

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## US drone kills al-Qaida's top leader

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — As the sun was rising in Kabul on Sunday, two Hellfire missiles fired by a U.S. drone ended Ayman al-Zawahri's decadelong reign as the leader of al-Qaida.

President Joe Biden on Monday hailed the operation as delivering "justice" while expressing hope that it brings "one more measure of closure" to families of the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

In an address from the White House, the president said, "He will never again, never again, allow Afghanistan to become a terrorist safe haven because he is gone and we're going to make sure that nothing else happens."

"This terrorist leader is no more," he added.

The seeds of the audacious counterterrorism operation had been planted over many months.

U.S. officials had built a scale model of the safe house where al-Zawahri had been located, and brought it into the White House Situation Room to show President Joe Biden. They knew al-Zawahri was partial to sitting on the home's balcony.

They had painstakingly constructed "a pattern of life," as one official put it. They were confident he was on the balcony when the missiles flew, officials said.

Years of efforts by U.S. intelligence operatives under four presidents to track al-Zawahri and his associates paid dividends earlier this year, Biden said, when they located Osama bin Laden's longtime No. 2 — a co-planner of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the U.S. — and ultimate successor at the house in Kabul.

Bin Laden's death came in May 2011, face to face with a U.S. assault team led by Navy SEALs. Al-Zawahri's death came from afar, at 6:18 a.m. in Kabul.

His family, supported by the Haqqani Taliban network, had taken up residence in the home after the Taliban regained control of the country last year, following the withdrawal of U.S. forces after nearly 20 years of combat that had been intended, in part, to keep al-Qaida from regaining a base of operations in Afghanistan.

But the lead on his whereabouts was only the first step. Confirming al-Zawahri's identity, devising a strike in a crowded city that wouldn't recklessly endanger civilians and ensuring the operation wouldn't set back other U.S. priorities took months to fall into place.

That effort involved independent teams of analysts reaching similar conclusions about the probability of al-Zawahri's presence, the scale mock-up and engineering studies of the

building to evaluate the risk to people nearby, and the unanimous recommendation of Biden's advisers to go ahead with the strike.

"Clear and convincing," Biden called the evidence. "I authorized the precision strike that would remove him from the battlefield once and for all. This measure was carefully planned, rigorously, to minimize the risk of harm to other civilians."

The consequences of getting it wrong on this type of judgment call were devastating a year ago this month, when a U.S. drone strike during the chaotic withdrawal of American forces killed 10 innocent family members, seven of them children.

Biden ordered what officials called a "tailored airstrike," designed so that the two missiles would destroy only the balcony of the safe house where the terrorist leader was holed up for months, sparing occupants elsewhere in the building.

A senior U.S. administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss the strike planning, said al-Zawahri was identified on "multiple occasions, for sustained periods of time" on the balcony where he died.

The official said "multiple streams of intelligence" convinced U.S. analysts of his presence, having eliminated "all reasonable options" other than his being there.

## House Speaker Pelosi arrives in Taiwan, defying China

*Associated Press*

TAIPEI, Taiwan — U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi arrived in Taiwan late Tuesday, becoming the highest-ranking American official in 25 years to visit the self-ruled island claimed by China, which quickly announced that it would conduct military maneuvers in retaliation for her presence.

Taiwan's foreign minister and other Taiwanese and American officials greeted Pelosi on the tarmac at Taipei's international airport.

Her visit has ratcheted up tension between China and the United States because China claims Taiwan as part of its territory, and it views visits by foreign government officials as recognition of the island's sovereignty.

The speaker, who arrived aboard a U.S. Air Force jet, has sought for decades to focus attention on Chinese democracy movements. She traveled to Tiananmen Square in 1991, two years after China crushed a wave of democracy protests.

The Biden administration did not explicitly urge Pelosi to call off her plans. It repeatedly and publicly assured Beijing that the visit would not signal any change in U.S. policy on Taiwan.

Soon after Pelosi's arrival, China announced a series of military operations and drills, which followed promises of "resolute and strong measures" if Pelosi went through with her visit.

The People's Liberation Army said the ma-

neuvers would take place starting Tuesday night in the waters and skies near Taiwan and include the firing of long-range ammunition in the Taiwan Strait.

"This action is a solemn deterrent against the recent major escalation of the negative actions of the United States on the Taiwan issue, and a serious warning to the 'Taiwan independence' forces seeking 'independence.'"

China's official Xinhua News said the army planned to conduct live-fire drills from Aug. 4 to 7 across multiple locations.

Back in the United States, 26 Republican lawmakers issued a statement of rare bipartisan support for the Democratic speaker. The statement called trips by members of Congress to Taiwan routine.

# Soldier's death at drawbridge investigated

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

The circumstances surrounding a “vehicle-related incident” that killed a U.S. soldier in Lithuania last week are still being investigated, U.S. Army Europe and Africa said Tuesday.

Staff Sgt. Robert Magallan died in the incident Thursday while on temporary assignment, USAREUR-AF said in a statement.

Magallan, 30, drove off the middle of a drawbridge in the

port city of Klaipeda at 12:45 a.m., Lithuanian National Radio and Television reported on its website. A video shared on social media and posted by the Lithuanian news service shows a vehicle moving back and forth before crashing through the safety barrier and falling into the water below.

Magallan was in civilian clothes and was driving a rented vehicle from Latvia, according to the Lithuanian National Radio and Television report. He was checked in at a nearby

hotel, the report said.

Divers were able to recover the body, according to the Lithuanian report.

Magallan was a section sergeant with the 11th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade out of Fort Hood, Texas, USAREUR-AF said.

The Army said it is coordinating with local authorities to understand what led to the death.

“Our thoughts are with the family of the soldier involved. No further information is available at this time,” USAREUR-

AF said.

Few details on Magallan were available Tuesday. But a December 2020 press release from Fort Hood public affairs identified him as a sergeant helping give free Christmas trees to soldiers and their families.

“It shows that the community cares about them,” Magallan said at the time.

Magallan's Facebook page shows him as the father of a young son. It also says Magallan grew up in Mission, Texas.

## Alleged counterfeiting troops won't be charged

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japanese prosecutors have dropped their cases against a trio of U.S. service members accused of passing counterfeit \$100 bills to cab drivers on Okinawa.

In separate October incidents, an unnamed soldier and two unnamed Marines were accused of getting into taxis, traveling less than half a mile and using fake American currency to pay the fare, Okinawa Times reported Friday, citing an unnamed source involved in the case.

It's not uncommon for some businesses on the island to accept U.S. dollars and give change in yen.

None of the service members were arrested, but police referred fraud and attempted fraud charges to the Naha District Public Prosecutors Office, according to the newspaper. Though Japanese police can recommend charges, prosecutors are the ones who ultimately

make those decisions.

Prosecutors declined to charge the soldier with fraud and attempted fraud March 29, a spokeswoman for the prosecutors office said Tuesday.

The fraud case against one Marine was dropped on June 13, she said. The fraud and attempted fraud case against the other Marine was dropped the same day.

She declined to say why the cases were dropped. Okinawa prefectural police also declined to comment on Tuesday.

It's customary in Japan for some government spokespeople to speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

A spokeswoman for U.S. Army Garrison Okinawa referred questions to the 10th Support Group at Torii Station, which did not immediately return an email seeking comment Tuesday. A spokesman for Marines Corps Installations Pacific on Okinawa also did not respond to an email that day.

## US to send another \$550M in ammunition to Ukraine

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Monday authorized another \$550 million in military aid including rocket system and artillery ammunition for Ukraine, National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters at the White House.

The aid will include 75,000 rounds of ammunition for 155 mm howitzers and an unspecified number of additional ammunition for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, also known as HIMARS, the United States has recently sent Ukraine, according to the Pentagon.

Long-range weapons such as rockets, artillery and tactical drones have been important since Russia shifted the focus of its invasion of Ukraine four months ago to the country's eastern Donbas region, where the landscape resembles the flat, rolling plains of Kansas, the Defense Department has said.

HIMARS are truck-mounted rocket systems that can strike targets up to 43 miles away with

500-pound, precision-guided ammunition. The U.S.-supplied M777 howitzers can reach distances of up to 18 miles, the Pentagon has said.

So far, the U.S. has sent Ukraine about 90 M777 howitzers and 16 HIMARS rocket systems, all of which had arrived in Ukraine as of Monday, Ukraine Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said on Twitter.

“I'm grateful to [Biden] and [Defense Secretary] Lloyd Austin III and U.S. people for strengthening of [the Ukrainian armed forces],” he said in the tweet. “We have proven to be smart operators of this weapon. The sound of the #HIMARS volley has become a top hit of this summer at the front lines!”

National security adviser Jake Sullivan, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke with Ukraine officials Monday about the aid and affirmed “the enduring U.S. support to Ukraine as the Ukrainian people continue to stand up the Russian aggression.”

# Russia labels factory fighters terrorists

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia's Supreme Court on Tuesday declared Ukraine's Azov Regiment a terrorist organization, a designation that could lead to terror charges against some of the captured fighters who made their last stand inside Mariupol's shattered steel plant.

Scores of Azov fighters are being held prisoner by Moscow since their surrender in mid-May. Russian authorities have opened criminal cases against them, accusing them of killing civilians. The addition of terrorism charges could mean even longer prison sentences.

The penalties for a terrorist organization's leaders would be 15 to 20 years in prison and five to 10 years for members of the group, Russian state media said.

In its ruling, the Supreme Court banned the Azov Regiment in Russia.

That could also outlaw the regiment in areas of Ukraine occupied by Russian or Russia-backed forces, if those places go ahead with plans to become part of Rus-

sia. In a statement, the Azov Regiment dismissed the ruling, accusing the Kremlin of "looking for new excuses and explanations for its war crimes." It urged the U.S. and other countries to declare Russia a terrorist state.

The Azov soldiers played a key part in the defense of Mariupol, holding out for weeks at the southern port city's steel mill despite punishing attacks from Russian forces. Ukraine's president hailed them and other defenders at the plant as heroes.

Moscow has repeatedly portrayed the Azov Regiment as a Nazi group and accused it of atrocities, though no evidence to back up those claims has been made public.

In May, Russia's Prosecutor General's office filed a motion to designate the regiment a terrorist organization.

The regiment, a unit within Ukraine's National Guard, has a checkered history. It grew out of a group called the Azov Battalion, formed in 2014 as one of many volunteer brigades assembled to fight Rus-

sia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine.

The Azov Battalion drew its initial fighters from far-right circles and elicited criticism for some of its tactics. Its current members have rejected accusations of extremism.

The regiment's far-right origins have been seized on by the Kremlin as part of its effort to cast Russia's invasion as a battle against Nazi influence in Ukraine.

Russian state media has repeatedly shown what it claimed to be Nazi insignias, literature and tattoos associated with the regiment.

Last week, dozens of Ukrainian POWs, including defenders of the Mariupol plant, were killed in an explosion at a barracks at a penal colony in Olenivka, an eastern town controlled by pro-Russian separatists.

Moscow and Kyiv have blamed each other for the blast, with Kyiv saying Russia blew up the barracks to cover up torture against the POWs.

# EPA pledges relief in towns plagued by raw sewage

Associated Press

HAYNEVILLE, Ala. — When there's heavy rain, human waste from the pond of sewage across the street from Charlie Mae Holcomb's home covers her front yard in rural Alabama. She can't remember how many times she's had to rip the flooring out of her small brick house because raw sewage backed up out the pipes.

Holcomb lives in Hayneville, a community in Lowndes County of fewer than 1,000, where

roughly one-third of people live in poverty and about 85% are Black. The 73-year-old has become an unofficial spokeswoman for people living with poor drainage and disgusting sewage problems that go back generations.

"It's not just mine, it's almost all the people. They just won't talk," said Holcomb.

The heads of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Agriculture came to Lowndes Coun-

ty to announce Tuesday a pilot program to help rural communities that face serious sewage problems like those here. Inferior sewage systems allow waste to back up and pool, threatening public health and degrading basic dignity.

Federal officials said the new pilot will help 11 communities assess their sewage problems, plan improvements and receive the financial and technical help to make those plans real. In addition to Lowndes County, the

effort will help two West Virginia counties and the San Carlos Apache Tribe in Arizona, among other areas.

"The America that we all believe in is a land of opportunity. But for historically marginalized communities from Alabama to Alaska, that opportunity is stolen when basic sanitation doesn't work — exposing adults and children to backyard sewage and disease," EPA Administrator Michael Regan said in a statement.

# Jill Biden says no doubts on her commitment to teaching

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jill Biden says she didn't doubt that she could keep teaching as first lady and overcame the skepticism that she could handle both jobs by instructing her staff to "figure it out."

In a new interview in the September issue of *Real Simple* magazine, the first lady describes how she uses Post-it notes to manage her large family, and offers marriage

advice to newlyweds hoping to celebrate 45 years of marriage as she and President Joe Biden did on June 17.

Biden is the first first lady to continue her career outside the White House.

"I think people were a little skeptical. Could I truly do it, since I was the first one to try it?" she said. "But I knew I wanted to teach."

She said she told her staff, "This is what I

want to do. We have to figure it out."

Biden continues to teach English and writing at Northern Virginia Community College, which is where she taught during the eight years her husband was vice president. Her staff back then also doubted that she could teach and serve as second lady, but she managed.

"I saw it work then, and I knew we could figure out how to do it now," she said.

# After the rain comes the heat in Kentucky

Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The rain that unleashed massive floods in Appalachian mountain communities was diminishing on Tuesday, leaving survivors to face a new threat: baking in the heat as they try to recover.

“It’s going to get really, really hot. And that is now our new weather challenge,” Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said at his Tuesday morning briefing on the disaster.

The death toll stood at 37 on Tuesday after more bodies were found Monday in the ruined landscape, and while more than 1,300 people have been rescued, crews were still trying to reach some people who remain cut off by floods or mudslides, he said. Hun-

dreds remained unaccounted for, a number that should drop once cellphone service is restored and people can tell each other they’re alive.

“It is absolutely devastating out there. It’s going to take years to rebuild. People left with absolutely nothing. Homes that we don’t know where they are, just entirely gone. And we continue to find bodies of our brothers and sisters that we have lost,” Beshear said.

The National Weather Service warned that slow-moving showers and thunderstorms could provoke more flash flooding through Tuesday along waterways swollen by Sunday’s heavy rain, a dismal coda to last week’s historic floods. That includes communities just across the state line in

Virginia and West Virginia, where some people also remained without power.

Cooling stations are being set up in buildings that were spared the floods as more than 9,600 customers remain without electricity in eastern Kentucky, Beshear said.

“With the heat coming up, we put out the call for cooling stations. And they have been set up in time, in fact before this heat. We may, for the first time, be ahead of the weather,” he said.

“I know you may be out there working to salvage whatever you can. But be really careful Wednesday and Thursday when it gets hot,” the governor said. “We’re bringing in water by the truckloads. We’re going to make

sure we have enough for you. But you’re going to need a cool place at least to take a break.”

For hundreds of people whose homes were damaged or destroyed, that place was an emergency shelter. As of Tuesday, nearly 430 people were staying at 11 such shelters, and 191 more were being housed temporarily in state parks, Beshear said.

President Joe Biden declared a federal disaster to direct relief money to counties flooded after 8 to 10 ½ inches of rain fell in just 48 hours in parts of eastern Kentucky, southern West Virginia and western Virginia.

The disaster was the latest in a string of catastrophic deluges that have pounded parts of the U.S. this summer, including St. Louis.

## Judge refuses to dismiss suit over recalled license plate

Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — A federal judge on Monday refused to dismiss a lawsuit filed against Delaware government officials who recalled a vanity license plate issued to a breast cancer survivor because of what the state transportation secretary described as a “perceived profanity.”

The judge said in a ruling that the lawsuit by Kari Lynn Overington, of Milton, raises a “significant constitutional issue.”

“I am ready for my day in court,” Overington, 41, said in a brief phone interview.

In December 2020, Overington applied for a vanity license plate reading “FCANCER” and received it two months later.

In June 2021, she received a letter from the manager of the Division of Motor Vehicles office in Dover telling her that the plate “does not represent the division and the state in a positive manner.” DMV manager Levi Fisher wrote that any plate considered offensive will be denied or recalled, if issued in error.

Overington responded by

emailing state Transportation Secretary Nicole Majeski and asking for her help. She argued that the average person would not consider her vanity tag to be obscene. She also said court rulings in other states suggest that First Amendment rights apply to vanity tags, and that any regulations must be “viewpoint neutral.”

“My vanity plate receives positive feedback everywhere I go, and I have had more than a few deep conversations with complete strangers about my cancer and how cancer has touched their lives because of it,” Overington wrote. “The community of cancer warriors, cancer survivors and those who love them is far reaching and very supportive.”

Majeski stood by the decision to recall the vanity plate.

“Your vanity plate FCANCER contains a perceived profanity, the abbreviation for the word ‘F\*@k’, and for that reason, it must be recalled,” Majeski wrote, apologizing for the oversight by DMV staff in initially approving the plate.

## Poland marks anniversary of 1944 revolt against Nazis

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Poles on Monday marked the 78th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, a doomed 1944 revolt against Nazi German forces, with some, including the president, comparing the wartime Polish resistance to that of Ukrainians today fighting Russia’s invasion.

People in Warsaw observed a minute of silence as a siren wailed at 5 p.m. to honor those who fought and died in the 1944 struggle that lasted 63 days and ended tragically for the Poles. That was the hour when the uprising began on Aug. 1, 1944, after five years of brutal Nazi occupation.

In the yearly ritual, people across Warsaw paused in their tracks, some holding flags or torches. A far-right organization led a march through the city that passed peacefully.

President Andrzej Duda visited an exhibition titled “Warsaw-Mariupol — cities of ruins, cities of struggle, cities of hope.” He recalled how the “Germans ruthlessly murdered civilians in the

capital,” adding that “the Russian aggression against Ukraine is similarly ruthless today.”

The Warsaw Uprising was the largest act of resistance by any nation under the German occupation during World War II, and the heroism of the insurgents remains a defining element in Polish national identity. The Germans suppressed the rebellion brutally, destroying most of Warsaw and killing around 200,000 people, most of them civilians.

Poles in 1944 also felt betrayed by the Soviets, whose troops had arrived on the outskirts of Warsaw in their westward push against Adolf Hitler’s forces. The Red Army remained on the Warsaw outskirts without helping the Poles, who were allegedly their allies.

The citywide revolt took place more than a year after the April 19, 1943, start of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, a separate revolt by doomed Jews that also ended in tragedy. It remains as a symbol of courage and defiance for Israelis today.

**AMERICAN ROUNDUP**

**Hitler's wristwatch sells at auction for \$1.1M**

**MD** CHESAPEAKE CITY — A Maryland auction house has sold a wristwatch that once belonged to Adolf Hitler for \$1.1 million.

Alexander Historical Auctions in Chesapeake City had estimated the value between \$2 and \$4 million, describing the watch as a "World War II relic of historic proportions."

News outlets reported that Jewish leaders and others objected to the sale, saying it had little to no historical value.

The auction house's president, Bill Panagopoulos, defended the auction and said the buyer is a European Jew.

The watch features the initials AH and a swastika. The auction house said a French soldier who was in the first unit to close in on Hitler in May 1945 at his Berchtesgaden retreat seized it as spoils of war.

**Man accused of swinging hatchet in road-rage fight**

**CT** WALLINGFORD — A Connecticut man faces assault and other charges after police said he swung a hatchet at other motorists during a road-rage incident.

The 33-year-old West Haven resident was arrested after police were called to a flea market in Wallingford.

According to Wallingford police, the man was backing into traffic on South Turnpike Road when another motorist honked his horn.

The West Haven man stopped his car and pulled the horn-honking driver from his vehicle. He then went into the

trunk of his own car, retrieved the hatchet and began swinging it at people, including one man who tried to disarm him, according to police.

He eventually dropped the hatchet after police arrived.

**Storm drops metal roof at gas station onto car**

**AZ** PHOENIX — Zane Ferrin had a plan. As a storm was hitting the Phoenix area, the Peoria resident pulled into a gas station to get some fuel and a quick respite from the torrential rain.

"It was coming down really hard. I was almost out of gas," Ferrin told Phoenix TV station ABC15. "I pulled under that ramada to one, get some gas and two, get away from the water and hail that was coming down."

A minute later, Ferrin said he heard some creaking. It was the metal roof that covers the fuel pumps.

"The pylon is about a foot and a half away from me. I look over and it just comes right down and lands right on my car," he said. "It was crazy. I have never had anything collapse right in front of me, let alone right on my car."

There were no injuries but Ferrin said he likely will need a new car due to the damage on his vehicle's roof.

**Man accused of stabbing wife more than 30 times**

**NV** LAS VEGAS — A Las Vegas man is scheduled to appear in court after he allegedly stabbed his wife around 30 times when she asked him for a divorce, accord-

ing to police.

Metro Police said Clifford Jacobs, 60, was booked into jail on suspicion of attempted murder and domestic battery resulting in substantial bodily harm.

According to police, Jacobs said he and his wife of 15 years began arguing in an apartment before he blacked out.

He said the next thing he remembered was being covered in her blood.

Police officers applied tourniquets to both of the woman's arms while they waited for paramedics.

Hospital staff at University Medical Center said the woman suffered about 30 stab wounds and had nerve damage to her face and neck.

**Ferry damaged after crash into terminal**

**WA** SEATTLE — Authorities said an automobile and passenger ferry crashed into a dock in Seattle, damaging the vessel.

Washington State Ferries tweeted that no injuries were reported but passengers said some vehicles were damaged. The state agency said the Cathlamet ferry, which was traveling from Vashon Island to a dock in the West Seattle neighborhood, sustained "significant damage."

Anne Gfeller Higuera was on the ferry. Her car was parked on the upper deck. As the ferry pulled into the Fauntleroy dock, she didn't notice anything out of the ordinary. But then she told the newspaper she heard an "enormous noise" in front of her that kept getting worse.

When she looked up, she saw the side of the boat had been

crushed and several cars in front of her were severely damaged.

U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Steve Strohmaier said they have begun investigating the cause.

Washington State Ferries runs automobile and passenger ferry service in the Puget Sound and San Juan Islands.

The vessel involved in the crash, the Cathlamet, is 328 feet long and can carry up to 124 vehicles and 1,200 passengers.

**Inmates sue over solitary confinement policies**

**MA** BOSTON — Inmates in Massachusetts have filed a class-action lawsuit challenging the state prison system's solitary confinement policies.

The three inmates at MCI-Cedar Junction in Walpole — Emmitt Perry, Carlos Bastos and Soksoursdey Roeung — said in a lawsuit filed in state court that they've been subjected to a combined 23 years of solitary confinement in the prison's disciplinary unit.

They argue the state Department of Correction is violating state law by keeping them and other prisoners in the disciplinary unit for up to 10 years.

The inmates also complain they receive inadequate meals, have restricted access to canteen, telephone calls and visits and reside in "parking space-sized" cells for 23 hours a day most of the week.

Under a 2018 law, Massachusetts prisoners are limited to six-month stints in solitary confinement for disciplinary purposes.

— From wire reports



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**Reporting World, National and Military News**

# Norman: Tiger said no to huge LIV offer

Associated Press

Tiger Woods turned down an offer that Greg Norman says was “somewhere in that neighborhood” of \$700 million to \$800 million to take part in the Saudi-funded LIV Golf series.

During an appearance on Fox News with Tucker Carlson that aired Monday night, Norman confirmed what he told the Washington Post in a story two months ago. Norman told the Post in June the offer was “mind-blowingly enormous; we’re talking about high nine digits.”

Woods has been opposed to LIV Golf since late last year, and he delivered his strongest comments at the British Open when

he said players who took the money funded by the Saudi Arabian sovereign wealth fund had “turned their back” on the PGA Tour that made them famous.

When an offer was made to Woods was not clear.

“That number was out there before I became CEO. So that number has been out there, yes,” Norman said in the Fox News interview, which took place Sunday at Trump National in Bedminster, N.J., where the third LIV Golf Invitational was held.

“And, look, Tiger is a needle-mover and of course you have to look at the best of the best,” Norman said. “So they had originally approached Tiger before I be-

came CEO. So, yes, that number was somewhere in that neighborhood.”

Various reports out of the United Kingdom have said Phil Mickelson received a \$200 million signing bonus, while Dustin Johnson received \$150 million. The 48-man fields, which play 54 holes with no cut, offer \$25 million in prize money at each event. Norman announced a 14-tournament schedule for next year.

LIV Golf currently has only one player — Johnson at No. 18 — from the top 20 in the world.

The source of the funding has led to sharp criticism of the series and the players who have enlisted because it is viewed as

an attempt to distract attention from its human rights record and links to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Asked why his rival tour has caused such an uproar among American golf fans, Norman responded plainly, “I don’t know.”

“I really don’t care,” Norman said. “I just love the game so much and I want to grow the game of golf and we at LIV see that opportunity not just for the men but for the women.”

The LIV Golf Invitational is off for a month during the FedEx Cup playoffs on the PGA Tour, returning over Labor Day weekend about an hour west of Boston, and then two weeks later plays in the Chicago suburbs.

## Source: Padres work multiplayer deal with Nationals

Associated Press

The San Diego Padres are close to acquiring superstar outfielder Juan Soto from the Washington Nationals on Tuesday in one of baseball’s biggest deals at the trade deadline, vaulting their postseason chances by adding one of the game’s best young hitters.

A person with direct knowledge of the move told The Associated Press the Padres and Nationals have agreed to a multiplayer deal contingent on San Diego first baseman Eric Hosmer waiving his no-trade provision. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because negotiations were ongoing.

Hosmer agreed to a \$144 million, eight-year deal with San Diego before the 2018 season. He is owed about \$7 million for the rest of this season and \$13 million annually from 2023-25.

If the deal is completed, the Padres also would receive first baseman Josh Bell along with Soto, a generational talent who turns 24 in late October when they hope to still be playing for a title. The Nationals would get Hosmer, left-hander MacKenzie Gore and prospects James Wood, C.J. Abrams, Robert Hassell III and Jarlin Susana.

After contributing to the Nationals’ first championship in franchise history in 2019, Soto hit .351 in 2020 to win the NL batting title. He has been walked more than any other player in major league baseball over the past two seasons.

The package of prospects going to Washington is one of the most touted groups ever involved in one deal. The 20-year-old Hassell, the No. 8 overall pick in the 2020 amateur draft, hit an RBI single in last month’s All-Star Futures Game. Wood, a 19-year-old outfielder and second-round selection in last year’s draft, is batting .321 with 10 homers and 45 RBIs for Class-A Lake Elsinore. Washington general manager Mike Rizzo set a lofty asking price last month after reports emerged that Soto turned down the team’s latest contract offer of \$440 million over 15 years.

Soto remains under team control for two more seasons after this one. The Padres getting him for potentially three playoff runs even absent a new deal made this the peak of Soto’s value. He said after Sunday’s game against St. Louis: “I just want to get it over with and see what’s going to happen..”

It looks as if he’ll be starting over in San Diego in the midst of his second All-Star season, part of a loaded lineup that also includes All-Star Manny Machado and Fernando Tatis Jr. when the shortstop returns from a broken left wrist.

It wasn’t the only big trade on Tuesday. The Minnesota Twins bolstered their bullpen by acquiring closer Jorge López in a deal with the Baltimore Orioles for four pitching prospects. The 29-year-old López is in the middle of a breakout season. He has a sparkling 1.68 ERA and 19 of his 20 career saves.

In other deals Monday:

■ The New York Yankees acquired pitcher Frankie Montas from Oakland for four prospects. Montas became the second front-line starting pitcher to switch teams ahead of the deadline, after Seattle got Luis Castillo from Cincinnati. In exchange for the 29-year-old right-hander and struggling reliever Lou Trivino, the Yankees sent Oakland 26-year-old rookie left-hander J.P. Sears along with three minor leaguers: 24-year-old lefty Ken Waldichuk, 23-year-old right-hander Luis Medina and 22-year-old infielder Cooper Bowman

■ San Diego got All-Star closer Josh Hader from first-place Milwaukee and Houston obtained designated hitter/first baseman Trey Mancini from Baltimore as part of a three-team trade that included Tampa Bay. The AL West leaders also added catcher Christian Vázquez from Boston, which in turn acquired outfielder Tommy Pham from Cincinnati.

■ St. Louis obtained left-hander José Quintana and right-hander Chris Stratton from Pittsburgh, and Milwaukee added right-hander Matt Bush from Texas.

■ World Series champion Atlanta acquired outfielder Robbie Grossman from Detroit and brought back infielder Ehire Adrianza from Washington. The Yankees got reliever Scott Effross from the Chicago Cubs, and the Chicago White Sox obtained left-hander Jake Diekman from Boston.

# Mets' Scherzer topples former team

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pete Alonso and Francisco Lindor homered, Max Scherzer defeated his former team and the New York Mets beat the Washington Nationals 7-3 Monday night for their seventh consecutive victory on the eve of ace Jacob deGrom's season debut.

Washington slugger Juan Soto homered off Scherzer (7-2) in what would prove to be his final game with the Nationals. Soto, who walked in his other three plate appearances, was traded to the San Diego Padres along with Josh Bell the day after the game, though details were still being finalized as of Tuesday afternoon.

Other teammates could also leave Washington as the Nationals, who own the majors' worst record at 35-69 and have lost four of five, look to sell for the second consecutive year.

Scherzer (7-2) won two Cy Young Awards with Washington, made six All-Star appearances in seven seasons and helped the Nationals win the 2019 World Series before getting dealt to the Dodgers at last year's trade deadline. He allowed three runs (two earned) in 6⅔ innings and struck out five while throwing a season-high 105 pitches.

"Command-wise, he wasn't normally where he's spoiled us at," New York manager Buck Showalter said. "To be able to compete through that was something to watch. I kind of enjoy those in a way. They kind of remind me of why guys like him are different."

Corbin (4-15), who leads the majors in losses, allowed four runs and seven hits in 4⅔ in-

nings while striking out four. He has lost five consecutive starts, posting a 10.29 ERA in that span.

**Yankees 7, Mariners 2:** Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 43rd home run, Jose Trevino had his first multihomer game and host New York won the series opener between teams bulking up for the postseason.

Anthony Rizzo started the onslaught with a three-run homer in the first, and the Yankees clinched their 31st consecutive winning record at home (41-13), second only to their big league standard of 47 in row from 1918-64.

Before the game, New York acquired starter Frankie Montas and reliever Lou Trivino from Oakland, three days after the Mariners obtained Luis Castillo.

**Royals 2, White Sox 1:** Salvador Perez and Whit Merrifield hit solo home runs, Daniel Lynch took a shutout into the sixth inning in his return from the injured list and Kansas City won at Chicago.

Perez launched a monster blast for the second straight game and his third homer in four contests after missing 31 games with a left thumb injury and surgery. The seven-time All Star has eight RBIs in the span.

**Dodgers 8, Giants 2:** Trea Turner homered to extend his hitting streak to 19 games, Max Muncy also went deep and Los Angeles won at San Francisco.

Freddie Freeman had three hits, including a double, and two RBIs as the Dodgers won for the fifth time in six games to improve to 23-5 since June 30.

Wilmer Flores hit his team-leading 16th

homer for the Giants, who are 3-9 since the All-Star break after winning five of their previous six.

Will Smith had a run-scoring double off San Francisco starter Logan Webb (9-5) in a three-run third in which Los Angeles broke open a 2-1 game.

**Padres 4, Rockies 1:** Jurickson Profar homered for the third straight game and Mike Clevinger pitched seven impressive innings for host San Diego in a win over Colorado.

**Red Sox 3, Astros 2:** Jarren Duran homered and drove in a career-high three RBIs, and Boston overcame sloppy fielding early for a win at Houston.

**Guardians 6, Diamondbacks 5 (11):** Amed Rosario homered early and singled in the winning run in the 11th inning for his third hit of the game as host Cleveland beat Arizona.

**Reds 3, Marlins 1:** Rookie right-hander Hunter Greene won for the first time in nearly two months, allowing one hit in six scoreless innings to lead Cincinnati to a win at Miami.

**Orioles 7, Rangers 2:** Cedric Mullins homered leading off his team's first game without Trey Mancini, Anthony Santander extended his hitting streak to 12 games with an RBI single and Baltimore matched its 2021 win total with a win at Texas.

**Twins 5, Tigers 3 (10):** Gio Urshela hit a game-ending, two-run homer in the 10th inning and Jose Miranda had three RBIs as host Minnesota came back to defeat Detroit and maintain its one-game lead in the AL Central.

## Riley agrees to 10-year, \$212M contract with Braves

Associated Press

ATLANTA — All-Star third baseman Austin Riley and the Atlanta Braves agreed Monday to a \$212 million, 10-year contract that starts in 2023, the most lucrative deal in team history and a surprise given he had three additional seasons under club control.

The deal with the 25-year-old is Major League Baseball's 25th for \$200 million or more. It includes a \$20 million club option for 2033 with no buyout, which could make the agreement worth \$232 million over 11 seasons.

Riley hit .423 with 11 homers, 25 RBIs and 21 runs in July. His 26 extra-base hits in July were the most by a Braves player in any month, passing Hall of Famer Hank Aaron's

previous record set in July 1961.

The big month left Riley leading the majors with 61 extra-base hits.

Riley capped the memorable month by delivering the winning double in the ninth inning of Sunday's 1-0 win over Arizona, driving in Matt Olson to cap a three-game sweep.

Riley is earning \$3.95 million this year after losing in arbitration. He would have been eligible for arbitration ahead of the 2023, '24 and '25 seasons, then could have become a free agent.

He will make \$15 million in 2023, \$21 million in 2024, and \$22 million in each remaining year of the deal. Riley will donate 1% of his salary annually to the Atlanta Braves Foundation.

Riley is hitting .301, began Monday fourth in the majors with 29 home runs, and has 68 RBIs and a .964 OPS in 101 games.

The deal provides long-term security for Riley while giving the Braves the ability to count on the slugger remaining a fixture in the middle of their lineup for at least a decade.

The defending World Series champion Braves were unable to re-sign first baseman Freddie Freeman after the 2021 season and could lose shortstop Dansby Swanson to free agency after this season. After failing to re-sign Freeman, the Braves acquired Olson from Oakland and signed him to a \$168 million deal for eight years.

Outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr. is in the second year of a \$100 million, eight-year deal.

# Browns get clarity on Watson, not closure

Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — The Browns finally have some clarity on Deshaun Watson's playing status. Now, they're waiting for closure.

It could be hours or days away.

More than four months since Cleveland signed him to a five-year, \$230 million contract, Watson was suspended six games without pay Monday by independent arbiter Sue L. Robinson, who ruled that he violated the NFL's personal conduct policy after being accused by more than two dozen women in Texas of sexual misconduct.

But while the long-awaited decision came as the Browns braced for the possibility he could be suspended for the entire 2022 season, nothing is final.

The league, which pushed for Watson to be disciplined harshly, is weighing whether to appeal Robinson's ruling, which she detailed in a 16-page document. If there's an appeal

— the league has until 9 a.m. Thursday to file it — the case will go to Commissioner Roger Goodell or someone he designates to either shorten, lengthen or maintain the punishment.

For now, Watson's debut for the Browns will be delayed until Oct. 23 at Baltimore — nearly 22 months since his last appearance in an NFL game.

About 90 minutes after Robinson's decision was released, Watson ran onto the practice field in his orange No. 4 jersey to cheers. It seemed like any other work day as he joked with teammates during the stretching period, fired precision passes and waved to fans clamoring for a better view or to get the QB's autograph afterward.

"I didn't notice any difference," Browns coach Kevin Stefanski said when asked about Watson's demeanor following the decision.

Watson is allowed to practice and play in exhibition games during his suspension. He con-

tinued to take most of the snaps with Cleveland's first-team offense Monday, with backup Jacoby Brissett getting the others.

The 29-year-old Brissett is poised to play in Cleveland's first six games, pending a change to Watson's suspension. Stefanski said the team will get both QBs prepared for the start of the season.

Watson's still first in line, though.

"More than anything he's our starter, and we need to get him ready to play games," Stefanski said. "Jacoby's our backup, we need to get him ready to play games. Obviously Week 1 with the suspension we expect Jacoby to be in there.

"So there's a point in our practice plan where we'll shift gears, if you will. But for right now, we feel comfortable with the plan we have."

Stefanski was the only member of Cleveland's organization to speak publicly, and that didn't happen until eight hours

after Robinson's ruling.

Owners Dee and Jimmy Haslam issued a statement, with a team spokesman saying they will wait along with general manager Andrew Berry until the process is complete before commenting in person.

Stefanski said he hadn't read Robinson's ruling but planned to. When he does, he'll see where she called Watson's behavior "egregious" and "predatory" and noted that the player's "lack of expressed remorse" factored into her decision.

She also weighed him being a first-time offender and his reputation before the allegations.

Stefanski has defended the team's pursuit of Watson, and he believes the 26-year-old, who has previously said he doesn't have any regrets, does indeed feel remorse.

"He's told me privately, he wants to be the best version of himself," Stefanski said. "I believe that wholeheartedly. He's working on that."

## Good call: McNally set to become first official in Hall

Associated Press

Hall of Fame coach John Madden always believed that the busts of the football greats in Canton talked to each other every night once the building was empty.

If those busts ever wanted to play an actual game of football, they now finally have all the necessary characters.

Art McNally, the former official who helped modernize the practice when he oversaw the operation from the league office, will become the first on-field official inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday night.

"It was a long time coming," said Dean Blandino, one of McNally's successors as the NFL's head of officiating. "I know the officiating community

was waiting for it a long time. ... When you think about impacting a game and making decisions that are going to help decide the game, it's players, coaches and officials. I think we do now have that complete in-game team."

While baseball, basketball and hockey have inducted several officials into their Halls of Fame, the NFL hadn't until now.

There couldn't have been a more appropriate choice for the honor than McNally, whose fingerprints are all over how games are officiated even today.

After a nine-year career on the field, McNally overhauled the department when he took it over in 1968 and remained involved until retiring in 2015.

"He really pulled it all together. He kind of took it from an

avocation to a profession and set the stage for everything that came after that," former NFL referee Ed Hochuli said.

The 97-year-old McNally got his start in officiating in an informal way when he called games while serving in the Marines in World War II. He went on to call more than 3,000 games in football, basketball and baseball, chronicling them all in books he kept, according to son-in-law Brian O'Hara.

Before shifting to the NFL league office in 1968, McNally would often officiate high school, college and professional games on the same weekend.

O'Hara said McNally never thought the day would come when he would make it into the Hall of Fame because officials typically are only noticed when

they missed calls.

But McNally didn't shy away from the scrutiny as he always had a listed phone number and often took complaint calls from aggrieved fans from various teams that he would listen to as long as they remained civil.

O'Hara said McNally even forged a relationship with a disgruntled Bears fan with McNally once making a surprise visit to his barbershop in Chicago and getting the fan tickets to the Super Bowl.

McNally's biggest impact came in how the NFL evaluated and trained officials under his watch in a system that is still mostly in place today.

He used game film to teach the officials and grade their performance, using the film to teach as well as evaluate.