their officers from carrying P320s on duty. Many civilian shooting ranges have also barred the use of P320 variants at their facilities.

Sig has long insisted its P320 models were safe and incapable of producing "uncommanded" discharges.

The New Hampshire-based company has said it was cooperating with the investigations into the circumstances of Lovan's death.

"The P320 pistol is one of the safest, most advanced pistols in the world — meeting and exceeding all industry safety standards," Sig Sauer said in a statement after Lovan's death. "Its design has been thoroughly tested and validated by the U.S. military and law enforcement agencies at the federal, state and local levels. In addition, the P320 has been rigorously tested and is currently in use by militaries and law enforcement agencies around the world. … The P320 cannot, under any circumstances, discharge without the trigger first being moved to the rear."



Zeeshan Naeem/U.S. Air Force

A Sig Sauer M18 is shot during a tactical leadership course.

Tricare set to end coverage of weight loss drugs for some

By Alison Bath
Stars and Stripes

Some retired service members and others fighting the battle of the bulge will no longer have the cost of several popular weight loss drugs covered by the military health system, Tricare announced last week.

Starting Aug. 31, Tricare for Life beneficiaries won't receive coverage for Zepbound, Wegovy or other GLP-1 medications, a Tricare statement said Tuesday. Tricare is the federal health care program for active-duty service members, retirees and their families.

The change also applies to Defense Department civilians and other people not covered by Tricare but who are eligible to receive care at military hospitals, according to the statement.

Coverage of weight loss drugs for active-duty service members, retirees and their families enrolled in other health care plans, such as Tricare Prime or Tricare Select, will depend on a person's condition and certain criteria, Tricare said.

It wasn't clear exactly what benchmarks people would need to meet for weight loss drug coverage. Enrollment in a Tricare premium plan, prior authorization and a prescription from a network health care provider are among the requirements, according to the statement.

"Otherwise, if you have an approved prior authorization for weight loss drugs, it's no longer valid," Tricare said in the statement. "You'll need to see your provider to discuss your options."

People affected by the change will get a notice in the mail in the coming weeks, Tricare added.

Use of GLP-1 medications, such as Trulicity, Ozempic, Mounjaro or Victoza, to treat type-2 diabetes still will be covered, provided that the treatment is medically necessary and prior authorization is obtained. Some drugs, such as Ozempic, require a copayment.

It's unclear how many people will be affected by the change. But a Military Health System report published in January 2024 found that the number of active-duty service members who were prescribed a weight loss drug from January 2018 through June 2023 increased nearly a hundredfold, from 1.2 to 104.4 per 100,000 service members.

Likewise, the number of monthly prescriptions for weight loss drugs filled during the same period rose from seven to 816. Nearly 100% of those prescriptions were for a supply of 90 days or less, according to the report.

The report also said that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated in 2022 that increased obesity prevalence in military members costs a potential $1.5 billion annually in obesity-related health care and 658,000 lost workdays.

"The trend in use of weight loss medication in the military should continue to be monitored, as these therapies represent a novel tool to manage obesity in this population," the military health report stated.

The DHA action comes as civilian health care insurers also grapple with a surge of people seeking the costly drugs amid an obesity epidemic.

In a cost-saving move last month, CVS Caremark stopped covering Zepbound, which is used for chronic weight management in obese or overweight adults, CNN reported July 1.

Zepbound and other weight loss drugs typically used to treat diabetes mimic hormones that regulate hunger and satiety, helping people feel full sooner and eat less, according to a University of Chicago Medicine report in June.

But the cost of those benefits ranges from $700-$800 per month, according to the report.

The researchers also studied the financial impacts if a government health care program, such as Medicare, were to expand its coverage of weight loss drugs for medical treatments beyond diabetes or sleep apnea.

Their projections showed that such an expansion could result in $48 billion in new Medicare spending over 10 years, according to the report.

"Insurers and policymakers aren't just asking, 'Is this a good treatment?'" David Kim, a health economist at the University of Chicago, said in the report. "They're asking, 'What will this do to our budget?' And for now, the budget impact is huge."



Novo Nordisk/AP

Tricare for Life beneficiaries will lose coverage of weight loss drugs such as Zepbound and Wegovy, seen here, starting Aug. 31, the military's health insurer said in a statement Tuesday.

PACIFIC

Remains found on Okinawa likely American

BY BRIAN MCELHINEY AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

Japanese scientists using an improved method of analysis recently identified a third set of remains as likely those of an American service member who fought on Okinawa during World War II.

The scientists, using stable isotope analysis on remains discovered in Nishihara town in April 2024, concluded in May that they probably belong to an American, a spokesman with Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare said last month.

The stable isotope method allows analysts to identify ratios of carbon, nitrogen and oxygen isotopes within body tissues, which can give indicators of where that person may be from, John Byrd, scientific analysis director with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, said by phone Wednesday.

"Some of them, like the carbon and nitrogen, are heavily influenced by dietary habits, and Americans stand out pretty clearly from Japanese," he said. "So, we and the labs in Japan, we use this approach to try to determine whether the remains are Americans or Japanese, if it's from World War II battle casualties. It's a pretty quick and pretty inexpensive test to run."

The remains, which analysts believe belong to one individual, were loaned to the DPAA laboratory in Hawaii for further stable isotope and DNA testing in coming months, Byrd said.



PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE WHALEY III/U.S. Navy

Marine Corps Master Sgt. Alexander Skousen renders honors while Army Sgt. 1st Class Sabrina Hollis carries remains from Okinawa during an honorable carry ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, on July 16.

A three-member DPAA team collected the remains July 15 from the War Dead Remains Collection Information Center on Okinawa, the ministry spokesman said.

Some Japanese government officials speak to the press only on condition of anonymity.

Only two sets of remains from Okinawa were previously identified as Americans using stable isotope testing since the method was introduced in 2012, the spokesman said.

Because ancient dead were often buried in caves according to Okinawa tradition, scientists must first determine if the remains date from World War II.

"Those caves were used as shelters during the Battle of Okinawa, and some people died inside them," he said.

The first set of remains, discovered in 2016, were identified as Marine Sgt. Harold M. Weaver, Byrd said. Though Weaver is still listed as unaccounted for on DPAA's website, the agency's fiscal 2023 year in review lists him as accounted for.

The second set, discovered in southern Okinawa and recovered by Byrd in May 2024, is still being analyzed by DPAA, he said.

"We have to go backwards," he said. "Our historians have to figure out who was missing in that vicinity, and then in the laboratory, we do the forensics to then compare what we have to that person."



A U.S. flag is placed upon a case containing remains repatriated from Okinawa during an honorable carry ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

More than 100 U.S. service members killed during the battle are still missing "somewhere around the island," according to Byrd.

The Battle of Okinawa from April to June 1945 killed more than 14,000 American service members, approximately 110,000 Japanese troops and at least 140,000 Okinawan civilians.

More than 187,000 sets of remains have been recovered since the battle, according to the ministry's website.

DPAA plans to send a team back to southern Okinawa in March and April to investigate the recent discovery sites. The agency may then ask the Japanese government for permission to excavate the sites, Byrd said.

"The only reason we're having some success getting some remains from Okinawa is because we've had great support from the government of Japan and the prefecture government," he said.

DODEA adding 20 minutes to the school day on Okinawa this year

BY BRIAN MCELHINEY
Stars and Stripes

The school day at Department of Defense Education Activity schools on Okinawa will increase by 20 minutes starting with the upcoming school year, according to DODEA-Pacific.

The change amounts to approximately 58 additional instructional hours annually, according to schedules posted on DODEA's website.

Teachers will not be in line for a pay bump for the additional hours, spokeswoman Miranda Ferguson wrote in a July 16 email. Teacher pay is based on an eight-hour duty day, and their work schedules "will continue to fall under the established paid time frame," she said.

The extended schedule will apply to the Pacific South district's 13 schools, Ferguson said. More than 6,000 students — the children of U.S. service members and civilian Defense Department employees — attend those schools.

The new schedule will bring Okinawa schools in line with others across the DODEA system, Ferguson said. The school day on the island had been shorter on average than those in other districts.

Emails sent July 9 to faculty, staff and parents outlined the changes, Ferguson said. The parent communication, signed by district superintendent Melissa Hayes, was posted to the schools' official Facebook pages on July 14.

Stars and Stripes obtained a copy of Hayes' separate email to faculty and staff.

"We recognize this increases the duty day for educators; however, research suggests this small increase in instructional time will have a great impact on student achievement," she wrote.

The average school day on Okinawa will grow from six hours, 19 minutes to six hours, 39 minutes. By comparison, the average school day on Japan's main island of Honshu is six hours, 35 minutes, while schools in South Korea and Guam average six hours, 36 minutes, Ferguson said.

At Kubasaki and Kadena high schools on Okinawa, the school day will stretch to seven hours — 10 to 30 minutes longer than other area high schools, according to schedules posted on DODEA's website.

"Each school's administration team will determine the best use of the additional instructional time based on their school's needs," Ferguson said.

Students will continue to be released one hour early on Tuesdays for teacher collaboration time, when educators "evaluate student data to inform instructional decision-making," Ferguson said.

Child development centers, school-age caregivers and youth sports programs were notified of the change, she added.

The decision violates the collective bargaining agreement between DODEA and the Federal Education Association requiring that duty hour changes be negotiated with the union, an Okinawa teacher said by phone July 22.

The teacher spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of retaliation from DODEA.



KEISHI KOJA/Stars and Stripes

Defense Department schools on Okinawa, Japan, like Kadena Elementary School , shown here in May, will add 20 minutes to their instructional day starting with the 2025-26 school year.

The 2025-26 school year includes 175 instructional days for Pacific schools, according to DODEA's website. Additional instructional time will be about 58 hours in the school year, which would be unpaid, the teacher said.

"I hope [DODEA] will take the long view — the appropriate view — that we are here to help and educate children," the teacher said. "We should not be making teachers work more, and especially we should not be making them work more for no pay."

On May 5, the union sued President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, challenging a March 27 executive order that the union says illegally stripped it and two affiliated unions of collective bargaining rights.

A representative for the Federal Education Association declined by email July 26 to provide a response on the record about the 20-minute school day extension on Okinawa.

MILITARY

Democrats demand answers on jet funding

By Svetlana Shkolnikova
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Democratic lawmakers are demanding answers from Air Force Secretary Troy Meink on whether funds for a nuclear modernization program are being raided to pay for retrofits to the luxury jet that Qatar gifted to President Donald Trump.

Meink told senators earlier this year that the $400 million Boeing 747-8 jumbo jet will need "significant modifications" to meet Air Force One standards and reports in recent weeks indicate the funding for them will come from the Air Force's Sentinel nuclear missile program.

The program to replace America's ground-launched nuclear missile system is already delayed by several years and 81% over budget.

Lawmakers from both parties have long expressed concerns about its mismanagement and ballooning costs.

"Now, our concerns, and those of other members, appear to be prescient as part of the Sentinel program's bloated budget is being redirected to an unintended purpose: retrofitting the Qatari luxury jet to serve as Air Force One — and subsequently, after he has left office, as the Trump library's private plane," lawmakers wrote in a letter to Meink.

The letter was signed by Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, Ed Markey of Massachusetts and Adam Schiff of California as well as Reps. John Garamendi of California and Jamie Raskin of Maryland.

The lawmakers said the Air Force has yet to provide Congress with the information it needs to ensure the Qatari jet retrofit is not endangering funds needed for the Sentinel program and other critical Air Force initiatives.

The price tag for the retrofit is classified but some lawmakers have speculated it will cost $1 billion to make the plane safe for transporting the president, including installing defenses against surface-to-air missiles, secure communications systems and protections against counterintelligence.

Meink has said the retrofit will not cost "anywhere near" $1 billion, telling the House Armed Services Committee in June that the actual cost will probably be less than $400 million.

But lawmakers said they were disturbed by reports that the Air Force had recently assessed $934 million previously appropriated for the Sentinel program as "excess to need," meaning the money could instead be used to pay for other classified programs, including the Qatari jet retrofit.

"It appears that funds for programs that the Air Force has continually claimed are among its top national security priorities are now being used as accounts for presidential whims, while the egregious lack of transparency hides the true costs of these programs from taxpayers," lawmakers wrote.



Roberto Schmidt/TNS

A Boeing 747 sits on the tarmac of Palm Beach International airport in February. Recent reports indicate funding for modifications to a luxury jet that Qatar gifted to the president will come from the Air Force's Sentinel nuclear missile program.

They are asking Meink to respond by Aug. 20 to a list of questions about the retrofit, how it will be funded and any impacts on the Sentinel program.

"The Air Force should provide Congress with the information it needs to ensure that taxpayer funds are not being wasted," lawmakers wrote.



Cliff Owen/AP

A Marine Corps carry team moves the transfer case containing the remains of Marine Cpl. Santiago Llanes at Dover Air Force Base, Del., on Aug. 6.

Marine corporal's death in Cuba under investigation

By Matthew Adams
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The death of a Marine Corps corporal in Cuba from non-combat injuries is under investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, officials said Thursday.

Cpl. Santiago Llanes, who was assigned to Marine Corps Security Force Company in Guantanamo Bay, was found unresponsive in his barracks room Sunday and pronounced dead at the scene, Lt. Col. Rob Dolan said in a statement. Llanes, who was an assistant administrative chief, joined the Marine Corps in 2022.

"I can confirm that NCIS is conducting an investigation to determine the facts surrounding the death of Marine Cpl. Santiago Llanes, as we do in response to any non-combat, medically unattended deaths of Department of the Navy service members," NCIS spokeswoman Meredith March said in a statement.

Llanes was transferred Wednesday to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware and greeted by a team to honor the fallen in a ceremony known as a dignified transfer.

Military base shootings range from altercations to terrorism

By Ben Finley and Jeff Martin
Associated Press

ATLANTA — The shooting of five U.S. Army soldiers at a base in Georgia on Wednesday is the latest in a growing list of violent occurrences at American military installations over the years. Shootings have ranged from isolated events between service members to attacks on bases to mass-casualty events, such as the shooting by an Army psychiatrist at Texas's Ford Hood in 2009 that left 13 people dead.

In December, a National Guard soldier was charged with murder after authorities said he shot a man at a former girlfriend's residence on the grounds of Fort Gordon. The base outside of Augusta, Ga., is home to the U.S. Army Cyber Command. It was formerly known as Fort Eisenhower.

In December 2022, a soldier was charged with murder in a military court following the fatal shooting of a sergeant at Georgia's Fort Stewart. Both soldiers served in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 3rd Infantry Division. Fort Stewart officials said the soldier used a privately owned gun and that fellow soldiers subdued the gunman before his arrest.

In June 2020, a woman and a man were killed in a shooting at the Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota. The woman's parents later told media outlet KJZZ in Phoenix that she was the victim of domestic violence.

In May 2020, a gunman tried to speed through a security gate at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas, opening fire and wounding a sailor who was a member of base security, authorities said. Security officers shot and killed the attacker, Adam Salim Alsahli, a Corpus Christi resident who had been a student at a community college. The FBI said at the time that the shooting was being investigated as a "terror-related incident." A group that monitors online activity of jihadis said Alsahli voiced support for hard-line clerics.

On Dec. 6, 2019, a Saudi Air Force officer who was training at a Navy base in Pensacola, Fla., killed three U.S. sailors and wounded eight other people in a shooting that U.S. officials described as an act of terrorism. Officials said the gunman, Mohammed Saeed Alshamrani, had been in touch with al-Qaida operatives about planning and tactics. Alshamrani was killed by a sheriff's deputy.

On Dec. 4, 2019, a U.S. Navy sailor used his service rifle to shoot three civilian shipyard workers at the Pearl Harbor military base in Hawaii, killing two of them before killing himself. Gabriel Antonio Romero, 22, of San Antonio, Texas, was said to be unhappy with his commanders and undergoing counseling, although motive was not determined.

In February 2017, a sailor was fatally shot at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach by a security officer after he crashed through a station gate and went to his squadron's hangar. Seaman Robert Colton Wright was reported to be "yelling and causing damage" and moving aggressively toward security officers until one of the officers fired, striking him.

In July 2015, four Marines and a sailor were killed by Kuwait-born Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez, 24, of Hixson, Tenn., who opened fire at a recruiting center in Chattanooga. He then drove several miles away to a Navy and Marine reserve center, where he shot and killed the Marines and wounded the sailor, who later died. Abdulazeez was shot to death by police.

In September 2013, a defense contract employee and former Navy reservist used a valid pass to get onto the Washington Navy Yard. Authorities said Aaron Alexis killed 12 people before he was killed in a gunbattle with police, authorities said.

In November 2009, Army psychiatrist Nidal Hasan killed 13 people and wounded more than 30 at Fort Hood.

He said he was angry about being deployed to Afghanistan and wanted to protect Islamic and Taliban leaders from troops. It was the deadliest attack on a domestic military installation in U.S. history. The Department of Defense called it an act of workplace violence, not terrorism.

MILITARY

Better: Plan envisions ‘multi-mission’ dry dock

FROM PAGE 1

said the dry dock at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard was designed in the 1950s and built in the 1960s.

“Looking into the future, the Ford-class carriers will not fit in it,” he said. “You need to be able to have enough room at the back of the carrier to get the rudder off, get the shaft out, and get the prop off.”

The facility also needs triple the amount of electricity to maintain the operation of the modern-era reliance on computers aboard ships, and new developments such as airplane elevators and launching mechanisms operated by electromagnets instead of steam used for those jobs on current carriers.

The Navy now has only one shipyard in Norfolk, Va., that can handle the Ford-class carriers.

A Ford-class carrier in Honolulu would need 22 days at a speed of 25 knots to travel the more than 13,000 miles to Norfolk, via Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America. The trip from Honolulu to Puget Sound at the same pace would cover 2,500 miles in four days.

Spread across 12,000 acres on a peninsula west of Seattle, Naval Base Kitsap has more than 15,000 sailors and other military personnel, along with more than 30,000 civilians, dependents and retirees.

“We operate and maintain aircraft carriers,” Hale said. “We have all three classes of submarines: fast-attack submarines, guided-missile submarines and ballistic-missile submarines.”

The Navy announced in May that Kitsap would be the homeport of the USS John F. Kennedy, the second Ford-class carrier, after it is commissioned next year.

Earlier this month, it issued a request for information to companies that could redevelop and lengthen a dock used by submarines at the Kitsap submarine base near Bangor.

The constellation of facilities along the west side of Puget Sound includes areas for developing undersea warfare technology and testing autonomous uncrewed vessels. The base is a major fuel depot, maintains torpedoes, and is the only base where retired nuclear-powered submarines can be dismantled and their reactors removed for preservation or disposal.

“The missions here are some of the most important missions that are required — in a part of the world, the Pacific, that is important to national defense,” Hale said.

The new dry dock at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard would also accommodate all sizes of active and proposed Navy ships, including Columbia-class, ballistic-missile submarines.

“So, we term it a multi-mission dry dock,” Gibson said. “It’s robust enough to handle any Navy mission.”

The first of the new class, the USS District of Columbia, is now expected to join the fleet in late 2028. Armed with ballistic missiles, it’s expected to replace the late Cold War-era USS Ohio class of ballistic-missile submarines.

The Navy recently began work on electric upgrades at a pier at Bremerton to upgrade its power supply to support the John F. Kennedy when it arrives in two to three years.

Plans for improving and lengthening a pier at the submarine area at Bangor for Columbia-class submarines and the new Virginia-class submarines were circulated late last month.

The Navy presentation on Thursday officially listed three alternatives. Alternative 1 would essentially do nothing — keeping facilities as they are and not building a new dry dock. Alternative 3 would see significantly less construction and renovation but allow for modernization of existing facilities.

The Navy’s preferred plan — Alternative 2 — would demolish or replace piers, wharves, moorings, cranes, buildings and other facilities at the shipyard. It would build the new dry dock east of the current one and construct “seismically resilient” structures that could survive a major earthquake intact.

The cost of the preferred alternative has not been publicly disclosed. The Navy has reported spending nearly $50 million on the design work alone.

The project faces hurdles. Environmental issues such as the release of fuels, chemicals and solvents into Puget Sound have dogged the shipyard for years. The shipyard is listed as a Superfund site by the Environmental Protection Agency. The draft statement also includes moving aircraft carrier maintenance to a more eastern portion of the shipyard that would increase noise in nearby neighborhoods.

Shipyard backers in Congress have questioned whether the shipyard can attract enough qualified workers to make the new dry dock a feasible operation. Congress is considering bipartisan legislation to exempt welders and other key shipyard workers from workforce cuts pushed by President Donald Trump’s administration under the task force set up by billionaire Elon Musk called the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE.

The more than 1,200 jobs that the project is expected to create would generate more than $76 million for the local economy. But locals would experience additional traffic and competition for parking and housing, the report said.

The Navy’s preferred plan would also lead to changes in an area covered by the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires consultation with local authorities, preservation advocates and representatives of tribal and other stakeholder groups.

The restored World War II-era workshop near the Bremerton Ferry building would have to be moved or demolished.

The soaring Hammerhead crane — once used to lift finished World War II gun turrets onto the decks of battleships — would also be in the way of the project. The crane has been called the “Eiffel Tower of Puget Sound” because of its steel latticework. It would be demolished or moved to another location.

Hale, the base commander, said Kitsap would continue to homeport at least one aircraft carrier and carry on its maintenance missions throughout the dry dock project, which could take 12 years to complete.

“There’s activity that happens here today that will have to move, people work in those areas who will have to be relocated,” he said. “We can’t stop doing the work for 12 years. We’ll have to work around it.”

The Navy is asking for public comment on the “alternatives” through Sept. 3. A final decision on whether to move ahead with the preferred construction plan would officially come in summer 2026.

Hale said the project would ensure the Puget Sound area would remain a key Navy operations center as it has since the late 19th century.

“This demonstrates the commitment that the Navy has to the Pacific Northwest,” he said. “The most important missions that the Navy does are done here.”



JOSEPH PAOLUCCI/U.S. Navy

The Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Topeka arrives to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Bremerton, Wash., in December 2024.

South Korea says North is removing speakers from border

BY KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea’s military said Saturday it detected North Korea removing some of its loudspeakers from the inter-Korean border, days after the South dismantled its own front-line speakers used for anti-North Korean propaganda broadcasts, in a bid to ease tensions.

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff didn’t disclose the sites where the North Koreans were removing speakers and said it wasn’t immediately clear whether the North would take all of them down.

In recent months, South Korean border residents have complained that North Korean speakers blasted irritating sounds, including howling animals and pounding gongs, in a tit-for-tat response to South Korean propaganda broadcasts.

The South Korean military said the North stopped its broadcasts in June after Seoul’s new liberal president, Lee Jae Myung, halted the South’s broadcasts in his government’s first concrete step toward easing tensions between the war-divided rivals. South Korea’s military began removing its speakers from border areas last Monday but didn’t specify how they would be stored or whether they could be quickly redeployed if tensions flared again.

North Korea, which is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of its authoritarian leadership and its third-generation ruler, Kim Jong Un, didn’t immediately confirm it was taking down its speakers.

South Korea’s previous conservative government resumed daily loudspeaker broadcasts in June last year, following a yearslong pause, in retaliation for North Korea flying trash-laden balloons toward the South.

The speakers blasted propaganda messages and K-pop songs, a playlist designed to strike a nerve in Pyongyang, where Kim has been pushing an intense campaign to eliminate the influence of South Korean pop culture and language among the population in a bid to strengthen his family’s dynastic rule.

The Cold War-style psychological warfare campaigns further heightened tensions already inflamed by North Korea’s advancing nuclear program and South Korean efforts to expand joint military exercises with the United States and their trilateral security cooperation with Japan.

Lee, who took office in June after winning an early election to replace ousted conservative Yoon Suk Yeol, wants to improve relations with Pyongyang, which reacted furiously to Yoon’s hard-line policies and shunned dialogue.

MILITARY

Lovell, Apollo 13 commander, dies at age 97

BY RACHEL FELTMAN
The Washington Post

James A. Lovell Jr., the American astronaut who commanded the Apollo 13 spacecraft on its lunar voyage in 1970 and shepherded it on a perilous four-day journey back to Earth after an oxygen tank exploded, an ordeal that transfixed the world, died Aug. 7 in Lake Forest, Ill. He was 97.

NASA announced his death in a statement, which did not cite a cause.

Apollo 13, which became the subject of a film starring Tom Hanks as Lovell, was one of the U.S. space missions most firmly etched in the public consciousness after John Glenn's orbit of the Earth in 1962 and the moon landing of Apollo 11 in 1969.

Those earlier flights were resounding triumphs for the space program, securing American preeminence in the Cold War space race with the Soviet Union. The legacy of Apollo 13 was more complicated — a terrifying episode that spoke to the skill and levelheadedness of the crew trying to stabilize their spacecraft and Mission Control managers back in Houston.

NASA's verdict was that it was a "successful failure," as the space agency gained invaluable experience in crew rescue.

The fate of the Apollo 13 crew — Lovell, Fred Haise and John L. Swigert Jr. — captivated millions. Lovell's years as a Navy test pilot before joining the astronaut corps in 1962 proved invaluable in reversing their desperate situation. But after the heady moments, hours and days immediately after their splashdown in the South Pacific, he said, "NASA just wanted to forget it and move on."

Lovell had participated in three earlier missions, notably on the 1968 voyage aboard the Apollo 8 mission — the first crewed spacecraft to orbit the moon and return safely to Earth. That flight paved the way for Apollo 11 the next year, commanded by Neil Armstrong.

Apollo 13, which took off on April 11, 1970, was meant to be NASA's third lunar landing, a mission that entailed visiting a new landing site and retrieving rock samples. Nine years had passed since President John F. Kennedy declared it a national priority to land an American on the moon and safely return him, and much of the general public already perceived spaceflight as mundane. Viewer drop-off was precipitous.



WILFREDO LEE/AP

President Clinton stands with actor Tom Hanks, left, and former astronaut James Lovell in the Oval Office of the White House on July 26, 1995, after presenting Lovell with the Congressional Space Medal of Honor. Hanks portrayed Lovell in the movie "Apollo 13."

Two days into the flight, Lovell and his crewmates conducted a cheery video tour of life in zero gravity that next to no one watched. The networks declined to show the event live.

"Even the controllers in Mission Control were waiting for us to stop the program because they wanted to get back to the ballgame," Lovell later joked.

Minutes later, a single, thunderous bang rippled through Apollo 13. At first Lovell thought the noise — which was similar to several harmless sounds heard routinely on the craft — was the result of a prank by Haise. But he turned and saw surprise in the other man's eyes.

"That's when the ol' lead weight went down to the bottom of my stomach," he once told an interviewer, "and I thought that we were really in deep trouble."

That unease prompted one of the most harrowing moments in spaceflight history, and surely one of its greatest understatements. Over the radio, Swigert, the command module pilot, initially relayed to Mission Control, "I believe we've had a problem here."

"This is Houston," came the reply. "Say again, please."

Lovell then said, "Houston, we've had a problem."

The line was slightly misquoted in the film "Apollo 13," based on Lovell's memoir "Lost Moon." But the film is otherwise true to the events of the stunted mission.

The explosion, which an investigation later revealed to be the result of a damaged oxygen tank, cost the vessel two of its three fuel cells, the spacecraft's only source of electricity. The oxygen tank responsible for the explosion was emptied, and Lovell could only watch as his crew's precious air — the contents of the second and final tank — spewed out into space.

The crew, stranded 240,000 miles away from Earth, was going to run out of oxygen while their momentum kept them hurtling into space. Their fuel cells would cease to function, plunging them into frigid darkness.

With plans for the lunar landing quickly abandoned, NASA directed the crew to switch off the ship's damaged service module and turn the lunar lander, which had its own air supply, into a jury-rigged lifeboat. The three men crowded into a spacecraft meant to carry two and settled in for a 90-hour flight — twice as long as the Aquarius Lunar Module was built to operate.

Even with barely enough resources to ration their way through a slingshot around the moon and a journey home, there was the problem of trajectory: The ship was now on course to miss Earth by thousands of miles.

Using only the Earth in the window as an indication of their position — the computer systems had all been turned off to conserve the ship's scant electricity for reentry — Lovell had to steer the ship back into place for a trajectory back to Earth.

"We were really flying by the seat of our pants," he said during an interview for "Apollo 13: NASA Mission Reports," published in 2010. "I literally had to learn to fly all over again."

Disqualified USAF recruit sues DOD for discrimination

BY LINDA F. HERSEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A 21-year-old New York man who tried to enlist in the Air Force but was rejected because he had undergone weight-loss surgery filed a federal lawsuit claiming employment discrimination by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and other defense officials over his medical history.

Attorneys for Jacob Guthrie argue the Air Force's recruitment policies violate the Fifth Amendment's due process and equal protection clauses with their "blanket disqualification" of individuals who have undergone bariatric weight-loss procedures that reduce the size of a patient's stomach.

The lawsuit filed July 9 in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia states the Defense Department has maintained a "categorical bar" against potential recruits who have had the weight-loss surgeries but otherwise demonstrate physical readiness and "deployability."

The Defense Department has 60 days to file a formal response to the complaint. A court hearing date has not been scheduled.

Guthrie fully recovered from weight-loss surgery in 2022, passed the Air Force's initial aptitude tests, and has continued to maintain a healthy weight, according to the lawsuit.

Guthrie, who is 6 feet, 3 inches tall, weighed approximately 340 pounds prior to the weight-loss surgery, according to his attorneys. He weighs about 220 pounds today.

"All I want to do is join and serve honorably," said Guthrie, a college graduate with a Bachelor of Science. "This has been a long, emotionally distressing experience. This has not only been a great disservice to [me] but to who knows how many other motivated and qualified applicants across the nation who were denied the opportunity to serve in the [Air Force] because of an out-of-date medical policy."

Guthrie was turned down for military service in 2024 and received three subsequent denials after submitting waiver requests without ever undergoing a physical evaluation by the Air Force to determine fitness, according to the lawsuit.

The complaint asks for the court to invalidate the ban as unconstitutional and for the Air Force to reconsider Guthrie's enlistment.

In addition to Hegseth, Air Force Secretary Troy Meink, and Air Force Lt. Gen. Brian Robinson, commander of air education and training command at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph in Texas, are named as defendants in the case.

The military spends approximately $1.24 billion annually to battle obesity within its own ranks, according to the lawsuit.

More than 100,000 service members received involuntary separations between 2018 and 2022 for weight-related reasons. Yet the military services continue to automatically disqualify otherwise fit recruits who have had weight-loss surgery because of "inflexible" and "outdated" standards implemented nearly 20 years ago, according to the lawsuit.

Guthrie, who underwent what is known as a "laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy," claims he meets Air Force enlistment standards. His complaint argues the Defense Department's policy for rejecting recruits who have had the surgery is applied inconsistently and "fails to address modern medical science and evidence-based treatment" outcomes.

Unlike the categorical ban on applicants with a history of bariatric surgery, there is no blanket exclusion for weight loss drugs, such as Ozempic or Wegovy, his attorneys said.

"Individuals like Jacob Guthrie are being disqualified from serving in the most advanced military in the world based solely on medical history despite being fully fit, healthy and mission ready," said Michelle Salermo, one of the attorneys representing Guthrie.

Obesity was the leading cause for denying military enlistment to an estimated 52,000 recruits in 2023, according to the complaint.

But military policy characterizes bariatric weight-loss surgery as a "permanent anatomical change" that results in strict dietary standards that are incompatible with the military, according to the lawsuit.

But the attorneys argue the weight-loss surgeries have advanced as a "low-risk medical intervention" since the military ban was implemented in 2007.

They said the policy ignores the military's own body of research showing positive outcomes from weight-loss surgeries for service members and veterans that do not interfere with an individual's readiness or ability to serve.

"If we're serious about military readiness, then we need to recognize that 'fit is fit' and that a proven commitment to health should be a qualification and not a disqualification," Salermo said.

MILITARY

Japanese warships visit New Zealand capital

By Charlotte Graham-Mclay
Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Japanese warships docked in New Zealand's capital Friday for the first time in almost 90 years amid efforts by Tokyo to deepen its strategic ties in the South Pacific Ocean.

Two destroyers with more than 500 crew on board sailed into Wellington harbor accompanied by the New Zealand navy ship HMNZS Canterbury.

The JS Ise and destroyer JS Suzunami were on an Indo-Pacific deployment and arrived from Sydney, where Japan's military took part this month in war games involving New Zealand, Australia and other countries.

The Wellington visit was a ceremonial one, but it came as Japan, whose only treaty ally is the United States, has increasingly sought to deepen bilateral military cooperation amid ongoing regional tensions.



Monique Ford/AP

Two ships from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, JS Ise and destroyer JS Suzunami sail into Wellington, New Zealand, to begin a three-day ceremonial port visit, Friday.

"Our defense force are developing cooperative work, not only with New Zealand and Australia but also many Pacific Island countries," Japan's envoy to Wellington, Makoto Osawa, told reporters Friday. "Our main goal is the free and open Indo-Pacific."

The ambassador's remarks followed the announcement Tuesday by Australia's government that Japanese firm Mitsubishi Heavy Industries had won the bid for a contract to build Australian warships, beating out a German firm.

While officials in Canberra said the Japanese proposal was the best and cheapest, they also hailed it as the biggest defense industry agreement between the countries.

New Zealand too has sought to shore up its strategic and military relations in Asia as part of a foreign policy reset in recent years that the government says has turned more attention on Pacific cooperation and security. Officials in Wellington announced in July that work had started on a defense logistics agreement with Japan, intended to make it easier for the countries' militaries to work together.

Japanese naval vessels do not often make visits so far south in the Pacific Ocean, but the rich and strategically important waters of New Zealand, Australia and smaller Pacific Island countries are increasingly contested by the world's major powers, making it the site of a fierce battle for influence between Beijing and Western nations.

Although remote, New Zealand has recently been drawn into more fraught questions of regional security.

In February, live firing exercises by Chinese naval frigates in the Tasman Sea between New Zealand and Australia drew alarm from those countries' governments after flights were forced to divert at short notice.

The last port visit to Wellington by a Japanese naval vessel was in 1936, New Zealand's military said. A Japanese ship visited New Zealand's largest city, Auckland, in 2016.

Trans: Policy called 'arbitrary'

FROM PAGE 1

Days later, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced a policy that would offer currently openly serving transgender troops the option to either volunteer to leave and take a large, one-time separation payout or be involuntarily separated at later date.

A Pentagon official told reporters in May that they viewed the policy as treating "anyone impacted by it with dignity and respect."

However, in late July, transgender troops told Military.com that they were finding the entire separation process, which has included reverting their service records back to their birth gender, "dehumanizing" or "open cruelty."

Shannon Leary, a lawyer who represents LGBTQ+ people in employment discrimination cases, says she expects lawsuits to challenge Thursday's decision. "It seems quite arbitrary on its face and cruel," she said. "These military members have dedicated their lives to serving our country."

Normally, Leary said, when early retirement is offered in the military, it's available to all members who have served over 15 years.

She said she expects other service branches to follow the Air Force's path.

Logan Ireland, a master sergeant in the U.S. Air Force who has 15 years of service, including a deployment to Afghanistan, is one of the airmen impacted by the policy. "I feel betrayed and devastated by the news," he said.

Ireland said he was told that his retirement was being denied on Wednesday when his chain of command, "with tears in their eyes," told him the news.

Officials have said that as of Dec. 9, 2024, there were 4,240 troops diagnosed with "gender dysphoria" on active duty, National Guard and Reserve. Pentagon officials have decided to use the condition and its diagnosis as the main way to identify troops who are trans.

However, the two are not an exact match and some transgender people do not have a diagnosis of gender dysphoria.

As a result, there is an understanding that the actual number of transgender people within the military may be higher.

Under the latest policy, active duty troops had until June 6 to voluntarily identify themselves and receive a payout while troops in the National Guard and Reserve had until July 7.

Pentagon officials previously told reporters that they plan to lean on commanders and existing annual medical screenings to find any transgender service members who do not come forward.

New Zealand, Australia seek closer military ties after Chinese exercise

By Rod Mcguirk
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — The leaders of New Zealand and Australia on Saturday discussed closer cooperation between their expanding militaries against the backdrop of a recent extraordinary Chinese live-fire exercise near their shores.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon hosted his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese at the tourist city of Queenstown for their second annual bilateral leaders' meeting.

Luxon said his country wanted closer military cooperation with Australia, a country he described as being New Zealand's "only ally."

"A big focus for us has been interoperability with Australia. We want to be a force multiplier," Luxon told reporters.

"We want to be one, sort of, essential Anzac force essentially operating within our region," he added, referring to the Australian New Zealand Army Corps in which the two nations' soldiers first fought together during World War I.

The summit follows a Chinese naval flotilla firing weapons in February in the Tasman Sea, which separates Australia and New Zealand.

The exercise forced commercial airlines to divert flights.

The Chinese navy rarely ventures so far south and the mission that partially circumnavigated Australia was seen as a demonstration of China's growing military reach.

Albanese said last month that he complained to China's President Xi Jinping during a state visit to Beijing about the lack of notice the Chinese had given of the live-fire exercise.

Xi replied that Australia had also engaged in similar exercises, referring to freedom of navigation missions conducted by Australian military in the disputed South China Sea.

Albanese and Luxon recognized that their countries currently face the most unpredictable and dangerous strategic environment in decades and their alliance plays a critical role in protecting and advancing their shared interest in the region, they said in a joint statement.

The prime ministers also commended progress over the past year to intensify defense cooperation and integration.

While the statement did not mention China, the prime ministers confirmed their most important trading partner was discussed.

"Of course, the geostrategic competition, in particular between the great powers, is something that countries like Australia and New Zealand do discuss together and we cooperate politically," Albanese said.

Luxon said "both countries have followed pretty much the same playbook" in their bilateral dealings with China.

"China's an important world power. It's important that we can engage," Luxon said.

"We genuinely are able to have a conversation — I think a very mature one now — to say, look, we do have very different histories, we do have different systems, we do have different values, that does mean we do have differences. Good partners should be not afraid to talk about those things," Luxon added.

Luxon announced in April a plan to make the New Zealand Defense Force more combat capable that would double defense spending to more than 2% of GDP.

He described the rise from around 1% over the past two decades as "a big step up for us."

WAR IN UKRAINE

Russia, Ukraine stick to demands before summit

Associated Press

The threats, pressure and ultimatums have come and gone, but Russian President Vladimir Putin has maintained Moscow's uncompromising demands in the war in Ukraine, raising fears he could use a planned summit with President Donald Trump in Alaska to coerce Kyiv into accepting an unfavorable deal.

The maximalist demands reflect Putin's determination to reach the goals he set when he launched the full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

Putin sees a possible meeting with Trump as a chance to negotiate a broad deal that would not only cement Russia's territorial gains but also keep Ukraine from joining NATO and hosting any Western troops, allowing Moscow to gradually pull the country back into its orbit.

The Kremlin leader believes time is on his side as the exhausted and outgunned Ukrainian forces are struggling to stem Russian advances in many sectors of the over 600-mile front line while swarms of Russian missiles and drones batter Ukrainian cities.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also has stood firm in his positions, agreeing to a ceasefire proposed by Trump while reaffirming the country's refusal to abandon seeking NATO membership and rejecting acknowledgment of Russia's annexation of any of its regions.

In a memorandum presented at talks in Istanbul in June, Russia offered Ukraine two options for establishing a 30-day ceasefire. One demanded Ukraine withdraw its forces from Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson — the four regions Moscow illegally annexed in September 2022 but never fully captured.



MIKHAIL METZEL, SPUTNIK/AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs the Security Council meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow on Friday.

As an alternate condition for a ceasefire, Russia made a "package proposal" for Ukraine to halt mobilization efforts, freeze Western arms deliveries and ban any third-country forces on its soil. Moscow also suggested Ukraine end martial law and hold elections, after which the countries could sign a comprehensive peace treaty.

Once there's a truce, Moscow wants a deal to include the "international legal recognition" of its annexations of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and the four regions in 2022.

Russia says a peace treaty should have Ukraine declare its neutral status between Russia and the West, abandon its bid to join NATO, limit the size of its armed forces and recognize Russian as an official language on par with Ukrainian — conditions reflecting Putin's earliest goals.

It also demands Ukraine ban the "glorification and propaganda of Nazism and neo-Nazism" and dissolve nationalist groups. Since the war began, Putin has falsely alleged that neo-Nazi groups were shaping Ukrainian politics under Zelenskyy, who is Jewish. They were fiercely dismissed by Kyiv and its Western allies.

In Russia's view, a comprehensive peace treaty should see both countries lift all sanctions and restrictions, abandon any claims to compensation for wartime damage, resume trade and communications, and reestablish diplomatic ties.

Asked Thursday whether Moscow has signaled any willingness to compromise to make a meeting with Trump possible, Putin's foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov responded that there haven't been any shifts in the Russian position.

The memorandum that Ukraine presented to Moscow in Istanbul emphasized the need for a full and unconditional 30-day ceasefire to set stage for peace negotiations.

It reaffirmed Ukraine's consistent rejection of Russian demands for neutral status as an attack on its sovereignty, declaring it is free to choose its alliances and adding that its NATO membership will depend on consensus with the alliance.

It emphasized Kyiv's rejection of any restrictions on the size and other parameters of its armed forces, as well as curbs on the presence of foreign troops on its soil.



JOHN MCDONNELL/For The Washington Post

President Donald Trump told reporters the terms of a peace agreement may require Ukraine to cede territory to Russia.

Ukraine's memorandum also opposed recognizing any Russian territorial gains, while describing the current line of contact as a starting point in negotiations.

The document noted the need for international security guarantees to ensure the implementation of peace agreements and prevent further aggression.

Kyiv's peace proposal also demanded the return of all deported and illegally displaced children and a total prisoner exchange.

It held the door open to gradual lifting of some of the sanctions against Russia if it abides by the agreement.

Trump has often spoken admiringly of Putin and even echoed his talking points on the war. He had a harsh confrontation with Zelenskyy in the Oval Office on Feb. 28, but later warmed his tone. As Putin resisted a ceasefire and continued his aerial bombardments, Trump showed exasperation with the Kremlin leader, threatening Moscow with new sanctions.

Although Trump expressed disappointment with Putin, his agreement to meet him without Zelenskyy at the table raised worries in Ukraine and its European allies, who fear it could allow the Russian to get Trump on his side and strong-arm Ukraine into concessions.

Trump said without giving details that "there'll be some swapping of territories, to the betterment of both" Russia and Ukraine as part of any peace deal that he will discuss with Putin when they meet Friday.

Putin repeatedly warned Ukraine will face tougher conditions for peace if it doesn't accept Moscow's demands as Russian troops forge into other regions to build what he described as a "buffer zone." Some observers suggested Russia could trade those recent gains for the territories of the four annexed by Moscow still under Ukrainian control.

"That is potentially a situation that gives Putin a tremendous amount of leeway as long as he can use that leverage to force the Ukrainians into a deal that they may not like and to sideline the Europeans effectively," Sam Greene of King's College London said. "The question is, will Trump sign up to that and will he actually have the leverage to force the Ukrainians and the Europeans to accept it?"

European leaders rally behind Ukraine ahead of meeting

BY SAMYA KULLAB
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — European nations have rallied behind Ukraine, saying peace in the war-torn nation can't be resolved without Kyiv, ahead of an upcoming meeting between President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin in Alaska.

Trump said next Friday's meeting with his Russian counterpart on U.S. soil would focus on ending the war, now in its fourth year.

In response, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked European allies in a post on X, writing Sunday: "The end of the war must be fair, and I am grateful to everyone who stands with Ukraine and our people."

Saturday's statement by top European leaders came after the White House confirmed the U.S. president was willing to grant Putin the one-on-one meeting Russia has long pushed for, and suggestions from Trump that a peace deal could include "some swapping of territories." That raised fears that Kyiv may be pressured into giving up land or accepting other curbs on its sovereignty.



FRANK AUGSTEIN/AP

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy leave 10 Downing Street after a meeting in London in June.

A White House official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as they aren't allowed to speak publicly, told The Associated Press that Trump remained open to a trilateral summit with both the Russian and Ukrainian leaders, but for now, he will have a bilateral meeting requested by Putin.

Meanwhile, U.S. Vice President JD Vance met Saturday with top European and Ukrainian officials at the British Foreign Secretary's weekend residence to discuss how to end the war.

Trump had earlier said he would meet with Putin even if the Russian leader would not meet with Zelenskyy.

The Trump-Putin meeting may prove pivotal in a war that began when Russia invaded its western neighbor and has led to tens of thousands of deaths, although there's no guarantee it will stop the fighting since Moscow and Kyiv remain far apart on their conditions for peace.

Saturday's statement, signed by the president of the European Union and leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Finland and the UK, stressed the need for a "just and lasting peace" for Kyiv, including "robust and credible" security guarantees.

"Ukraine has the freedom of choice over its own destiny. Meaningful negotiations can only take place in the context of a ceasefire or reduction of hostilities," the statement said.

"The path to peace in Ukraine cannot be decided without Ukraine. We remain committed to the principle that international borders must not be changed by force," the Europeans added.

NATION

Shooter at CDC said COVID shot led to depression

BY SUSAN HAIGH
Associated Press

A Georgia man who had blamed the COVID-19 vaccine for making him depressed and suicidal has been identified as the shooter who opened fire late Friday on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention headquarters, killing a police officer.

The 30-year-old suspect, who died during the incident, had also tried to get into the CDC's headquarters in Atlanta but was stopped by guards before driving to a pharmacy across the street and opening fire, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The man, identified as Patrick Joseph White, was armed with five guns, including at least one long gun, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the investigation.

A union representing workers at the CDC said the incident was not random and "compounds months of mistreatment, neglect and vilification that CDC staff have endured." It demanded federal officials condemn vaccine misinformation, saying it was putting scientists at risk.

Police say White opened fire outside the CDC headquarters in Atlanta on Friday, leaving bullet marks in windows across the sprawling campus. At least four CDC buildings were hit, Director Susan Monarez said on X.

DeKalb County Police Officer David Rose was mortally wounded while responding. Rose, 33, a former Marine who served in Afghanistan, had graduated from the police academy in March.

White was found on the second floor of a building across the street from the CDC campus and died at the scene, Atlanta Police Chief Darin Schierbaum said. He added that "we do not know at this time whether that was from officers or if it was self-inflicted."

The Georgia Bureau of Investigations said the crime scene was "complex" and the investigation would take "an extended period of time."

The American Federation of Government Employees, Local 2883, said the CDC and leadership of the Department of Health and Human Services must provide a "clear and unequivocal stance in condemning vaccine disinformation."

Such a public statement by federal officials is needed to help prevent violence against scientists, the union said in a news release.

"Their leadership is critical in reinforcing public trust and ensuring that accurate, science-based information prevails," the union said.

Fired But Fighting, a group of laid-off CDC employees, has said HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is directly responsible for the villainization of CDC's workforce through "his continuous lies about science and vaccine safety, which have fueled a climate of hostility and mistrust."

Kennedy reached out to staff on Saturday, saying "no one should face violence while working to protect the health of others."

Thousands of people who work on critical disease research are employed on the campus. The union said some staff were huddled in various buildings until late at night, including more than 90 young children who were locked down inside the CDC's Clifton School.



HYOSUB SHIN, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Officers block Clifton Road near Emory Hospital as they respond to a shooting near the campuses of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Emory University, on Friday, in Atlanta, Ga.

The union said CDC staff should not be required to immediately return to work after experiencing such a traumatic event. In a statement released Saturday, it said windows and buildings should first be fixed and made "completely secure."

"Staff should not be required to work next to bullet holes," the union said. "Forcing a return under these conditions risks re-traumatizing staff by exposing them to the reminders of the horrific shooting they endured."

The union also called for "perimeter security on all campuses" until the investigation is fully completed and shared with staff.

White's father, who contacted police and identified his son as the possible shooter, said White had been upset over the death of his dog and also had become fixated on the COVID-19 vaccine, according to the law enforcement official.

A neighbor of White told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that White "seemed like a good guy" but spoke with her multiple times about his distrust of COVID-19 vaccines in unrelated conversations.

"He was very unsettled, and he very deeply believed that vaccines hurt him and were hurting other people," Nancy Hoalst told the Atlanta newspaper. "He emphatically believed that."

But Hoalst said she never believed White would be violent: "I had no idea he thought he would take it out on the CDC."

Walmart knew about bottle risk 7 years ago

BY TODD C. FRANKEL
The Washington Post

It sounded like Walmart was moving quickly.

The retailer said last month the public should immediately stop using its Ozark Trail 64-ounce stainless-steel water bottles because the plastic lid "can forcefully eject," which led to three injuries, including to two people who said they were partially blinded by flying bottle caps. Walmart said it voluntarily decided to stop selling the product and was offering $15 refunds to remove the 850,000 bottles already on the market, according to a July 10 notice posted on the Consumer Product Safety Commission's website.

"The health and safety of our customers is always a top priority," the company said in a statement that traveled widely across social media.

But this was not a new problem, according to a review of CPSC documents and lawsuits.

Walmart had known about the danger since 2018. That detail wasn't mentioned in the recall notice. The company and regulator confirmed the information following Post inquiries.

In fact, three injuries had occurred within months of one another seven years earlier.

The retailer said it promptly reported the three incidents to the CPSC in 2018, as required by law.

Walmart could have decided to announce a recall then, but the CPSC didn't ask for one, according to a Walmart official familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The CPSC declined to comment on what actions it took in response to Walmart's notifications over the years.

Smithsonian restores Trump to impeachment display in museum

BY JANAY KINGSBERRY AND MAURA JUDKIS
The Washington Post

The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History on Friday unveiled an updated impeachment display that now includes context about President Donald Trump's historic cases — a change the institution made a week after The Washington Post reported that a temporary placard containing his name had been removed from the exhibit as part of a Smithsonian content review prompted by White House pressure to oust a museum director. The new text makes minor changes to — and offers slightly fewer details than — the temporary signage.

"The National Museum of American History has completed its update to the Impeachment case within 'The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden' exhibition," the Smithsonian said in a statement on Friday. "The updated display now reflects all presidential impeachments. Adhering to principles foundational to our role as the nation's museum, we take great care to ensure that what we present to the public reflects both intellectual integrity and thoughtful design."

The statement said that the interim sign, which had been in place from September 2021 until this July, was removed because it was not consistent with other sections of the exhibit and blocked the display case. "We removed it to make way for a more permanent update to the content inside the case," the Smithsonian said.

The removal drew swift outcry from some members of the public as well as several Democratic leaders. The Smithsonian Institution has faced growing concerns about political interference at the education and research complex amid the Trump administration's efforts to exert more control over its work.

Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer called the removal "pathetic" during Senate floor remarks last week. "You can't make this up," he said. "This is a man rewriting history — or thinking he can rewrite history. He can't, but he thinks he can."

The Smithsonian said last week that no government official asked them to remove content from the exhibit. It also said that no other changes had been made at the museum.

In a statement, Lindsey Halligan, a White House official charged with scrutinizing "improper ideology" at the Smithsonian, reiterated that the White House wasn't involved with the revision. "That said, it's encouraging to see the institution taking steps that align with President Trump's Executive Order to restore truth to American History. As part of that truth, it's important to note that President Trump was acquitted twice by Senate, fully and on every count — a fact that belongs in the historical record."

Some edits to the display's text are evident, including the addition of the word "alleged" in the placard's description of the conduct that led to Trump's first impeachment. The display's main panel was also updated to include Trump's name alongside Andrew Johnson, Richard M. Nixon and Bill Clinton.

NATION

Texas walkout launches national map fight

By Nadia Lathan
AP/Report For America

AUSTIN, Texas — A weeklong walkout by Texas House Democrats is blocking redrawn congressional maps sought by President Donald Trump and put in motion a broadening fight across the U.S. over redistricting.

There is still no swift end in sight to the standoff that has scattered dozens of Texas Democrats to Illinois, New York and California, where they have been given a warm reception by blue state governors and national party leaders.

As the holdout has dragged on, Texas Republicans have ratcheted up the pressure to try compelling them back. GOP state leaders have asked courts to remove absent Democratic lawmakers from office, issued civil arrest warrants and mobilized state troopers.

It is a political fight that has now spanned in state legislatures across the nation — from California to Florida — as Trump seeks to gain more winnable U.S. House seats and preserve the GOP's slim majority after the 2026 midterm elections.

On Aug. 3, Texas House Democrats fled to Illinois, Massachusetts and New York to stop the GOP-controlled state legislature from passing new U.S. House maps that would give Republicans more winnable seats in 2026.



Leah Willingham/AP

Texas State Sen. Carol Alvarado speaks in a crowd of other Democratic state lawmakers outside the Massachusetts State House on Wednesday.

The chamber needs at least 100 of its 150 members to do business. The Democratic Party has taken advantage of this by orchestrating the majority of its 62 members to remain outside the state.

Congressional maps are typically redrawn once every 10 years to coincide with population shifts captured by the census and is rare for it to occur in the middle of the decade. Democrats say the unusual mid-cycle redistricting is a partisan power grab by the Trump administration. California Gov. Gavin Newsom is scrambling to call for a November special election to ask voters to redraw the state's maps in retaliation if Texas proceeds. Govs. Kathy Hochul of New York and JB Pritzker of Illinois have also said they would consider partisan redistricting.

Republicans are considering their own counter effort, too. In Florida, the speaker of the house said the chamber will take up this issue in a special redistricting committee this fall, and Vice President JD Vance met with Republican Indiana Gov. Mike Braun to discuss redistricting.

Texas Democrats face fines of up to $500 each day they are absent from the chamber, a rule that was adopted after the party walked in 2021 over a bill that tightened voting restrictions.

Democratic lawmakers have largely scoffed at threats of their arrests and attempts to remove them from office.

The special session ends on Aug. 19. The governor has threatened to keep calling lawmakers into special sessions until Democrats return.

Fire winds down, heat wave bears down on S. California

By Jasmine Mendez
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — As Southern California continued to experience a heat wave, officials on Saturday lifted the final evacuation orders in areas affected by the Canyon fire, which has burned more than 5,000 acres in northern Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

With the fire about 28% contained, overnight fire activity was "minimal" and crews worked to further secure the perimeter, protect structures and look for hot spots, according to the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

The Canyon fire broke out Thursday northeast of Piru in Ventura County.

By Thursday night, the fire had surged to 5,000 acres, triggering evacuations and advancing toward Castaic Lake and Interstate 5. The cause is under investigation.

Battalion Chief James Agee of the Kern County Fire Department was seriously injured Friday when the pickup truck he was driving rolled over in the Romero Canyon area in Castaic, where he was involved in a team effort to monitor Canyon fire along the ridge line, a fire official said.

He was airlifted to Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital in Valencia.

"James is a strong man with a big heart, and we know he's facing this challenge with the same strength and character he's shown throughout his career," said Kern County Fire Chief Aaron Duncan in a statement.

"We are grateful for the swift actions of our crews and partner agencies, and for the kindness being shown to his family." the statement said.

Agee is in stable condition but still being treated for his serious injuries, the public information officer said Saturday.

The region's hot spell hampered efforts to quell the fire, triggering poor air conditions, according to the National Weather Service.

Inland valley areas were expected to see triple-digit temperatures throughout the weekend, with forecast highs of 106 in Lancaster and 103 in Northridge, according to the National Weather Service.

Inland Empire communities could expect temperatures between 97 and 104 degrees, with a heat advisory lifting by 8 p.m. Monday.



Marcio Jose Sanchez/AP

A resident rides a golf cart as he exits his property while the Canyon Fire burns on Thursday in Halsey Canyon, Calif.

Department of Justice subpoenas NY attorney general, US senator

By Eric Tucker and Alanna Durkin Richer
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department is escalating efforts to scrutinize perceived adversaries of President Donald Trump with investigations into New York Attorney General Letitia James and U.S. Sen. Adam Schiff.

The Justice Department has subpoenaed James for records related to a lawsuit the Democrat filed against Trump over alleged fraud in his personal business dealings, according to a person familiar with the matter. It's part of an investigation into whether James violated Trump's civil rights, another person said. Another subpoena seeks records related to a lawsuit involving the National Rifle Association and its longtime leader Wayne LaPierre.

The people could not publicly discuss details of the investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on Friday on the condition of anonymity.

Attorney General Pam Bondi this week also named Ed Martin as a special prosecutor to help conduct separate mortgage fraud investigations into James and Democratic U.S. Sen. Adam Schiff of California, one of the people said. James and Schiff have denied any wrongdoing and called the claims politically motivated.

The moves are among the most serious yet the Justice Department has taken against political foes of the president, who vowed on the campaign trail to seek retribution against his opponents. Schiff and James are both vocal critics of Trump, and James has sued Trump and his Republican administration dozens of times over his policies as president and over how he conducted his private business empire.

News of the subpoenas comes as the Justice Department advances an investigation into the Trump-Russia probe that shadowed Trump for much of his first term as president and as the administration has engaged in a widespread purge from the workforce of law enforcement officials who had been involved in examining the activities of Trump and his supporters.

NATION

Tariffs to raise prices even more

By Abha Bhattarai and Jaclyn Peiser
The Washington Post

Americans are paying more for appliances, home furnishings, toys and shoes than they were a few months ago, and they could soon face higher prices on more goods as the Trump administration's latest round of sharper tariffs kicks in.

The newest round of duties took effect at midnight Thursday, lifting the average U.S. tariff rate to its highest level since the Great Depression. The move solidifies the president's trade policy after months of negotiations, meaning more manufacturers and retailers are expected to begin raising prices in short order.

"Tariffs have moved from being tentative to permanent — and that changes how American businesses are going to respond," said Justin Wolfers, a professor of public policy and economics at the University of Michigan. "You're going to start seeing higher prices as soon as businesses become convinced this will stick around."

The higher tariffs, which businesses pay to the federal government to import goods, are as high as 50% for Brazil and India but just 15% for the European Union and Japan.

For consumers, that escalation is expected to result in higher prices, costing households an average of $2,400 per year, according to estimates from the Budget Lab at Yale University. Americans are likely to face large markups on clothing in the coming months, including a 39% increase in prices for leather shoes and bags and a 37% rise in clothing costs, the research center found. Even after long-run supply chain adjustments and buying shifts, those prices could remain elevated by nearly 20%.

Food prices, meanwhile, could rise more than 3%, while fresh produce could become 7% more expensive as a result of the Trump administration's tariffs, the Budget Lab found. The center also expects cars — which often rely on components from several different countries — to get 12% more expensive, adding $6,000 to the price of an average new vehicle.

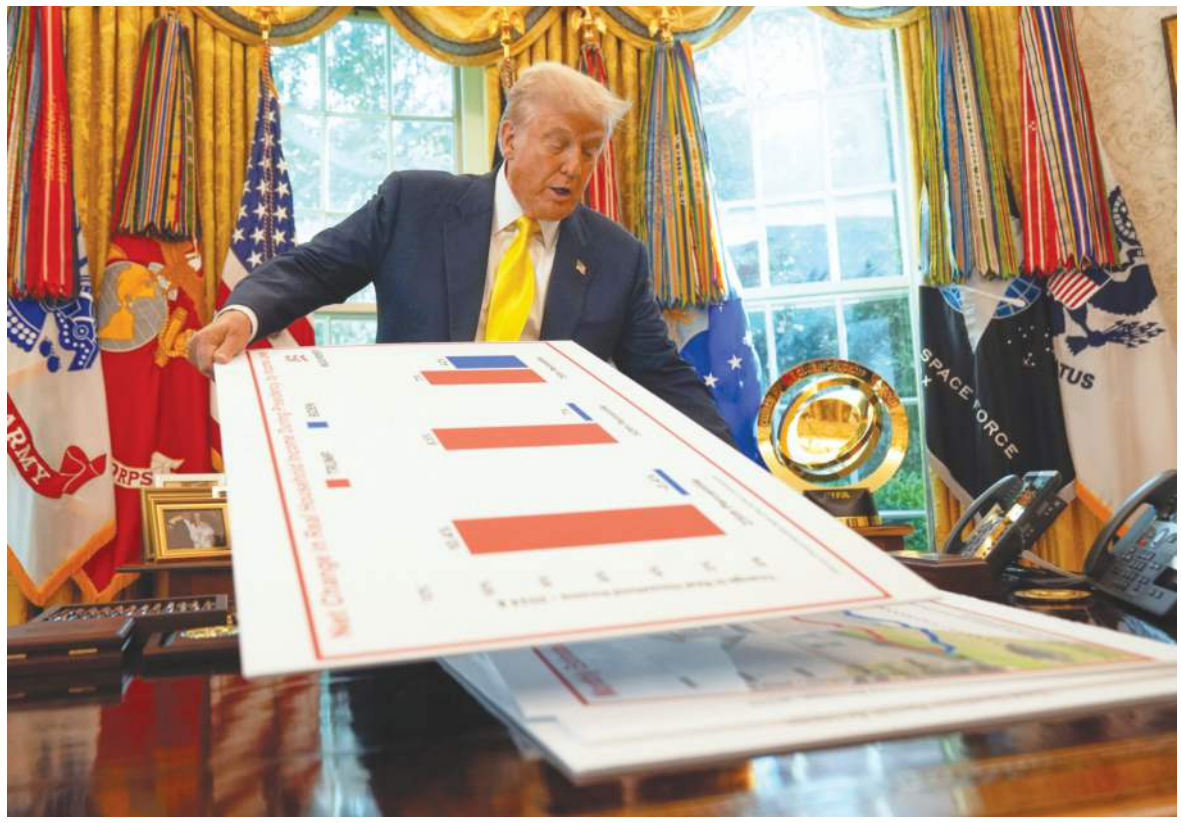
Although businesses have so far absorbed the brunt of new tariffs, by covering higher costs themselves or relying on earlier stockpiles of inventory to keep them going, that is quickly changing. Major retailers, including Costco, Williams-Sonoma and Target, that loaded up on products earlier in the year are beginning to deplete those reserves, analysts say.

"Consumers are going to pay, starting with their morning coffee," said Robert Blecker, an economics professor at American University, referring to the 50% tariff on coffee from Brazil. "Although it does seem a lot of firms have been eating some of the tariffs by shaving their profit margins and holding the line on prices, that can't go on forever."

Walmart, the country's largest retailer, has begun marking up baby gear, kitchenware and toys. Nike is raising prices on some of its shoes, and many others are beginning to warn consumers that price increases are around the corner.

Procter & Gamble, the maker of Tide laundry detergent, Pampers diapers and Oral-B toothbrushes, said it would start raising prices in August on some products by about 2.5% to help offset $1 billion in tariff costs.

The toy industry, which imports more than 75% of its products from China, has been among the first to pass on higher costs from the president's trade war. Toy prices rose by 3.2% between April and June, far outpacing overall inflation of 0.4% in that period, federal data shows.



Mark Schiefelbein/AP

President Donald Trump holds charts as he speaks about the economy in the Oval Office on Thursday.

Trump defends US economy with charts after job reports

By Josh Boak
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump unexpectedly summoned reporters to the Oval Office on Thursday to present them with charts that he says show the U.S. economy is solid following a jobs report last week that raised red flags and led to the Republican firing the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Joining Trump to talk about the economy was Stephen Moore, a senior visiting fellow in economics at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

Flipping through a series of charts on an easel, Moore sought to elevate Trump's performance as president and diminish the record of former President Joe Biden. Trump stood next to Moore and interjected with approvals.

The moment in the Oval Office spoke to the president's hopes to reset the narrative of the U.S. economy. While the stock market has been solid, job growth has turned sluggish and inflationary pressures have risen in the wake of new tarriffs.

Moore said he phoned Trump because he put together some data that shows he was correct to dismiss Erika McEntarfer as the head of the BLS. He noted that's because reports from the BLS had overestimated the number of jobs created during the last two years of Biden's term by 1.5 million.

"I think they did it purposely," said Trump, who has yet to offer statistical evidence backing his theory. Revisions are a standard component of jobs reports and tend to be larger during periods of economic disruption.

The economy has seldom conformed to the whims of any president, often presenting pictures that are far more mixed and nuanced than what can easily be sold to voters. Through the first seven months of this year, employers have added 597,000 jobs, down roughly 44% from the gains during the same period in 2024.

The July jobs report showed that just 73,000 jobs were added last month, while the May and June totals were revised downward by 258,000.

While Biden did face downward revisions on his job numbers, the economy added 2 million jobs in 2024 and 2.6 million in 2023.

The fundamental challenge in Biden's economy was the jolt of inflation as the annual rate of the consumer price index hit a four-decade high in June 2022.

There are signs of inflation heating back up under Trump because of his tariffs. On Thursday, Goldman Sachs estimated that the upcoming inflation report for July will show that consumer prices rose 3% over the past 12 months, which would be up from a 2.3% reading in April.

Whitmer told Trump auto jobs depend on tariff change of course

By Joey Cappelletti and Josh Boak
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer met privately in the Oval Office with President Donald Trump to make a case he did not want to hear: the automotive industry he wants to save were being hurt by his tariffs.

The Democrat came with a slide deck to make her points in a visual presentation. Just getting the meeting Tuesday with the Republican president was an achievement for someone viewed as a contender for her party's White House nomination in 2028.

Whitmer's strategy for dealing with Trump highlights the conundrum for her and other Democratic leaders as they try to protect the interests of their states while voicing their opposition to his agenda. It's a dynamic that Whitmer has navigated differently from many other Democratic governors.

On Tuesday, she told the president that the economic damage from the tariffs could be severe in Michigan, a state that helped deliver him the White House in 2024. Whitmer also brought up federal support for recovery efforts after an ice storm and sought to delay changes to Medicaid.

Whitmer is hardly the only one sounding the warning of the potentially damaging consequences, including factory job losses, lower profits and coming price increases, of the import taxes that Trump has said will be the salvation for American manufacturing.

Under his series of executive orders and trade frameworks, U.S. automakers face import taxes of 50% on steel and aluminum, 30% on parts from China and a top rate of 25% on goods from Canada and Mexico not covered under an existing 2020 trade agreement. That puts America's automakers and parts suppliers at a disadvantage against German, Japanese and South Korean vehicles that only face a 15% import tax negotiated by Trump last month.

Whitmer's two earlier meetings with Trump resulted in gains for Michigan. But the tariffs represent a significantly broader request of a president who has imposed them even more aggressively in the face of criticism.

Materials in the presentation brought by Whitmer to the meeting noted how trade with Canada and Mexico has driven $23.2 billion in investment to Michigan since 2020. Since Trump returned to the White House, Michigan has lost 7,500 manufacturing jobs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NATION

Trump picks Miran to join Federal Reserve board

By Christopher Rugaber and Josh Boak
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Thursday he will nominate a top economic adviser to the Federal Reserve's board of governors for four months, temporarily filling a vacancy while continuing his search for a longer-term appointment.

Trump said he has named Stephen Miran, the chair of the White House's Council of Economic Advisers, to fill a seat vacated by governor Adriana Kugler, a Biden appointee who is stepping down Friday. Miran, if approved by the Senate, will serve until Jan. 31, 2026.

The appointment is Trump's first opportunity to exert more control over the Fed, one of the few remaining independent federal agencies.

Trump has relentlessly criticized the current chair, Jerome Powell, for keeping short-term interest rates unchanged, calling him "a stubborn MORON" recently on social media.



Alex Brandon/AP

The president has said he will nominate Stephen Miran, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, to a vacated seat on the Federal Reserve's board of governors.

Miran has been a major defender of Trump's income tax cuts and tariff hikes, arguing that the combination will generate enough economic growth to reduce budget deficits.

He also has played down the risk of Trump's tariffs generating higher inflation, a major source of concern for Powell.

The choice of Miran may heighten concerns about political influence over the Fed, which has traditionally been insulated from day-to-day politics. Fed independence is generally seen as key to ensuring that it can take difficult steps to combat inflation, such as raising interest rates, that politicians might be unwilling to take.

Miran's nomination, if approved, would add a near-certain vote in support of lower interest rates.

Kugler had echoed Powell's view that the Fed should keep rates unchanged and further evaluate the impact of tariffs on the economy before making any moves.

Trump has said he will appoint Fed officials who will cut interest rates, which he says will reduce the borrowing costs of the federal government's huge $36 trillion debt pile. Trump also wants lower rates to boost moribund home sales, which have been held back partly by higher mortgage costs. Yet the Fed doesn't directly set longer-term interest rates for things like home and car purchases.

Still, even with Miran on the board, 12 Fed officials vote on interest rate policy and many remain concerned that Trump's sweeping tariffs could push inflation higher in the coming months.

Miran could be renominated to a longer term on the Fed once his initial appointment is concluded, or replaced by another nominee.

Powell's term as chair ends in May 2026. Yet, Powell could remain on the board of governors until January 2028, even after he steps down as chair.

That would deny, or at least delay, an opportunity for Trump to appoint an additional policymaker to the Fed's board.

Federal Reserve official: Jobs data backs case for 3 rate cuts

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A top official at the Federal Reserve said Saturday that this month's stunning, weaker-than-expected report on the U.S. job market is strengthening her belief that interest rates should be lower.

Michelle Bowman was one of two Fed officials who voted a week and a half ago in favor of cutting interest rates. Such a move could help boost the economy by making it cheaper for people to borrow money to buy a house or a car, but it could also threaten to push inflation higher.

Bowman and a fellow dissenter lost out after nine other Fed officials voted to keep interest rates steady, as the Fed has been doing all year. The Fed's chair, Jerome Powell, has been adamant that he wants to wait for more data about how President Donald Trump's tariffs are affecting inflation before the Fed makes its next move.

At a speech during a bankers' conference in Colorado on Saturday, Bowman said that "the latest



Bowman

labor market data reinforce my view" that the Fed should cut interest rates three times this year. The Fed has only three meetings left on the schedule in 2025.

The jobs report that arrived last week, only a couple of days after the Fed voted on interest rates, showed that employers hired far fewer workers last month than economists expected. It also said that hiring in prior months was much lower than initially thought.

On inflation, meanwhile, Bowman said she is getting more confident that Trump's tariffs "will not present a persistent shock to inflation" and sees it moving closer to the Fed's 2% target.

Inflation has come down substantially since hitting a peak above 9% after the pandemic, but it has been stubbornly remaining above 2%.

A fear is that Trump's tariffs could box in the Federal Reserve by sticking the economy in a worst-case scenario called "stagflation," where the economy stagnates but inflation is high.

The Fed has no good tool to fix that, and it would likely have to prioritize either the job market or inflation before helping the other.

On Wall Street, expectations are that the Fed will have to cut interest rates at its next meeting in September after the U.S. jobs report came in so much below economists' expectations.

STARS AND STRIPES
SERVICE DIRECTORY
The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market

Transportation 944

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WORLD

Netanyahu defends military offensive in Gaza

By Wafaa Shurafa, Sam Metz and Samy Magdy
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday sought to defend a new military offensive in one of Gaza 's most populated areas amid growing condemnation at home and abroad, declaring that Israel "has no choice but to finish the job and complete the defeat of Hamas."

He spoke to foreign media just before an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council on Gaza. Notably, Netanyahu said he has directed Israel's military to "bring in more foreign journalists" — which would be a striking development, as they haven't been allowed into Gaza beyond military embeds during 22 months of war.



Abir Sultan/AP

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks during a press conference at the Prime minister's office in Jerusalem, Sunday.

"Our goal is not to occupy Gaza, our goal is to free Gaza," Netanyahu asserted. He also rejected what he called a "global campaign of lies" — and said Chancellor Friedrich Merz of Germany, one of Israel's strongest backers, had "buckled under" by stopping exports of military equipment to Israel that could be used in Gaza. Merz, for his part, told public broadcaster ARD that Germany and Israel were talking "very critically" but Berlin's overall policies of friendship haven't changed.

Netanyahu said there is a "fairly short timetable" for next steps in Gaza, but didn't give specifics. The goals, he said, include demilitarizing the territory, the Israeli military having "overriding security control" and a non-Israeli civilian administration in charge.

Netanyahu again blamed many of Gaza's problems on the Hamas militant group, including civilian deaths, destruction and aid shortages.

The prime minister, who has asserted that there is "no starvation in Gaza," did acknowledge hunger, saying, "there was a problem with deprivation, no question about it." Israel wants to increase the number of aid distribution sites, he said.

Israel's air and ground offensive has displaced most Palestinians and pushed the territory toward famine. Two Palestinian children died of malnutrition-related causes on Saturday, bringing the toll among children to 100 since the war began.

The hunger toll is in addition to the ministry's war toll of 61,400 Palestinians.

Germany halts military exports 'until further notice' to Israel

By Fanny Brodersen and Sam McNeil
Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany won't authorize any exports of military equipment to Israel that could be used in Gaza "until further notice," Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Friday, in a strikingly quick response by one of Israel's strongest international backers to a decision by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet to take over Gaza City.

The move by Germany, which has previously stopped short of tougher lines against Israel's government taken by some of its European Union allies, appeared likely to further isolate Israel in the wake of the military takeover plan that has been decried by the United Nations, aid and human rights groups, and supporters of Israeli hostages still held in Gaza, among others.

Germany, along with the United States and Italy, is among the top foreign suppliers of equipment used by Israel's military. The pause adds to action taken by European countries — including economic, military and diplomatic measures — against Israel in recent months out of concern over its government's conduct in the nearly two-year war in Gaza.

Merz said in a statement that Israel "has the right to defend itself against Hamas' terror" and that the release of Israeli hostages and purposeful negotiations toward a ceasefire are "our top priority." He said that Hamas mustn't have a role in the future of Gaza.

"The even harsher military action by the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip, approved by the Israeli Cabinet last night, makes it increasingly difficult for the German government to see how these goals will be achieved," he said. "Under these circumstances, the German government will not authorize any exports of military equipment that could be used in the Gaza Strip until further notice."

Netanyahu spoke with Merz Friday and expressed disappointment with the arms decision, according to an Israeli government statement. Germany is rewarding Hamas and failing to support Israel's "just war" against the group, the statement said.

It wasn't immediately clear which military equipment from Germany would be affected. Asked by The Associated Press for details, the German government declined to comment.

Germany has led efforts among the EU's 27 member nations to block collective criticism of or efforts to stop Israel's blockade of Gaza and military campaign in the coastal enclave.

Alongside Hungary and the Czech Republic, Germany has argued against calls from Spain, Ireland and the Netherlands to scrap a bilateral agreement with Israel, sanction settlers, and enact an arms embargo.

Germany, which has stood firmly with Israel, "is openly admitting that it is uncomfortable with Israel's actions and limiting some arms transfers, and for Germany this is a huge deal," he said. "However, I don't think this alone will stop Israel's operations in Gaza, and Israel still has the USA as a committed arms supplier."

German-made engines can be fitted in Israeli Merkava tanks and Namer armored personnel carriers, which are actively deployed in Gaza. Sa'ar corvettes — small warships festooned with sophisticated radar equipment and cannons — from Germany have been used to shell targets in Gaza during the war, Hussain said.

The German news agency DPA, citing figures from the Germany Economy Ministry, in early June reported that the government had approved 485 million euros (about $565 million) worth of arms exports to Israel between Oct. 7, 2023 and May 13 this year.

Demonstrators seeking release of Gaza hostages march in London

By Danica Kirka
Associated Press

LONDON — Demonstrators seeking the release of Israeli hostages marched in central London on Sunday as the war in Gaza continues to inflame tensions across the United Kingdom.

The protesters, who planned to march to the prime minister's residence for a rally, include Noga Guttman, a cousin of 24-year-old hostage Evyatar David, who was featured in a video that enraged Israelis when it was released by Hamas militants last week.

The video showed an emaciated David saying he was digging his own grave inside a tunnel in Gaza.

Hamas-led militants kidnapped 251 people when they attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. Some 50 of the hostages still haven't been released, of whom 20 are thought to be alive.

Israel last week announced its intention to occupy Gaza City as part of a plan to end the war and bring the captives home.

Family members and many international leaders have condemned the plan, saying it would lead to more bloodshed and endanger the hostages.

"We are united in one clear and urgent demand: the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages," Stop the Hate, a coalition of groups organizing the march, said in a statement.

"Regardless of our diverse political views, this is not a political issue — it is a human one."

The march comes a day after police arrested 532 people at a protest in support of a banned pro-Palestinian organization.



Alberto Pezzali/AP

Demonstrators hold placards as they take part in the March for Hostages, in London, Sunday.

The demonstrators on Saturday sought to pressure the government to overturn its decision to ban the group Palestine Action as a terrorist organization. Legislation passed last month makes it a crime to publicly support the group.

The Metropolitan Police Service said it arrested 522 people for supporting Palestine Action. A further 10 were arrested on other charges, including assaults on police officers.

The government banned Palestine Action after activists broke into a Royal Air Force base and damaged two tanker planes to protest British support for the war in Gaza.

Palestine Action had previously targeted Israeli defense contractors and other sites in Britain that they believe have links with the Israeli military.

Supporters of Palestine Action are challenging the ban in court, saying the government has gone too far in declaring a direct action group a terrorist organization.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Beaches saw high levels of fecal bacteria regularly

MA BOSTON — Over half of all Massachusetts beaches had an unsafe level of fecal bacteria last year, and 47 beaches reached the danger zone at least a quarter of the time they were tested, according to an Environment Massachusetts Research and Policy Center report released last week.

The report by Environment Massachusetts analyzed how many days over 3,000 beaches across the U.S. hit a dangerous threshold of fecal indicator bacteria. Nationwide, 61% of tested beaches tested positive for contamination at least once in 2024.

The threshold, the EPA's "Beach Action Value," is an estimated illness rate of 32 out of every 1,000 swimmers. Swimmers in polluted water may develop gastrointestinal illness, respiratory disease, ear and eye infection, and skin rash, the report states.

The 47 beaches in Massachusetts with the higher numbers of dangerous pollution days spread across the state's coast, researchers said, including North Shore, South Shore, Boston, Cape Cod, Buzzards Bay and the Islands.



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Hot wax on a horse

A worker with the National Park Service uses a flame torch to apply a coat of hot wax during a cleaning of the 1876 bronze statue of Civil War hero, Union Brig. Gen. James B. McPherson during cleaning last week.

Beauty queen: Rep. Mills threatened revenge porn

FL TALLAHASSEE — The reigning Miss United States claims a Florida congressman threatened to release sex tapes and nude videos of her after she ended their relationship.

Lindsey Langston, 25, says U.S. Rep. Cory Mills, a 45-year-old Republican, grew increasingly upset after she broke off their relationship in February, Politico reported Tuesday. In addition to her pageant career, Langston is a Republican state committee member.

In several messages on multiple platforms, Mills threatened to spread explicit videos of Langston and also made vague threats against any men who dated her in the future, according to a police report first obtained by D.C. outlet Drop Site News.

Langston said she ended her relationship with Mills after he was accused in February of assaulting another woman in Washington, D.C. No charges were filed in that case.

City workers searched landfill for court records

LA NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans clerk of court staff stood ankle-deep in a massive landfill, digging through mounds of trash, to salvage court records that the city erroneously discarded.

As photos surfaced online — showing city staff scouring for the misplaced documents among heaps of garbage — city and state officials were outraged over the situation.

In a statement, Clerk of Criminal District Court Darren Lombard blasted the city for an "egregious breach of responsibility and negligence" of public records. Photos shared by the criminal clerk of court's office show city workers standing in debris beside an excavator and extracting tattered papers from heaps of garbage earlier last week.

Lombard said he was notified Aug. 1 that containers housing official court documents had been relocated from trailers without his knowledge and, in at least one instance, destroyed. He blamed the Department of Public Works for moving the records and said he dispatched city employees to recover what they could.

Federal approval of major wind farm reversed

ID BOISE — The Trump administration last week canceled a major wind farm development in Idaho, a project approved late in former President Joe Biden's term that had drawn criticism for its proximity to a historic site where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II.

The Bureau of Land Management in December signed off on a scaled-down plan for the Lava Ridge Wind Project northeast of Twin Falls, with 241 wind turbines instead of 400. But the development had been on hold since the first day of President Donald Trump's second term, when he issued an executive order halting the permitting of wind power projects across the country and telling the Interior Department to review the Lava Ridge decision.

The project, five years in the works, faced opposition from local residents concerned about the height of the turbines — up to 660 feet, or more than twice the height of the Statue of Liberty. It also drew concerns it would spoil views from the Minidoka National Historic Site, where thousands of Japanese Americans were imprisoned during World War II.

Court rules it's legal to possess 'ghost guns'

MN MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Supreme Court ruled in a split decision last week that it is legal for Minnesotans to possess ghost guns without a serial number because current state law does not clearly restrict it.

Justice Paul Thissen's majority opinion delves into the intersection between federal law around what firearms require a serial number and the Minnesota legal statute for felony possession of a firearm without a serial number.

The case stemmed from a single-vehicle car crash in Fridley in 2022. A Minnesota state trooper who arrived on the scene saw a gun magazine inside the car and the driver told the trooper he had a pistol.

The trooper found a black 9-millimeter Glock 19 without a serial number and identified it as a privately made firearm, which are commonly called ghost guns.

The driver was charged with possessing a firearm without a serial number and filed a motion to dismiss the charge.

State's first malaria case possibly contracted

WA SEATTLE — A woman in east Pierce County contracted malaria despite not having traveled out of state recently, according to the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

The woman was diagnosed with malaria Aug. 2 and is receiving treatment, a news release states.

If the investigation finds the woman contracted the disease from a mosquito in Washington, it would be the state's first locally acquired case. It would also be the first known instance of malaria being contracted west of the Rockies.

The county health department is working with the state Department of Health and the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to investigate the source of the infection.

Man ambushes troopers after killing neighbor

PA THOMPSON — A 61-year-old man shot and killed his neighbor in rural Pennsylvania Thursday and then ambushed first responders, police said. The attacker was later killed by police.

The boyfriend of Lori Wasko, the woman who was killed, called 911 from their home near Thompson to report that shots had been fired, state police Col. Christopher Paris said. Police did not say why Carmine Faino decided to kill 57-year-old Wasko outside her home and then open fire on the others.

Police said after shooting state troopers Joseph Perechinsky and William Jenkins, Faino shot a police drone from the sky while sitting next to a propane tank they feared could be used as a bomb.

Then, Perechinsky, with two chest wounds, commandeered a tractor-trailer that was driving by to block the roadway and prevent other motorists from driving into harm's way.

The wounded Perechinsky applied a tourniquet to Jenkins before two other troopers were able to help rescue them, Paris said.

Faino also fired at an SUV operated by a responding emergency worker, Paris said, and the man was injured when that vehicle veered off the roadway. He was treated for injuries, Paris said.

Faino had a rifle and did not comply with demands, a state police statement said. He was "ultimately shot and killed during the incident," police said.

From The Associated Press and Tribune News Service

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OPINION

Why we should build a reactor on the moon

BY MICHELLE L.D. HANLON
The Conversation

In April 2025, China reportedly unveiled plans to build a nuclear power plant on the Moon by 2035. This plant would support its planned international lunar research station.

The United States countered in August, when acting NASA Administrator Sean Duffy reportedly suggested a U.S. reactor would be operational on the Moon by 2030.

While it might feel like a sudden sprint, this isn't exactly breaking news. NASA and the Department of Energy have spent years quietly developing small nuclear power systems to power lunar bases, mining operations and long-term habitats.

As a space lawyer focused on long-term human advancement into space, I see this not as an arms race but as a strategic infrastructure race. And in this case, infrastructure is influence.

A lunar nuclear reactor may sound dramatic, but it's neither illegal nor unprecedented. If deployed responsibly, it could allow countries to peacefully explore the Moon, fuel their economic growth and test out technologies for deeper space missions. But building a reactor also raises critical questions about access and power.

■ **The legal framework already exists.**

Nuclear power in space isn't a new idea. Since the 1960s, the U.S. and the Soviet Union have relied on radioisotope generators that use small amounts of radioactive elements — a type of nuclear fuel — to power satellites, Mars rovers and the Voyager probes.

The United Nations' 1992 Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, a nonbinding resolution, recognizes that nuclear energy may be essential for missions where solar power is insufficient. This resolution sets guidelines for safety, transparency and international consultation.

Nothing in international law prohibits the peaceful use of nuclear power on the Moon. But what matters is how countries deploy it. And the first country to succeed could shape the norms for expectations, behaviors and legal interpretations related to lunar presence and influence.

■ **Why being first matters.**

The 1967 Outer Space Treaty, ratified by all major spacefaring nations including the U.S., China and Russia, governs space activity. Its Article IX requires that states act with "due regard to the corresponding interests of all other States Parties."

That statement means if one country places a nuclear reactor on the Moon, others must navigate around it, legally and physically. In effect, it draws a line on the lunar map. If the reactor anchors a larger, long-term facility, it could quietly shape what countries do and how their moves are interpreted legally, on the Moon and beyond.

Other articles in the Outer Space Treaty set similar boundaries on behavior, even as they encourage cooperation. They affirm that all countries have the right to freely explore and access the Moon and other celestial bodies, but they explicitly prohibit territorial claims or assertions of sovereignty.

At the same time, the treaty acknowledges that countries may establish installations such as bases — and with that, gain the power to limit access. While visits by other countries are encouraged as a transparency measure, they must be preceded by prior consultations. Effectively, this grants operators a degree of control over who can enter and when.

Building infrastructure is not staking a territorial claim. No one can own the Moon, but one country setting up a reactor could shape where and how others operate — functionally, if not legally.

■ **Infrastructure is influence.**

Building a nuclear reactor establishes a country's presence in a given area. This idea is especially important for resource-rich areas such as the lunar south pole, where ice found in perpetually shadowed craters could fuel rockets and sustain lunar bases.

These sought-after regions are scientifically vital and geopolitically sensitive, as multiple countries want to build bases or conduct research there. Building infrastructure in these areas would cement a country's ability to access the resources there and potentially exclude others from doing the same.

Critics may worry about radiation risks. Even if designed for peaceful use and contained properly, reactors introduce new environmental and operational hazards, particularly in a dangerous setting such as space. But the U.N. guidelines do outline rigorous safety protocols, and following them could potentially mitigate these concerns.

■ **Why nuclear? Because solar has limits.**

The Moon has little atmosphere and experiences 14-day stretches of darkness. In some shadowed craters, where ice is likely to be found, sunlight never reaches the surface at all. These issues make solar energy unreliable, if not impossible, in some of the most critical regions.

A small lunar reactor could operate continuously for a decade or more, powering habitats, rovers, 3D printers and life-support systems. Nuclear power could be the linchpin for long-term human activity. And it's not just about the Moon — developing this capability is essential for missions to Mars, where solar power is even more constrained.

■ **A call for governance, not alarm.**

The United States has an opportunity to lead not just in technology but in governance. If it commits to sharing its plans publicly, following Article IX of the Outer Space Treaty and reaffirming a commitment to peaceful use and international participation, it will encourage other countries to do the same.

The future of the Moon won't be determined by who plants the most flags. It will be determined by who builds what, and how. Nuclear power may be essential for that future. Building transparently and in line with international guidelines would allow countries to more safely realize that future.

A reactor on the Moon isn't a territorial claim or a declaration of war. But it is infrastructure. And infrastructure will be how countries display power — of all kinds — in the next era of space exploration.

Michelle L.D. Hanlon is a professor of Air and Space Law at the University of Mississippi. The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts

Your tax dollars at work: the EV charger debacle

Las Vegas Review-Journal Editorial Board

There are about 160,000 gas stations in the United States, the vast majority of them built and run through the private sector to maximize efficiency and convenience for motorists.

And then there's the EV charging network overseen by federal bureaucrats that cost American taxpayers $7.5 billion and produced 68 stations with 384 ports.

The contrast couldn't be more stark.

In 2021, the Democratic Congress passed and former President Joe Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, a $1.2 trillion monstrosity larded with pork and payouts to favored green interests. Included among the "investments" were billions to subsidize a national EV charging network in an effort to jump-start the sale of electric vehicles. The Biden White House insisted the program would fund 500,000 EV chargers by 2030.

As is typical of government infrastructure projects today, the program became bogged down in bureaucratic minutiae. Democrats larded the grant requirements with all types of woke nonsense dictating, among other things, where the stations had to be built and who would be allowed to build them. At a Senate hearing last year, a Federal Highway Administration official testified that, after three years, the effort had produced seven charging stations and a "few dozen" charging ports, Reuters reported.

A year later, that number has increased. But the result remains underwhelming. The National Review reported last month that "the Biden administration's program will have cost approximately $19.5 million per charger once the funding dries up in 2026."

A recently released report from the Government Accounting Office concluded that the joint office set up by the Department of Energy and Department of Transportation to oversee such projects "generally does not have fully defined performance goals for its activities and, consequently, is generally unable to use the performance information it collects to assess progress toward goals."

President Donald Trump issued an executive order in February directing states to stop spending the Biden money allocated for EV chargers.

This is a step forward for fiscal sanity, given the program's dismal record.

The for-profit sector is capable of meeting demand for EV ports — as Tesla has aptly demonstrated.

"Private companies have collectively spent billions on this infrastructure," The Associated Press reported this year. "Industry leaders say that the demand from drivers for EV chargers will propel companies to build more of them."

And it's a sure bet that when these companies fund the construction of new stations and ports, they'll do it in a timely fashion — and for far less than $19.5 million per charger.

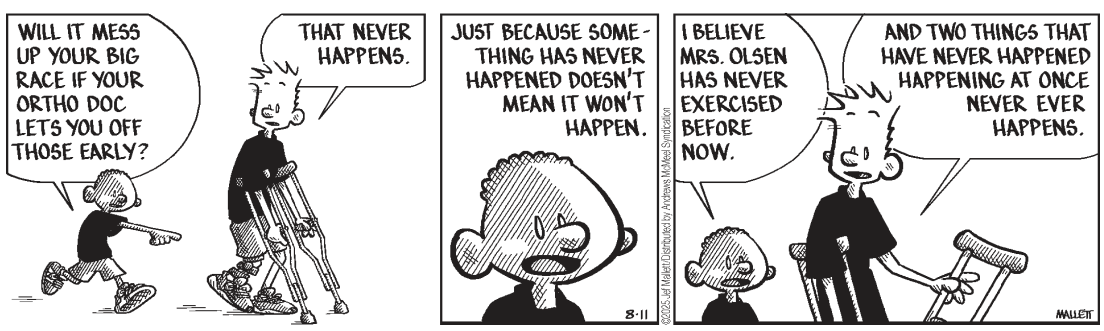
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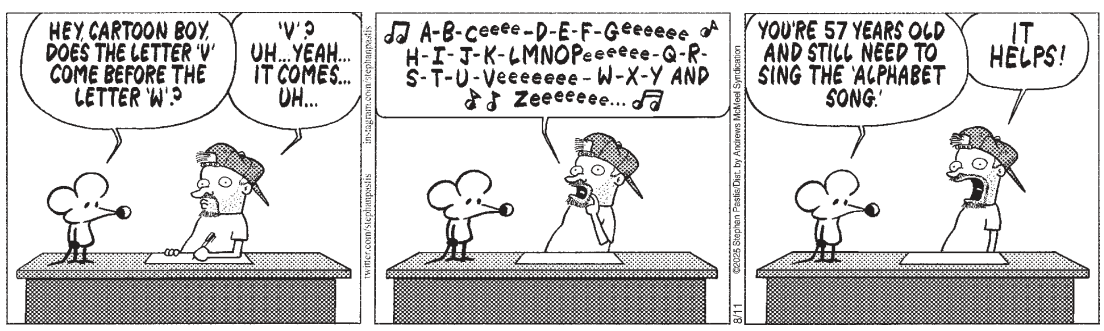
Loose Parts



Frazz



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



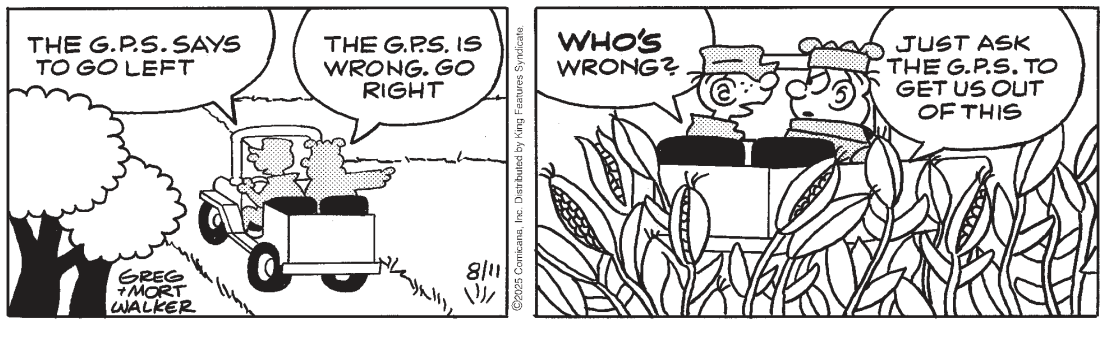
Wumo



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

ACROSS

1 Gym site, for short
5 Rage
8 "Sad to say ..."
12 Old Spanish coin
14 Transgressions
15 Teetered
16 Faxed
17 Ecol. watchdog
18 Martini garnishes
20 Helsinki populace
23 Hosp. scans
24 Latin 101 word
25 Mouthing off
28 Snitch
29 Euripides tragedy
30 ISP giant
32 "Tartuffe" playwright
34 Aussie greeting
35 North Sea feeder
36 Profession
37 Evening party
40 Fair hirer, in ads
41 Harold's "Ghostbusters" role
42 "Hmmm ..."
47 Deco artist
48 Official
49 Bosc, for one
50 Teeny
51 Former mates

DOWN

1 QB's gains
2 Skier Tommy
3 Maestro's signal
4 Missing
5 Caucus state
6 Fish eggs
7 Check beneficiary
8 Home of St. Francis
9 Actor Schreiber
10 Novelist Brontë
11 Bygone fliers
13 Track circuits
19 Kudrow of "Friends"
20 Distant
21 Mosque VIP
22 Post-WWII alliance
23 Sierra —
25 Reference to a footnote
26 Zilch
27 Incite
29 Marathon fraction
31 Caustic solution
33 "Brigadoon" lyricist
34 Rhodes locale
36 Hefty book
37 Ooze
38 Monster
39 Teeny bit
40 To be, in Tours
43 Compass dir.
44 Boston squad, for short
45 Before
46 Sheeran and Harris

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

8-11

CRYPTOQUIP

IOKKDJO BCN EPO MCXYUO DJOTE ADIOK AXKE YOBCNO PO'K DYCXE EC ODE PRK IODU: "YCTM DZZOERE!"

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHAT DO YOU THINK THE FAVORITE VEGETABLE OF A LONG-HAIRED WORKING DOG COULD BE? COLLIEFLOWER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals B

FACES

‘You’re the last original!’

Thayne Jasperson has starred in ‘Hamilton’ since it opened on Broadway 10 years ago

BY HANNAH SAMPSON
The Washington Post

Thayne Jasperson has left the building. Don’t worry. Just for lunch. It happens sometimes.

The actor is in the middle of a grueling two-show day, that show being the smash hit “Hamilton,” which opened at the Richard Rodgers Theatre on Broadway 10 years ago Wednesday.

Jasperson, a member of the ensemble who pops up briefly as the snooty British loyalist Samuel Seabury, is the only remaining original cast member in the show about founding father Alexander Hamilton. He’s still thrilled to be in the room where it happens, finding new ways to make sure starring in a pop-culture phenomenon doesn’t become just another job. It’s a running joke that he’s moved into the building. Fans predict he’ll haunt the place one day as the Phantom of the Rodgers.

Earlier this year, he even recorded a tongue-in-cheek video series called “At Home (The Richard Rodgers) with Thayne Jasperson.”

“Thayne has done so many dispatches from that theater, it’s hard not to believe that he lives there,” Lin-Manuel Miranda, the show’s creator, said in an email.

“It feels like I live there,” Jasperson said.

He has certainly made himself at home. He keeps a cozy robe in the dressing room he shares with several cast members. He sometimes hand-washes laundry there, grabs a nap, takes a shower. You’ll find him doing preshow pullups stage right.

“You guys, sometimes I’m a little crazy, but who wouldn’t be?” he says in the final installment of the video series. “Ten years at ‘Hamilton?’ You would too.”

Jasperson was part of a workshop in early 2014 as the show prepared for an off-Broadway run and helped add some of the nuances that made Seabury the character he is today. He didn’t originally see himself staying at the show for a decade.

“And then I was like, ‘Hamilton’s’ going to be epic,’” he said. “I didn’t know *how* epic.”

The show — starring a diverse cast as the nation’s founders and featuring hip-hop, jazz and other modern musical styles — became a critical darling and a commercial juggernaut. Oprah saw it. Beyoncé was there. President Barack Obama visited.

“It’s allowed us to have multiple moments where you feel like you are at the center of the universe, in the eye of the hurricane,” he said. “Like, Obama comes and suddenly you feel like you’re at the top of the world.”

Still, Jasperson said that at the beginning of the run, he doubted whether fans would want to meet him at the stage door. They wanted to meet Miranda, he figured, or Jonathan Groff as the king, Christopher Jackson as George Washington or Phillipa Soo as Eliza. Who’d want to see the guy who stands up on a box to discourage the Revolutionaries, only to get repeatedly dissed by A. Ham himself? As it turned out, Seabury has his admirers — even if only because his song, “Farmer Refuted,” is so much fun to sing.

Even now, fans bring him bracelets with a key phrase and signature vocal flourish: “For shame.” On his recent two-show day, he was second out the stage door in a button-up shirt, athletic shorts and cowboy boots and made his way across the crowd signing autographs, posing for pictures and complimenting costumes.

“Now I go out and it is so sweet, because people are like ‘You’re the last original!’” he said. “It’s such an honor, and it really touches my heart.”

Jasperson said that after playing Seabury thousands of times, he doesn’t need to review the part before he goes on. He’s an understudy for the role of King George, and on nights when he goes on, he sings through the lyrics offstage. Sometimes he’s called in to play John Laurens, and “I want to feel like I’m cool, like I’m fiery, like I’m a rapper” so he listens to rap music to get in the zone. When he then has to switch to Philip Hamilton in Act 2, he starts out playing a 9-year-old, which Jasperson enjoys as someone who eats cereal and watches cartoons in the morning. (He also tries to keep his language family-friendly as someone who grew up Mormon, leading him to substitute more profane utterances with “mother-of-pearl.”)



EVELYN FREJA/For The Washington Post

It’s a running joke that Thayne Jasperson, the only remaining original cast member of “Hamilton,” which opened at the Richard Rodgers Theatre on Broadway 10 years ago Wednesday, has moved into the building. “It feels like I live there,” Jasperson said.

Andrew Chappelle, who spent five years in the “Hamilton” cast, said he’s not surprised Jasperson, 45, wants to remain in the show.

But, Chappelle adds, “Anyone who’s done ‘Hamilton’ will always say it’s one of the hardest shows you’ll ever be asked to do,” because of the sheer amount of furniture-hoisting and rafter-climbing and how much time ensemble members remain onstage. “I think that a lot of times in a Broadway career, you want to stay in a show longer and sometimes just physically you’re like, ‘Uh, I think I need to not do this anymore.’”

Jasperson said it would be hard to leave a show where he feels like his role is important and carries the story forward. He finds creative fulfillment through side projects teaching or performing. In 2022, he stepped away briefly to join a two-month run of an off-Broadway show, “Only Gold,” choreographed and directed by “Hamilton” choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler. There was, of course, the pandemic shutdown for 18 months.

But now, how do you keep an eight-show-a-week gig from feeling mundane after so long?

Jasperson said he still tries to make small choices and improvisations to keep the performance fresh. Maybe Seabury will be stoic one day and flamboyant another.

“I really like to fall into the world of ‘Hamilton’ and find how can I continue to make this something that people would be proud of,” he said.

Miranda hailed his “incredible dedication” and work ethic, and recalled how “adventurous he was in the space” when he joined the ensemble. “Thayne Jasperson is the f—-ing best. Full stop,” he said.

Blankenbuehler, who choreographed for Jasperson when he competed on “So You Think You Can Dance” in 2008, said he enjoys how Jasperson attacks the show in new ways and still wants to “dig deeper.”

“So many people, once it’s in their body and they think of it like a job, they don’t really want to be told that there’s a different way to dig,” he said. “He’s just like, ‘No, let me keep digging.’”

Jasperson said he feels a responsibility as a kind of unofficial “Hamilton” mascot to never slack, especially to set an example for newer members of the cast.

“There will be a day when we can’t do this anymore,” he said. “My body will be like, ‘No,’ and I don’t ever want to regret and look back and say, ‘Man, why didn’t I do more? Why wasn’t I doing this better?’”

Miranda recalled how Jasperson suffered a rib injury in the first year of the show and had to spend a couple of months recovering.

“A part of me thinks that the fact that he is still with the show 10 years later is him making up for that lost time, and that initial feverish first year,” he said. “I’m here to say: ‘Thayne, it’s OK. You can stay at the Richard Rodgers for as long or as short as you want, as long as you still love coming to work.’”

Fired ‘Mandalorian’ actor settles lawsuit with Lucasfilm, Disney

Actor Gina Carano has settled her federal lawsuit against Lucasfilm and its parent The Walt Disney Co. over her claim that she was fired from “The Mandalorian” in 2021 for expressing right-wing views on social media. The specific terms of the agreement were not made available.

The two sides stipulated in a federal court filing Thursday that the case should be dismissed with prejudice, meaning it can’t be refiled. A judge still needs to formally dismiss it. The case had been scheduled to go to trial in Los Angeles in February of next year.

The lawsuit, filed in a federal court in California last year, alleged Carano was wrongfully terminated from the “Star Wars” galaxy Disney+ series after two seasons due to a post likening the treatment of American conservatives to the treatment of Jews in Nazi Germany. Her posts were widely criticized online and spurred a trending #FireGinaCarano hashtag.

Other news

■ U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin says actor **Dean Cain** will be sworn in as an “honorary ICE Officer” in the coming month. McLaughlin referenced Cain’s 1990s role in “Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman,” saying “Superman is encouraging Americans to become real-life superheroes.” Cain also posted a video encouraging others to join the agency. The 59-year-old has been been outspoken in his conservative viewpoints and endorsed President Donald Trump in three elections.

■ Britain’s Royal Mail has issued stamps celebrating **Monty Python**’s comedy. The 10-stamp series, announced Thursday, highlights iconic characters and catchphrases. Six stamps feature scenes from “Monty Python’s Flying Circus.” Four stamps mark the 50th anniversary of the film “Monty Python and the Holy Grail.” The stamps can be preordered and go on sale Aug. 14.

■ Kelly Clarkson’s ex-husband and talent manager **Brandon Blackstock** has died of cancer. His death was first reported by People. He was 48. A representative for the Blackstock family shared a statement to The Associated Press explaining that Blackstock battled cancer for more than three years. Clarkson and Blackstock were married in October 2013. In 2020, she filed for divorce, citing irreconcilable differences as the reason for the split.

■ **Eddie Palmieri**, the pioneering rumba and Latin jazz musician, has died at 88. His daughter Gabriela said he died Wednesday in New Jersey after a long illness. Palmieri was the first Latino to win a Grammy and earned seven more over his career. He released nearly 40 albums and continued performing into his 80s. Known for his innovative style, he formed the band La Perfecta in 1961, introducing a unique trombone section. His work fused salsa, funk, soul and jazz, leaving a lasting impact on Latin music worldwide.

■ Actor **Kelley Mack**, who played Addy in Season 9 of “The Walking Dead” in addition to doing national commercials and voice-over work, has died at age 33, her family said on social media. She died in Cincinnati after battling glioma of the central nervous system, according to a notice posted on her CaringBridge page.

From wire reports

SCOREBOARD/SPORTS BRIEFS

DEALS

Saturday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League

ATHLETICS — Placed RHP Luis Severino on the 15-day IL, retroactive to Aug. 6. Recalled LHP Hogan Harris from Las Vegas (IL).

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Sent LHP Martin Perez to Charlotte (IL) on a rehab assignment. Released RHP Gus Varland.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Sent 2B Michael Massey to Omaha (IL) on a rehab assignment.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Placed OF Matt Wallner on the paternity list. Recalled OF Carson McCusker from St. Paul (IL).

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Recalled RHP Juan Burgos from Reno (PCL). Optioned RHP Casey Kelly to Reno.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Activated 3B Vidal Brujan. Recalled RHPs Hunter Stratton and Hurston Waldrep from Gwinnett (IL). Optioned LHP Dylan Dodd and SS Jonathan Ornelas to Gwinnett.

MIAMI MARLINS — Placed RHP Anthony Bender on the paternity list. Recalled RHPs Ryan Gusto and Tyler Zuber from Jacksonville (IL).

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Agreed to terms with RHP Travis MacGregor on a minor league contract.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Reinstated RHP Michael King from the 60-day IL. Optioned RHP Sean Reynolds to El Paso (PCL).

BASKETBALL
Women's National Basketball Association

MINNESOTA LYNX — Signed G Jaylyn Sherrod to a rest-of-season contract. Released G Yvonne Anderson.

FOOTBALL
National Football League

BALTIMORE RAVENS — Signed DB MJ Devonshire.

BUFFALO BILLS — Waived DE Hayden Harris with an injury settlement.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed T Marcellus Johnson, CB B.J. Mayes, RBs Nate Noel and Nay'Quan Wright. Released CB Tre Herndon. Placed RB Salvon Ahmed and CB Justin Walley on injured reserve. Waived LB Liam Anderson with an injury settlement.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Re-signed DB Aydan White. Placed CB Levi Wallace on injured reserve.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Signed OT David Sharpe.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed RB Ke'Shawn Vaughn. Waived OL Zack Johnson.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Waived DB Marcus Banks with an injury settlement.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer

FC CINCINNATI — Acquired a 2025 international roster slot from Real Salt Lake in exchange for $100,000 in 2025 general allocation money.

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

Eastern Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	20	10	.667	—
Atlanta	19	11	.633	1
Indiana	18	13	.563	3
Washington	13	17	.433	7
Chicago	8	23	.258	12½
Connecticut	5	24	.172	14½

Western Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	26	5	.839	—
Phoenix	19	11	.633	6½
Las Vegas	17	14	.548	9
Seattle	16	15	.516	10
Golden State	15	15	.500	10½
Los Angeles	14	16	.467	11½
Dallas	8	23	.258	18

Thursday's games

Atlanta 86, Chicago 65
Los Angeles 102, Connecticut 91
Phoenix 95, Indiana 60

Friday's games

New York 88, Dallas 77
Minnesota 80, Washington 76
Las Vegas 90, Seattle 86

Saturday's games

Indiana 92, Chicago 70
Golden State 72, Los Angeles 59

Sunday's games

Minnesota at New York
Washington at Dallas
Atlanta at Phoenix
Seattle at Los Angeles
Connecticut at Las Vegas

Monday's game

Connecticut at Golden State

PRO SOCCER

MLS

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego FC	15	7	4	49	50	32
Vancouver	13	6	6	45	43	28
Minn. United	12	5	8	44	42	28
Seattle	10	6	8	38	39	35
LA FC	10	6	7	37	41	30
Portland	10	8	7	37	33	34
Austin FC	9	8	7	34	23	28
San Jose	8	10	8	32	49	45
Real Salt Lake	9	11	4	31	26	30
Colorado	8	11	6	30	31	39
FC Dallas	7	11	7	28	37	45
Houston	7	11	7	28	32	41
Sporting KC	6	13	6	24	36	47
St Louis City	5	14	6	21	27	41
LA Galaxy	3	14	7	16	28	48

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	15	5	6	51	44	25
Cincinnati	15	6	4	49	39	31
Nashville	14	7	5	47	43	29
Columbus	12	5	8	44	41	36
Inter Miami CF	12	4	6	42	49	34
Orlando City	11	6	8	41	46	33
Charlotte FC	12	11	2	38	43	39
NYC FC	11	8	5	38	34	29
Chicago	10	9	6	36	47	42
New York	9	10	6	33	39	36
New England	7	11	7	28	33	35
Toronto FC	5	13	7	22	26	33
Atlanta	4	11	10	22	30	46
CF Montréal	4	15	7	19	24	47
D.C. United	4	15	7	19	22	51

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

Saturday's games

Atlanta 1, CF Montréal 1, tie
New England 2, D.C. United 0
Columbus at New York City FC ppd.
Toronto FC 1, Philadelphia 1, tie
Houston 2, Austin FC 2, tie
Los Angeles FC 2, Chicago 2, tie
FC Dallas 2, Portland 0
St Louis City 3, Nashville 1
San Diego FC 2, Sporting Kansas City 0
San Jose 2, Vancouver 1

Sunday's games

Charlotte FC at Cincinnati
Colorado at Minnesota
Real Salt Lake at New York
Miami at Orlando City
Seattle at LA Galaxy

Saturday, August 16

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

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	13	2	0	39	32	10
Orlando	8	4	3	27	22	12
Washington	8	4	3	27	23	20
San Diego	7	3	5	26	26	17
Seattle	7	4	3	24	19	13
Portland	6	4	4	22	20	14
Louisville	6	6	3	21	20	25
Gotham FC	5	5	5	20	19	14
North Carolina	5	6	4	19	19	22
Bay FC	4	6	4	16	16	19
Angel City	4	7	4	16	21	27
Houston	4	8	3	15	17	25
Chicago	1	9	4	7	11	28
Utah Royals FC	1	11	3	6	12	31

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

Friday's games

Houston 2, North Carolina 1
Kansas City 1, Utah Royals FC 0

Saturday's games

Washington 0, Gotham FC 0, tie
Louisville 1, Orlando 1, tie
Angel City 1, San Diego 1, tie

Sunday's games

Bay FC at Chicago
Seattle at Portland

Friday, August 15

Louisville at Washington
Angel City at Utah Royals FC

Saturday, August 16

Orlando at Kansas City
Portland at North Carolina
San Diego at Bay FC

Sunday, August 17

Houston at Gotham FC

AUTO RACING

Mission 200

NASCAR Xfinity
Saturday
At Watkins Glen International
Watkins Glen, N.Y.
Lap length: 2.45 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

1. (1) Connor Zilisch, Chevrolet, 82 laps, 51 points
2. (4) Sam Mayer, Ford, 82, 43
3. (6) Sammy Smith, Chevrolet, 82, 36
4. (10) Austin Hill, Chevrolet, 82, 40
5. (14) Carson Kvapil, Chevrolet, 82, 38
6. (9) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 82, 44
7. (18) Austin Green, Chevrolet, 82, 31
8. (36) Christian Eckes, Chevrolet, 82, 29
9. (13) Brandon Jones, Toyota, 82, 28
10. (17) Harrison Burton, Ford, 82, 32
11. (8) Kaz Grala, Toyota, 82, 0
12. (31) Brennan Poole, Chevrolet, 82, 25
13. (19) Dean Thompson, Toyota, 82, 28
14. (15) Jesse Love, Chevrolet, 82, 29
15. (30) Jeremy Clements, Chevrolet, 82, 22
16. (23) Jeb Burton, Chevrolet, 82, 21
17. (21) Daniel Dye, Chevrolet, 82, 20
18. (3) Taylor Gray, Toyota, 82, 28
19. (26) Stefan Parsons, Chevrolet, 82, 0
20. (38) Austin J Hill, Chevrolet, 82, 17
21. (35) Glen Reen, Toyota, 82, 16
22. (22) Parker Retzlaff, Chevrolet, 82, 18
23. (32) Blaine Perkins, Chevrolet, 80, 14
24. (7) Nicholas Sanchez, Chevrolet, accident, 75, 20
25. (12) Michael McDowell, Chevrolet, accident, 73, 0
26. (5) William Sawalich, Toyota, accident, 73, 11
27. (27) Josh Bilicki, Chevrolet, accident, 73, 10
28. (29) Ryan Sieg, Ford, accident, 73, 11
29. (33) Ryan Ellis, Chevrolet, accident, 73, 8
30. (28) Kyle Sieg, Ford, accident, 73, 7
31. (2) Shane Van Gisbergen, Chevrolet, accident, 64, 0
32. (20) Anthony Alfredo, Chevrolet, 63, 5
33. (24) Matt DiBenedetto, Chevrolet, suspension, 52, 5
34. (34) Preston Pardus, Chevrolet, 52, 3
35. (11) Sheldon Creed, Ford, accident, 50, 14
36. (16) Riley Herbst, Toyota, engine, 39, 0
37. (25) Thomas Annunziata, Chevrolet, accident, 24, 1
38. (37) Garrett Smithley, Chevrolet, engine, 3, 1

Race statistics

Average speed of race winner: 81.737 mph.
Time of race: 2 hours, 26 minutes, 49 seconds
Margin of victory: 2.326 seconds
Caution flags: 7 for 20 laps
Lead changes: 17 among 9 drivers
Lap leaders: C.Zilisch 0-6; S.Van Gisbergen 7; C.Zilisch 8-18; J.Allgaier 19-21; C.Zilisch 22-23; W.Sawalich 24; C.Zilisch 25-43; S.Van Gisbergen 44; C.Zilisch 45-53; P.Retzlaff 54; J.Love 55; S.Van Gisbergen 56-64; C.Zilisch 65-68; A.Hill 69-71; M.McDowell 72; C.Zilisch 73-77; S.Smith 78; C.Zilisch 79-82
Leaders summary (driver, times led, laps led): C.Zilisch, 8 times for 60 laps; S.Van Gisbergen, 3 times for 11 laps; A.Hill, 1 time for 3 laps; J.Allgaier, 1 time for 3 laps; S.Smith, 1 time for 1 lap; J.Love, 1 time for 1 lap; P.Retzlaff, 1 time for 1 lap; M.McDowell, 1 time for 1 lap; W.Sawalich, 1 time for 1 lap
Wins: C.Zilisch, 6; J.Allgaier, 3; A.Hill, 3; S.Mayer, 1; J.Love, 1; B.Jones, 1; S.Smith, 1; N.Sanchez, 1; A.Almirola, 1
Top 16 in points: 1. C.Zilisch, 823; 2. J.Allgaier, 816; 3. S.Mayer, 799; 4. J.Love, 731; 5. A.Hill, 690; 6. C.Kvapil, 660; 7. B.Jones, 646; 8. S.Creed, 625; 9. T.Gray, 624; 10. S.Smith, 603; 11. H.Burton, 578; 12. N.Sanchez, 555; 13. J.Burton, 548; 14. R.Sieg, 540; 15. C.Eckes, 506; 16. D.Thompson, 496

AP SPORTLIGHT

Aug. 11

1919 — The Green Bay Packers football club, named after sponsor Indian Packing Company, is founded by George Calhoun and Curly Lambeau.

1929 — Babe Ruth becomes the first MLB player to hit 500 home runs.

1984 — Carl Lewis duplicates Jesse Owens' 1936 feat, winning his 4th Olympic gold medal as part of the US 4 x 100m relay team; world record (37.83).

1991 — John Daly, the last alternate to make the field, wins the 73rd PGA Championship with a 1-under 71 to finish three strokes ahead of Bruce Lietzke.

1995 — Michael Johnson wins the 200 meters in 19.79 seconds in the World Track & Field Championships to become the first runner to capture the 200 and 400 meters in a major championship.

2012 — Usain Bolt is a perfect 3 for 3 at the London Olympics — three events, three victories — just like Beijing four years ago. Almost even with the last U.S. runner when he gets the baton for the anchor leg of the 4x100 meters, Bolt steadily pulls away down the stretch to cap his perfect Summer Games by leading Jamaica to victory in a world-record 36.84 seconds.

2013 — Ashton Eaton, of the United States, wins the decathlon world championship title to add to his Olympic gold medal. He completes his collection with a season-leading total of 8,809 points in a 10-event competition.

2021 — Argentine soccer superstar Lionel Messi confirms signing a rich 2-year contract with French Ligue 1 champions Paris Saint-Germain after leaving FC Barcelona.

GOLF

FedEx St. Jude Championship

Saturday
At TPC Southwind
Memphis, Tenn.
Purse: $20 million
Yardage: 7,288; Par: 70
Third Round

Tommy Fleetwood	63-64-69—196	-14
Justin Rose	64-66-67—197	-13
Scottie Scheffler	67-66-65—198	-12
Andrew Novak	68-64-67—199	-11
J.J. Spaun	68-66-65—199	-11
Akshay Bhatia	62-69-70—201	-9
Rickie Fowler	66-69-66—201	-9
Ben Griffin	66-69-66—201	-9
Chris Kirk	68-67-66—201	-9
Patrick Cantlay	70-67-66—203	-7
Bud Cauley	64-69-70—203	-7
Si Woo Kim	65-69-69—203	-7
Collin Morikawa	66-65-72—203	-7
Taylor Pendrith	69-69-65—203	-7
Sepp Straka	68-67-68—203	-7
Ludvig Aberg	67-67-70—204	-6
Jacob Bridgeman	69-64-71—204	-6
Thomas Detry	67-69-68—204	-6
Kurt Kitayama	69-63-72—204	-6
Jhonattan Vegas	69-69-66—204	-6
Lucas Glover	70-66-69—205	-5
Harry Hall	64-72-69—205	-5
Robert Macintyre	67-70-68—205	-5
Xander Schauffele	68-72-65—205	-5
Cameron Young	69-65-71—205	-5
Sungjae Im	71-64-71—206	-4
Maverick McNealy	66-66-74—206	-4
J.T. Poston	70-69-67—206	-4
Matti Schmid	71-66-69—206	-4
Sam Burns	70-71-66—207	-3
Wyndham Clark	67-68-72—207	-3
Harris English	70-68-69—207	-3
Matt Fitzpatrick	67-71-69—207	-3
Brian Harman	67-68-72—207	-3
Russell Henley	66-70-71—207	-3
Aaron Rai	70-69-68—207	-3
Kevin Yu	71-67-69—207	-3

TENNIS

Cincinnati Open

Saturday
At Lindner Family Tennis Center
Purse: $9,193,540
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Seedings in parentheses
Men's Singles
Round of 64

Holger Rune (7), Denmark, def. Roman Safiullin, Russia, 7-5, 7-6 (5).
Alex Michelsen (28), United States, def. Corentin Moutet, France, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Arthur Rinderknech, France, def. Casper Ruud (11), Norway, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-2.
Benjamin Bonzi, France, def. Lorenzo Musetti (8), Italy, 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (4).
Tommy Paul (13), United States, def. Pedro Martinez, Spain, 6-2, 6-2.
Felix Auger-Aliassime (23), Canada, def. Tomas Martin Etcheverry, Argentina, 6-2, 7-6 (3).
Stefanos Tsitsipas (25), Greece, def. Fabian Marozsan, Hungary, 7-6 (3), 6-2.
Jannik Sinner (1), Italy, def. Daniel Elahi Galan, Colombia, 6-1, 6-1.
Adrian Mannarino, France, def. Tomas Machac (19), Czechia, 6-3, 6-3.
Gabriel Diallo (30), Canada, def. Sebastian Baez, Argentina, 7-5, 6-4.
Ugo Humbert (20), France, def. Coleman Wong, Hong Kong, China, 6-3, 6-4.
Joao Fonseca, Brazil, def. Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (17), Spain, 6-7 (4), 5-4, ret.
Lorenzo Sonego (31), Italy, def. Zizou Bergs, Belgium, 6-3, 7-6 (4).
Frances Tiafoe (10), United States, def. Roberto Carballes Baena, Spain, 6-4, 6-3.
Terence Atmane, France, def. Flavio Cobolli (15), Italy, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (5).
Taylor Fritz (4), United States, def. Emilio Nava, United States, 6-4, 6-4.

Women's Singles
Round of 64

Marta Kostyuk (25), Ukraine, def. Tatjana Maria, Germany, 6-0, 6-1.
Iga Swiatek (3), Poland, def. Anastasia Potapova, Russia, 6-1, 6-4.
Aoi Ito, Japan, def. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (27), Russia, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.
Jessica Bouzas Maneiro, Spain, def. Leylah Annie Fernandez (21), Canada, 6-3, 6-3.
Sorana Cirstea, Romania, def. Magdalena Frech (22), Poland, 7-6 (4), 2-6, 6-4.
Madison Keys (6), United States, def. Eva Lys, Germany, 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (1).
Taylor Townsend, United States, def. Liudmila Samsonova (13), Russia, 6-2, 6-4.
Emma Raducanu (30), Britain, def. Olga Danilovic, Serbia, 6-3, 6-2.
Maya Joint, Australia, def. Beatriz Haddad Maia (18), Brazil, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.
Ekaterina Alexandrova (12), Russia, def. Lulu Sun, New Zealand, 6-4, 6-2.
Yuan Yue, China, def. Diana Shnaider (14), Russia, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.
Elena Rybakina (9), Kazakhstan, def. Renata Zarazua, Mexico, 4-6, 6-0, 7-5.
Elise Mertens (19), Belgium, def. Clervie Ngounoue, United States, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 7-5.
Anna Kalinskaya (28), Russia, def. Peyton Stearns, United States, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-1.
Aryna Sabalenka (1), Belarus, def. Marketa Vondrousova, Czechia, 7-5, 6-1.
Amanda Anisimova (5), United States, def. Leolia Jeanjean, France, walkover.

BRIEFLY

Zilisch falls and breaks collarbone after victory

Associated Press

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. — NASCAR Xfinity Series points leader Connor Zilisch broke his collarbone after a hard fall in victory lane at Watkins Glen International.

After his series-leading sixth victory, Zilisch was climbing onto the roof of his No. 88 Chevrolet to celebrate. He slipped after apparently getting his left foot caught in the driver's side window netting and tumbled awkwardly onto the asphalt.

The 19-year-old Zilisch was taken on a backboard to the trackside medical center and then transported to a hospital for further evaluation. He posted on X about two hours later that he had a broken collarbone, and that CT scans showed no head injury.

Trackhouse Racing withdrew the No. 87 Chevrolet that Zilisch had been scheduled to drive in the Cup race Sunday at Watkins Glen. Zilisch's next Xfinity start is scheduled for Aug. 22 at Daytona International Speedway.

Olympian Hong rolls to 2nd US gymnastics title

NEW ORLEANS — Asher Hong cruised to his second national title in men's gymnastics on Saturday, pulling away from the field for an easy victory at the U.S. Championships.

The 21-year-old Hong, part of the five-man team that earned bronze at the Paris Olympics last summer, posted a two-day total of 170.020 to win easily despite a rare miscue on the high bar during the first rotation on Saturday.

Not that it mattered. Hong became the 13th man to win multiple national titles with ease. The 2023 champion entered with a massive lead of over four points thanks to six steady routines Thursday.

2 Japanese boxers die of brain injuries after fights

TOKYO — Two Japanese boxers have died from brain injuries sustained in separate bouts on the same card at Tokyo's Korakuen Hall.

Shigetoshi Kotari, 28, collapsed shortly after completing a 12-round draw against Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation junior lightweight champion Yamato Hata on Aug. 2.

On Saturday, fellow 28-year-old Hiromasa Urakawa died after suffering the same injury during a knockout loss to Yoji Saito. He had undergone a craniotomy in an attempt to save his life.

MLB

Pawol breaks umpiring gender barrier

By Charles Odum
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Jen Pawol felt love and support from fans, family, peers and players as she made history as the first female umpire to work a regular-season game in the major leagues.

"It was amazing when we took the field," Pawol said. "It seemed like quite a few people were clapping and calling my name. That was pretty intense and emotional."

Pawol's much-anticipated debut came as the first base umpire for Saturday's first game of a split doubleheader between the Atlanta Braves and Miami Marlins. It was a smooth debut.

"She did a good job," Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "You can tell she knows what she does."

Pawol said she had a group of about 30 friends and family members at the game, including her father, and she immediately identified a major difference of working in a major league stadium. Those familiar faces were not so easy to find at Truist Park.

"When I looked up they weren't in the lower tier like in the minor leagues," Pawol said. "When I looked up it took me a while. Whoa, they're up there! I'll never forget that. That was just awesome.



Colin Hubbard/AP

Jen Pawol, the first female umpire to work a regular-season game in MLB history, looks over the field during the first game of a doubleheader between the Braves and Miami Marlins on Saturday in Atlanta.

"The dream actually came true today. I'm still living in it. I'm so grateful to my family and Major League Baseball for creating such an incredible work environment. … I'm just so thankful."

Pawol's first real test came in the third inning of Atlanta's 7-1 win when she called Braves catcher Sean Murphy safe on a close play. Marlins manager Clayton McCullough did not challenge the call. Pawol also showed she will make animated calls. When Miami's Xavier Edwards grounded into a double play in the third inning, Pawol pumped her fist and lifted her leg when she called Edwards out.

Pawol couldn't help but notice her debut was being watched closely. Fans responded with a warm ovation when the video board focused on the umpire between innings, forcing her to take a quick glance at her image.

Pawol worked third base in the second game of the doubleheader. She was in the spotlight even more when she called pitches behind the plate in Sunday's final game of the series. As a rover, she'll then be waiting for her next assignment.

While she waits, the umpire cap she wore in her first game will be on the way to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

"This is one of the proudest moments in all my career," crew chief Chris Guccione said. "I've been blessed with working playoffs, I've worked two World Series, All-Star games, and this is right up there. It gives me chills even thinking about it. And the magnitude, it just hit me just now the magnitude of this thing and how hard she's worked.

"This is just a great role model for girls and women out there and I'm just so proud of her. This is a special moment. I'm so proud of her."

There was much anticipation for her historic debut Saturday. A crowd of photographers gathered while waiting for the umpires to walk onto the field from their entry ramp near the Marlins dugout.

McCullough and Atlanta bench coach Walt Weiss greeted Pawol when lineups were exchanged at home plate before the game.

Pawol then jogged down the first base line. She shook hands with Miami first base coach Tyler Smarslok before taking her position on the right field line for the first pitch.

Pawol said Thursday that she was "overcome with emotion" when notified she would make her Major League Baseball debut this weekend.

Pawol, 48, has been working in the minor leagues since she was assigned to the Gulf Coast League in 2016. She was assigned the Triple-A championship game in 2023 and worked spring training games in 2024 and again this year.

"Anytime anybody grinds their way through the minor leagues, I don't care who it is, that's a tough thing," Snitker said.

"I'm happy for anybody who grinds it out."

Asked if she is prepared for a confrontation with a manager upset about a call, including some known to kick dirt onto umpires, Pawol said it wouldn't be the first time.

"More than dozens of times," she said. "It doesn't go very well for him. The night is usually over for him. It's just part of the game."

Kershaw edges Scherzer in duel of 3K-strikeout club members

By Beth Harris
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Max Scherzer and Clayton Kershaw went toe-to-toe for six innings in a vintage duel Friday night between the two most recent additions to the 3,000-strikeout club.

The 41-year-old Scherzer, pitching for Toronto, made his 465th career start. Kershaw, 37, started his 443rd game — all for the Los Angeles Dodgers over 18 seasons.

"Probably a lineup card that I'll keep for my office," Blue Jays manager John Schneider said.

Once teammates in Los Angeles, both pitchers have won three Cy Young Awards and are likely headed to the Hall of Fame.

"Two great competitors," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said before the game. "I don't know if you're going to see this one again."

Kershaw (6-2) got the win, allowing one run and seven hits as LA earned a 5-1 victory. He struck out four and walked one on 74 pitches, 54 strikes. And he stuck around to watch his rival work when the Dodgers were batting.

"Scherz was throwing the ball great. He was throwing like 96 (mph)," Kershaw said. "It doesn't look like he's aged at all."

Scherzer (2-2) took the loss, giving up two runs and six hits. He struck out five and walked three on 98 pitches, 63 strikes.

"Max had really good stuff," Roberts said.



Mark J. Terrill/AP

The Toronto Blue Jays' Max Scherzer and the Los Angeles Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw threw toe to toe on Friday. The former teammates are the most recent pitchers to join the 3,000-strikeout club.

Kershaw exited with Los Angeles leading 2-1, thanks to a two-run homer by Mookie Betts in the fifth.

The left-hander was a model of efficiency in the first inning, retiring the Blue Jays on 11 pitches.

The Dodgers went right after Scherzer in the bottom half. Shohei Ohtani and Betts hit consecutive line-drive singles before Davis Schneider robbed Will Smith of a potential three-run homer with a catch against the LA bullpen gate in left field. Scherzer walked Max Muncy to load the bases before striking out Teoscar Hernández to end the inning.

Scherzer retired the side in the second and third. Kershaw had traffic on the bases in the second, when Addison Barger's two-strike single scored Bo Bichette and gave Toronto a 1-0 lead.

With a runner at first, Dodgers rookie second baseman Alex Freeland raced into shallow right field to catch a blooper by Ernie Clement for the third out of the fifth. A relieved Kershaw smiled and pointed his index finger skyward.

It was the fourth time Scherzer and Kershaw faced each other, and Kershaw's teams lead their individual series 3-1. Kershaw has two wins and Scherzer one.

The first matchup was unexpected. Hall of Famers Randy Johnson of Arizona and Greg Maddux of Los Angeles were scratched on Sept. 7, 2008. Their replacements were rookies Scherzer, then 24, and Kershaw, then 20, who each got a no-decision.

"He's had a hell of a career," Scherzer said. "It's kind of a cool little milestone moment here where we're hooking it back up against each other. He's an awesome teammate as well. I've got all the respect in the world for what he does on and off the field."

Roberts managed Scherzer when the Dodgers traded for him in the second half of the 2021 season, when he became the 19th pitcher in MLB history to notch his 3,000th strikeout. Having Kershaw already in the fold helped prepare Roberts.

"Those guys are in very rare company, and when you have an opportunity to manage people like that and superstars, it does help you understand how they think, what makes them tick," he said.

Unlike Kershaw, Scherzer likes to talk "all the time," Roberts said.

"He's got a lot of answers, but they're valid answers because he's always thinking the game," Roberts said. "He'll talk to hitters, get in hitters' meetings. He's always trying to pick people's brains to get some type of edge, which as a coach, that's a good thing."

Kershaw became the 20th member of the 3,000-strikeout club in July at Dodger Stadium.

"It's really cool that Scherz was the guy right before me to get to 3,000. I got to play with him, I got to compete against him, basically our whole careers," Kershaw said. "I don't know if it's our last year, but toward the end, for sure. It's been a fun ride."

Both pitchers are known for being extremely competitive. Where they differ is that Scherzer is more demonstrative than Kershaw.

Roberts recalled the reaction he got for patting Scherzer on his rear end in the middle of a game in 2021.

"I heard a curse word after I did it," he said. "That's pretty intense."

MLB

Scoreboard

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	68	50	.576	—
Boston	65	53	.551	3
New York	62	55	.530	5½
Tampa Bay	57	61	.483	11
Baltimore	53	64	.453	14½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	67	51	.568	—
Cleveland	61	55	.526	5
Kansas City	58	59	.496	8½
Minnesota	55	61	.474	11
Chicago	42	75	.359	24½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	65	52	.556	—
Seattle	65	53	.551	½
Texas	60	58	.508	5½
Los Angeles	56	61	.479	9
Athletics	52	67	.437	14

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	67	49	.578	—
New York	63	54	.538	4½
Miami	57	60	.487	10½
Atlanta	50	67	.427	17½
Washington	46	70	.397	21

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	72	44	.621	—
Chicago	67	49	.578	5
Cincinnati	61	57	.517	12
St. Louis	59	59	.500	14
Pittsburgh	51	67	.432	22

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	68	49	.581	—
San Diego	65	52	.556	3
San Francisco	59	58	.504	9
Arizona	56	61	.479	12
Colorado	30	86	.259	37½

Saturday's games

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

Sunday's games

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

Monday's games

Minnesota (Matthews 3-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Warren 6-5)
Detroit (Paddack 4-10) at Chicago White Sox (TBD)
Washington (Cavalli 0-0) at Kansas City (Falter 7-6)
Arizona (Nelson 6-3) at Texas (Eovaldi 10-3)
Boston (Crochet 13-4) at Houston (TBD)
L.A. Dodgers (Yamamoto 10-7) at L.A. Angels (Soriano 7-9)
Tampa Bay (Pepiot 7-9) at Athletics (Springs 10-7)
Philadelphia (Walker 4-5) at Cincinnati (Abbott 8-2)
Pittsburgh (Heaney 5-9) at Milwaukee (Peralta 13-5)
Colorado (TBD) at St. Louis (Mikolas 6-9)
San Diego (Darvish 1-3) at San Francisco (Webb 10-8)

Tuesday's games

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

ROUNDUP

Raleigh helps Seattle extend streak

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Cal Raleigh launched his major league-leading 44th home run, Julio Rodríguez went deep twice and the surging Seattle Mariners defeated the Tampa Bay Rays 7-4 on Saturday night after retiring Ichiro Suzuki's No. 51 jersey.

Seattle extended its win streak to six, the longest active run in the American League, and moved within a half-game of Houston atop the AL West.

After hitting the go-ahead homer in the eighth inning Friday night, Raleigh delivered another three-run shot Saturday to put Seattle up 5-1 in the third. Rodríguez connected on the next pitch from starter Joe Boyle (1-2), who lasted 3⅓ innings.

Rodríguez also hit a two-run homer in the first, a 436-foot drive, and has 23 home runs this season.

Logan Evans (6-4) allowed three runs in 5⅓ innings before four Mariners relievers finished a five-hitter. Andrés Muñoz worked a scoreless ninth for his 27th save.

Brandon Lowe homered for the second consecutive game in the first inning for Tampa Bay. Junior Caminero hit his 32nd homer in the sixth, a three-run shot off Caleb Ferguson.

Cole Young scored on a wild pitch in the Seattle sixth to make it 7-4.



LINDSEY WASSON/AP

The Mariners' Cal Raleigh hits a 3-run home run against the Tampa Bay Rays during the third inning on Saturday in Seattle.

Brewers 7, Mets 4: William Contreras homered to cap a four-run seventh inning and host Milwaukee rallied past skidding New York on Saturday for its eighth consecutive victory, spoiling Pete Alonso's record-tying night.

Alonso opened the second inning with his 252nd career home run, but the Mets lost their sixth straight game and 10th in the last 11 to fall 4½ games behind first-place Philadelphia in the NL East.

New York is only 2½ games ahead of Cincinnati for the final National League playoff spot.

Yankees 5, Astros 4: Trent Grisham hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning and host New York beat Houston after blowing a two-run lead.

Grisham snapped a 4-all tie when he drove a full-count fastball off Bryan King (3-3) into the second deck in right field.

Grisham homered after Camilo Doval and David Bednar (5-3) combined to blow a 4-2 lead in the eighth. Left fielder Jasson Domínguez committed on another RBI single by Jose Altuve.

Giancarlo Stanton drove in two runs, including an RBI single in the fifth that gave the Yankees a 3-2 lead.

Braves 7-8, Marlins 1-6: Marcell Ozuna hit two home runs and host Atlanta beat Miami to sweep doubleheader in the first major league games with a female umpire, Jen Pawol.

The Braves won the opener 7-1 thanks to a strong outing from rookie Hurston Waldrep and a key three-run home run from Michael Harris II.

In the second game, Erick Fedde (4-12) won for the first time in three starts with the Braves. Raisel Iglesias had a perfect ninth for his 16th save.

Phillies 3, Rangers 2: Max Kepler had a go-ahead two-run double and NL East-leading Philadelphia beat host Texas, handing All-Star right-hander Jacob deGrom his third consecutive loss.

The Phillies went ahead 2-1 after Brandon Marsh had a one-out single in the seventh, Harrison Bader walked and both scored on Kepler's hit into the right-field corner.

Philadelphia lefty Jesús Luzardo (11-5) struck out four and walked one in six innings.

Jhoan Duran worked a perfect ninth for his third save.

Angels 7, Tigers 4: Taylor Ward homered and fell a triple short of the cycle, driving in three runs to help visiting Los Angeles beat Detroit.

The Angels took a 1-0 lead in the first on Ward's RBI double, and the Tigers got two in the second on Andy Ibáñez's RBI single and Jake Rogers' sacrifice fly.

Charlie Morton struck out seven straight after Ward's double, with Mike Trout snapping the streak with a leadoff groundout in the fourth. Ward singled, Morton hit Yoán Moncada, and Jo Adell hit a three-run homer to make it 4-2.

Reds 2, Pirates 1: Nick Martinez pitched seven sharp innings and Noelvi Marte doubled three times as visiting Cincinnati beat Pittsburgh to snap a three-game slide.

Marte drove in one run and scored another. Martinez (10-9) permitted a run on four hits and two walks while striking out four.

Emilio Pagán gave up a leadoff walk in the ninth but shortstop Elly De La Cruz converted a line drive into a game-ending double play.

Royals 2, Twins 0: Noah Cameron and four relievers combined on an eight-hitter, Mikel Garcia had two hits and an RBI, and visiting Kansas City beat Minnesota.

The Twins left 10 men on base and were 0-for-10 with runners in scoring position.

Garcia broke the scoreless tie in the third with an RBI single, and the Royals added an insurance run in the ninth on an RBI single from Jonathan India.

Athletics 11, Orioles 3: Trent Rooker and Shea Langeliers homered and Jack Perkins earned his first victory in his second start of the season as the visiting Athletics beat Baltimore.

Langeliers hit a two-run homer in the first inning. After Baltimore countered with three runs in the bottom half, the A's went ahead to stay in the third, when Rooker hit a 393-foot, three-run shot in the third. Darell Hernaiz drove in another run with a sacrifice fly for a 6-3 advantage.

Guardians 3, White Sox 1: CJ Kayfus hit his first major league home run and scored twice to help visiting Cleveland beat Chicago for its fifth straight victory.

Kayfus, promoted to the majors Aug. 2, homered in the sixth for a 3-1 lead. He walked and scored the tiebreaking run on Brayan Rocchio's double in the fourth.

Cubs 9, Cardinals 1: Michael Busch hit a three-run home run, Matt Shaw added a homer and an RBI triple, and visiting Chicago routed St. Louis.

Colin Rea (9-5) allowed one run in six innings, and Carson Kelly and Dansby Swanson each had three of Chicago's 13 hits.

Busch set the tone by leading off the game with a double into the corner in right field, then scoring on Kyle Tucker's RBI single. Tucker scored when right-fielder Jordan Walker's throw got away from Willson Contreras, the cutoff man, on Kelly's single.

In the second inning, Busch made it 5-0 by hitting his 22nd homer of the season.

Diamondbacks 6, Rockies 5: Lourdes Gurriel Jr. doubled off the wall in left with one out in the ninth inning to give Arizona a home victory over Colorado, its sixth straight loss.

Geraldo Perdomo had his third hit off the game, a double to right-center off Jimmy Herget (0-2) with one out in the ninth. Gurriel followed with the drive off the wall to easily score Perdomo. Gurriel drove in three runs, the first two with a sacrifice fly and a single.

Nationals 4, Giants 2: Brad Lord pitched six effective innings to earn his first career victory as a starter, and visiting Washington beat San Francisco.

James Wood, Paul DeJong and Josh Bell homered for the Nationals, shut out in their previous two games. Wood's leadoff shot was his first homer in a month.

Padres 5, Red Sox 4 (10): Ramón Laureano singled in Xander Bogaerts from second base with no outs in the 10th inning and host San Diego beat Boston.

With runners on first and second and the infield drawn in, Laureanohit a chopper off off Garrett Whitlock (5-2) over third baseman Alex Bregman into left field.

Boston's Roman Anthony tied it in the ninth when a ground-rule double off All-Star closer Robert Suarez that brought in Ceddanne Rafaela.

Dodgers 9, Blue Jays 1: Shohei Ohtani hit his 40th home run, Blake Snell struck out 10 batters in five shutout innings and host Los Angeles routed Toronto.

Los Angeles broke open the game with six runs in the sixth, as rookie Dalton Rushing and Mookie Betts each had a two-run single before Andy Pages tacked on a two-run double.

NFL

Role: Shedeur remains patient amid competition for Browns' starting QB

FROM PAGE 24

showing he should get opportunities to see how he fares against starters.

Cleveland's next practice is Monday at their team facility. The Browns travel to Philadelphia on Tuesday before joint workouts with the Eagles on Wednesday and Thursday.

For his part, Sanders continues to stay patient with the process Cleveland has set out for his development. It is the same mentality he has had since dropping to the fifth round and the 144th overall selection in April's draft.

"I just don't think that deep into everything because there's nothing you're going to be able to control," Sanders said when asked if he is being given a fair chance in the Browns' four-way quarterback competition. "The most you can do is when you get your opportunity, when your number is called, perform, at least do the bare minimum and win the game. That's what I feel like we did today and definitely things I'm able to grow off of."

In addition to seeing how he would fare in the red zone and a variety of third down scenarios, the coaching staff also got to see how Sanders would fare on a couple of series where Cleveland started inside its 10 yard line.

For the most part, Stefanski was able to run through a lot of different game situations.

"You don't want to show much, but also you want to put your players in positions where you can evaluate them. We kind of did it all last night, including a jet sweep to Gage (Larvadain) for the touchdown," Stefanski said. "We want to win because they're keeping score but you also want to vary your run types, vary your pass types so you're learning more about each one of your players."

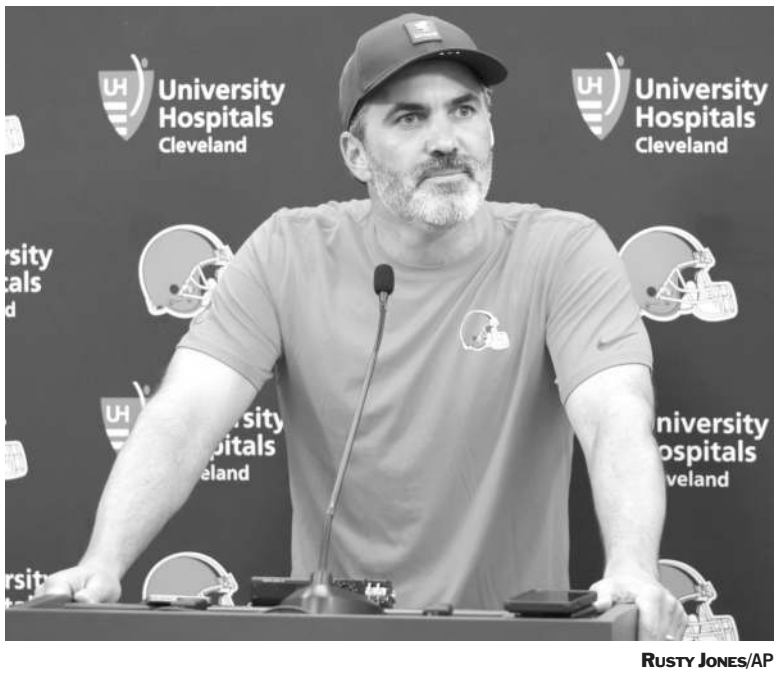
According to the NFL's Next Gen stats, Sanders was pressured on 12 of his 27 drop-backs. He was 5-for-9 for 81 yards, including a 12-yard touchdown to Kaden Davis to put the Browns up 14-7 in the second quarter.

Sanders was sacked twice, but also avoided trouble a couple of times on scrambles where it could have been a 15 to 20-yard loss.

Many considered Sanders to be one of the most accurate quarterbacks in this year's draft class. He showed that off on a couple of plays Friday — the second touchdown pass to Davis and a 30-yard completion to Luke Floriea where he layered it over four Carolina defenders and Floriea made a one-handed grab near the sideline.

"That next step is getting in the game settings and taking the practice field to the game. I thought that's what we saw by and large from Shedeur, that's what we saw by and large from our offense, was really taking those things that we're honing in on the practice field and then showing them in the games," Stefanski said. "While there's game plans that will be more complicated as you get going and certainly as you get to the season, we really want to put our guys in as many situations as possible, and I thought those guys handled it really well."

In other news, Stefanski said Floriea has a hamstring injury and defensive back LaMareon James is in concussion protocol.



RUSTY JONES/AP

Cleveland Browns head coach Kevin Stefanski opened camp with a crowded field for the quarterback position, but injuries have narrowed down the race, giving Shedeur Sanders a better chance.



JASON BEHNKEN/AP

Buccaneers safety Shilo Sanders celebrates after the defense stops the Tennessee Titans on fourth down during a preseason game Saturday in Tampa, Fla. Sanders was signed as an undrafted free agent.

Shilo Sanders quickly makes presence felt in Bucs debut

BY ROB MAADDI
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — In his first NFL preseason game, Shilo Sanders creeped up to the line of scrimmage, blitzed untouched and hit Brandon Allen, driving him to the ground just after he threw the ball away.

A night after his younger brother had an impressive debut for the Cleveland Browns as the starting quarterback, Shilo Sanders got a clean shot at the QB in the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' 29-7 win over the Tennessee Titans on Saturday night.

"It felt good," Sanders said about the hit. "Thank you, God, for putting me in position to even be on the field. I feel like I left some big hits on the table. Next game will be some improvement on my angles, on my tracking because you don't really get to work on it in an NFL practice or you're gonna get kicked out of practice. Seeing a game for the first time in a long time, did some good things. It is what it is."

> **"Seeing a game for the first time in a long time, did some good things. It is what it is."**
>
> **Shilo Sanders**
> Buccaneers rookie safety

Signed by the Buccaneers as an undrafted free agent out of Colorado, where he played with his brother for their Hall of Fame dad, Deion Sanders, Shilo Sanders is battling for a roster spot in a crowded defensive backfield.

He started the second half at safety and registered Tampa Bay's first quarterback hit of the game on his first series, finishing with one tackle and a strong impression.

Shilo called his dad after the game and showed him his game-worn, No. 28 jersey, offering it as a birthday present. Deion Sanders turned 58 on Saturday.

"He didn't want it," Shilo said, laughing. "He's a Hall of Famer. He expects 30 times more. I'm gonna give it to my mom, though. I gotta get like three picks or something (for him)."

Shedeur Sanders, who slipped to the fifth round of the draft, completed 14 of 23 passes for 138 yards and two TD passes and led three TD drives in a 30-10 victory over the Carolina Panthers. He played nearly three quarters and didn't turn the ball over.

Both of Coach Prime's sons have received plenty of attention throughout training camp. But neither player is even assured a roster spot. Shedeur is competing with veterans Joe Flacco and Kenny Pickett and third-round pick Dillon Gabriel. Pickett and Gabriel missed the preseason opener because of hamstring injuries.

Shilo is battling with JJ Roberts and Rashad Wisdom behind 2023 All-Pro Antoine Winfield Jr., starter Tykee Smith and backups Christian Izien and Kaevon Merriweather.

"He played tough," Bucs coach Todd Bowles said. "I thought he went in and did a heck of a job. He had some good tackles inside. He had a pressure on the quarterback as well. He did some good coverage things, so he did a good job when he was in there."

NFL

Ward poised, leads TD drive in debut

By Fred Goodall
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Cam Ward's pro debut was solid, if unspectacular.

The first overall pick in this year's NFL draft completed five of eight passes for 67 yards, but more importantly was composed and looked comfortable running Tennessee's offense in the Titans' 29-7 preseason-opening loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Saturday night.

Two days after working against the Buccaneers defense in a joint practice at Tampa Bay's training facility, Ward played two offensive series, including an impressive second-quarter touchdown drive that gave Tennessee a glimpse of what the franchise is counting on to be a bright future with him at quarterback.

The 6-foot-2, 219-pound rookie completed three passes to Calvin Ridley to account for all but 15 yards on the 11-play, 65-yard TD drive Tony Pollard finished with a 1-yard scoring run. That came after the Titans' offense spent more than 14 minutes of the opening quarter on the sideline while the Bucs were building a 10-0 lead and a whopping 143-5 advantage in total yardage while running 22 plays to Tennessee's 3.

"I thought Cam played well, the two series that he got," Tennessee second-year coach Brian Callahan said. "It was kind of a weird first half with three possessions. He had one three and out, then came back with a touchdown drive. He started to feel comfortable and was begging to go back in, but that was not in the cards tonight."

Ward felt good about the abbreviated debut.

"It was a lot guys first time playing together, but it felt good to come up with points," after failing to move the ball on the Titans' first possession," the rookie said.

"I wanted to go out for a third (series) ... but Coach Callahan has a plan for us," Ward conceded. "We'll stick to his plan."

Ward began his team's only scoring drive with a 27-yard completion over the middle to a wide-open Ridley and later led his target cutting across the middle again with a nice throw for a 13-yard gain into Tampa Bay territory. The rookie got away with his worst throw of the night when Buccaneers cornerback Josh Hayes made a nice adjustment on a sideline throw intended for receiver Elic Ayomanor, but was unable to hang on to the ball for an interception.

Ward, who had no turnovers and was not sacked, left the game after getting Tennessee into the end zone. Backup Brandon Allen and third-stringer Tim Boyle, who threw an interception that was returned for a late touchdown, shared playing time the rest of the way.

With Baker Mayfield and the rest of Tampa Bay's regulars either given the night off or playing sparingly, Kyle Trask started at quarterback for the Bucs. While he's listed No. 2 on the depth chart behind Mayfield, the team has signed 32-year-old Teddy Bridgewater as potential insurance.

Trask, who's thrown just 11 regular-season passes since entering the NFL as a second-round draft pick in 2021, led the team to Sean Tucker's 2-yard TD run and two field goals in the first half.

"I thought he played very well. He made some timely throws down the field. He was poised in the pocket," Tampa Bay coach Todd Bowles said.

Good first impression

First-round draft pick Emeka Egbuka started at wide receiver for the Buccaneers with Mike Evans resting and the team's other star veteran, Chris Godwin, still recovering from an injury that sidelined him much of last season.

Egbuka had one catch — a leaping grab in tight coverage — for 21 yards.



Jason Behnken/AP

Tennessee quarterback Cameron Ward, left, and center Corey Levin warm up before their preseason game against Tampa Bay on Saturday.



Gary McCullough/AP

Jaguars wide receiver Travis Hunter runs with the ball after a catch during Saturday's preseason game against the Pittsburgh Steelers in Jacksonville, Fla. Hunter had two catches on 10 offensive snaps.

Little makes 70-yard FG in Hunter's two-way debut

By Mark Long
Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Travis Hunter's professional debut included 10 snaps on offense, eight on defense and no highlights.

The Heisman Trophy winner and second overall pick in the NFL draft was relatively quiet in Jacksonville's 31-25 loss to Pittsburgh in a preseason game Saturday. He caught two passes for 9 yards, with a long gain of 6, and missed an open-field tackle.

"I felt great," he said. "A little nervous, but it felt great. It definitely settled down when I got the first catch, really when the first play started."

Hunter did, however, have a front-row seat for the most exciting play of the night: Cam Little drilled a 70-yard field goal on the final play of the first half, a kick that would have broken the NFL record had it happened during the regular season.

"Adrenaline is a beautiful thing," said Little, whose phone was filled with texts and messages. "It does (stink) (that it doesn't count). That means we just have to go out there and make it again."

Still, Little is keeping the ball — even if the Pro Football Hall of Fame calls.

"Heck, yeah," he said. "Are you kidding me. ... That ball is staying with me. Canton, Ohio, can get another ball."

Little and the Jaguars celebrated widely as the half ended. Holder Logan Cooke lifted both arms shortly after the ball took flight. Little leaned forward a little and then raised an arm as it cleared the crossbar.

Cooke pushed Little to start the party, and then Hunter greeted Little on the field with a midair body-bump.

Baltimore's Justin Tucker holds the NFL mark, having made a 66-yarder at Detroit in 2021.

Little, a sixth-round draft pick from Arkansas in 2024, made 27 of 29 field-goal attempts as a rookie and all 27 extra points. His long was 59 yards.

He seemed to know his latest one was good from the onset. He watched intently and pumped his fist as it slid a little left and cleared the bar by several yards — far enough that the ball boy caught it.

The Steelers had much more to talk about after their preseason opener even though most of their starters watched from the sideline. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers, receiver DK Metcalf, linebacker T.J. Watt and cornerback Jalen Ramsey were among the Pittsburgh stars who got the night off.

They witnessed backup Mason Rudolph complete 9 of 10 passes for 84 yards and a touchdown. Rudolph carved up Jacksonville's starting defense on the Steelers' opening drive. Third-stringer Skylar Thompson was just as good in relief, throwing for 233 yards and three scores.

Scoreboard

Thursday's games
Baltimore 24, Indianapolis 16
Philadelphia 34, Cincinnati 27
Las Vegas 23, Seattle 23

Friday's games
Cleveland 30, Carolina 10
Detroit 17, Atlanta 10
New England 48, Washington 18

Saturday's games
N.Y. Giants 34, Buffalo 25
Minnesota 20, Houston 10
L.A. Rams 31, Dallas 21
Pittsburgh 31, Jacksonville 25
Tampa Bay 29, Tennessee 7
Arizona 20, Kansas City 17
N.Y. Jets 30, Green Bay 10
Denver 30, San Francisco 9

Sunday's games
Miami at Chicago
New Orleans at L.A. Chargers

Friday, Aug. 15
Tennessee at Atlanta
Kansas City at Seattle

Saturday, Aug. 16
Carolina at Houston
Cleveland at Philadelphia
Green Bay at Indianapolis
Miami at Detroit
New England at Minnesota
San Francisco at Las Vegas
Baltimore at Dallas
L.A. Chargers at L.A. Rams
N.Y. Jets at N.Y. Giants
Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh
Arizona at Denver

Sunday, Aug. 17
Jacksonville at New Orleans
Buffalo at Chicago

Monday, Aug. 18
Cincinnati at Washington

SPORTS

More power

Homers from Raleigh, Rodriguez lift Mariners to 6th straight win ›› MLB, Page 21

NFL



JACOB KUPFERMAN/AP

Cleveland Browns quarterback Shedeur Sanders passes over Carolina Panthers linebacker Trevin Wallace during the first half of a preseason game Friday in Charlotte, N.C.

Still waiting to see his role

Stefanski won't commit to giving Sanders first-team reps after strong debut

BY JOE REEDY
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Less than 24 hours after Shedeur Sanders' impressive NFL debut, Browns coach Kevin Stefanski still wasn't ready to answer the question most on the mind of Cleveland fans.

Will Sanders start working with the first-team offense leading into next Saturday's second preseason game at Philadelphia?

"We need to get through the next couple of days from an injury standpoint and see where everybody is," Stefanski said Saturday. "I'm really focused on all of our quarterbacks' development and every single one of these reps last night, how important they are. So that's what I'm focused on more than anything."

Sanders played nearly three quarters and had 45 snaps in Friday night's 30-10 victory over the Carolina Panthers. He directed three touchdown drives in 10 series (including a kneel down at the end of the first half) and completed 14 of 23 passes for 138 yards and two TD passes.

The stat that pleased everyone the most, though, is that the Browns didn't have a turnover.

Sanders is listed as the fourth-string QB and has not seen any snaps with the first string during the first three weeks of practices. He got the start and received extended playing time in the preseason opener because of Kenny Pickett and Dillon Gabriel sidelined with hamstring injuries. Joe Flacco got most of the work during last Wednesday's joint workouts.

Sanders made a strong case, however, in

SEE ROLE ON PAGE 22

NASCAR's Zilisch wins, breaks collarbone ›› Sports Briefs, Page 19

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