

## Biden: US is 'coming back together'

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Calling a vaccination “the most patriotic thing you can do,” President Joe Biden mixed the nation’s birthday party with a celebration of freedom from the worst of the pandemic. He tempered the strides against COVID-19 with a warning that the fight against the virus wasn’t over.

“Today, all across this nation, we can say with confidence: America is coming back together,” Biden declared as he hosted more than 1,000 service members, first responders and other guests for a July Fourth celebration on the South Lawn of the White House.

For Biden, it was a long-awaited opportunity to highlight the success of the vaccination campaign he championed. The event was the largest yet of his presidency, the clearest indication

that the United States had moved into a new phase of virus response. Shifting from a national emergency to a localized crisis of individual responsibility, the nation also moved from vaccinating Americans to promoting global health.

“This year, the Fourth of July is a day of special celebration, for we’re emerging from the darkness of a year of pandemic and isolation, a year of pain fear and heartbreaking loss,” the president said before fireworks lit up the sky over the National Mall.

Noting the lockdowns that shuttered businesses, put millions out of work and separated untold numbers of families, Biden said: “Today we’re closer than ever to declaring our independence from a deadly virus. That’s not to say the battle against COVID-19 is over. We’ve

got a lot more work to do.”

Biden’s optimism was measured for good reason. The vaccination goal he had set with great fanfare for July Fourth — 70% of the adult population vaccinated — fell short at 67%, according to figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More concerning to officials was the gap between heavily vaccinated communities where the virus was dying out and lesser-vaccinated ones where a more infectious variant of the virus was already taking hold.

More than 200 Americans still die each day from COVID-19, and tens of millions have chosen not to get the lifesaving vaccines. Approximately 1,000 counties have a vaccination rate below 30%, and the federal government is warning that they could become the next hot spots as vi-

rus restrictions ease.

The administration was sending “surge” teams to Colorado and Missouri. Additional squads of infectious disease experts, public health professionals and doctors and nurses were getting ready to assist in additional locations with a combination of low vaccination rates and rising cases.

Overall, the vastly improved American landscape stood in stark contrast with much of the rest of the world, where there remained vast vaccine deserts and wide community spread that could open the door to even more dangerous variants. The Biden administration was increasingly turning the federal response to the complicated logistics of sending excess U.S. vaccines abroad in an effort to assist other nations in beating back the pandemic.

## Airline delays suggest difficult summer ahead

*Associated Press*

This summer is already shaping up to be a difficult one for air travelers.

Southwest Airlines customers have struggled with thousands of delays and hundreds of canceled flights this month because of computer problems, staffing shortages and bad weather.

American Airlines is also grappling with a surge in delays, and it has trimmed its schedule through mid-July at least in part because it doesn’t have enough pilots, according to the pilots’ union.

Travelers are posting photos of long airport lines and describing painful flights.

“It was ridiculously crowded,” Tracey Milligan said of airports after a round trip from her New Jersey home to Miami last week.

Milligan and her 6-year-old daughter endured hourslong delays on both legs of the trip. Before the flight to Florida, she said,

JetBlue agents first told passengers there was a discrepancy with the plane’s weight, then they were missing three crew members because the airline was short-staffed, then there was a weather delay.

“I really wanted to start screaming and cursing everybody out, but that doesn’t get you anywhere, and security will come and remove you from the plane,” she said.

At least the passengers on Milligan’s flights kept their cool. Airlines have seen a surge in unruly passengers, and some experts predict it will get worse this summer as planes become even more crowded.

There have been 10 days in June when more than 2 million travelers went through U.S. airports, according to figures from the Transportation Security Administration. Airlines say that domestic leisure travel is nearly back to 2019 levels, although the lack of business travelers means that overall, the number of passengers over the past

week is still down about 20% compared with the same days in 2019.

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, U.S. airlines have received \$54 billion in federal aid to help cover payroll expenses. In return, they were prohibited from furloughing or laying off workers. They were allowed, however, to persuade tens of thousands of employees to take buyouts, early retirement or leaves of absence.

Now some are finding they don’t have enough people in key roles, including pilots.

“The staffing shortage is across the board. On the pilot side, it’s a training backlog,” said Casey Murray, president of the Southwest Airlines Pilots Association.

At American Airlines, unions say labor shortages are contributing to delays and the scrubbing of up to 80 flights a day from the schedule through mid-July.

# US military denies troops in Syria attacked

Associated Press

BEIRUT — A facility housing U.S. troops in eastern Syria came under attack late Sunday when rockets were fired from nearby areas, an opposition war monitor, state media and a spokesman for U.S.-backed fighters said, though the U.S. military denied there was any attack.

“There is no truth to the reports that U.S. forces in Syria were attacked by rockets today,” tweeted coalition spokesman Col. Wayne Marotto.

Earlier Sunday, Siyamend Ali, a spokesman for the U.S.-

backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, said two rockets were fired at al-Omar field in Syria’s eastern province of Deir el-Zour without inflicting any casualties. He added that it was not immediately clear where the rockets were fired from.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the rockets were fired from areas controlled by Iran-backed fighters in the area of Mayadeen, also in Deir el-Zour.

Syria’s state news agency, SANA, also reported that al-Omar facility was hit with two

rockets.

Later Sunday, the Syrian Democratic Forces denied reports that another base housing U.S. troops was hit, saying the sounds of explosions at the facility, known as Conoco, were from training with live ammunition.

The alleged rocket attack on al-Omar came six days after U.S. troops in eastern Syria came under a similar attack. Last week’s attack came a day after U.S. Air Force planes carried out airstrikes near the Iraq-Syria border against what the Pentagon said were facilities used by Iran-backed mili-

tia groups to support drone strikes inside Iraq.

Hundreds of U.S. troops are stationed in northeastern Syria, working with the Syrian Democratic Forces to fight against Islamic State.

Thousands of Iran-backed militiamen from around the Middle East are deployed in different parts of Syria, many of them in areas along the border with Iraq.

Iran-backed fighters have joined President Bashar Assad’s forces in Syria’s 10-year conflict. Their presence helped tip the balance of power in Assad’s favor.

## Germany grants visas to Afghan workers, relatives

Associated Press

BERLIN — German authorities said Monday that they have granted 2,400 visas to Afghan employees of the country’s military and their relatives, although not all of them want to come to Germany immediately.

Germany withdrew its last troops from Afghanistan last week after a deployment that lasted nearly 20 years and focused on the north of the country. It had the second-biggest foreign contingent in Afghanistan after the United States.

Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer said in April that Germany has a “deep obligation” not to leave behind unprotected locals who helped its forces at risk to themselves.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Rainer Breul said that 2,400 German visas were granted in recent weeks for local employees and their relatives. He acknowledged that procedures have been complicated by the military withdrawal and the closure of Germany’s consulate-general in Mazar-e-Sharif, but said Berlin is trying to work with partners such as the International Organization for Migration. The latter’s office there hasn’t yet

started work because of the security situation, he added.

Before the military left, 446 local employees and their relatives — a total of 2,250 people — were given travel documents, Defense Ministry spokesman David Helmbold said. At that point, “a relatively small number” of applications remained open, he added.

“Not all of those who received these travel documents wanted to leave straight away,” Helmbold told reporters in Berlin. “There were a number of local (employees) who said, ‘We’d actually like to stay as long as possible in Afghanistan, but we’d like to have the possibility to leave if the security situation escalates.’”

He said he couldn’t give a specific figure for the number who didn’t want to leave immediately.

The U.S. military last week vacated its biggest airfield in Afghanistan, advancing a final withdrawal that the Pentagon said will be completed by the end of August. The drawdown is already largely completed, with Germany one of many allies that have pulled out in recent weeks.

## Tropical Storm Elsa heading to land on central Cuban coast

Associated Press

HAVANA — Tropical Storm Elsa swept along Cuba’s southern coast early Monday, and forecasters said it could make landfall on the island’s central shore by midafternoon.

By Sunday, Cuban officials had evacuated 180,000 people as a precaution against the possibility of heavy flooding from a storm that already battered several Caribbean islands, killing at least three people. Most of those evacuated stayed at relatives’ homes, others went to government shelters, and hundreds living in mountainous areas took refuge in caves prepared for emergencies.

Elsa was forecast to cross over Cuba by Monday night and then head for Florida, where Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency in 15 counties, including in Miami-Dade County, where a high-rise condominium building collapsed on June 24.

Late Monday morning, Elsa’s center was about 140 miles south-southeast of Havana and moving northwest at 14 mph. Its maximum sustained winds were at 65 mph, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

The center said the storm was likely to gradually weaken while passing over central Cuba.

# England to end virus laws on schedule

*Associated Press*

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirmed Monday that his government plans to scrap laws requiring face masks and social distancing later this month, though he acknowledged that lifting the restrictions will drive surging coronavirus cases even higher.

Johnson said legal controls will be replaced by “personal responsibility” when the country moves to the final stage of its lockdown-lifting road map. That is scheduled to happen on July 19, though Johnson said a final decision would come on July 12.

The change will mean people can throw away masks after months of enforced face-covering, though businesses and transit operators may still require them, and they will still be rec-

ommended in some enclosed spaces.

The removal of social distancing rules will allow nightclubs to reopen after 16 months of enforced shutdown, and patrons to once again order drinks at the bar in a pub. No longer will customers have to scan a phone app to provide their contact details when entering a restaurant or bar.

The government will also stop instructing people to work from home if they can, leaving employers free to bring staff back to offices.

The changes apply in England. Other parts of the United Kingdom — Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — are following their own, broadly similar, road maps out of lockdown.

Britain has recorded more than 128,000 coronavirus

deaths, the highest toll in Western Europe, and infections are rising due to the highly transmissible delta variant of the virus. Confirmed cases have shot up from about 2,000 a day earlier this year to 25,000 a day in the past week. But the number of deaths is broadly stable, at fewer than 20 a day.

Public health officials say Britain’s vaccination program has weakened the link between infections and deaths, though not severed it. So far, 86% of U.K. adults have received at least one vaccine dose and 64% are fully vaccinated. The government aims to give everyone over 18 both shots by mid-September.

Johnson acknowledged that infections, hospitalizations and deaths will all rise once remaining restrictions are lifted.

“I want to stress from the out-

set that this pandemic is far from over,” he said, predicting that cases could hit 50,000 a day by July 19. “We must reconcile ourselves, sadly, to more deaths from COVID.”

Johnson said Britain would have to “learn to live with this virus” — a major shift in tone from a leader who has previously painted COVID-19 as an enemy to be vanquished.

That message will be welcomed by lockdown-skeptic lawmakers in Johnson’s governing Conservative Party, who say the economic and social damage of restrictions outweighs the public health benefits, and Britain’s populist press, which have dubbed July 19 “freedom day.”

The British government has lifted restrictions for England in a series of steps that began with reopening schools in March.

## 3rd Olympian tests positive for COVID-19 in Japan

*The Washington Post*

A third visiting Olympian has tested positive for the coronavirus upon arrival in Japan, the latest test for the strict health protocols in place meant to prevent the virus’s spread ahead of the Tokyo Games set to kick off later this month.

A male member of Serbia’s five-member rowing team in his 30s tested positive for the virus after landing at Haneda airport Saturday night, Takashi Ikeda, an official in the Japanese city of Nanto, where Serbia’s players are scheduled to train, told Reuters.

The man has been sent to a

medical facility and the other four members to a separate isolation site, so they will be unlikely to train in Nanto ahead of the games, Ikeda told Reuters.

All Olympians visiting Japan are required to test for the virus before departure and after their arrival. While being vaccinated is

not a requirement, Olympic officials say they expect more than 80% of participants to be inoculated against the coronavirus. Once inside Japan, athletes are required to adhere to a litany of health protocols, such as limiting contact to only those in their designated social bubble.

## Analyzing the need for a potential booster after J&J shot

*The Washington Post*

Two weeks ago, virologist Angela Rasmussen received a dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine to boost her immune system, which was already primed by a Johnson & Johnson shot.

No U.S. health agency has recommended this vaccine combo. And Rasmussen, a research scientist at the University of Saskatchewan’s Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization in Canada, remains confident in data that show one J&J

dose will prevent her from getting hospitalized with COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus.

But she was concerned about a rare post-vaccination breakthrough infection — though not because she worried it would make her sick. Instead, if she were exposed and her immune system did not roundly defeat the infection, she feared any surviving pathogens may have the opportunity to evolve into more resistant strains. The emergence of the delta variant,

a version of the coronavirus that more easily spreads from person to person, troubled Rasmussen. The Pfizer shot, she said, could reinforce her protection against that variant or help stop her from spreading it.

Rasmussen received one of the 12 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine administered in the United States so far. Meanwhile, 130 million Moderna and 175 million Pfizer shots had been administered to people in the U.S. by mid-June, according to the Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention. Numerous studies have shown that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which belong to a class of vaccines that use molecules called mRNA, are effective against delta and other variants. Fewer studies address J&J’s strength against variants.

A growing body of evidence suggests the coronavirus vaccines developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna continue to protect against the delta variant with only modest decreases in effectiveness.

# 3 bodies found after Fla. condo demolished

Associated Press

SURFSIDE, Fla. — Rescuers searched for victims of a collapsed South Florida condo building through fresh rubble Monday after crews set off a string of explosives that brought down the last of the structure, allowing search efforts to resume.

Three more victims were discovered in the newly accessible pile, Miami-Dade Assistant Fire Chief Raide Jadallah told family members, raising the death toll to 27 people. More than 115 people remain unaccounted for.

The demolition opened up a previously unreachable area for rescuers, though the chances of finding any survivors there waned, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said on NBC's "Today."

"We understand that families realize the fact that time has gone by, they realize that the chances are growing all dimmer," she said. "They are with us, they know what we've been doing ev-

ery step of the way."

Crews could be seen climbing a mound of debris at the site Monday alongside a piece of heavy equipment that was picking up rubble.

Crews immediately began clearing some of the new debris after the demolition late Sunday so rescuers could start making their way into parts of the underground garage that is of particular interest. Officials said the search effort resumed before midnight.

"As a result of the contractor who brought it down, he did it in such a way that literally we actually were back on the original pile in less than 20 minutes," Jadallah told family members of those missing, drawing applause in a rare upbeat moment for the twice-daily meetings.

Rescuers were hoping to get a clearer picture of voids that may exist in the rubble as they search for those believed to be trapped under the fallen wing of the

Champlain Towers South in Surfside that collapsed June 24.

No one has been rescued alive since the first hours after the collapse. On Sunday, Miami-Dade police identified David Epstein, 58, as one of the 27 people known to have perished in the fallen tower. His remains were recovered Friday.

During the demolition, a loud rat-at-tat of explosions echoed from the structure. Then the building began to fall, one floor after another, cascading into an explosion of dust. Plumes billowed into the air, as crowds watched the scene from afar.

Levine Cava told The Associated Press that the demolition went "exactly as planned" around 10:30 p.m. Sunday.

"It was picture perfect. Exactly what we were told would happen," she said in an interview shortly after the demolition.

The decision to demolish the remnants of the Surfside building came after concerns mounted

that the damaged structure was at risk of falling, endangering the crews below and preventing them from operating in some areas. Parts of the remaining building shifted on Thursday, prompting a 15-hour suspension in the work.

Approaching Tropical Storm Elsa had added urgency to the demolition plans with forecasts suggesting the system could bring strong winds. President Joe Biden declared a state of emergency in Florida because of the storm, making federal aid possible.

The latest forecasts have moved the storm westward, mostly sparing South Florida, but the area could still feel effects.

Authorities had gone door-to-door to advise nearby residents of the timing of the demolition, and to ask them to keep windows closed. They were told to stay inside until two hours after the blast to avoid the dust raised by the implosion.

## Evacuations follow Thailand chemical factory explosion

Associated Press

BANGKOK — A massive explosion at a chemical factory on the outskirts of Bangkok early Monday killed at least one person, injured dozens more and damaged scores of homes, while prompting the evacuation of a wide area over fears of poisonous fumes and the possibility of additional denotations.

The fire broke out at around 3 a.m. at a foam and plastic pellet manufacturing factory near Suvarnabhumi Airport, with the explosion blowing out windows of surrounding homes and sending debris raining from the air.

The blast could be heard for miles and surveillance footage from a nearby house captured the bright flash and boom, followed by the damage to the home and the one next door from the shockwaves.

The main blaze at the Ming Dih Chemical factory had been brought under control by mid-morning, but an enormous tank containing the chemical styrene monomer continued to burn, said local disaster prevention official Chailit Suwannakitpong.

Late in the afternoon, dense clouds of black smoke continued to billow from the site and helicopters tried to navigate close enough to dump fire retardant onto it, initially with little apparent success.

Authorities said 62 people had been injured, including 12 involved in the firefighting and rescue efforts, and one person had been confirmed killed.

Chailit said officials were trying to move all people out of the area, over fear of the fumes and the possibility of more explosions.

## Philippine military finds bodies of last 5 victims of C-130 crash

Associated Press

MANILA — Philippine troops found the last five dead from the crash of a transport aircraft in the south, raising the death toll to 50 in the military's worst air disaster, officials said Monday.

The Lockheed C-130 Hercules was carrying 96 mostly combat troops when it overshot the runway while landing Sunday at the Jolo airport in Sulu province, military officials said. It slammed into a coconut grove beyond the airport and burst into flames in a disaster witnessed by horrified soldiers and villagers.

Troops, police and firefighters rescued 49 military personnel, including a few who jumped off the aircraft before it exploded and was gutted by fire. Seven people on the ground were hit by aircraft parts and debris and three of them died, the military

said.

The plane was one of two refurbished U.S. Air Force aircraft handed over to the Philippines, Washington's oldest treaty ally in Asia, as part of military assistance this year.

The aircraft earlier had carried two-star Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr., his wife and three children from Manila to southern Cagayan de Oro city, where he became the new military regional commander on Monday.

Those who boarded the C-130 in Cagayan de Oro for the flight to Sulu were army troops, many of them newly trained recruits, to be deployed in the battle against Abu Sayyaf militants in the south.

It was not immediately clear what caused the crash, and investigators were looking for the C-130's cockpit voice and flight data recorders.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

**Big cats, bears, ferrets get virus vaccine at zoo**

**CA** OAKLAND — A San Francisco Bay Area zoo is inoculating its big cats, bears and ferrets against the coronavirus as part of a national effort to protect animal species using an experimental vaccine.

Tigers Ginger and Molly were the first two animals at the Oakland Zoo to get the vaccine last week, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Saturday. The doses were donated and developed by veterinary pharmaceutical company Zoetis in New Jersey.

Alex Herman, vice president of veterinary services at the zoo, said none of the animals have gotten the virus, but they wanted to be proactive. Tigers, black and grizzly bears, mountain lions and ferrets were the first to receive the first of two doses. Next up are primates and pigs.

**2 charged after toddler points handgun at cops**

**CT** NEW HAVEN — Two adults are facing multiple criminal charges after New Haven Police said a 2-year-old pointed a semi-automatic handgun with a red laser attachment at police detectives during a recent investigation. The weapon had been left unattended on a bed, police said Friday.

The incident happened at about 5:30 a.m. on June 25. Police released information about the arrests on Saturday.

Detectives secured the handgun without incident and notified the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, which responded to the scene. The two adults were arrested on multiple drug charges, as well

as criminal possession of a firearm, criminal negligent storage of a firearm, risk of injury to a minor, interfering with a search warrant and interfering with police.

**DNR searching for large exotic cat on the loose**

**GA** ATLANTA — Authorities in the Atlanta area searched Saturday for an exotic wild cat on the loose.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources said it is looking for a serval, which is a large cat native to Africa, that apparently went into a woman's house and jumped on her bed while she was sleeping, WSB-TV reported.

DNR officials believe the cat is in the area of the Capital City Country Club, between Buckhead and Brookhaven.

Fulton County Animal Services got a call from a woman Wednesday night saying the animal was in her bedroom. She was not injured, but her husband was able to snap a photo of the cat as it ran away.

**Man attacked on street, robbed of prosthetic leg**

**MO** ST. LOUIS — Police are looking for a man who knocked down another man on an east St. Louis street and robbed him of his prosthetic right leg.

The victim in Friday morning's attack and robbery is 56, and he suffered minor injuries to his head and hands, KSDK-TV reported. The suspect also took the man's cellphone and about \$30 in cash, police said.

Police described the suspect as being in his late 20s or early 30s and thin. They said he

knocked the victim down and punched and choked him on the ground before robbing him and walking away.

**Eagles released after possible raccoon attack**

**MN** GLEN — A family of three bald eagles that were rescued and treated for injuries in what appeared to be an attack by another animal have been released into the wild in eastern Minnesota.

Lt. Robert Gorecki, a conservation officer with the state Department of Natural Resources, released the birds Friday in the town of Glen, with help from members of the family who found the injured eagles on June 21 at their Clear Lake cabin. Glen is about 120 miles north of the Twin Cities.

Leslie and Ryan Donohue's four children, ranging in age from 4 to 12, spotted the two adult eagles on the ground below their nest on the family's property. They were adults, unable to fly, suffering from wounds that Gorecki speculated may have been inflicted by a raccoon. They were taken to an animal hospital, the Star Tribune reported.

**Man arrested for firing gun from truck randomly**

**NC** BOONE — A man was arrested Saturday after he drove through a western North Carolina college town firing a gun, injuring one person, police said.

Two vehicles were struck during the incident Saturday morning in Boone, and a passenger in one of those vehicles was grazed by a bullet and taken to a hospital with injuries not considered

life-threatening, the Boone Police Department said in a news release.

Officers conducted a traffic stop after numerous 911 calls indicated the driver of a pickup truck was firing shots randomly from the vehicle, the news release said. Joseph James Navarette, 24, was taken into custody without further incident, the news release said.

Navarette, of Mount Airy, was charged with two counts of shooting into an occupied vehicle and one count of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury, according to police.

**Man charged after fireworks hit helicopter**

**TN** NASHVILLE — A Tennessee teenager has been charged with endangering police officers after a firework was launched at a Nashville Police helicopter.

A police detective saw a man look up at the helicopter, go to his car to get a mortar tube and then fire a firework at the craft, Nashville Police said. The helicopter, the Nashville department's Air One, was flying at about 500 feet Friday night while working a street racing initiative.

The man, identified as John Schmid, 18, had more mortar tubes and fireworks that were stored in the trunk of his car. Police called in a bomb squad to remove them, WZTV-TV in Nashville reported.

Schmid was booked into jail and charged with reckless endangerment aggravated assault with a deadly weapon on an officer.

— From wire reports

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## Angels blow lead, hold on against O's

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — For the second time in three days, the Los Angeles Angels took an early lead with a homer by Shohei Ohtani, only to give away the advantage when their pitchers faltered against Baltimore.

And for the second time in three days, the Angels got a walk-off hit that set off a celebration for a bunch that's determined to get more team success out of Ohtani's daily brilliance.

Ohtani hit his major league-leading 31st homer in the third, and Juan Lagares ended it with a two-run double in the ninth inning of Los Angeles' 6-5 comeback victory over the Orioles on Sunday.

Cedric Mullins hit a tie-breaking homer for Baltimore in the ninth after making his first All-Star team, but the Angels jumped all over Cole Sulser (2-1) without making an out in the bottom half.

After Los Angeles loaded the bases on a walk and two short singles, Lagares bounced a drive off the wall in right-center for his first career walk-off hit, putting the Angels back above .500 (42-41) with their sixth victory in seven.

"It's becoming a common thing," Los Angeles manager Joe Maddon said. "I love it. There is no quit in this group. They're always alive in the dugout. They're always talking to each other ... It's just a wonderful vibe we've got going on. Just another game that we have that to-the-very-end kind of an attitude. It's wonderful to be around."

Ohtani tied the MLB record for the most homers in a season by a Japanese-born player when he drove a 459-foot solo shot to straightaway center off a low slider from Thomas Eshelman. It was Ohtani's 14th homer in 17 games overall.

# Ohtani first two-way selection

Associated Press

Shohei Ohtani achieved a first in the near century history of baseball's All-Star Game: selection as both a hitter and pitcher.

The Los Angeles Angels' two-way sensation was among the American League starting pitchers picked Sunday for the July 13 showcase at Denver's Coors Field. Ohtani, who leads the majors in home runs, had already been elected by fans to start as the AL's designated hitter.

Boston has the most All-Stars for the first time since 2009, sending five. Designated hitter J.D. Martinez, starting pitcher Nathan Eovaldi and reliever Matt Barnes were chosen to join a pair of starters: shortstop Xander Bogaerts and third baseman Rafael Devers.

Houston and Toronto have four All-Stars each.

Ohtani received 121 votes in balloting by players, managers and coaches announced three days after fan-elected starters were revealed.

"The guy's going to participate in Home Run Derby, pitch in the game and hit in the game. That doesn't happen like, ever," Angels manager Joe Maddon said after speaking with AL skipper Kevin Cash of Tampa Bay.

Babe Ruth's pitching days were largely behind

him by the time the All-Star Game started in 1933. Ruth made one pitching appearance that year, the final one of his career on the last day of the season. He last pitched with regularity in 1919.

Ohtani is hitting .278 with 31 home runs and 67 RBIs. In 12 starts on the mound, he is 3-1 with a 3.60 ERA and 83 strikeouts over 60 innings.

The right-hander was joined by fellow AL starting pitchers Gerrit Cole of the New York Yankees (272 votes), and Lance Lynn (199) and Carlos Rodón (192) of the Chicago White Sox.

Cleveland's Shane Bieber (189) also was elected but is hurt and will miss the game along with Angels outfielder Mike Trout, who was elected by fans to start, and Washington outfielder Kyle Schwarber, who was picked as a reserve.

Mets ace Jacob deGrom, who has a historically low ERA of 0.95, led NL starting pitchers with 321 votes, followed by San Francisco's Kevin Gausman (210), Milwaukee's Corbin Burnes (153) and Brandon Woodruff (146), and San Diego's Yu Darvish (105).

"I'm supposed to throw Sunday, so for me I don't think it's smart to go pitch in the All-Star Game," deGrom said. "I've been a little beat up this first half ... so I don't think it makes sense for me to throw in it."

## Fried's single lifts Braves past Marlins in 10

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Max Fried never thought he would get the chance for a game-winning hit. After all, Fried is a pitcher.

Thanks to Atlanta's depleted bench, it happened on Sunday. And Fried delivered.

The pinch-hitting pitcher lined a bases-loaded single up the middle in the 10th inning, and the Braves rallied for a wild 8-7 victory over the Miami Marlins.

"It's something you always dream about happening, but when I knew I was going to be a pitcher, I figured it would never be reality," Fried said.

**Pirates 2, Brewers 0:** Tyler Anderson pitched seven sparkling innings, and host Pittsburgh snapped Milwaukee's 11-game winning streak.

**Mets 10-2, Yankees 5-4:** Gio Urshela hit a three-run homer and the host Yankees saved a little face by beating the Mets in the second game of a doubleheader to avoid a Subway Series sweep.

**Red Sox 1, Athletics 0:** Nick Pivetta struck out 10 over seven innings, and Boston went ahead on a double-play groundout by Rafael Devers in the sixth in a win at Oakland.

**Giants 5, Diamondbacks 2:** Anthony DeSclafani threw 8⅓ effective innings, Austin Slater and Darin Ruf both homered and San Francisco at Phoenix for its third straight.

**Mariners 4, Rangers 1:** Chris Flexen pitched six effective innings for host Seattle, and Luis Tor-

rens homered for the seventh time in his past 13 games.

**Rays 5, Blue Jays 1:** Austin Meadows had three hits, including two RBI doubles, and Tampa Bay ended a 10-game road losing streak.

**Dodgers 5, Nationals 1:** Albert Pujols hit a go-ahead single as a pinch hitter in the seventh inning, and visiting Los Angeles completed a seven-game season sweep of Washington.

**Padres 11, Phillies 1:** Manny Machado drove in five runs with a pair of homers, leading San Diego to a victory at Philadelphia.

**Reds 3, Cubs 2:** Amir Garrett escaped a jam in the ninth inning, and host Cincinnati handed Chicago its ninth straight loss.

**Astros 4, Indians 3 (10):** Yuli Gurriel scored on a two-out error by pitcher Emmanuel Clase in the 10th inning, helping Houston complete a four-game series sweep at Cleveland.

**Tigers 6, White Sox 5:** Jeimer Candelario had three hits, Akil Baddoo drove in two runs and Detroit held on for the victory at home.

**Rockies 3, Cardinals 2:** Elías Díaz hit an RBI single for host Colorado with two out in the ninth inning, and Germán Márquez struck out 11 on the day he was picked for his first All-Star team.

**Twins 6, Royals 2:** Kenta Maeda struck out a season-best 10 in six scoreless innings, and Minnesota halted a five-game losing streak with a win at Kansas City.

# Djokovic reaches 50th major quarterfinal

Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Novak Djokovic reached his 12th Wimbledon quarterfinal Monday to pull even with Arthur Gore, who had a 117-year head start, while a parade of newcomers also made the final eight.

First-timers on the men's side included Canadian Denis Shapovalov, Italian Matteo Berrettini, Marton Fucsovics of Hungary and Russian Karen Khachanov, who won a bizarre fifth set to beat American Sebastian Korda on his 21st birthday.

Women advancing to their first Wimbledon quarterfinal included No. 1-seeded Ash Barty,

No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, Tunisian Ons Jabeur, Karolína Plíšková of the Czech Republic and Viktorija Golubic of Switzerland.

Another upstart was eliminated when 2018 champion Angelique Kerber beat 17-year-old Coco Gauff 6-4, 6-4.

Djokovic, the two-time defending champion, held every service game to tie Gore and beat No. 17 Cristian Garín, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

Three-time champion Gore first played Wimbledon in 1888. Djokovic made his debut in 2005, and they share third place on the men's all-time list for most men's quarterfinal berths,

behind Roger Federer's 18 and Jimmy Connors' 14.

"It's a privilege to break records in the sport that I truly love," Djokovic said. "I just try to do my best."

Khachanov, seeded No. 25, outlasted Korda 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 5-7, 10-8. With both players battling fatigue and nerves, there were 13 service breaks in the final set, and for Korda, it was a disappointing end to an otherwise impressive Wimbledon debut.

"I'm still super happy with how the whole tournament and today was," Korda said. "I fought my hardest. I don't know what was happening out there.

We just couldn't hold serve."

Khachanov will next face the No. 10-seeded Shapovalov, who hit 15 aces and beat No. 8 Roberto Bautista Agut 6-1, 6-3, 7-5.

The No. 7-seeded Berrettini became the first Italian man in 23 years to reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals by ousting Ilya Ivashka 6-4, 6-3, 6-1.

The unseeded, 29-year-old Fucsovics became the first Hungarian to reach the Wimbledon men's quarterfinals since 1948 by upsetting No. 5 Andrey Rublev 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-0, 6-3. Jabeur became the first Arab woman to reach the quarters by rallying past 2020 French Open champion Iga Swiatek 5-7, 6-1, 6-1.

## Elliott wins at Road America to start new Hendrick streak

Associated Press

ELKHART LAKE, Wis. — Even a start near the back of the pack couldn't prevent Chase Elliott from continuing his uncanny success on road courses.

Elliott started in the 34th position, but still found a way to win the NASCAR Cup Series at Road America on Sunday to wrap up a playoff spot. The 25-year-old Hendrick Motorsports has seven career Cup Series victories on road courses, putting him in sole possession of third place in NASCAR history.

"I really have no idea," Elliott said about his success on road courses. "I feel like it's just good cars. Our team as a whole has been good at road courses the whole time too, Kyle (Larson) won at Sonoma. I feel like drivers are only as good as what they have to drive. Fortunately, I feel like I've got the best stuff and just got to make it work."

Elliott started so far back because a couple of cautions hampered his qualifying attempts on Sunday morning.

It ended up not mattering as Elliott won by 5.705 seconds over Christopher Bell. Kyle Busch was third, followed by Kurt Busch and points leader Denny Hamlin.

Kyle Busch took a brief lead on a restart on the 46th of 62 laps, but Elliott caught up to him at Turn 11 and had passed him by Turn 12. The restart followed a caution that came when Anthony Alfredo spun off

course.

Elliott stayed in front the rest of the way. His only trouble came as he was celebrating his victory.

After he'd already done one celebratory burnout on the front stretch, Elliott heard fans asking him to do another. Elliott said afterward that "I don't know if I ever felt that much peer pressure in my life to do a burnout."

So Elliott did a second burnout and wrecked his tires in the process.

"All these people were chanting 'Burnout!' at me," Elliott said. "I wasn't going to say no. So I did. I blew the back tires off of it, then ran out of gas and had to have a push."

Elliott, the 2020 series champion, gave Hendrick Motorsports its seventh victory in its last eight Cup races. Hendrick had its six-race winning streak snapped last weekend when Kyle Busch won at Pocono for Joe Gibbs Racing.

Hendrick drivers have won 10 of the 20 Cup Series races so far this year.

Elliott needs only two more road-course victories to catch Jeff Gordon, who has the record with nine. Tony Stewart won eight Cup Series events on road courses.

He already is the first person ever to win Cup Series races on five different road courses: Watkins Glen, Charlotte, Circuit of the Americas, Daytona and Road America.

## Newgarden ends skid on the 50th anniversary of 1st Penske win

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ohio — On the final lap of warmup before the IndyCar race at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Josef Newgarden heard "an audible vibration" in his engine that concerned him enough to alert his team.

Had he cut his warmup one lap short, another race weekend might have been ruined.

Team Penske and Chevrolet pulled Newgarden's engine ahead of Sunday's race, saving him from a potentially disastrous third consecutive defeat. Instead, he snapped his streak of late race misfortunes and won for the first time this season — earning the first IndyCar victory of the year for Team Penske on the same weekend the storied organization celebrated the 50th anniversary of its first win.

"If we had cut warmup one lap short, who knows? The engine could have gone on the parade lap for all we know," Newgarden said. "That just would have been demoralizing."

Newgarden led all but seven of the 80 laps at Mid-Ohio to earn an overdue victory. The two-time IndyCar champion dominated the two races leading into Sunday, but late yellows altered the outcome and denied Newgarden two trips to victory lane.

# Hawks look ahead after big playoff run

Associated Press

ATLANTA — As the final seconds ticked off on a season that lasted far longer than anyone expected, the crowd rose to its feet to salute the home team.

The Atlanta Hawks sure earned the cheers.

Making an improbable turnaround from what looked like another lost year, the Hawks earned a spot in the playoffs for the first time since 2017, knocked off the top-seeded team in the East and made it all the way to the conference finals.

The Cinderella run finally ended Saturday night with a

118-107 loss to the Milwaukee Bucks, who won the series 4-2 and advanced to the NBA Finals to take on the Phoenix Suns.

But the disappointing finish did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of a long-downtrodden franchise that seems poised for more long-term success than at any time since moving to Atlanta in 1968.

“This is the beginning,” Trae Young said. “We have the city excited and we want to keep it like that.”

The Hawks will likely bring back largely the same cast next season, though they do have two major issues to address: power

forward John Collins’ contract status and the interim tag on Nate McMillan’s coaching title. Each boosted his value with the team’s improbable postseason run.

“Obviously it’s something I feel like I’ve voiced my opinion about a lot, saying I want to be here,” Collins said Sunday. “I’ve tried to be the best professional I can and let the business side be the business side.”

“We’re going to have to come to a decision very soon, but hopefully the best one for me and the one that keeps me here.”

Veteran backup Solomon Hill

said Sunday he expects McMillan to return unless another team “gave him a zillion dollars and some ownership stake.”

“He’s doing the things he has to do to take care of himself and his family, just like anybody and everybody else would do,” Hill said. “But Nate is our coach. He’s just waiting to get the final details and all that stuff. Like I said, unless the Orlando Magic came in and gave him a hundred million a year or something crazy, Nate McMillan is going to be our coach.”

McMillan and Young led the young team on a memorable postseason run.

## Dominant Doncic: Slovenia heads to Tokyo Olympics

Associated Press

Most of the members of Slovenia’s basketball team charged toward Luka Doncic moments after the final buzzer sounded Sunday, determined to get him onto their shoulders and carry their best player around the court in celebration.

How fitting.

He lifted them, so they lifted him.

Doncic and Slovenia are headed to the Olympics for the first time, after winning 96-85 at Lithuania on Sunday to clinch a spot in the Tokyo Games. Doncic — the MVP of the tournament in Kaunas, Lithuania — was simply brilliant: 31 points, 11 rebounds and 13 assists, the first triple-double by any player in any of the four Olympic qualifying tournaments that were played in the past week to determine the last four teams in the Olympic field.

“I don’t care about the MVP,” Doncic said. “We won here. We’re going to the Olympics, the first time in our country. It’s amazing. I think every kid dreams about being in the Olympics. I did, too. So, here we are. We fought really, really hard and I think we deserve to be here.”

The game was tied 52-52 at halftime, and Slovenia opened the third on an 11-2 run. Lithuania eventually closed within 71-69, but a 14-0 run by Slovenia put Doncic’s club in control for good.

And when the last few seconds ticked away, Doncic threw his arms skyward in celebration.

“We’re making history for our country,”

Doncic said. “We can just go up from here.”

Lithuania was one of four nations playing host to Olympic qualifiers that ended Sunday, all four being winner-take-all events, with one team from each region making the Tokyo field.

And all four home teams, which figured to have major advantages by being at home, fell short of the Olympics. Slovenia beat Lithuania in the final, Croatia and Canada lost semifinal games and Serbia, the reigning Olympic silver medalists, were stunned in a regional final Sunday by Italy.

### Victoria, Canada region

**Czech Republic 97, Greece 72:** Patrik Auda led a balanced effort with 20 points on 8 for 9 shooting, and the Czech Republic — which stayed alive in the tournament by winning a pair of down-to-the-wire games — is headed to the Olympics for the first time after running away from Greece.

Jan Vesely (16), Jaromir Bohacik (15), Ondrej Balvin (14) and Tomas Satoransky (12) reached double digits for the Czechs, who beat Uruguay by one point just to make the semifinals and then ousted Canada by two points in overtime to make the final.

The Czech Republic will be in Group A at the Tokyo Games, facing Iran on July 25, France on July 28 and the United States on July 31.

Giorgios Papagiannis scored 14 for Greece, which got 12 points from both Konstantinos Mitoglou and Giannoulis Larentzakis, and 11 from Kostas Sloukas.

### Split, Croatia region

**Germany 75, Brazil 64:** Moritz Wagner scored 28 points and Germany is headed back to the Olympics for the first time since 2008, after topping Brazil to win the qualifying tournament in Split, Croatia.

Robin Benzing scored 13 points and Maodo Lo scored 10 for Germany, which is seeking its first Olympic men’s basketball medal.

Germany will be in Group B at the Tokyo Games, facing Italy on July 25, Nigeria on July 28 and Australia on July 31.

Anderson Varejao scored 14 points and Alex Garcia finished with 10 for Brazil.

### Belgrade, Serbia region

**Italy 102, Serbia 95:** Italy went into Serbia and pulled off a stunner, eliminating the team that finished second behind the U.S. at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

Nico Mannion scored 24 points, Achille Polonara scored 22 and Italy reached the Olympics for the first time since the 2004 Athens Games — leading by as many as 24 before a stunned arena in Belgrade.

Simone Fontecchio scored 21, Stefano Tonut added 15 and Alessandro Pajola added 10 for Italy. The Italians will be Group B at the Tokyo Olympics, facing Germany — another winner on Sunday — on July 25, Australia on July 28 and Nigeria on July 31.

Danilo Andjusic scored 27 for Serbia, while Filip Petrushev scored 22 and Ognjen Dobric added 17.