

## US shifts to long-term view for Ukraine

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — As Russia's war on Ukraine drags on, U.S. security assistance is shifting to a longer-term campaign that will likely keep more American troops in Europe into the future, including imminent plans to announce an additional roughly \$3 billion in aid to train and equip Ukrainian forces to fight for years to come, U.S. officials said.

U.S. officials told The Associated Press that the package is expected to be announced Wednesday, the day the war hits the six-month mark and Ukraine celebrates its independence day. The money will fund contracts for drones, weapons and other equipment that may not see the battlefield for a year or two, they said.

The total of the aid package — which is being provided under the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative — could change overnight, but not likely by much. Several officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the aid before its public release.

Unlike most previous packages, the new funding is largely aimed at helping Ukraine secure its medium- to long-term defense posture, according to officials familiar with the matter. Earlier shipments, most of them

done under Presidential Drawdown Authority, have focused on Ukraine's more immediate needs for weapons and ammunition and involved materiel that the Pentagon already has in stock that can be shipped in short order.

In addition to providing longer-term assistance that Ukraine can use for potential future defense needs, the new package is intended to reassure Ukrainian officials that the United States intends to keep up its support, regardless of the day-to-day back and forth of the conflict, the officials said.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg noted the more extended focus Tuesday as he reaffirmed the alliance's support for the war-torn country.

"This is a battle of wills, and a battle of logistics. Therefore we must sustain our support for Ukraine for the long term, so that Ukraine prevails as a sovereign, independent nation," Stoltenberg said, speaking at a virtual conference about Crimea, organized by Ukraine.

Six months after Russia invaded, the war has slowed to a grind, as both sides trade combat strikes and small advances in the east and south. Both sides have seen thou-

sands of troops killed and injured, as Russia's bombardment of cities has killed countless innocent civilians.

There are fears that Russia will intensify attacks on civilian infrastructure and government facilities in the coming days because of the independence holiday and the six-month anniversary of the invasion.

Late Monday, the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine and the State Department issued a new security alert for Ukraine that repeated a call for Americans in the country to leave due to the danger.

"Given Russia's track record in Ukraine, we are concerned about the continued threat that Russian strikes pose to civilians and civilian infrastructure," it said.

To date, the U.S. has provided approximately \$10.6 billion in military aid to Ukraine, including 19 packages of weapons taken directly from Defense Department stocks since August 2021.

U.S. defense leaders are also eyeing plans that will expand training for Ukrainian troops outside of their country, and for militaries on Europe's eastern and southern flanks that feel most threatened by Russia's aggression.

## Federal court order delays Marine's court-martial

**BY JONATHAN SNYDER**

*Stars and Stripes*

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWA-KUNI, Japan — A federal judge's order in Florida means an indefinite trial delay for a Japan-based Marine who allegedly skipped two flights stateside to face discharge for refusing a COVID-19 vaccine.

A military judge agreed on Monday to delay a special court-martial for Lance Cpl. Catherine Arnett, 24, of Fort Worth, Texas, set to begin the next day at MCAS Iwakuni, Arnett told Stars and Stripes on Monday.

Arnett said her defense lawyer, Marine Capt. Brentt McGee, moved last week to delay her two-day trial indefinitely based on Thursday's order by U.S. District Court Judge Steven Merryday in Tampa, Fla.

Ruling in a pending federal case, Merryday temporarily barred the Department of Defense and Marine Corps from punishing

Marines who refused the vaccine on religious grounds.

Arnett is not being court-martialed for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine, Marine Corps spokesmen have said. A spokesman for MCAS Iwakuni did not respond Tuesday to a request for further comment on Arnett's court-martial delay.

Arnett is charged with violating two articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice: two counts under article 87, missing troop movements on May 7 and May 14, and one under article 92, disobeying a direct order on May 7 to take a COVID-19 test.

Arnett claims her prosecution stems from the fact that she refused the COVID-19 vaccine mandated last year by the Marine Corps and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. She based her refusal to board those flights in her belief the vaccine mandate is unlawful, she said in an online interview with an anti-vac-

cination group, Children's Health Defense, in July.

"My lawyer was able to brilliantly tie the logic together with my decisions on May 7 and May 14 inextricably to the vaccine mandate, which is what I had been trying to have done all along," she said, referring to the scheduled flights.

Merryday in his ruling also granted class-action status for all active and reserve Marines who refused the DOD vaccine mandate on religious grounds, according to a report Saturday on The Center Square nonprofit news website.

Merryday's preliminary injunction bars the DOD and the Marine Corps from disciplining or discharging active duty or reserve Marines who refused the COVID-19 vaccination on religious grounds, even after their requests for religious exemptions were denied, according to The Center Square report.

# Amended DC request for Guard help rejected

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Monday once again denied a request from the District of Columbia seeking National Guard assistance in dealing with thousands of migrants being bused to the city from Texas and Arizona.

According to a copy of a letter to the city reviewed by The Associated Press, the Defense Department said use of the D.C. National Guard would be inappropriate and would hurt the over-

all readiness of the troops, forcing some to cancel or disrupt military training.

The letter said the department is also concerned about putting uniformed military members in direct contact with migrants to provide food, sanitation or other support, saying the troops have no real experience or training for that mission.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin rejected a similar D.C. request earlier this month, and Mayor Muriel Bowser had said

she would send an amended, “more specific” proposal. Bowser had initially asked for an open-ended deployment of 150 National Guard members per day as well as a “suitable federal location” for a mass housing and processing center, mentioning the D.C. Armory as a logical candidate. The revised request asked that the help be provided for just 90 days.

The Pentagon also denied the use of the armory, saying it is not air conditioned and would have

to undergo costly changes and repairs to make it suitable for overnight stays.

When the Defense Department rejected the first request, officials said the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s food and shelter program has provided funding for the problem, and has indicated those funds are sufficient at this point. The latest letter said the city should continue to work with non-government groups to address the issue.

## US bombers fly over Balkans, Dubrovnik in show of support

Associated Press

DUBROVNIK, Croatia — A pair of U.S. Air Force B-52 strategic bombers on Monday flew low over the Croatian resort of Dubrovnik and three other NATO-member states in the region as a sign of support amid the Russian aggression in Ukraine.

In addition to the walled Croatian tourist resort of Dubrovnik, the aircraft flew over the government headquarters in Skopje, North Macedonia, the downtown Skanderbeg Square in the Albanian capital, Tirana, and up the Adriatic coast of Montenegro.

The Balkans and the Adriatic Sea have lately seen increased military, intelligence and propaganda activity by Moscow, which considers the region of its strategic interest because of its access to the Mediterranean.

“The purpose of each flyover is to demonstrate U.S. commitment and assurance to NATO allies and partners located in southeastern Europe,” the U.S. Air Force said in a statement. “Additionally, this will provide citizens an opportunity to take photos, videos and enjoy the aircraft flying overhead.”

Crowds gathered on the squares in Skopje and Tirana, and

tourists watched in Dubrovnik and Montenegro as the giant bombers thundered overhead. Some onlookers waved American flags.

North Macedonia was the last nation to join NATO in 2020 and Montenegro did it in 2017, both despite opposition from Russia.

North Macedonia’s Army Chief of Staff, Lt. Col. Jovan Azmanovski, told TV broadcaster Kanal 5 that the bombers’ flights were symbolic proof that “our skies are safe.”

“People in North Macedonia were able to see a flights of USAF B-52 two strategic bombers over Skopje, which demonstrate our NATO membership and the safety and security of our and skies of entire alliance. Our skies are safe and our (NATO) membership is more than visible,” he said.

In Tirana, Albanian Army Chief of Staff Arben Kingji said “we are witnessing a strategic military demonstration.”

In the Baltic Sea, the amphibious warship USS Kearsarge — the largest warship ever to visit Lithuania — was officially welcomed Monday. The country borders fellow NATO member Poland and Belarus, a Moscow ally.

## NATO pledges to keep helping Ukraine fight ‘grinding war’

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

NATO’s top official on Tuesday warned of harder fighting to come in Ukraine, where he said a “grinding war of attrition” with Russia means allies must sustain long-term military support for the country.

Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg’s remarks were made during a meeting of the Crimea Platform, led by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, which was focused on galvanizing international support for Kyiv.

“Winter is coming, and it will be hard,” Stoltenberg said. “And what we see now is a grinding war of attrition. This is a battle of wills, and a battle of logistics.”

The virtual meeting, which included dozens of heads of state and European Union leaders, served almost as a political pep rally for Ukraine. Western leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, condemned Russia’s invasion and heaped praise on Ukraine’s will to battle back.

Ukraine’s territorial integrity, to include the return of the Cri-

mean Peninsula, must be restored, Western leaders said.

In 2014, Russia’s military intervention in Ukraine resulted in the illegal annexation of Crimea. The international community hasn’t recognized Russia’s claim to the territory, which Zelenskyy said Ukraine was intent on getting back.

In recent weeks, Ukraine has stepped up attacks inside Crimea, which serves as a military launching pad for Russia in its broader war on the country. Russian military bases and weapons depots are among the sites that have come under attack as the war enters its seventh month.

Stoltenberg said allies will continue to provide military support to Ukraine. At NATO’s June summit in Madrid, allies pledged a range of supplies, including fuel, protective military gear, mine countermeasures, drones and secure communications.

“Ukraine has suffered six terrible months of war, but you have also shown your incredible ability to resist brutal aggression — to strike back, retake territory and impose major costs on Russia,” Stoltenberg said.

# Noem may have 'engaged in misconduct' in SD

Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. — A South Dakota ethics board said Monday that it found sufficient information that Gov. Kristi Noem may have “engaged in misconduct” when she intervened in her daughter’s application for a real estate appraiser license, and it referred a separate complaint over her state airplane use to the state’s attorney general for investigation.

The three retired judges on the Government Accountability Board determined that “appropriate action” could be taken against Noem for her role in her daughter’s appraiser licen-

sure, though it didn’t specify the action.

The board’s moves potentially escalate the ramifications of investigations into Noem. The Republican governor faces reelection this year and has also positioned herself as an aspirant to the White House in 2024. She is under scrutiny from the board after Jason Ravensborg, the state’s former Republican attorney general, filed complaints that stemmed from media reports on Noem’s actions in office. She has denied any wrongdoing.

After meeting in a closed-door session for one hour Monday, the board voted unani-

mously to invoke procedures that allow for a contested case hearing to give Noem a chance to publicly defend herself against allegations of “misconduct” related to “conflicts of interest” and “malfeasance.” The board also dismissed Ravensborg’s allegations that Noem misused state funds in the episode.

The retired judges, however, left it unclear how they will proceed. Lori Wilbur, the board chair, said the complaint was “partially dismissed and partially closed,” but added that it could be reopened. She declined to discuss what would cause the board to reopen the

complaint.

The board can issue a public or private reprimand or direct an official to do community service. It can also make recommendations to the governor — though that option seems unlikely since the complaints are leveled against Noem.

Noem later Monday struck back at the board of retired judges. A spokesman for her campaign, Ian Fury, said that the board’s action “did not follow state law or precedent.”

“They have yet to point to one single statute the governor has violated in either of these complaints,” he said in a statement.

## As Amazon grows, so does its monitoring of consumers

Associated Press

From what you buy online, to how you remember tasks, to when you monitor your doorstep, Amazon is seemingly everywhere.

And it appears the company doesn’t want to halt its reach anytime soon. In recent weeks, Amazon has said it will spend billions of dollars in two gigantic acquisitions that, if approved, will broaden its ever growing presence in the lives of consumers.

This time, the company is targeting two areas: health care, through its \$3.9 billion buyout of the primary care company One Medical, and the “smart home,” where it plans to expand its already mighty presence through a \$1.7 billion merger with iRobot, the maker of the popular robotic Roomba vacuum.

Perhaps unsurprisingly for a company known for its vast collection of consumer information, both mergers have heightened enduring privacy concerns about how Amazon gathers data and what it does with it.

The latest line of Roombas, for example, employ sensors that map and remember a home’s floor plan.

“It’s acquiring this vast set of data that Roomba collects about people’s homes,” said Ron Knox, an Amazon critic who works for the anti-monopoly group Institute for Local Self-Reliance. “Its obvious intent, through all the other products that it sells to consumers, is to be in your home. (And) along with the privacy issues come the antitrust issues, because it’s buying market share.”

Amazon’s reach goes well beyond that. Some estimates show the retail giant controls roughly 38% of the U.S. e-commerce market, allowing it to gather granular data about the shopping preferences of millions of Americans and more worldwide. Meanwhile, its Echo devices, which house the voice assistant Alexa, have dominated the U.S. smart speaker market, accounting for roughly 70% of sales, according to estimates by Consumer Intelligence Research Partners.

## Trump seeks special master to review Mar-a-Lago documents

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lawyers for former President Donald Trump asked a federal judge Monday to halt the FBI’s review of documents recovered from his Florida estate earlier this month until a neutral special master can be appointed to inspect the records.

The request was included in a federal lawsuit, the first filing by Trump’s legal team in the two weeks since the search, that takes broad aim at the FBI investigation into the discovery of classified records at Mar-a-Lago and that foreshadows arguments his lawyers are expected to make as the probe proceeds.

It comes as The New York Times reported that the government has recovered more than 300 documents marked classified from Mar-a-Lago since Trump left office, including more than 150 retrieved by the National Archives in January — a number that helped trigger the criminal investigation.

The lawsuit casts the Aug. 8 search, in which the FBI said it recovered 11 sets of classified

documents from Mar-a-Lago, as a “shockingly aggressive move.” It also attacks the warrant as overly broad, contends that Trump is entitled to a more detailed description of the records seized from the home and argues that the FBI and Justice Department has long treated him “unfairly.”

“Law enforcement is a shield that protects America. It cannot be used as a weapon for political purposes,” the lawyers wrote Monday. “Therefore, we seek judicial assistance in the aftermath of an unprecedented and unnecessary raid” at Mar-a-Lago.

In a separate statement, Trump said “ALL documents have been previously declassified” — though he has not produced evidence to support that claim — and described the records as having been “illegally seized from my home.” The Justice Department countered in a terse three-sentence statement pointing out that the search had been authorized by a federal judge after the FBI presented probable cause that a crime had been committed.



# Heavy rain floods Dallas-Fort Worth area

Associated Press

DALLAS — Heavy rains across the drought-stricken Dallas-Fort Worth area on Monday caused streets to flood, submerging vehicles as officials warned motorists to stay off the roads and water seeped into some homes and businesses.

“The Dallas-Fort Worth area was pretty much ground zero for the heaviest rain overnight,” said Daniel Huckaby, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

The official National Weather Service record station at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport reported 9.19 inches of rain in the 24 hours ending at 2 p.m. Monday. That ranked second for the top 10 most rain over 24 hours in Dallas on record. The most was 9.57 inches that fell Sept. 4-5, 1932.

“We’ve been in drought conditions, so the ground soaked up a lot of it but when you get that

much rain over that short a period of time, it’s certainly going to cause flooding, and that’s what we saw, definitely in the urban areas here,” Huckaby said.

Across the area, rainfall amounts ranged from less than 1 inch to over 15 inches, said National Weather Service meteorologist Sarah Barnes. By Monday afternoon, the rain had moved out of the area, she said.

“There was quite a bit of variation in the rainfall totals,” Barnes said.

At least one fatality was blamed on the downpours as emergency responders across the area reported responding to hundreds of high-water calls. A 60-year-old woman was killed in the Dallas suburb of Mesquite when flood waters from South Mesquite Creek swept her vehicle from Texas 352 westbound at Interstate 635, officials said.

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins, as presiding officer of the

Dallas County commissioners, declared a disaster had occurred in the county and requested federal and state assistance for affected individuals.

In Balch Springs, a Dallas suburb where last month a grass fire that started in a tinder-dry open field damaged over two dozen homes, officials on Monday rescued people from flooded homes. Fire Chief Eric Neal said they rescued four people from one flooded home and one person from another.

“We had to get to them by boat and pull them to safety,” said Neal, who added that others chose to stay in their flooded homes.

“As the rain stopped, the water started to recede pretty quick,” Neal said.

At White Rock Lake in Dallas, where the water level has been low through the baking summer months, people with umbrellas and water-proof jackets braved the rain Monday morning to

watch the deluge transform the lake’s previously dry concrete spillway into what looked like a roaring river.

Trenton Cody, 29, said he drove over Monday morning to take a look at the effect the floodwaters were having on the lake’s dam.

“It looks like we’re high in the mountains somewhere with some like Class V rapids, which is crazy,” Cody said.

Huckaby said that with so much concrete in urban areas, “there’s just only so much that the drain systems can handle.”

The water seeped into some businesses. Peter Tarantino, who owns Tarantino’s Cicchetti Bar and Record Lounge in Dallas, told The Dallas Morning News that about 6 inches of water flowed into the dining room, but had receded by late morning.

“I’m hoping by Thursday we’ll be able to open up the bar with a few snacks,” he told the newspaper. “I don’t give up too easily.”

## Arizona levee breached; hiker still missing in Utah

Associated Press

A levee was breached Monday in a small town near the Arizona-New Mexico state line, forcing the evacuations of 60 people after a weekend of flash floods across the American Southwest that also swept away one woman who is still missing in Utah’s Zion National Park.

In Duncan, a rural Arizona town about 180 miles from Phoenix, weekend rains overwhelmed a dirt levee built more than a century ago to contain the Gila River, putting the town under inches of water. As many as 60 residents have evacuated, Fire Chief Hayden Boyd said.

The flooding incident was among several to recently wreak havoc on a drought-stricken region that spans from Dallas to Las Vegas — stranding tourists, closing highways and funneling trees

and rocks toward downtowns.

Rescue teams in southern Utah expanded their search for a lost hiker who found herself stranded amid flooding.

Rangers said their area that teams were searching for Jetal Agnihotri, 29, from Tucson, Ariz., now includes parts of the Virgin River that flow out from the southern border of Zion National Park, where the Virgin River flows the southward toward the town of Hurricane.

Agnihotri was among a group of hikers who were swept away by floodwaters rushing through a popular hiking location in one of the park’s many slot canyons.

All of the hikers except Agnihotri were found on high ground and were rescued after water levels receded. Her brother told a local television station she could not swim.

## Study: Pot, hallucinogen use is up among US young adults

The Detroit News

Marijuana and hallucinogen use reported by young adults increased significantly in 2021 compared to five and 10 years ago, reaching historic highs, according to the Monitoring the Future panel study.

The study was conducted by scientists at the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research and funded by National Institute on Drug Abuse, part of the National Institutes of Health.

The report, which was released Monday, found a spike of usage in hallucinogens for those aged 19 to 30 years old, a record set for this age group since 1988.

Rates of past-month nicotine vaping, which have been gradually increasing in young adults for the past four years, also continued their general upward trend in 2021, despite leveling off in 2020. Past-month marijuana

vaping, which had significantly decreased in 2020, rebounded to pre-pandemic levels in 2021, researchers noted.

Alcohol remains the most-used substance among adults in the study, though past-year, past-month and daily drinking have been decreasing over the past decade. Binge drinking (five or more drinks in a row in the past two weeks) rebounded in 2021 from a historic low in 2020, during the early stages of COVID-19 pandemic.

However, high-intensity drinking (having 10 or more drinks in a row in the past two weeks) has been steadily increasing over the past decade and in 2021, reached its highest level ever recorded since first measured in 2005.

Data for last year’s survey were collected online from April to October 2021.

**AMERICAN ROUNDUP**

**City closes lake due to toxic algae bloom**

**CA** LAKE ELSINORE— Southern California’s Lake Elsinore has been closed to swimming, boating, kayaking and fishing due to an algae bloom that produces toxins which could be harmful to people and animals, officials said.

The city of Lake Elsinore issued a “danger” warning that exposure to toxic algae can cause rashes, eye irritation, allergic reactions or gastrointestinal problems. The toxins can be fatal to dogs.

Boiling or filtering will not make the water safe from Cyanobacteria, according to the warning posted last week.

“Until the water quality improves, additional sampling of the lake will take place and continue weekly,” the statement said.

Lake Elsinore has historically been vulnerable to algae blooms, but only began sampling for or learning about Cyanobacteria concerns in 2016, the city said.

**Toddler, age 2, hit by train at amusement park**

**NJ** HOPE — A 2-year-old child was seriously injured after being struck by a train at a New Jersey amusement park over the weekend, authorities said.

Sgt. Phillip Curry of New Jersey state police said the accident happened just after 1 p.m. Saturday at the Land of Make Believe in Hope Township.

Police said the child was airlifted to a hospital and listed in critical condition. Curry told

New Jersey 101.5 at noon Sunday that he had no update on the child’s condition or any new information about the circumstances of the accident, which remains under investigation.

Land of Make Believe, a 30-acre water and amusement park with rides, games and other activities, was created in 1954 on a former dairy farm in Warren County. The park’s website calls the train a “family favorite.” A message seeking comment was sent to a park representative.

**Regulators fine wireless company after fatal fall**

**WA** ARLINGTON — Washington state regulators fined a Pennsylvania wireless company \$12,000 for safety violations after the death of a cellphone tower worker near Arlington last year.

Michael Vasquez was working on a Crown Castle cell tower on Dec. 4, 2021, when he fell about 140 feet to his death, according to fire officials.

The 24-year-old Las Vegas man died from blunt force injuries, the Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office determined. His death was classified as an accident, the Everett Herald reported.

Vasquez’s employer, QualTek Wireless, violated multiple safety rules, investigators from the state Department of Labor and Industries found in May. All three violations were considered serious.

The first infraction was for not conducting a daily “structural hazard assessment” on the cell tower, while the second was for a similar issue. For those two, QualTek was fined \$6,000.

The last violation, also for \$6,000, was for not completing a daily inspection of the vertical climbing system.

**Trooper used SUV to stop wrong-way driver**

**AZ** TEMPE — A state trooper used his unmarked SUV to stop a wrong-way driver on a Tempe freeway Sunday, authorities said.

Arizona Department of Public Safety officials said calls came in around 4:30 a.m. that there was someone driving a sedan the wrong way on Interstate 10.

Authorities believe a 22-year-old man was driving impaired and going southbound in the northbound lanes.

DPS said the trooper “made the courageous decision to collide with the vehicle, successfully bringing it to a stop.”

The trooper and the other driver were taken to hospital for non-life threatening injuries and DPS said the wrong-way driver likely will face charges.

**Woman drives through playground, into water**

**CA** NEWPORT BEACH — A woman suspected of driving under the influence drove her car through a playground and off the side of a dock into the water at Southern California’s Newport Beach, authorities said.

Bystanders helped rescue the motorist as her car sank in Newport Bay on Friday night, CBS Los Angeles reported.

“I turned around and got a piece of the pipe from the railing and I just bashed both of the windows in. From there, some-

one was able to open the trunk and once they were able to open the trunk they had her out,” one of the rescuers, Jehu Jogwe, told CBS LA.

Newport Beach police did not release details on the car or the driver, who officials said was hospitalized but not seriously hurt. The woman could face charges including DUI.

There were no other injuries, police said.

**Historic site gets \$180K for rehabilitation effort**

**KY** FRANKFORT — The National Park Service has awarded \$180,000 to help with rehabilitation efforts at the Old Mulkey Meetinghouse State Historic Site.

The grant is a part of a program commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet said in a statement.

Old Mulkey’s focus is the meetinghouse, a 218-year-old structure that was the original home of Mill Creek Baptist Church, which was led by John Mulkey from 1773 to 1844.

Currently, the meetinghouse is the oldest “freestanding” log church in the state, the statement said. Along with the meetinghouse, the site also has a pioneer-era cemetery, hiking trail, playground, picnic areas and the park library.

“This grant continues our parks’ efforts in preserving the past while showcasing the authentic stories captured throughout history,” said Tourism, Arts and Heritage Secretary Mike Berry.

— From wire reports



**STARS AND STRIPES**

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

**Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News**

# Cardinals' vets producing at high level

Associated Press

There are two lockers in the visitors' clubhouse at Arizona's Chase Field — bigger than all the others — that are usually reserved for veteran stars who have earned a little extra room to spread out.

The St. Louis Cardinals are one of the few teams with too many options.

The jumbo digs were eventually assigned to Albert Pujols and Yadier Molina, and who could really argue? They're two veteran superstars in their 40s nearing the end of Hall of Fame-caliber careers.

But the guys stuck in the smaller lockers next to the rookies and journeymen are almost as impressive: There's 40-year-old Adam Wainwright, a right-handed pitcher with 193 career wins and three All-Star appearances. Across the room was 34-year-old Paul Goldschmidt, one of the game's best first basemen who is a seven-time All-Star and in the midst of an MVP-caliber campaign.

Right next to him was Nolan Arenado, the 31-year-old third baseman with seven All-Star appearances and nine Gold Gloves.

It's a wealth of veteran expertise that's not lost on first-year manager Oliver Marmol, who at 36 is younger than many of the veterans.

"One thing this organization has done really well is pass on the history of what winning really looks like," Marmol said. "This is what the work looks like in order to win. Those guys — there's not a stronger group."

And here's the most important part: The quintet of veteran stars isn't just in the club-

house for show. They're producing at a high level, which has pushed the Cardinals to the top of the NL Central. They had a five-game lead over the Brewers going into Tuesday's games.

Pujols is enjoying a renaissance at 42 years old. He's batting over .450 in August and has eight homers and 18 RBIs over the past month. The three-time MVP is making a run at 700 career homers, sitting at 693 with 41 games left in the regular season, which he says will be his last. He's treated as baseball royalty even at opposing parks. The crowd at Chase Field gave Pujols a standing ovation before his first at-bat in all three games of the most recent weekend series.

The slugger isn't consumed with the attention. He crushed two homers as part of a 4-for-4 day on Saturday, but didn't raise any fuss when Marmol elected to take him out of the game and use rookie Nolan Gorman — who is two decades younger — as a pinch hitter.

Nobody looked happier than Pujols when Gorman singled.

"This isn't about one guy, it's about 26 guys on the roster," Pujols said. "I think when you have a great group of guys, it's easy to come in and enjoy what you do. ... We're playing great baseball."

Wainwright turns 41 this month and has been rock-solid in the middle of the rotation with a 9-8 record and 3.11 ERA. Molina, 40, isn't producing at the rate he's accustomed to, but still has his moments, like a three-hit game against the Diamondbacks on Friday.

Then there's Goldschmidt and Arenado,

who are in the prime of their careers. Goldschmidt is putting together perhaps his finest season — entering Monday night's game, the soft-spoken first baseman led the majors with a .340 batting average, while adding 34 doubles, 31 homers and 100 RBIs. Arenado has been nearly as good, batting .299 with 25 homers and 81 RBIs entering Tuesday.

Their consistency has allowed St. Louis to climb the NL Central standings. It was 16-3 in August through a 1-0 win over the Cubs on Monday. Goldschmidt said it isn't easy, even if this group of Cardinals sometimes makes it look like it.

"The hardest part is sometimes you just show up, and you're off, so you're trying to figure what gives you the best chance of success," Goldschmidt said. "That's probably my number one goal — trying to be consistent."

As good as Goldschmidt is, even he turns in to a fan watching Pujols.

"What he's doing is superhuman," Goldschmidt said. "That guy is amazing."

Pujols was raving about a defensive play from Saturday, when Arenado fielded a high chopper with his bare hand and fired a low throw to first that Goldschmidt was able to dig out of the dirt. Game respects game. And the Cardinals have a lot of it.

"Those guys are unbelievable. That's why they're both Gold Glovers," Pujols said. "All those plays that you see, those are things that I see (Arenado) practicing. It's crazy. Who practices plays like that? But he does, because it might happen in the game. ... Pretty amazing, from both of them."

# Judge hits 47th, Yanks top Mets for consecutive wins

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tension had climbed around the Yankees heading into the Subway Series like the floors rising on a New York skyscraper. Aaron Judge and Andrew Benintendi gave them hope the big slump was over.

"We got a special group of individuals that are mentally tough enough to kind of bounce back after a couple of tough series and know, hey, it's a long season and we haven't been playing the type of ball we want to," Judge said after his major league-leading 47th home run sparked them to Monday

night's 4-2 win over the Mets. "It's time to get back to what we do."

The Yankees, in a historic skid with 14 losses in 18 games coming into this matchup in the Bronx, built a 3-0 lead on DJ LeMahieu's first-inning sacrifice fly, Judge's third-inning home run off Max Scherzer (9-3) and fifth-inning doubles by Isiah Kiner-Falefa and Benintendi, who added an RBI single in the seventh.

They withstood a botched popup by rookie Oswaldo Cabrera and gained back-to-back wins for the first time since July 29-30, ensuring they ended a streak

of six straight series losses, their worst since 1995.

Asked how many consecutive crisp games they need to ease their panicked fan base, manager Aaron Boone quipped: "4½."

"At our core, we believe we're a really good team," Boone said. "And how many that is in a row that we've got to show that, I'll leave that up to you guys."

Domingo Germán (2-2) withstood James McCann's 104 mph liner off his left calf in the sixth and was cruising with a three-hitter when Pete Alonso hit a seventh-inning popup that Cabrera and right fielder Marwin Gonzalez settled under just 221

feet from the plate.

Cabrera, making his first big league start at second after appearances at shortstop, third base and right field, allowed the ball to pop out of his glove for an error as Gonzalez's leather hit his mitt, a play reminiscent of Luis Castillo's ninth-inning drop that turned the first Subway Series game at new Yankee Stadium in 2009.

Daniel Vogelbach, with 6-inch streaks of eye black across his face, followed two pitches later by driving a curveball into the Yankees bullpen in right-center for a two-run homer that made it 3-2.



# Lauer, Brewers leave Dodgers scoreless

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Eric Lauer and four Milwaukee relievers combined to hand Los Angeles its first shutout of the season at Dodger Stadium, pitching the Brewers to a 4-0 win Monday night.

The Dodgers, with the best record in baseball and the highest-scoring team in the majors, had their nine-game home winning streak snapped. Los Angeles was blanked for the sixth time overall this season after completing a weekend sweep of Miami with 19 runs and 34 hits in a three-game series.

The Brewers have taken three out of five meetings with the Dodgers so far.

“It’s always a good series when we play them, it’s always has that kind of playoff feel,” Lauer said. “It just gives you a taste of what it’s going to be like. You know the games mean a little bit more, so taking a few of them when they’ve been on a hot streak, it’s huge for us.”

Lauer (9-5) allowed five hits in five innings.

He struck out two and walked two in avenging a 2-1 loss to Los Angeles in Milwaukee last week.

“They were making me work like crazy,” Lauer said. “I don’t think I got a whole lot of guys by way of strikeout today, so really made the defense work, put some faith in my guys behind me and turned out.”

Milwaukee’s bullpen allowed three hits the rest of the way.

Brewers left fielder Christian Yelich threw out Justin Turner at the plate to finish the second inning. Cody Bellinger flied out to the warning track to end the game.

“They made us work for every out,” Milwaukee manager Craig Counsell said. “We

had some nice defensive plays to get out of it.”

**Braves 2, Pirates 1:** Jake Odorizzi struck out seven and Michael Harris II hit a two-run homer to lead Atlanta to a win at Pittsburgh.

The Braves have won 12 of 14 to pull with in three games of the New York Mets in the NL East.

Odorizzi (5-5) allowed one run on four hits in six innings, retiring 14 of the final 15 batters he faced.

Harris hit the 13th homer of his rookie season into the left-field bleachers off a curveball from Roansy Contreras (3-4).

Kenley Jansen struck out two in a perfect ninth for his 29th save.

**Rangers 2, Twins 1:** Adolis García homered and Corey Seager singled home the go-ahead run in the sixth inning as Texas won at Minnesota.

Twins star outfielder Byron Buxton exited in the seventh with right hip tightness.

A.J. Alexy (1-0) pitched 2⅓ scoreless innings in relief of starter Cole Ragans. Brett Martin, José Leclerc and Matt Moore blanked Minnesota the rest of the way, with Moore earning his third save of the season.

Sonny Gray (7-4) gave up two runs on five hits while fanning six. The Twins turned a triple play behind him in the fourth.

The Rangers took three of four in the weekend wraparound series and are 5-3 since replacing Chris Woodward with interim manager Tony Beasley last week.

**Rays 2, Angels 1:** Randy Arozarena hit a tiebreaking home run in the fifth inning and host Tampa Bay beat Los Angeles.

Jeffrey Springs (6-3) pitched effectively

into the sixth inning for the Rays, who have won eight of 10 and moved a half-game ahead of Toronto and Seattle in the AL wild-card race.

Arozarena hit his 17th homer of the season off Tucker Davidson (2-4) after Mike Trout had tied the game in the fifth with an RBI single.

Shawn Armstrong pitched the ninth to earn his first save for Tampa Bay.

**Phillies 4, Reds 1:** Noah Syndergaard pitched seven strong innings to stay unbeaten with host Philadelphia.

Nick Castellanos and Bryson Stott hit back-to-back homers for the Phillies off Cincinnati’s Luis Cessa (3-2).

Syndergaard (8-8) allowed one run on three hits with one strikeout and two walks.

Philadelphia moved ahead of idle San Diego into the second NL wild-card spot.

**Royals 6, White Sox 4:** Drew Waters drew a bases-loaded walk to break an eighth-inning tie in his major league debut, boosting host Kansas City past Chicago.

Joe Kelly (1-3), the seventh of eight White Sox pitchers, hit a pair of batters to start the inning. Ryan O’Hearn singled, and Waters drew a five-pitch walk with one out to break a 4-all tie.

**Marlins 3, Athletics 0:** Rookie Edward Cabrera pitched two-hit ball over eight innings in another impressive start, Charles Leblanc homered and Miami won at Oakland.

Cabrera (4-1) retired the final 14 batters in the longest outing of his career. He struck out seven and walked three in the 101-pitch performance.

Tanner Scott followed with one-hit relief for his 18th save.

## Mets’ banker-turned-pitcher cut day after sweet debut

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Banker-turned-reliever Nate Fisher found out the hard way Monday that baseball really is a numbers game.

A day after a sparkling major league debut that brightened the sports world, Fisher was cut by the New York Mets.

The NL East leaders made the move heading into the two-game Subway Series against the New York Yankees. Fisher was in the Mets’ clubhouse at Yankee Stadium

two hours before game time, then was designated for assignment.

Now completely off the 40-man roster, Fisher could be traded or placed on waivers during a seven-day period. If unclaimed, he could be assigned outright back to the minors with the Mets.

Going into these matchups against the Yankees, the 26-year-old lefty likely wouldn’t have been able to pitch after throwing three scoreless innings Sunday against Philadelphia. And with

the Mets needing fresh arms, he was let go.

“I think these guys kind of know where we are,” manager Buck Showalter said after a 4-2 loss to the Yankees. “They understand what’s going on as far as trying to keep our bullpen through a really hard, long stretch with Atlanta, four in Philadelphia before and trying to get through here.”

“So they understand, but it’s still kind of tough to have those conversations,” he said.

The move came while many were still reveling in the sheer improbability of Fisher’s path.

After once giving up his hopes of a baseball career and moving into the financial world with a job in Nebraska, he dazzled in his debut.

Fisher allowed just one hit against the Phillies, giving the Mets a chance to rally in a game they eventually won 10-9.

“This is my dream,” he said after that outing — for now, his only big league appearance.

# Durant, Nets make plans to move forward together

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kevin Durant and the Brooklyn Nets are staying together.

A trade request that jolted the franchise and dominated NBA headlines has been removed. The Nets will return next season with their All-Star forward in uniform — and with their championship hopes intact.

The team said Tuesday that its leadership met a day earlier with Durant and business partner Rich Kleiman in Los Angeles and “agreed to move forward with our partnership,” general manager Sean Marks said in a statement.

Marks attended the meeting along with Nets coach Steve Nash and owners Joe and Clara Wu Tsai.

“We are focusing on basketball, with one collective goal in mind: build a lasting franchise to bring a championship to Brooklyn,” Marks added.

That is certainly more likely by keeping Durant, who remains one of the best scorers in the NBA. He is set to begin a four-year extension he signed last summer, and the possibility of him being traded had been the biggest story in the NBA this summer.

It’s unknown exactly why he sought a trade, which came at the end of a turbulent year for the team. A championship favorite before last season began, the Nets barely made the playoffs and then were bounced by Boston in four games in the first round.

The team then refused to give a contract extension to Kyrie Irving, Durant’s close friend,

forcing him to pick up his option for next season, the final year of his deal.

The uncertainty around Durant’s future in Brooklyn likely contributed to the Nets being left off the five-game Christmas lineup and being scheduled to appear only eight times on ABC and ESPN.

But with Durant, the Nets can still be one of the best teams in the Eastern Conference. He averaged a franchise-record 29.9 points last season, and Brooklyn was bidding for the top spot in the East before he suffered a knee injury that sidelined him for 21 games.

With Durant, Irving and Ben Simmons, who is expected to return after not playing for the Nets last season following his trade from Philadelphia, Brooklyn will have a top trio. Joe Harris also will be back after the two-time NBA leader in three-point percentage was limited to just 14 games because of left ankle surgery.

It would have been hard for Durant to find many better situations, and the Nets likely had little interest in trying to land him one. Few teams could have offered the type of trade package they would have sought and still been able to remain a championship contender.

The Nets believed they had built one in the 2020-21 season after acquiring James Harden to play with Durant and Irving. But they dealt with injuries throughout that season and were eliminated by eventual champion Milwaukee in seven games in the Eastern Conference semifinals, despite Durant scoring 48 points in the final game, the most ever in a Game 7.

# Brady sharp at Bucs practice after 11-days off

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Tom Brady returned to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Monday, ending what has been described as an 11-day, prearranged break from training camp for personal reasons.

The seven-time Super Bowl champion didn’t address the media after practicing. Teammates and coach Todd Bowles said the 45-year-old quarterback was sharp throwing the ball and essentially took up where he left off when he left the team on Aug. 11.

“If anybody can get away with the 11-day break during training camp, it’s Tom,” tight end Cameron Brate said. “He came back, kind of firing on all cylinders again. We’re all excited he’s back and ready to move on.”

While he was away, Brady missed two preseason games that Bowles said the quarterback would not have played in even if he were with the team.

“His presence is different, just the leader he is, the type of guy he is,” linebacker Lavonte David said. “It’s great to have a guy like that back. He came back ready to take off where he left off.”

Bowles said it has not been determined if — or how much — Brady might play in Saturday night’s preseason finale at Indianapolis.

His return comes as the Bucs deal with injuries to an offensive line facing the prospect of entering the Sept. 11 opener with at least two new starters. Center Ryan Jensen was lost to a knee injury on the second day of camp and left guard Aaron Stinnie suffered a season-ending knee injury against the Titans last weekend.

# Alabama dominates AP preseason All-America team

Associated Press

Alabama stars Bryce Young and Will Anderson Jr. are among four players from the top-ranked Crimson Tide selected to The Associated Press preseason All-America team.

Joining Young, the Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback, and Anderson, the star pass rusher, were Alabama defensive backs Jordan Battle and Eli Ricks as first-team selections.

Alabama running back Jahmyr Gibbs made the second

team as an all-purpose player and Crimson Tide guard Emil Ekiyor was also a second-team selection.

Alabama’s four first-teamers and six players on the two teams overall were the most for any school.

Ohio State was second behind Alabama, with three first-team selections and five players overall.

Offensive tackle Paris Johnson Jr., running back TreVeyon Henderson and receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba were all selected

to the first team. C.J. Stroud, who finished fourth in the Heisman voting last year, is the second-team quarterback. Tackle Dawand Jones made the second-team offensive line.

Defending national champion and No. 3 Georgia had three players picked to the first team: tight end Brock Bowers, defensive tackle Jalen Carter and cornerback Kelee Ringo. Nolan Smith made the second team at edge rusher.

Seven players selected to the two teams have transferred in

their college careers, including Gibbs (Georgia Tech) and Ricks (LSU) from Alabama.

Southern California receiver Jordan Addison, the Biletnikoff Award winner at Pitt in 2021, was a first-team selection. Transfers joining Gibbs on the second team were Florida guard O’Cyrus Torrence (Louisiana-Lafayette); Baylor defensive tackle Siaki Ika (LSU); Notre Dame safety Brandon Joseph (Northwestern); and Florida State defensive back Jammie Robinson (South Carolina).