

Russia strikes southern Ukraine city

Associated Press

VINNYTSIA, Ukraine — Russian missiles hit industrial facilities at a strategic city in southern Ukraine on Sunday as Moscow also pressed efforts to expand its gains in the country's east.

Mykolaiv Mayor Oleksandr Senkevych said the missiles struck an industrial and infrastructure facility in the city, a key ship-building center in the estuary of the Southern Bug river. There was no immediate information about casualties.

Mykolaiv has faced regular Russian missile strikes in recent weeks as the Russians have sought to soften Ukrainian defenses.

The Russian military has declared a goal to cut off Ukraine's entire Black Sea coast all the way to the Romanian border. If successful, such an effort would deal a crushing blow to the Ukrainian economy and trade, and allow Moscow to secure a land bridge to Moldova's separatist region of Transnistria, which hosts a Russian military base.

Early in the campaign, Ukrainian forces fended off Russian attempts to capture Mykolaiv, which sits near the Black Sea coast between Russia-occupied Crimea and the main Ukrainian port of Odesa. Since then, Russian troops have halted their attempts to

advance in the city but have continued to pummel both Mykolaiv and Odesa with regular missile strikes.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said Sunday that Russian missiles destroyed a depot for anti-ship Harpoon missiles delivered to Ukraine by NATO allies, a claim that couldn't be independently confirmed.

The Russians, fearing a Ukrainian counteroffensive, also sought to reinforce their positions in the Kherson region near Crimea and in part of the northern Zaporizhzhia region that they seized in the opening stage of the war.

The British Defense Ministry said Sunday that Russia is moving troops and equipment between Kherson, Mariupol and Zaporizhzhia, and increasing security measures around Melitopol.

It added: "Given the pressures on Russian manpower, the reinforcement of the south whilst the fight for the Donbas continues indicates the seriousness with which Russian commanders view the threat."

For now, the Russian military has focused on trying to take control of Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland of the Donbas, where the most capable and well-equipped

Ukrainian forces are located.

Ukraine has said its forces still retain control of two small villages in the Luhansk region, one of the two provinces that make up the Donbas, and are successfully fending off Russian attempts to advance deeper into the second one, the Donetsk region.

The Ukrainian military's General Staff said Sunday that Ukrainian troops thwarted Russian attempts to advance toward Sloviansk, the key Ukrainian stronghold in Donetsk, and other attacks elsewhere in the region.

Yet Russian officials are urging their troops to produce even more territorial gains. During a visit to the front lines Saturday, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu issued an order "to further intensify the actions of units in all operational areas."

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged Ukrainians not to fall for Russia's attempts to scare them with warnings of horrendous missile attacks to come, which he said were aimed at dividing Ukrainian society.

"It's clear that no Russian missiles or artillery will be able to break our unity or lead us away from our path toward a democratic, independent Ukraine," he said in his nightly video address to the nation.

Air Force confirms 2 more dog deaths on Patriot Express

BY KELLY AGEE

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Air Force has expressed condolences a second time for the death of a family dog at a military passenger terminal in the Pacific.

A transportation specialist discovered a French bulldog dead in its travel crate Thursday at the Kadena Air Base terminal on Okinawa, Col. Damien Pickart, a spokesman for Air Mobility Command told Stars and Stripes by email Friday.

"Overnight Air Mobility Command leadership learned of a

new pet death on an AMC Patriot Express mission," the command said in a post Friday on its official Facebook page. "We extend our deepest condolences to the family."

The dog is the fourth family pet found dead in connection with a Patriot Express flight in the Pacific since June 5. The July 1 death of a Pomeranian mix prompted the command to express condolences and make a series of changes to ensure its passengers' pets are handled safely during flights in the summer heat.

The Air Force general in

charge of Air Mobility Command wrote an "alert" Friday to say he ordered a review of "every aspect of Patriot Express pet travel" following the deaths of three dogs in the past two weeks.

"As a pet owner with five overseas tours, I'm intimately aware of the risk, expense, and extreme concern when it comes to these important members of our families," wrote Gen. Michael Minihan.

Air Mobility Command acknowledged two dogs had died since July 1 and mentioned a third found dead June 5. Minihan's mention of a third since

July 1 adds up to four dogs since June 5.

"We will hold ourselves accountable to a high standard and will positively influence every service agency involved in the pet movement enterprise," he wrote.

Pet owners, however, must consider the risks involved in their pets' air travel, Minihan said.

"It is imperative you understand that the process we are improving cannot completely mitigate risks associated with certain health, breed and sedation challenges," he wrote.

Navy destroyer sails near disputed islands

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. guided-missile destroyer steamed past a disputed island chain in the South China Sea on Saturday, the second such operation meant to challenge “excessive maritime claims” in the region since Wednesday.

The USS Benfold cruised around the Spratly Islands, a group of about 100 islands between Vietnam and the Philippines, as part of a freedom-of-navigation operation, the U.S. 7th Fleet said in a Saturday news release.

The Benfold’s presence in the Spratlys comes just three days after it made a similar pass near the Paracel Islands

on Wednesday. The two chains are about 500 miles apart.

About 45 islands in the Spratlys are occupied by small military outposts from China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam, according to the CIA World Factbook website.

Similarly, China has occupied the Paracel Islands since 1974 and has about 20 outposts throughout the archipelago.

Both the Spratlys and the Paracels are claimed in full by China, Taiwan and Vietnam, and the operations were meant to challenge “unlawful” restrictions imposed by the three countries, such as requiring permission or ad-

vanced notice for “innocent passage” through territorial waters, according to the 7th Fleet.

All ships, including warships, have the right to innocent passage through territorial seas under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

China considers much of the South China Sea to be its territory, and it regularly denounces the presence of warships in the region.

On Wednesday, China’s Southern Theater Command spokesman Air Force Senior Col. Tian Junli responded to the Benfold’s operation by calling the U.S. a “security risk maker in the South China Sea” and a “destroyer of re-

gional peace and stability,” according to the official China Military Online website.

Beijing had not commented on the Benfold’s passage near the Spratly Islands as of Saturday afternoon.

Saturday’s operation is the fourth of its kind by the Benfold this year.

The destroyer on Jan. 18 cruised the Spratlys, and then turned north to steam through the Paracels two days later.

Beijing responded similarly at the time, with the Southern Theater Command demanding in a statement that the U.S. “immediately stop such provocative actions” and warned of the “serious consequences of unforeseen events.”

Wife asks Biden to help free husband facing prison

By JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The U.S. president or its ambassador to Japan should seek clemency for Navy Lt. Ridge Alkonis, who faces a prison term in Japan, his wife told CBS Mornings on Friday.

Alkonis, 34, must report at 1 p.m. July 25 to serve three years for negligent driving causing the deaths of two people and injuring a third on May 29, 2021.

A judge in Shizuoka District Court convicted Alkonis of falling asleep at the wheel and crashing into a restaurant parking lot in Fujinomiya.

The Tokyo High Court on Wednesday denied Alkonis’ appeal for a suspended sentence. His wife, Brittany Alkonis, interviewed in Japan by CBS News senior foreign correspondent Elizabeth Palmer, said she’s angry and called on President Joe Biden and U.S.

Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel to seek clemency for her husband.

“Just a phone call from President Biden; he could call and say he’s coming home,” Brittan Alkonis said.

Her husband in court said he blacked out just before the crash due to altitude sickness after he, his wife and their three children hiked on Mount Fuji that day. The judge dismissed that explanation as unlikely.

Killed in the crash were a woman, 85, who died that day, and a man, 54, who died in a hospital on June 11.

Alkonis expressed remorse in court and his family paid \$1.65 million in restitution to the victims’ families. Palmer said the Japanese media and public may expect punishment, and that U.S. service members are punished lightly, if at all, for criminal offenses in the country.

Okinawa official: Virus surge still growing daily

By MARI HIGA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The number of new cases of COVID-19 on Okinawa has broken pandemic records for three consecutive days and is overwhelming hospitals there, according to the prefecture’s deputy governor.

COVID-19 cases reached a record one-day high of 3,436 on Tuesday, replacing the previous high of 2,720 cases on May 11 during the omicron wave, according to the prefectural Department of Public Health and Medical Care.

Tuesday’s number exceeded 3,500 cases on Wednesday and Thursday. As of Thursday, 60.6% of hospital beds on Okinawa were occupied.

Emergency medical services on Okinawa are at a crisis point; many health care workers are infected with COVID-19 and pa-

tients with mild symptoms are flocking to the hospitals, Takekuni Ikeda, the deputy governor, said at a news conference Thursday.

“If the number keeps exceeding 3,000 every day, we might have to place some restrictions,” he said.

He did not say when or under what conditions the prefecture would act further. Okinawa is already under a public health alert in place since July 11. The prefecture will monitor the situation and consult public health experts first, Ikeda said.

He said the public must thoroughly observe preventative measures and seek emergency medical care only when necessary. The coronavirus infection alert is in place until July 24 to ease demand for hospital beds. The public is expected to wear masks and properly ventilate areas where people gather.

Biden vows climate action despite setbacks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden is promising “strong executive action” to combat climate change, despite dual setbacks in recent weeks that have restricted his ability to regulate carbon emissions and boost clean energy such as wind and solar power.

The Supreme Court last month limited how the nation’s main anti-air pollution law can be used to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. Then late Thursday, Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., said he wants to delay sweeping environmental legislation that Democrats have pushed as central to achieving Biden’s ambitious climate goals.

Biden, who has pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030, compared with 2005 levels, said Friday that “action on climate change and clean energy remains more urgent than ever.”

If the Senate will not act to address climate change and boost clean energy, “I will take strong executive action to meet this moment,” Biden said in a statement from Saudi Arabia, where he met Friday with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Biden did not specify what actions he will take on climate, but said they will create jobs, improve energy security, bolster do-

mestic manufacturing and protect consumers from oil and gas price increases. “I will not back down,” he promised.

Some advocates urged Biden to use the moment to declare a national climate emergency and reinstate a ban on crude oil exports, among other steps. Declaring a climate emergency would allow Biden to redirect spending to accelerate renewable energy such as wind and solar and speed the nation’s transition away from fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas.

Climate advocates, including some of Manchin’s Democratic colleagues in the Senate, slammed his opposition — noting that it was the second time he has torpedoed climate change legislation.

Other Democrats said Manchin’s announcement that he cannot back the climate provisions in the Senate bill — at least for now — frees Biden of the obligation to cater to a powerful, coal-state senator eager to protect his energy-producing home state. Manchin’s vote is decisive in the evenly divided Senate, where Republicans unanimously oppose climate action.

“Free at last. Let’s roll. Do it all and start it now,” tweeted Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I. who has long pushed stronger action on climate. “With legislative climate options now closed, it’s now time for executive Beast Mode,” Whitehouse wrote.

Abortion laws spark profound change in other medical care

Associated Press

A sexual assault survivor chooses sterilization so that if she is ever attacked again, she won’t be forced to give birth to a rapist’s baby. An obstetrician delays inducing a miscarriage until a woman with severe pregnancy complications seems “sick enough.” A lupus patient must stop taking medication that controls her illness because it can also cause miscarriages.

Abortion restrictions in a number of states and the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* are having profound repercussions in reproductive medicine as well as in other areas of medical care.

“For physicians and patients alike, this is a frightening and fraught time, with new, unprecedented concerns about data privacy, access to contraception, and even when to begin lifesaving care,” said Dr. Jack Resneck, president of the American Medical Association.

Even in medical emergencies, doctors are sometimes declining immediate treatment. In the past week, an Ohio abortion clinic received calls from two women with ectopic pregnancies — when an embryo grows outside the uterus and can’t be saved — who said their doctors wouldn’t treat them. Ectopic pregnancies often become life-threatening emergencies and abortion clinics aren’t set up to treat them.

Dr. Jessian Munoz, an OB-GYN in San Antonio, Texas, who treats high-risk pregnancies, said medical decisions used to be clear cut.

“It was like, the mom’s life is in danger, we must evacuate the uterus by whatever means that may be,” he said. “Whether it’s surgical or medical — that’s the treatment.”

Munoz said he faced an awful predicament with a recent patient who had started to miscarry and developed a dangerous womb infection. The fetus still had signs of a heartbeat, so an immediate abortion — the usual standard of care — would have been illegal under Texas law.

“We physically watched her get sicker and sicker and sicker” until the fetal heartbeat stopped the next day, “and then we could intervene,” he said. The patient developed complications, required surgery, lost multiple liters of blood and had to be put on a breathing machine “all because we were essentially 24 hours behind.”

Georgia abortion law challenge now focused on ‘personhood’

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Lawyers for the state of Georgia urged a federal appeals court to allow the state’s 2019 abortion law to take effect now that the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled there is no constitutional right to an abortion.

Ruling in a case out of Mississippi, the Supreme Court on June 24 overturned the landmark 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling, which had protected the right to an abortion. Because the groups challenging Georgia’s law relied on that precedent, they “now have no case,” lawyers for the state wrote in a brief submitted Friday to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Attorneys for groups challenging the law acknowledged that the ruling allows the state’s ban on many abortions to take effect. But they argued in their brief that a provision that grants “personhood” to a fetus should remain blocked.

The Georgia law bans most abortions once a “detectable human heartbeat” is present. Cardiac activity can be detected by ultrasound in cells within an embryo that will eventually become the heart as early as six weeks into a pregnancy, before many women realize they’re pregnant.

The personhood provision gives a fetus the same legal rights as people have after birth.

2 US agencies barred from LGBTQ enforcement

Associated Press

A judge in Tennessee has temporarily barred two federal agencies from enforcing directives issued by President Joe Biden's administration that extended protections for LGBTQ people in schools and workplaces.

U.S. District Judge Charles Atchley Jr. in an order on Friday ruled for the 20 state attorneys general who sued last August claiming the Biden administration directives infringe on states' right to enact laws that, for example, prevent students from participating in sports based on their gender identity or requiring schools and businesses to provide bathrooms and showers to accommodate transgender people.

ple.

Atchley, appointed by President Donald Trump in 2020, agreed with the attorneys general's argument and issued a temporary injunction that prevents the agencies from applying that guidance on LGBTQ discrimination until the matter can be resolved by courts.

"As demonstrated above, the harm alleged by Plaintiff States is already occurring — their sovereign power to enforce their own legal code is hampered by the issuance of Defendants' guidance and they face substantial pressure to change their state laws as a result," Atchley wrote.

The attorneys general are from Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indi-

ana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and West Virginia.

The directives regarding discrimination based on sexual orientation was issued by the U.S. Department of Education and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in June following a landmark civil rights decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2020 that, under a provision called Title VII, protects gay, lesbian and transgender people from discrimination in the workplace.

The Department of Education guidance from June 2021 said discrimination based on a student's sexual orientation or gen-

der identity would be treated as a violation of Title IX, the 1972 federal law that protects sex discrimination in education.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission released guidance that month about what could constitute discrimination against LGBTQ people and advised the public about how to file a complaint.

With its guidance, the Biden administration in part took a stand against laws and proposals in a growing number of states that aim to forbid transgender girls from participating on female sports teams. The state attorneys general contend that the authority over such policies "properly belongs to Congress, the States and the people."

Crews gain on Yosemite Park, California wildfires

Associated Press

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — Containment grew overnight on a fire that has been burning for more than a week in Yosemite National Park and residents of the community of Wawona can return to their homes starting Sunday, park officials said Saturday.

The Washburn fire was 37% contained, up from 27% Friday, and grew slightly to 7.5 square miles.

"Yesterday we had a very successful day and it was the day we were waiting for," said Matt Ahearn, operations section chief, in a Saturday morning briefing.

The fire started July 7 and is now burning in the Sierra National Forest. How the blaze began remains under investigation but officials suspect people were the source.

Yosemite National Park visitors are prohibited from starting campfires or smoking in some areas to reduce the

threat of sparking new wildfires, the National Park Service said Friday.

The famed Mariposa Grove, which includes more than 500 mature sequoias, has escaped serious damage but the area will remain closed to visitors. Ahearn said crews were cleaning up in the grove.

People who own private property as well as park employees who live in Wawona can return to their homes starting Sunday morning, but only with escorts. The area remains under a fire advisory.

Farther north, all evacuation orders and road closures were lifted Saturday morning in the Peter Fire in Shasta County. Crews also reported favorable overnight conditions and containment was at 65%, up from 34% Friday.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said the fire erupted shortly before 3 p.m. Thursday and destroyed 12 structures.

Record-breaking heat wave scorching much of Europe

Associated Press

Europe is contending with a scorching heat wave that has brought wildfires to France and Spain and spurred British authorities to issue their first-ever "red" warning for extreme heat.

And as temperatures remain unusually high, heat-related deaths have soared.

In Spain, the second heat wave of the summer has kept highs above 104 degrees in many areas, hitting peaks of 109 degrees regularly. According to Spain's Carlos III Institute, which records temperature-related fatalities daily, 360 deaths were attributed to high temperatures from July 10 to 15. That was compared with 27 temperature-related deaths the previous six days.

The death of a street cleaner after he suffered heat stroke while working has led to the town hall of Spain's capital giving the option for its street cleaners to work in the evenings to avoid the worst spells of the day.

Britain's "red" heat alert covers large parts of England on

Monday and Tuesday, when temperatures may reach 104 degrees for the first time, posing a risk of serious illness and even death among healthy people, the U.K. Met Office, the country's weather service, said Friday.

Temperatures were expected to climb to 97 degrees Tuesday at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, the American Force Network Weather Center reported.

Two huge blazes that have been consuming pine forests for six days just south of the city of Bordeaux in southwest France have forced the evacuation of some 14,000 people, including many who were set to spend their vacation at campsites.

In Spain, firefighters supported by the armed forces' emergency brigades are trying to stamp out over 30 fires consuming forests spread across the country. Spain's National Defense Department said that "the majority" of its fire-fighting aircraft have been deployed. Many areas are rugged, hilly terrain that makes it difficult for ground crews to access.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Pilot arrested after landing plane on road

MO GRAIN VALLEY — An intoxicated pilot was arrested after landing a small aircraft on Interstate 70 southeast of Kansas City, Mo., after radioing that he had run out of fuel, authorities said.

The landing happened at about 2:30 a.m. east of Grain Valley, roughly 20 miles southeast of Kansas City, KCTV reported.

The plane had a “minor collision” with a guardrail but otherwise didn’t hit anything, the Missouri State Highway Patrol tweeted.

The pilot suffered minor injuries and was taken to a hospital for treatment after his arrest, the patrol said.

Man detained for 4 deaths from years ago

CA LOS ANGELES — A man has been arrested in Texas in connection with the Southern California slayings of four women decades ago, police said.

Billy Ray Richardson, 76, was arrested by detectives from the Los Angeles and suburban Inglewood police departments with the assistance of officers from Fort Worth, Texas, police.

Richardson was charged by Los Angeles County prosecutors with four counts of first-degree murder with the special circumstance of multiple murder and murder in the commission of rape, Los Angeles police said in a statement.

The statement said investigative and forensic work over the decades linked Richardson to the 1980 killings of Beverly Cruse, Debra Cruse and Kari Lenander in Los Angeles and

the 1995 slaying of Trina Wilson in Inglewood.

Mistake leaves parts of city with foul odor

NC CHARLOTTE — Parts of North Carolina’s largest city were overcome with a foul smell like rotten eggs after an environmental cleanup company destroyed tanks that contained a harmless gas odorant, a natural gas company said.

Piedmont Natural Gas said the cleanup company, Legacy Environmental Services, was destroying mercaptan tanks north of downtown Charlotte that were mistakenly reported as empty, The Charlotte Observer reported.

Because natural gas has no smell, Piedmont uses mercaptan — also known as methanethiol — to give the gas “a distinctive smell of rotten eggs,” the utility said in a news release.

Man admits stealing dynamite found at hotel

NV LAS VEGAS — An Arkansas man admitted in federal court that a cache of dynamite and fuses found with him at a hotel in suburban Las Vegas was stolen from a mining district in northern Nevada, court records and his attorney said.

Evan Ray Atkinson, 38, entered a written guilty plea in U.S. District Court in Reno to one charge of theft of explosives from a federal permit-holder, in an agreement that could get Atkinson a year and a day in federal prison.

Atkinson was arrested at a Wyndham Suites hotel in Henderson and federal agents reported seizing 39 sticks of dynamite, more than a mile of detonating cord, fuse lighters and ignition boosters from his hotel room, truck and a trailer.

A written plea agreement acknowledged Atkinson stole the materials just before Christmas 2021 from a company in Kinkaid Mill, a mining district off U.S. 95 near Hawthorne, Nev.

Swimmer likely infected with rare amoeba dies

MO KANSAS CITY — A Missouri resident who was infected with a rare brain-eating amoeba that likely happened after swimming in a southwestern Iowa lake has died, health officials said.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services said the patient died due to primary amebic meningoencephalitis, a rare and usually fatal infection caused by the naegleria fowleri amoeba.

Health officials said they believe the parasite was contracted at Lake of Three Fires near Bedford, Iowa, about 120 miles north of Kansas City. The name and age of the patient will not be released, officials said.

Iowa officials closed the Lake of Three Fires State Park near Taylor County as a precaution.

Wayward dolphin seen swimming along river

CT NORWICH — A wayward dolphin has been swimming in a Connecticut river after making its way upstream from Long Island Sound.

The dolphin was first spotted Thursday morning by fishermen along the Thames River. A video posted to Facebook showed the dolphin jumping

around near the Norwich Marina, about 15 miles from the Sound. The animal rescue team at Mystic Aquarium was eventually notified. They have been monitoring the situation along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The ocean mammal was spotted in the same area again on Friday morning.

It’s possible it was looking for food or simply got turned around and separated from its pod, she said.

Doctor admits getting kickbacks in scheme

MA BOSTON — A Connecticut ophthalmologist has pleaded guilty to receiving kickbacks in a scheme in which he ordered hundreds of medically unnecessary brain scans that resulted in millions of dollars in fraudulent billing to health insurers, federal prosecutors said.

Dr. Donald Salzberg, 67, conspired with an alleged accomplice at a medical diagnostic company in the scheme that ran from 2014 through 2019, the U.S. attorney’s office in Boston said in a statement.

Salzberg, whose practice is in West Hartford, Conn., used false patient diagnoses to order the brain scans and the other person would submit claims to Medicare and other insurance companies for payment, prosecutors said.

Salzberg was paid cash kickbacks of \$100 to \$125 per test that he ordered, as well as sham administrative services fees, while more than \$3 million in fraudulent claims were submitted to Medicare and private insurance companies, prosecutors said.

— From wire reports

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Allen chases hurdles gold, then NFL calls

Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — Leaping over those leg-bruising hurdles might be the easy part for Devon Allen. After that, it's off to a different contact sport.

The University of Oregon track standout and football player is attempting a difficult sort of double this month: Win a medal, preferably gold, at the world championships on his home turf and then earn a spot with the Philadelphia Eagles in training camp.

It's an endeavor he knows would make his biggest fan proud — his father, Louis Allen Jr., who died last month at 63.

His dad always had the best seat in the house, whether it was the finish line for his son's track meets at Hayward Field or near the 50-yard line for his football games not far away at Autzen Stadium.

"He still will have the best seat in the house," said Devon Allen, who won his heat Saturday to advance to the semifinals of the 110-meter hurdles. "He can run the race with me if he wants."

When Allen made the U.S. team for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games at Hayward Field, he climbed into the stands and finally located and hugged his father, who'd been there every step of his athletic journey, from the highs of making two Olympic teams to the lows of two knee injuries on the football field for the Ducks.

His advice stays with Allen, too.

"My dad said, 'Whatever is worth doing is

worth doing 100%,'" recounted Allen, who said his family is still waiting for the official cause of death. "It's important to find what you love and do that."

For Allen, that means hurdles. And football.

For years, football took a backseat to his burgeoning track career, where he finished fifth on the Rio track and fourth at the Tokyo Games last summer.

But he longed to use his blazing speed to run routes again — fly and corner patterns, bubble screens. He had made plans to return to the field in 2020, but the pandemic happened, and then the Tokyo Games were postponed a year. So his transition into football was put on hold.

He will be a 27-year-old rookie when he shows up on July 26 for training camp with the Eagles, who signed him to a deal in April soon after he ran the 40-yard dash in 4.35.

He has already spent time working out with QB Jalen Hurts and his teammates during minicamp. Allen had 54 catches for 919 yards and eight TDs with the Ducks.

Memo to the coaching staff: He's willing to return kicks or punts, or fly around the edge to block field goals or play defense.

"Whatever it takes to just get back and play football again," said Allen, who had several Eagles teammates show up when he ran at the Penn Relays in the spring. "It's just something I want to do."

Just so there's no confusion: He's not

abandoning track, he is simply following his heart. He consulted with other track stars who made a similar transition — like Olympic long jumper Marquise Goodwin, who's currently a receiver with the Seattle Seahawks, and hurdler Renaldo Nehemiah, the onetime world-record holder in the event who also played wideout for the San Francisco 49ers.

Both told him to go for it.

"I can handle both for now," said Allen, who's 6-foot-1 and 190 pounds. "I'm feeling good and young."

Winding around Allen's left hand is a tattoo that reads: Everybody loves the sunshine. It's a tribute to his dad — he got the ink in 2018 — and happens to be the title of his father's favorite song, written by Roy Ayers.

A fitting choice. Allen said his father always lit up a room. He remembers after Oregon football games, his dad would make sure every kid that wanted an autograph from Allen got one.

Allen found out about his father's death the morning of the first round of the hurdles at nationals on June 25.

"It's a lot to handle three hours before your race," said Allen, who would go on to finish third at nationals to earn a spot on Team USA. "My dad would be excited for me to win worlds and break the world-record, and play for the Eagles and catch touchdowns. I'm going to keep doing exactly that."

World's fastest man Kerley leads US sweep in 100

Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — The tattoo on the inside of Fred Kerley's left arm reads Meme. It is the name he uses for his aunt, the woman who raised him in Taylor, Texas. He moved in with Virginia Kerley when he was 2 years old, after his father went to jail and his mother lost her way. He lived with his siblings and his aunt's children, 13 kids under one roof in a three-bedroom house.

"Things were never given to him," said his agent Ricky Simms. "He had to go take things because that's the way it was when there were so many mouths to feed. He's wanted this

for a long time. He really wants it quite badly, to be the best and to be one of the greatest ever."

Kerley cemented all-time status Saturday night at Hayward Field. In a 100-meter final drenched in red, white and blue at the world track and field championships, Kerley seized the title of fastest man in the world by inches over countrymen Marvin Bracy-Williams and Trayvon Brommel. Kerley finished in 9.86 seconds, 0.02 seconds ahead of both bronze medalist Bromell and second-place Bracy-Williams, who led until the last five meters. Kerley's lean gave him the crowning achievement of an ascendant ca-

reer and the Americans a podium sweep.

For U.S. men's sprinting, it meant redemption after a letdown at last summer's Tokyo Olympics, where Bromell failed to make the semifinals as the favorite, the 4x100 relay team dropped the baton in prelims and no individual gold medals were won.

"The world's fastest man," Kerley said. "It means a lot."

At the outset of 2021, Kerley expected to contend for an Olympic gold medal in the 400 meters, the event at which he had once reached No. 1 in the world and remains the eighth-fastest ever. He switched early

last year, to much derision within the sport, to 100 meters. He won the Olympic silver medal, and this year he separated himself from the rest of the world.

"I believe in myself, first and foremost," Kerley said. "I put the work in to be great."

Kerley was born Fred Coleman. Virginia Kerley adopted him and his siblings after his father went to jail and his mother "took wrong turns in life," Kerley once wrote in Spikes magazine. Virginia Kerley, now 66, watched her nephew become the fastest man in the world from home in San Antonio.

"I think about her every day," Kerley said.

Smith rallies past McIlroy for 1st major

Associated Press

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Cameron Smith charged his way into history on the Old Course, a Sunday stunner at St. Andrews that sent the Australian to his first major by overcoming Rory McIlroy to win the British Open.

The stage was set for McIlroy to end his eight-year drought in the majors and cap off a week of celebration at the home of golf in the 150th Open.

Smith stole the show by running off five straight birdies to start the back nine and delivering more clutch moments at the end. His 8-under 64 was the lowest final round by a champion in the 30 times golf's oldest champion has been played at St. Andrews.

Smith won by one shot over Cameron Young, who holed a 15-foot eagle putt on the final hole. It wasn't enough, and neither was anything McIlroy could muster.

He couldn't make a putt early. He

couldn't hit it close enough late. His last good chance was a 15-foot birdie attempt on the scary Road Hole at No. 17, and it narrowly missed to the left.

Smith, who saved par on the 17th with a 10-foot putt, was at the front of the 18th green with his tee shot. From 80 feet away, his pace up the slope and toward the cup was close to perfect, leaving him a tap-in birdie to finish at 20-under 268.

Smith matched the major championship record to par, last reached by Dustin Johnson in the 2020 Masters held in November.

McIlroy needed eagle to tie him, and his putt through the Valley of Sin had no chance. He missed the birdie and wound up with a 70 to finish third.

Smith is the first Australian to win at St. Andrews since Kel Nagle in 1960, when he topped a rising American star named Arnold Palmer, the people's choice.

That's what McIlroy is now, and all day

there was an energy along the humps and hollows of the Old Course, all of them waiting to celebrate McIlroy as an Open champion at St. Andrews.

He gave them little to cheer — two birdies, 16 pars, more disappointment.

Ice-cold Spieth

Jordan Spieth said the ice helps his legs feel fresher the next day, and helps him sleep better, too.

As many traveling Americans know, however, getting ice in a soft drink on this side of the Atlantic isn't always easy. Spieth has found a way.

"Ice is hard to get into a Coca-Cola over here, so I'm very lucky that they (the hotel) have access to a big ice machine, and they bring bags of ice," Spieth said, adding Justin Thomas is doing the same thing. "We've gotten lucky that they've hooked us up there, yeah."

Orioles surging like 1989 — and have No. 1 pick

Associated Press

When Baltimore took Ben McDonald with the top choice in the 1989 draft, it was just one small part of a thrilling season for the Orioles.

They had the No. 1 pick because the previous year had been terrible, but by the time they actually made the selection, the Orioles were in first place in the AL East, on their way to becoming one of baseball's classic underdog stories. In fact, McDonald was drafted on June 5, 1989 — the same day Baltimore won a season-high eighth game in a row.

Sound familiar?

This year's Orioles are suddenly drawing comparisons to that '89 team. After entering the season in the midst of a difficult rebuild — Baltimore will pick first in the draft Sunday for the second time in four years — the Orioles have become one of the game's biggest surprises over the past few weeks. A 10-game winning streak put Baltimore above .500. As the All-Star break approaches, the Orioles have almost as many victories (46) as they did all of last year (52).

A playoff spot still seems unlikely, but at this point, Baltimore is only 2½ games behind the final wild card in the American League.

"It's been fun to watch this team, man," said McDonald, a right-hander who pitched

nine seasons in the majors and is now part of Orioles TV broadcasts. "It reminds me a lot of that '89 team in some ways, where they got some confidence and then took off."

The 1989 team occupies a special place in the hearts of Baltimore fans. The 1988 Orioles lost 107 games, and that didn't do justice to what a laughingstock they were after an 0-21 start. There wasn't much reason to expect a quick turnaround in '89, but shockingly, Baltimore led the AL East by 7½ games in the middle of July.

The division ultimately came down to the final series of the season in Toronto. The Orioles lost the first two games, allowing the Blue Jays to clinch the title.

The current Orioles rose from similar depths as that '89 team. Baltimore dropped 110 games last year, including a 19-game skid that nearly tied the 1988 team's mark for the longest losing streak in American League history.

Baltimore began its winning streak with a victory at Minnesota before sweeping series against the Rangers, Angels and Cubs.

"I think that we're in store for a lot of good stuff here for the next few years," general manager Mike Elias said.

This run by the Orioles may actually complicate the rest of the month for Elias. Baltimore figured to be a seller at the deadline — 30-year-old Trey Mancini could have some

value, and Rowned Odor and Jordan Lyles are on one-year contracts — but in the midst of the team's first really successful stretch in a while, there could obviously be a temptation to ride it out and chase the postseason.

"Everything that I do, or that we do, has tradeoffs," Elias said. "All I can say is, we do everything from a very global, very thoughtful perspective, about what is the right thing to do for the health of the Orioles franchise. And all that's being taken into consideration for the draft, but also for the trade deadline."

For all the excitement of 1989, it was basically an outlier. The Orioles sank back under .500 the following year and lost 95 games in 1991. Baltimore traded Pete Harnisch, Steve Finley and Curt Schilling — all of whom were part of the '89 team — for slugger Glenn Davis in a move that backfired badly.

The lesson is that, while Baltimore's long winning streak was a fun story for fans, the Orioles still need to make smart roster moves if they're going to build on it.

Whatever happens over these next few weeks, the good news for Baltimore is that there seems to be more help on the way. In right-hander Grayson Rodriguez and infielder Gunnar Henderson, the Orioles have two of the game's top five prospects, according to MLB Pipeline.

Verlander gets MLB-leading 12th win

Associated Press

HOUSTON — After collecting his MLB-leading 12th win Saturday, Justin Verlander wasn't ready to reflect on how far he's come this season.

But the 39-year-old did take a moment to note how his almost two-year absence from the game after Tommy John surgery has made him appreciate his success a bit more.

"I've said the word perspective here a lot, and I don't take it for granted," he said. "I think in the past I took a lot of things for granted, my health and some success when I was young, certainly not since I've been an Astro. But I think age and going through some stuff, has a way to help you grow up and realize some real positives that maybe you wouldn't have taken a moment to realize before."

Verlander struck out 10 in six sharp innings and the Houston Astros beat the Oakland Athletics 5-0.

Martín Maldonado hit a second-inning grand slam as the AL West-leading Astros bounced back after a 5-1 loss in the series opener Friday night. The A's actually outthit Houston 7-6, but had little to show for it.

Yankees 14, Red Sox 1: Aaron Judge homered twice to match Roger Maris' franchise record of 33 before the All-Star break, Matt Carpenter also connected twice and drove in seven runs as host New York routed Boston.

Jameson Taillon steadied himself after Rafael Devers hit a first-inning homer, retiring his final 17 batters while pitching one-run ball for six innings.

Dodgers 7, Angels 1: Trea Turner hit two homers and drove in three runs, and the Dodgers rolled into the All-Star break by sweeping the 2022 Freeway Series with the host Angels.

Max Muncy hit a three-run homer moments after Turner's two-run shot in the

third inning of the Dodgers' 15th victory in 17 games. Freddie Freeman recorded his 1,000th career RBI and hit his first career homer at his childhood ballpark.

Guardians 10, Tigers 0: José Ramírez tuned up for the Home Run Derby by homering in his first two at-bats and driving in five runs, powering host Cleveland past Detroit.

Braves 6, Nationals 3: Matt Olson and Austin Riley hit consecutive home runs in the third inning, and visiting Atlanta sent Washington to its ninth straight loss.

The Braves have won nine consecutive games against the Nationals and are 10-2 against them this season.

Orioles 6, Rays 4, (11): Ryan Mountcastle hit a two-run single in the 11th inning, rookie catcher Adley Rutschman produced a pair of key swings and visiting Baltimore beat Tampa Bay.

Rutschman had his first pinch-hit homer and added a 10th-inning sacrifice fly for the Orioles, who had lost their previous 10 games at Tropicana Field.

Phillies 10, Marlins 0: Kyle Schwarber hit his NL-leading 29th homer, J.T. Realmuto had a homer and a double and visiting Philadelphia spoiled the major league debut of touted Miami pitcher Max Meyer.

Didi Gregorius, who had four RBIs, and Rhys Hoskins also went deep for the Phillies.

Mets 2, Cubs 1 (11); Mets 4, Cubs 3 (10): Pete Alonso was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded in the 10th inning and visiting New York completed a doubleheader sweep against Chicago.

The Cubs had the bases loaded in the 10th in the second game, but Frank Schwindel bounced to third baseman Eduardo Escobar for the start of a game-ending double play.

Chicago has dropped nine in a row.

In the opener, Alonso hit a sacrifice fly in

the 11th inning after Adam Ottavino worked out of a tricky jam.

Twins 6, White Sox 3: Jorge Polanco's three-run blast was one of three Minnesota homers against Chicago's Lance Lynn in a five-run third inning in the host Twins' win.

First-time All-Star Luis Arraez led off the bottom of the first with a homer and Carlos Correa added a two-run shot in the third.

Cardinals 11, Reds 3: Paul Goldschmidt hit his 300th career homer and drove in three runs, Albert Pujols reached another milestone and host St. Louis beat Cincinnati.

The 42-year-old Pujols scored twice and tied Hall of Famer Lou Gehrig for 12th place all-time with 1,889 runs scored.

Blue Jays 6, Royals 5 (10): Teoscar Hernández singled home the winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning and host Toronto rallied past Kansas City.

Royals designated hitter Vinnie Pasquantino hit a home run in the top of the 10th inning to put the Royals up 5-3.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. led off the bottom half with an RBI double, and pinch-hitter Raimel Tapia tied it with a base hit to center. After Bo Bichette singled, Hernández grounded a single through the left side to score Tapia.

Rockies 2, Pirates 0: Kris Bryant had three hits and an RBI, Charlie Blackmon extended his hitting streak to seven games with an RBI single and Jose Urena pitched six scoreless innings in host Colorado's win over Pittsburgh.

Giants 2, Brewers 1: Milwaukee reliever Jandel Gustave's balk with the bases loaded allowed Wilmer Flores to score the go-ahead run in the eighth inning as host San Francisco won for the sixth time in eight games.

Padres 4, Diamondbacks 3: Luke Voit hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning and Sean Manaea pitched six strong innings as host San Diego rallied past Arizona.

Mariners defeat Rangers in 10 for 13th straight win

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — J.P. Crawford was facing a different situation at the plate for the streaking Seattle Mariners after Sam Haggerty stole third base in the 10th inning.

"Made our jobs a whole lot easier," Crawford said. "Changed the whole infield.

Now a lot of more holes are open, and we have an extra opportunity not to waste an out to try to get him over. Just get him in."

Crawford got Haggerty in with the tiebreaking run when he chopped a one-out single down the line past first base and the Mariners stretched their winning streak to 13 games with

a 3-2 win over the Texas Rangers on Saturday.

Carlos Santana homered as Seattle (50-42) moved closer to the club-record 15-game winning streak set in its last playoff season in 2001. It has won 21 of its last 24 games overall to take eight series in a row, its most since winning 14 straight sets

during that 116-win season 21 years ago.

"Everybody's just doing their job, pitching in and really keeping a very calm demeanor about them," manager Scott Servais said. "You're not always going to get the big hit or get a big shut-down inning. But we've been able to do it through the streak."