

## City near power plant bombarded by Russia

*The Washington Post*

NIKOPOL, Ukraine — As Kateryna Semenova, 65, pointed out the damage from the rocket that landed in the bathtub three nights earlier, there was a loud boom from outside.

Dust fell from the already damaged walls. Then another boom.

“Drone!” shouted a neighbor who had been helping fix up the building, as they started running for shelter in the basement.

In Nikopol, just two miles across the Dnieper River from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, the threat of imminent nuclear catastrophe is compounded by daily shelling from Russian forces near the plant.

Although the attack on the plant that Ukrainian intelligence said it feared Russia was planning on Friday had not happened by late evening, shelling from its positions across the water continued. But if Moscow’s intention was to seed panic, it did not succeed in the war-weary communities near the plant.

In Zaporizhzhia, 30 miles northeast of the plant, some families tearfully boarded buses to Europe on Friday, calculating that a major attack on the plant, even if unlikely, was too much to risk. But those most inclined to flee are already long gone.

Semenova had not been considering it after the rocket ripped through her bathroom wall on Tuesday night. But on Friday, as she

and her husband sheltered in the basement among boxes of onions and pickle jars, she was not so sure anymore. One neighbor was planning on leaving, another won’t leave his goats.

A third boom reverberated through the tiny basement.

“It’s scary,” she said.

Her phone rang as people in the community began checking on each other.

“They are shooting somewhere, we are down low,” she told the neighbor on the line.

“She was asking if we were alive,” she explained to Washington Post journalists sheltering with her.

The city’s military administration reported five hits with artillery shells in the area on Friday afternoon, as bombardment that was once confined to nighttime comes more frequently during the day.

Ukraine has accused Russia of shelling this small city on the banks of the Dnieper River from the grounds of the plant, using fear of damaging the plant as a shield. Ukrainian soldiers say they shoot back at Russian positions on the other side, but not into the plant.

As international alarm has built, both sides have traded accusations over recent shelling that has damaged the power plant. Concerns rose on Friday, after Ukrainian intelligence said Russia had sent workers at the plant home for the day, and could be planning an attack inside.

Tetiana Zhivtsova, 62, didn’t even see the public warnings that there might be an attack until Friday afternoon. She had spent the night in the basement. And when she came up again, she had been busy clearing up the glass in the family’s damaged apartment.

Nikopol is too close to the plant for sirens to be of use — there’s no time to switch them on. Instead residents on the other side send warnings if they see artillery batteries being rolled out.

It was only when another shelling warning sent Zhivtsova, her mother and her daughter back to the basement in the afternoon that they stopped to check the news.

“It’s fear,” Zhivtsova said. “You don’t know what to do. Should we go and fix stuff? Or should we go and hide?”

Yulia Firsova, 52, who heads the housing association for Zhivtsova’s building and two others in the area, said only about 20% of the apartments are still inhabited.

The fear of a nuclear incident already made many leave, she said. There was the first wave when the local authorities started handing out antiradiation pills in the city a few months after the war started, she said. Since the shelling from the plant began, more have fled.

“It’s not going to be a second Chernobyl,” she said, referring to the nuclear disaster in northern Ukraine in 1986. “It’s going to be bigger.”

## Finland, Sweden offer NATO an edge in north

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The first surprise for the Finnish conscripts and officers taking part in a NATO-hosted military exercise in the Arctic this spring: the sudden roar of a U.S. Marine helicopter assault force, touching down in a field right next to the Finns’ well-hidden command post.

The second surprise: Spilling out of their field headquarters, the Finnish Signal Corps communications workers and oth-

ers inside routed the U.S. Marines — the Finns’ designated adversary in the NATO exercise and members of America’s professional and premier expeditionary force — in the mock firefight that followed.

Finnish camouflage for the Arctic snow, scrub and scree likely had kept the Americans from even realizing the command post was there when they landed, Finnish commander Lt. Col. Mikko Kuoka suspected. “For those who years from now

will doubt it,” Kuoka, modestly stunned by the outcome of the random skirmish, wrote in an infantry-focused blog. “That actually happened.”

As the exercise made clear, NATO’s addition of Finland and Sweden — what President Joe Biden calls “our allies of the high north” — would bring military and territorial advantages to the Western defense alliance. That’s especially so as the rapid melting of the Arctic from climate change awakens

strategic rivalries at the top of the world.

In contrast to the NATO expansion of former Soviet states that needed big boosts in the decades after the Cold War, the alliance would be bringing in two sophisticated militaries and, in Finland’s case, a country with a remarkable tradition of national defense.

Both Finland and Sweden are in a region on one of Europe’s front lines and meeting places with Russia.

# Former Air Force NCO sentenced for child porn

By ROSE L. THAYER  
*Stars and Stripes*

A former Air Force staff sergeant was sentenced Friday to four years in federal prison for possessing child pornography, the Justice Department said.

Keonte Navon Martin, 28, of Virginia Beach, Va., was assigned to Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., in December 2019 when he was found in possession of a memory card containing child pornography, according to court documents. The Air Force Office of Special Investigations conducted the initial investigation, which was later turned over to federal law enforcement authorities in Oklahoma.

Martin has since been released from active duty, the Justice Department said.

A federal grand jury indicted Martin in April 2021, and he pleaded guilty to one count of possession three months later. As part of his plea, Martin admitted he knowingly possessed the illegal content that had traveled across state lines to get to Oklahoma.

Martin was also sentenced to five years of supervised release once his prison term ends, according to the Justice Department. He also was ordered to pay \$10,100 in assessments, and forfeit the electronic devices that contained child pornography. Restitution owed to the identified victims in the images that Martin possessed will be determined at a later date.

Upon his release from prison, Martin will be required to register as a sex offender.

# Chinese President Xi asked Biden to stop Pelosi traveling to Taiwan

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — Just days before House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was expected to visit Taiwan, Chinese President Xi Jinping had a request of President Joe Biden: Find a way to keep Pelosi from visiting.

Xi's request in a July 28 call with Biden, described by a senior White House official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive conversation, followed myriad warnings Chinese officials made to U.S. counterparts of what China might do in retaliation for Pelosi's visit to the self-governing island that Beijing considers part of its territory.

But Biden told Xi he could not oblige, explaining that Congress was an independent branch of government and that Pelosi, D-Calif., as with other members of Congress, would make her own decisions about foreign trips, the official said. Biden also warned Xi against taking provocative and coercive actions if the House speaker were to travel to Taiwan, the official said.

Even as they defended Pelosi's right to visit, however, top U.S. officials harbored

deep concerns about the trip, according to several senior administration and White House officials, most of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity to talk candidly. The United States had seen indications over the last several months that China was considering unprecedented military activity across the Taiwan Strait, and officials had seen signs that China would use Pelosi's visit as a pretext to act, the senior officials said.

U.S. officials also worried about the timing of Pelosi's visit, which would come shortly before Xi sought to secure his third term in power, and the geopolitical ramifications that could follow.

Despite the Defense Department, the United States Indo-Pacific Command and White House national security officials laying out the risks, Pelosi proceeded with the trip, which prompted an unprecedented military response from China that included firing missiles into the waters around Taiwan and over the island — some missiles landed in Japan's exclusive economic zone — and military drills that crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait.

# Front lines of Ukraine-Russia war broadening

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian forces stepped up their battle to seize one of the dwindling number of cities in embattled eastern Ukraine not already under their control while continuing to fire on towns and villages in the country's north and south, Ukrainian officials said Saturday.

Russian shelling collapsed balconies and blew out windows in the southern region of Mykolayiv, injuring at least nine civilians, authorities said. A five-story apartment building and private homes in the town of Voznesensk were badly damaged, the Black Sea region's governor said.

"As of 13.30 p.m. (local time) — nine wounded, including four children. All children in a serious condition. Ages range from 3 to 17 years," Gov. Vitaliy Kim wrote in a Telegram post. He added that a young girl lost an eye as a result of Saturday's attack.

Reflecting the broadening front lines of the nearly six-month war in Ukraine, a Ukrainian airstrike hit targets in the largest Russian-occupied city in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, according to Ukrainian and Kremlin-backed local officials.

The Ukrainian mayor of Melitopol said preliminary reports pointed to "a precise hit" on a Russian military base. The head of the Kremlin-backed administration said the attack damaged residential areas and slightly injured one civilian.

In its daily update, the general staff of the armed forces of Ukraine said intensified combat took place around Bakhmut, a small city whose capture would enable Russia to threaten the two largest remaining Ukrainian-held urban centers in the eastern Donbas region.

Bakhmut has for weeks been a key target of Moscow's eastern offensive as the Russian military tries to complete a monthslong campaign to conquer all of the Donbas, an industrial region that borders Russia where pro-Moscow separatists have self-proclaimed a pair of independent republics.

A local Ukrainian official reported sustained fighting Saturday morning near four settlements on the border between Luhansk and Donetsk provinces, which together make up the contested region.

# Graham effort to delay testimony rejected

*Associated Press*

ATLANTA — A federal judge on Friday said Sen. Lindsey Graham's appearance before a special grand jury investigating whether then-President Donald Trump and others illegally tried to influence the 2020 election in Georgia should not be delayed to allow him to continue to challenge it in court.

Earlier this week, U.S. District Judge Leigh Martin May ordered Graham to honor his subpoena for the special grand jury. Graham's attorneys appealed that order to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and asked May to stay her ruling and prohibit the special grand jury from questioning him while that appeal plays out. May declined that request in her order on Friday.

"Under the circumstances, further de-

lay of Senator Graham's testimony would greatly compound the overall delay in carrying out the grand jury's investigation," May wrote. "Further delay thus poses a significant risk of overall hindrance to the grand jury's investigation, and the Court therefore finds that granting a stay would almost certainly result in material injury to the grand jury and its investigation."

Graham is currently scheduled to testify on Tuesday. But he still has another motion to stay May's ruling pending before the 11th Circuit.

Representatives for Graham did not immediately respond to messages on Friday seeking comment.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis opened the investigation early last year and in July filed petitions seeking to compel testimony from seven Trump ad-

visers and associates, including Graham.

Former New York mayor and Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani, who's been told he's a target of the investigation, testified before the special grand jury for nearly six hours on Wednesday. Two other lawyers who advised Trump, John Eastman and Jenna Ellis, were ordered this week to appear before the panel later this month. Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp filed a motion Wednesday seeking to quash a subpoena for his testimony.

The investigation, originally prompted by a Jan. 2, 2021, phone call between Trump and Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, is one of several pending legal threats Trump faces. Willis has said she's considering seeking to compel the former president himself to testify before the special grand jury.

## Pence denies leaving office with any classified data

*Associated Press*

DES MOINES, Iowa — Former Vice President Mike Pence said Friday that he didn't take any classified information with him when he left office.

The disclosure — which would typically be unremarkable for a former vice president — is notable given that FBI agents seized classified and top secret information from his former boss's Florida estate on Aug. 8 while investigating potential violations of three different federal laws. Former President Donald Trump has claimed that the documents seized by agents were "all declassified."

Pence, asked directly if he had retained any classified information upon leaving office, told The Associated Press in an interview, "No, not to my knowledge."

Despite the inclusion of material marked "top secret" in the government's list of items recovered from Mar-a-Lago, Pence said, "I honestly don't want to prejudge it until we know all the facts."

Pence was in Iowa on Friday as part of a two day-trip to the state, which hosts the leadoff Republican presidential caucuses. It comes as the former vice president has made stops in other early voting states as he takes steps toward mounting a 2024 White House campaign.

Pence also weighed in on Republican U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney's primary defeat earlier in the week to a rival backed by Trump. Cheney, who is arguably Trump's most prominent Republican critic, has called the former president "a very grave threat and risk to our republic" and further raised his ire through her

role as vice chair of the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection.

"My reaction was, the people of Wyoming have spoken," said Pence, who was targeted at the Capitol that day by angry rioters, including some who chanted, "Hang Mike Pence!" "And, you know, I accept their judgment about the kind of representation they want on Capitol Hill."

Pence said he has "great respect" for Cheney's father, former Vice President Dick Cheney, who served two terms under President George W. Bush.

"And I appreciate the conservative stance Congresswoman Cheney has taken over the years," Pence continued. "But I've been disappointed in the partisan taint of the Jan. 6 committee from early on."

## Walmart staff will now have more abortion coverage

*The Washington Post*

Walmart is expanding its employee health care plans to cover more situations in which its staff might seek an abortion, making the nation's largest private employer the latest firm to offer enhanced access to reproductive health services after *Roe v. Wade* was overturned.

Arkansas-headquartered Walmart, which has 1.6 million employees in the United States, said it would cover abortions "when there is a health risk to the

mother, rape or incest." It will also pay for the procedure in the event of miscarriage, a lack of fetal viability or an ectopic pregnancy, when a fetus implants outside the uterus. The company will provide "travel support" for employees and dependents if they require access to a health service covered by Walmart's insurance plan but there is no viable provider within 100 miles of their location.

Walmart's top human resources officer said in an internal memo that the new ben-

efits are effective immediately.

A trigger ban on abortions — with the exception of when the life of the mother is at risk — took effect in Arkansas after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe*, which had established a fundamental right to the procedure. About 53% of Walmart's employees in the United States are women. It operates more than 2,000 stores in states that have either banned abortion or imposed near-total restrictions on the procedure.



# IMF fees in dispute amid war, inflation

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The International Monetary Fund is facing pressure to reevaluate how it imposes fees on loans it disperses to needy countries like war-torn Ukraine — which is one of the fund's biggest borrowers.

The move comes as more countries will need to turn to the IMF, as food prices and inflation internationally continue to rise.

Surcharges are added fees on loans imposed on countries that are heavily indebted to the IMF.

Treasury Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo said in Aspen last month that finance ministers of several countries realize they have to pay a price for Russia's war in Ukraine, especially with food prices going up.

"They're going to have to go to the IMF; they're going to need to find assistance," Adeyemo said.

However, the IMF fee system could

change through U.S. legislation. An amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, otherwise known as the defense spending bill, would suspend IMF surcharges while their effectiveness and burden on indebted countries is studied.

That was passed by the U.S. House in July. The Senate is expected to vote on its defense bill in September. A representative of the Senate Armed Services Committee said an amendment may be offered in the next few weeks or even on the Senate floor.

As the largest IMF shareholder and member of the Fund's executive board, the U.S. can push for policy decisions and unilaterally veto some board decisions.

Citing worsening financial crises in Sri Lanka and Pakistan as examples, some accuse China of engaging in debt trap diplomacy — or having countries fall so deeply in debt to that they are beholden to it on international issues.

Advocates and civil rights organizations lodge the same complaint against the Fund, who claim the organization undercuts its core lender-of-last-resort role with countries in vulnerable positions to pay back debt.

However, some economists and representatives of the fund say the surcharges amount to responsible lending behavior, as they provide an incentive for members with large outstanding balances to repay their loans promptly. This applies especially for countries that otherwise may not be able to obtain financing from private lenders.

Serhiy Nikolaychuk, deputy chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine, said Ukraine is continuing to pay its debts "despite Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine."

"Our country will pay its debt and surcharges under previous programs and fulfill its obligations to the IMF," Nikolaychuk said. "It will be difficult, but we will pay."

## Proposed bill taxes AR-style rifle manufacturers

*The Washington Post*

After a three-month-long investigation into the gun manufacturing industry in the wake of a string of mass shootings this year, House Oversight Committee Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., is introducing two pieces of legislation targeting the manufacturers of AR-style rifles.

The proposed legislation includes a bill that would impose a 20% tax on the total revenue earned by manufacturers of as-

sault weapons and high-capacity magazines and a bill that would require each firearm manufacturer to create and implement a system to track and analyze crimes committed with firearms they have sold.

The draft bills reviewed by The Washington Post come on the heels of a report from the committee that found that five of the largest gun manufacturers in the United States did not track crimes associated with their

products and that the industry earned more than \$1 billion from the sales of AR-style weapons in the past decade.

The Firearm Industry Fairness Act would mean that "the family hunting rifle is not taxed at the same rate as an assault weapon, and would ensure that the firearm industry, like other industries in America, takes responsibility for the safety and misuse of its products," Maloney said in a statement.

The Firearm Industry Crime and Trafficking Accountability Act also mandates that manufacturers prohibit supplying firearms to a retailer if the company knows that "its provision of firearm products to that retailer will lead to a high risk of criminal activity or diversion," and empowers the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to issue a civil penalty on manufacturers that continue to supply those retailers.

## Mexico arrests ex-attorney general in missing students case

*Associated Press*

MEXICO CITY — Federal prosecutors said Friday they have arrested the attorney general in Mexico's previous administration on charges he committed abuses in the investigation of the 2014 disappearances of 43 students from a radical teacher college.

Prosecutors also announced they had issued arrest warrants in the case against 20 army soldiers and officers, five local offi-

cials, 33 local police officers and 11 state police, as well as 14 gang members.

The roundup included the first arrest of a former attorney general in recent history, and one of the biggest mass arrests ever by civilian prosecutors of Mexican army soldiers.

Jesús Murillo Karam served as attorney general from 2012 to 2015, under then President Enrique Peña Nieto. The office of the current attorney general, Alejan-

dro Gertz Manero, said Murillo Karam was charged with torture, official misconduct and forced disappearance.

In 2020, Gertz Manero said Murillo Karam had been implicated in "orchestrating a massive media trick" and leading a "generalized cover-up" in the case.

The arrest came a day after a commission set up to determine what happened said the army bore at least partial responsibility in the case. It said a soldier had in-

filtrated the student group involved and the army didn't stop the abductions even though it knew what was happening.

Corrupt local police, other security forces and members of a drug gang abducted the students in the city of Iguala in Guerrero state, although the motive remains unclear eight years later. Their bodies have never been found, though fragments of burned bone have been matched to three of the students.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

**Foot in hot spring may be linked to July death**

**MT** HELENA — Part of a human foot found in a shoe floating in a hot spring in Yellowstone National Park is believed to be linked to the death of a person last month, park officials said.

The July 31 death is being investigated but officials do not suspect foul play, park officials said in a statement. The statement did not disclose details about how the death is believed to have happened, identify the person who died or say why officials do not suspect foul play.

The shoe was recovered from the park's Abyss Pool after an employee spotted it, park officials said.

**Woman charged for pepper spray on bus**

**GA** BRUNSWICK — A Georgia woman was jailed after police said she pepper-sprayed a school bus driver and bus monitor who were trying to remove her from a bus.

Shaquayle Cuyler, 29, was arrested after she boarded a bus in Brunswick following a disagreement with the bus driver, Glynn County Schools Police Chief Rod Ellis told The Brunswick News.

When the driver and monitor tried to remove her, Ellis said she aimed the pepper spray at the two adults.

The driver and monitor were taken to a Brunswick hospital, while paramedics examined the 24 children aboard and cleared them to proceed to their elementary school on another bus.

Cuyler is charged with three

counts of battery, cruelty to children, criminal trespass, intentional disruption of a school bus and reckless conduct.

**Man dies in shootout with would-be robber**

**AL** ASHLAND — A Florida college student exploring the Alabama wilderness with his girlfriend was fatally wounded during a shootout with a would-be robber who appeared to be living with others in the woods, authorities said.

Adam Simjee, 22, was shot to death in the Talladega National Forest near the popular Cheaha State Park in east Alabama, the Clay County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. Yasmine Hider and Krystal Diane Pinkins were charged with murder, kidnapping and robbery, the statement said.

The couple was driving on a National Forest Service road when Hider flagged them down and asked for help with her car, sheriff's officials said. The woman then pulled out a gun and ordered them into the woods, they said, and Simjee produced a weapon he was carrying.

Simjee died despite the efforts of his 20-year-old girlfriend, Mikayla Paulus, who was performing CPR on him when authorities arrived, the statement said. She was not injured.

**Police: Man tried to buy stolen human remains**

**PA** A Pennsylvania man has been charged with abuse of a corpse, receiving stolen property and other charges after police said he al-

legedly tried to buy stolen human remains from an Arkansas woman for possible resale on Facebook.

Jeremy Lee Pauley, 40, of Enola, Pa., who described himself as a collector of what he called "oddities," including human body parts, said the remains were acquired legally when first contacted by police, according to a police affidavit. Police initially found what they described as older human remains including full skeletons that they determined were legally obtained.

However, after a second tip about newer remains in Pauley's home, investigators returned to the house to find more recent purchases. Police found three five-gallon buckets containing assorted body parts — including of children — and federal and state law enforcement agents intercepted packages addressed to Pauley from the Arkansas woman that contained body parts.

Pauley told investigators that he intended to resell the body parts, according to the affidavit. Investigators allege that Pauley arranged to pay the Arkansas woman \$4,000 for the body parts through Facebook Messenger.

**Man drove 330 miles to bomb ex-employer**

**LA** LAFAYETTE — An Alabama man who drove 330 miles to set off pipe bombs at a company where he had worked was sentenced to 19 months in prison.

Furmon Earl Bozeman, 61, of Gulf Shores, was sentenced for transporting destructive devices, U.S. Attorney Brandon B.

Brown said in a news release.

Bozeman had pleaded guilty in May, saying he drove from his home to New Iberia the night of Jan. 10 and set off three pipe bombs at Nabors Offshore Corp.

District Judge Robert R. Summerhays ordered 3 years of supervised release after Bozeman leaves prison.

**Firefighter charged with setting fire to building**

**VA** WOODSTOCK — A Virginia volunteer firefighter charged with setting fire to an abandoned building was with the first crew to arrive on the scene, an investigator said.

Assistant Fire Marshal Joe Loving said investigators retrieved surveillance video of a man in front of the building about 30 minutes before the fire was reported and his "very distinct" clothing led them to a suspect, WHSV-TV reported. Investigators noted that Ray Kerns, a member of the Woodstock Fire Department, was wearing matching clothing, officials said. Loving said that Kerns was with the first crew to arrive on the scene, The Northern Virginia Daily reported.

Kerns confessed to starting the fire and gave investigators information about the fire that only the person who started it would know, Loving said. Kerns was arrested and charged with burning or destroying any other building and intentionally destroying, defacing or damaging a building, both felonies. The Woodstock Fire Department released a statement saying Kerns has been suspended.

—From Associated Press

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# Venables already faces challenge at OU

*Associated Press*

NORMAN, Okla.— Brent Venables got his first welcome-to-the-hot-seat moment well before his first game as Oklahoma's new coach.

He attacked that controversy the same way he took on ball-carriers as a gritty, undersized linebacker at Kansas State — head on.

Earlier this month, Oklahoma said assistant head coach Cale Gundy spoke a “racially charged” word multiple times during a film session as he was reading off of a player’s device. Gundy, a popular ex-Sooners quarterback, quickly resigned and Venables accepted.

Public support around Gundy swelled in the hours that followed, but Venables stood fast. Still establishing his team’s culture as a first-year coach, Venables came out with a definitive second statement, saying Gundy was wrong and his resignation was the right choice.

Days later, Venables spent most of a 30-minute media ses-

sion laying out how the situation affected the program. He said the team had a three-hour meeting the day before Gundy stepped down, and the transparency and vulnerability displayed could make the ninth-ranked Sooners a more united group heading into their Sept. 3 season opener against UTEP.

“We talked about Murphy’s Law one time,” Venables said. “We talked about it, so here it is. And this won’t be the last time there’s a crisis and issues you got to deal with head on. Nobody asked for this issue to happen, but we respond. Ultimately, we know it’s going to help determine how we’re defined.”

Venables’ approach has been shaped, in part, by some of the top coaches in the game over the last generation, including Dabo Swinney at Clemson, of course, but also Bill Snyder of Kansas State and the Sooners’ Bob Stoops, who both are members of the College Football Hall of Fame.

Snyder, now 82, was the

coach when Venables played linebacker for the Wildcats in 1991 and 1992. He said Venables hasn’t changed his energy level or core values since.

“On numerous occasions I can just remember, you know, his intensity would rise to an extreme level,” Snyder said. “Not a bad level, but just, he’d really get emotional about some things to try to make (his teammates) better, and he got people’s attention and accomplished what his emotions intended to do. And it was virtually to make people better and get everybody to do things the right way and to get himself to do things the right way.”

Snyder said it was clear then that Venables was special beyond his game performance.

“I think as a player, he replicated his personality on the field,” Snyder said. “He was an extremely hard worker. He was very committed. He was very intense about what he did. I mean, all of this — his personal life and his football life — are very much, very much the

same. You know, he is who he is.”

Venables helped Kansas State rise to become a national power in the 1990s. He was a graduate assistant there for three seasons, then Snyder hired him as Kansas State’s linebackers coach. Said Venables: “I couldn’t be happier for that opportunity. I made \$33,000 plus some change, and I was head-over-heels excited.”

Stoops was Kansas State’s co-defensive coordinator while Venables was a graduate assistant. Venables moved up to linebackers coach when Stoops left to become defensive coordinator at Florida. He said it was a natural progression for Venables at the time.

“He’s an incredibly smart guy,” Stoops said. “So we weren’t changing our defense and no one really knew it any better than him, you know, as a linebacker playing for us and a GA. So it was really — I don’t want to say easy for him, but it was relatively easy.”

## FIU players just starting to grieve for teammate

*Associated Press*

MIAMI — Practice ended at Florida International on a steamy Friday morning, and coach Mike MacIntyre gathered the team to go over the plan for the rest of the day.

When he was finished, there was one last order of business.

“Let’s have a prayer,” MacIntyre said. “A prayer for Luke’s family.”

Football resumed at FIU two days after 22-year-old linebacker Luke Knox — the brother of Buffalo Bills tight end Dawson Knox — died in a Miami hospital. The cause of death still has not been announced, though police have said foul play is not believed to have been involved.

MacIntyre has been close with Knox’s family for decades. He’s known David Knox, Luke Knox’s father, for more than 40 years. MacIntyre went to Brentwood Academy in Tennessee, the same prep school that many in the Knox family attended.

He coached Luke Knox at Mississippi, and MacIntyre taking over at FIU after last season is part of the reason why Knox transferred there.

MacIntyre and his team spent Thursday off the field grieving, snacking on pizza and chicken sandwiches, trying to watch a movie, telling stories about Knox, sometimes crying, sometimes laughing, often hugging. On Friday, they got back to football.

“There’s no perfect formula, but you love the kids, you’re with them, you’re listening to what they say,” MacIntyre said. “And like I told every one of them, and our coaches reiterated it multiple times, everybody grieves differently. You don’t know when it’s going to hit you. So, we allowed our kids to say, ‘I want to practice, I don’t want to practice,’ and I think that they’ve you handled it the best they can.”

Most players chose to practice Friday. Some asked to be excused, instead spending time with counselors and psychologists.

Luke Knox was unresponsive Wednesday night when found in his dorm room there by a teammate, police said. Police officers administered CPR upon arrival, and county rescue personnel took over when they came to transport Knox to a nearby hospital.

MacIntyre spent hours there, hoping for a miracle. He then went to the airport to pick up Knox’s parents in the wee hours of Thursday morning.

“We’re in the process of working through this,” MacIntyre said.

He has had to deal with something similar before, at Georgia Tech in the late 1980s, when one of his teammates, tight end Chris Caudle, drowned in a boating mishap. MacIntyre said he also had been getting calls from other coaches who have lost a player.

Lane Kiffin, who coached Knox at Ole Miss, said he was thankful for having known him.

“Really neat kid,” Kiffin said.



# Browns trusting QB Brissett with Watson out

*Associated Press*

BEREA, Ohio — As Jacoby Brissett sat at a nearby table patiently waiting for his turn at the podium Friday, linebacker Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah wrapped up his interview session with some strong praise for his veteran teammate.

During chats sitting in front of their side-by-side lockers, Owusu-Koramoah has learned about life and football from Brissett.

“He’s the guy that we look to for that elder wisdom,” said Owusu-Koramoah. “The shaman.”

The Browns are going to need more than just knowledge from Brissett.

With Deshaun Watson’s suspension now official and slated for 11 games, Brissett, who has spent his NFL career as a fill-in quarterback, will try to keep Cleveland’s promising season afloat.

Brissett signed a one-year contract as a free agent with Cleveland in March — one day after the team traded for Watson — knowing there was a strong chance he would begin the season as the starter.

It wasn’t until Thursday, however,

when Watson agreed to a settlement with the NFL to sit 11 games and pay \$5 million for allegations of sexual misconduct made against him by two dozen women, that Brissett knew for how long.

Whether it was six games or 17, Brissett vowed to be ready and now he’s being called upon.

The Browns are placing their trust in Brissett, who has made 37 career starts with New England (2), Indianapolis (30) and Miami (5), to keep them competitive in the AFC North before Watson is eligible to return in late November.

It’s a tough ask for the 29-year-old, who is just 14-23 as a starter. But his teammates are confident he can handle it, and owner Jimmy Haslam, general manager Andrew Berry and coach Kevin Stefanski all offered their support after Watson’s suspension became known.

“I got to go out there and prove that every day, right?” Brissett said of the belief in him. “I’m just excited for the opportunity. I don’t take it lightly.”

The Watson suspension hasn’t changed Brissett’s approach, and he said he’s not

concerned about outside chatter involving the Browns’ interest in trading for Jimmy Garoppolo or living up to Super Bowl expectations.

When Garoppolo’s name was mentioned as part of a question, Brissett cracked a smile.

“I could care less,” he said before the Browns practiced for the second day against the Philadelphia Eagles. “I’m here to do my job, do the best I can, lead, be the same guy, be a good teammate and then everything else will take care of itself.”

Brissett has won over teammates with his steadiness, work ethic and engaging personality. He prides himself on being consistent in everything.

Wide receiver Amari Cooper, another of Cleveland’s newcomers, has watched Brissett lead by example.

“We know Jacoby,” Cooper said. “We understand what he brings to the table. We see him practice every day, see how hard he works, so we 100% believe in him. He wouldn’t be back there if we didn’t.”

# Scott seeing results he needs at just the right time

*Associated Press*

WILMINGTON, Del. — Adam Scott felt he was playing well enough that he should start seeing some better scores at some point. That moment appears to have arrived at just the right time.

Scott put together another tidy round Friday except for one hole — a double bogey on the 17th — for a 2-under 69 that gave him a one-shot lead going into the weekend at the BMW Championship.

Masters champion Scottie Scheffler opened with three straight birdies and then cooled for 67, while Jordan Spieth’s hopes for a bogey-free round ended by a few inches when his tee shot caught the sticky first cut instead of the fairway. His bogey gave him a 67.

They were one shot behind, along with Cameron Young (68) and Corey Connors (67).

Scott, who was at 8-under 134, wasn’t sure how much golf would be on is plate in August. He was No. 77 in the FedEx Cup, not assured of even making it to the BMW Championship, until a tie for fifth last week in the FedEx Cup playoffs opener.

That was enough of a spark, and now he’s

looking to cash in as one of the top 30 players who make it to the FedEx Cup finale next week in Atlanta for the Tour Championship.

“I’m in great shape going into the weekend,” Scott said. “I don’t even know when the last time I led a tournament was.”

He won at Riviera in 2020. His last 36-hole lead was at Doral for a World Golf Championship tournament in 2016, which he went on to win.

“I certainly haven’t had my best stuff for quite a while. It’s been a battle for sure,” he said. “But that’s how this game is. I’d like to make the most of this position now over the next 36 holes.”

A brief look behind would remind him it won’t be easy, and the Australian knows this.

Spieth has looked solid over two days at Wilmington Country Club, with only one bogey in each round. He missed the cut last week and feels his postseason didn’t start until Monday when he arrived at Wilmington.

Scheffler also missed the cut last week and joined Spieth and others at Pine Valley on Sunday. And then he opened with three short birdies, didn’t make too many mis-

takes the rest of the way and was in the final group with Scott on Saturday.

Connors is at No. 29 and is in a great spot to protect his position for East Lake. Young seems to play great every week — twice contending in majors with five runner-up finishes for the season. One win would tick a lot of boxes on his list of goals.

Xander Schauffele holed out with a wedge on the 17th hole for an eagle and a 69, and he was in the group two shots behind which included defending champion Patrick Cantlay and Rory McIlroy, who chipped in for birdie on his final hole for another 68.

Scott didn’t get a finish quite that good. He was sailing along on a warm, breezy afternoon when he pushed his tee shot near a tree. The lie was clean, but his punch shot toward the fairway hung up in rough. From there he didn’t reach the green or get up-and-down, and all that meant a double bogey.

“It’s a good reminder for the weekend that I’ve really got to keep it under control and don’t want to have too many get off the map and get out of position around here,” Scott said.

# Orioles hit 5 HRs in wild win over Red Sox

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Anthony Santander hit one of the Orioles' five homers and drove in four runs, and Baltimore outslugged the Boston Red Sox 15-10 on Friday night.

Jorge Mateo, Adley Rutschman, Ryan Mountcastle and Ramón Urías also connected for the Orioles, who had combined to score three runs in their previous two games, both losses.

This time, the Orioles scored three runs in the second inning, three more in the third, four in the fourth and five in the fifth — after the Red Sox put up a five-spot in their half of the fifth to get within 10-9. Baltimore's 15 runs were a season high and the teams combined for 37 hits, with the Red Sox outhitting the Orioles 19-18.

Baltimore moved within 1½ games of Tampa Bay for the final AL wild card spot.

**Blue Jays 4, Yankees 0:** Kevin Gausman tossed seven sharp innings and visiting Toronto became the latest team to shut out AL East-leading New York.

The Blue Jays moved within eight games of the Yankees, the closest they've been to first place since June 13. Gausman (9-9) allowed four hits and one walk with seven strikeouts.

**Braves 6, Astros 2:** Austin Riley hit a three-run homer off Lance McCullers Jr., Kyle

Wright won his 15th game to tie for the NL lead and host Atlanta beat Houston in the teams' first meeting since last year's World Series.

Houston left fielder Yordan Alvarez left the game in two outs in the bottom of the fifth. He reported feeling ill and was taken to a hospital for evaluation.

**Dodgers 2, Marlins 1:** Will Smith's fielder's choice grounder scored Mookie Betts with the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, and host Los Angeles beat Miami for its major league-leading 34th come-from-behind victory.

Betts scored on the bizarre play in which Marlins catcher Jacob Stallings abandoned the plate. Third baseman Jon Berti fielded Smith's grounder and wanted to throw home, but Stallings had moved toward first base, leaving no one at the plate.

**Nationals 6, Padres 3:** Victor Robles scored the go-ahead run on Josh Hader's wild two-base throwing error and rookie Alex Call followed with his first career home run, a two-run shot, as visiting Washington stunned San Diego.

It was the second straight rough outing for Hader (2-5), the major league leader in saves who has struggled since being obtained from Milwaukee on Aug. 1.

**Angels 1, Tigers 0:** Patrick Sandoval (4-8) pitched a four-hitter for his first career shutout, and visiting Los Angeles beat Detroit on Jared Walsh's second-inning homer.

Sandoval threw 97 pitches, struck out nine, walked none and didn't allow a runner past first base as the Angels ended a three-game skid.

**Mets 7, Phillies 2:** Pete Alonso hit his 30th home run and surpassed 100 RBIs, Starling Marte stole home and visiting New York beat Philadelphia.

The NL East-leading Mets improved to 12-4 against the Phillies this season. Chris Bassitt (11-7) gave up two runs on seven hits and threw 104 pitches in six innings for the Mets.

**Cardinals 5, Diamondbacks 1:** Miles Mikolas (10-9) threw eight dominant innings, Paul Goldschmidt connected for his 30th homer of the season and visiting St. Louis beat Arizona.

Goldschmidt has 30 homers or more for the seventh time, four with the Diamondbacks and three with the Cardinals.

**Cubs 8, Brewers 7:** Rookie Christopher Morel and Patrick Wisdom each hit a two-run homer and host Chicago topped Milwaukee for its fourth straight win.

Andrew McCutchen, Hunter Renfroe and Rowdy Tellez homered for the Brewers.

**Royals 3, Rays 2 (10):** Mi-

chael Massey hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning and visiting Kansas City's four-game skid ended.

MJ Melendez ended the game with a diving catch of Francisco Mejia's sinking liner in left field.

**Guardians 5, White Sox 2:** Triston McKenzie (9-9) struck out a career-high 14 batters and host Cleveland scored four runs in the seventh to rally past Chicago.

Rookie Steven Kwan tripled into the right-field corner with two outs in the seventh against Reynaldo López (5-3) to score Luke Maile, who had doubled. Amed Rosario's single gave Cleveland the lead.

**Mariners 10, Athletics 2:** Eugenio Suarez homered twice and drove in five runs as visiting Seattle cruised to its fourth straight win.

**Twins 2, Rangers 1:** Luis Arraez and Jose Miranda hit back-to-back home runs in the first inning, and that was enough for Dylan Bundy (7-5) as host Minnesota beat Texas.

**Pirates 5, Reds 4:** Michael Chavis hit a bases-loaded single in the ninth to cap host Pittsburgh's rally past Cincinnati.

**Rockies 7, Giants 4:** Rookie Elehuris Montero homered twice and drove in five runs to back the solid pitching of José Ureña (2-4), and host Colorado snapped a five-game skid.

## Utah Little League player recovering from injury

Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — A Little League World Series player who seriously injured his head when he fell out of his top bunk in dorms at the world series complex has FaceTimed with his coach and continues to improve, the coach said Friday.

Mark Ence, the manager for Snow Canyon, Utah, said he told his 12-year-old player, Easton Oliverson, that he loved him and Easton said he loved the coach back.

"It was great to hear his voice," Ence said.

Easton has been recovering in the hospital

since the accident Monday. His MRI on Wednesday night came back normal, he has begun walking and walked to the bathroom on his own Friday morning, Ence said.

"I'm not familiar with the recovery process of that sort of injury," Ence said. "But he definitely is improving and the family wanted to let everyone know that they are grateful for the thoughts and prayers and they feel like the prayers are working."

Ence spoke with reporters hours before Utah, representing the Mountain Region, played its first game of the tournament against

Tennessee from the Southeast Region.

With Easton's condition improving so quickly, his father, Jace was back in the dugout to resume his role as an assistant coach. In addition, Easton's younger brother Brogan was added to the team's roster.

"You're allowed to have 14 on a roster," Ence said. "We had 13 and we were able to get Easton's little brother Brogan to come and be with our team, so he arrived yesterday. The family is extremely excited. I think it's going to be huge for the family in terms of the healing process to have Brogan be there."