

## Video, report show chaos in Texas attack

*Associated Press*

UVALDE, Texas — A damning report and hours of body camera footage further laid bare the chaotic response to a mass shooting at a Uvalde elementary school, where hundreds of law enforcement officers massed but then waited to confront the gunman even after a child trapped with the shooter called 911.

The findings of an investigative committee released Sunday were the first to criticize both state and federal law enforcement, and not just local authorities in the South Texas city for the bewildering inaction by heavily armed officers as a gunman fired inside two adjoining fourth-grade classrooms at Robb Elementary School, killing 19 students and two teachers.

Footage from city police officers' body cameras made public hours later only further emphasized the failures — and

fueled the anger and frustration of relatives of the victims.

"It's disgusting. Disgusting," said Michael Brown, whose 9-year-old son was in the school's cafeteria on the day of the shooting and survived. "They're cowards."

Nearly 400 law enforcement officials rushed to the school, but "egregiously poor decision making" resulted in more than an hour of chaos before the gunman was finally confronted and killed, according to the report written by an investigative committee from the Texas House of Representatives.

Together, the report and more than three hours of newly released body camera footage from the May 24 tragedy amounted to the fullest account to date of one of the worst school shootings in U.S. history.

"At Robb Elementary, law enforcement responders failed to adhere to their active shoo-

ter training, and they failed to prioritize saving innocent lives over their own safety," the report said.

The gunman fired approximately 142 rounds inside the building — and it is "almost certain" that at least 100 shots came before any officer entered, according to the report, which laid out numerous failures. Among them:

- No one assumed command despite scores of officers being on the scene.

- The commander of a Border Patrol tactical team waited for a bulletproof shield and working master key for a door to the classrooms that may have not even been needed before entering.

- A Uvalde Police Department officer said he heard about 911 calls that had come from inside the rooms, and that his understanding was the officers on one side of the building knew there were victims

trapped inside. Still, no one tried to breach the classroom.

The committee didn't "receive medical evidence" to show that police storming the classrooms sooner would have saved lives, but it concluded that "it is plausible that some victims could have survived if they had not had to wait 73 additional minutes for rescue."

The findings had at least one immediate effect: Lt. Mariano Pargas, a Uvalde Police Department officer who was the city's acting police chief during the massacre, was placed on administrative leave.

Uvalde Mayor Don McLaughlin said an investigation would be launched to determine whether Pargas should have taken command of the scene. He also disclosed for the first time that some officers had left the force since the shooting but did not provide an exact number, saying it was as many as three.

## Bystander kills gunman during Indiana shooting

*Associated Press*

GREENWOOD, Ind. — Three people were killed and two were wounded after a man walked into a suburban Indianapolis shopping mall and opened fire before an armed civilian shot and killed him, authorities said.

The assailant, whose name and possible motive haven't been made public, walked into the Greenwood Park Mall with a rifle and several magazines of ammunition shortly before it closed at 6 p.m. Sunday and began firing in the food court, Greenwood police Chief Jim Ison said at a news conference.

A 22-year-old man from nearby Bartholomew County shot and killed the gunman, Ison said. The investigation is ongoing, and authorities haven't said whether

all of the victims were shot by the attacker or whether some might have been caught in the crossfire. Authorities are expected to release further details of the investigation at a news conference later Monday.

"The real hero of the day is the citizen that was lawfully carrying a firearm in that food court and was able to stop the shooter almost as soon as he began," said Ison, who didn't disclose details about the civilian, including whether the person was exempt from the mall's ban on people carrying weapons on the property.

As of July 1, Indiana law allows anyone age 18 or older to carry a handgun in public except for those prohibited for reasons such as having a felony conviction, facing a restraining order or having a

dangerous mental illness as determined by a court. Indiana's Republican-dominated Legislature retained provisions in the law that allow private property owners to prohibit firearms.

Four of the mall shooting victims were female and one was male, Ison said. He didn't immediately know the sexes or ages of those who were killed.

A 12-year-old girl and another wounded person were in stable condition, he said.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police and multiple other agencies were assisting in the investigation.

"We are sickened by yet another type of incident like this in our country," Indianapolis Assistant Chief of Police Chris Bailey said.

The mall was closed Monday.

# Ukraine seeks to boost ranks amid constant fire

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — With Russian shelling across the country showing no signs of easing, Ukraine's leaders on Monday were looking to strengthen their own ranks after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy removed from office some of his most prominent officials because of alleged "poor performance" over clearing their agencies of "collaborators and traitors."

Internal investigations and checks will be launched following the replacement of the head of Ukraine's Security Service, or SBU, Ivan Bakanov, and Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova, said Andriy Smirnov, deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office. Acting heads of the two agencies have been appointed in the meantime, officials said.

"Six months into the war, we continue to uncover loads of these people in each of these agencies," said Smirnov.

Analysts said the move is designed to strengthen Zelenskyy's control over the army and the security agencies that have been led by people appointed before the war. Zelenskyy "needs an effective Prosecutor (General's) office, and (an effective) SBU" agency, Volodymyr Fesenko, a politi-

cal analyst with the Penta Center think tank, told The Associated Press.

"In the conditions of a war, Zelenskyy needs leaders that are capable of tackling several tasks at the same time — to resist Russia's intrigues within the country to create a fifth column, to be in contact and coordination with international experts, to do their actual job effectively," Fesenko said.

Bakanov and Venediktova have both held key positions amid Ukraine's efforts to defend itself from the Russian invasion and hold the Russian attackers accountable for the crimes against civilians during the war, which started with Russia's invasion on Feb. 24.

After appointing the acting chief prosecutor on Sunday, Zelenskyy on Monday signed a decree naming first deputy head of the SBU, Vasyly Maliuk, as the acting head of the agency. Maliuk, 39, is known for his efforts to fight corruption in the security agencies and his appointment is seen as part of Zelenskyy's efforts to get rid of pro-Russian staffers in the SBU.

Meanwhile, Russia pressed forward with its attacks, which Ukrainian officials said were designed to intimidate the civilian population and sow panic among them.

## Judge temporarily halts Air Force discipline for refusing COVID shot

*Dayton (Ohio) Daily News*

A federal court judge Thursday certified as a legal class a group of Air Force members seeking a religious exemption from the military's COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

The ruling affects 80 to 100 Airmen serving or having served at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The federal court in Cincinnati also entered a nationwide temporary restraining order that prevents the Air Force from enacting disciplinary consequences for refusing the mandate when a request for a religious exemption is at issue.

The order is valid for 14 days, while the court weighs a request for a preliminary injunction, which would protect airmen with religious objections until a trial.

Air Force leaders have argued that vaccination is an important component of fitness and military readiness. In an unsigned order in April, the Supreme Court ruled that the military could take disciplinary action against an Air Force Reserve lieutenant colonel who refused the COVID shot for religious reasons.

Refusal to comply with the vaccination mandate could result in discharge from the service.

## DARPA scores success with hypersonic missile launch

**By JOHN VANDIVER**

*Stars and Stripes*

The recent launch of a hypersonic missile from a Marine Corps logistics truck marked a breakthrough for a program focused on bolstering the military's ability to strike faraway targets on the move.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's test in New Mexico last week was part of Operational Fires, which aims to integrate technologies so sophisticated missiles can be fired from trucks routinely driven by Marines and soldiers.

"This is a promising step toward an ... on-demand capability for accurately firing medium-range missiles from highly agile, readily available logistics trucks that are already in both the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps inventory," Lt. Col. Joshua Stults, the DARPA program manager for OpFires, said in a statement.

DARPA said the system achieved all test objectives, ranging from usage of a logistics truck to launch a medium-range missile to incorporation of Army inventory artillery fire control systems.

"Compatibility with existing command-and-control, vehicles, logistics infrastructure and operating environments ensures that OpFires is highly mobile and rapidly deployable," DARPA said.

The Pentagon has numerous hypersonic missile programs in the works. Such weapons fly faster than five times the speed of sound. Developing the missiles has become a priority in light of Russian and Chinese advances in the area of hypersonic weaponry.

DARPA's OpFires initiative is focused on development of a ground-launched system enabling hypersonic boost glide weapons to penetrate modern air defenses and hit time-sensitive targets, according to the agency.

Such advances coincide with efforts by the Army and the Marine Corps to develop more long-range precision weapons, a modernization focus for both services.

# No immediate ruling in La. abortion case

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — A hearing on Louisiana's laws banning most abortions ended Monday without an immediate ruling from a state judge who kept in place a temporary restraining order that has allowed abortions to proceed while legal arguments are unfolding.

The "trigger law" was designed to take effect immediately after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned its 1973 ruling establishing nationwide abortion rights.

In the hearing Monday, State

District Judge Donald Johnson requested both sides file documents that are due Tuesday morning. In the meantime, he is maintaining a temporary restraining order that keeps the "trigger law" from going into effect, meaning abortions can still take place.

For weeks, access to abortion has been flickering in Louisiana, where there are three clinics. A statewide abortion ban has taken effect twice and been blocked twice since the Supreme Court's ruling in June. Currently, due to a temporary order issued by a state

district judge last week, authorities cannot enforce the ban and at least one clinic is offering abortion procedures.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit don't deny that the state can ban abortion as a result of the Supreme Court ruling. Instead, they contend that Louisiana now has multiple, conflicting trigger mechanisms in the law.

They also argue that state law is unclear on whether it bans an abortion prior to a fertilized egg implanting in the uterus.

And while the law provides an exception for "medically futile"

pregnancies in cases of fetuses with fatal abnormalities, the plaintiffs noted it gives no definition of the term and that state health officials have not yet provided a list of conditions that would qualify as medically futile.

A New Orleans judge issued a temporary order blocking enforcement of the ban June 27, but nearly two weeks later, a second New Orleans judge sent the case to Baton Rouge, saying state law required that it be heard in the capital. Johnson issued a second temporary restraining order July 11.

## Ariz. governor, Pence act to counter Trump's pick

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey has already helped block one of former President Donald Trump's allies from winning the Republican nomination for governor in a crucial battleground state. Now he's hoping for a repeat in his own backyard.

Ducey is part of a burgeoning effort among establishment Republicans to lift up little-known housing developer Karrin Taylor Robson against former television news anchor Kari Lake, who is backed by Trump. Other prominent Republicans, including former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, have also lined up behind Robson in recent days.

On Monday, Robson's campaign announced the endorsement of former Vice President Mike Pence, who will campaign with her on Friday — the same day Trump is scheduled to hold a rally for Lake, creating a split-screen moment underscoring the divide between the GOP establishment and Trump.

The push is reminiscent of how many leading Republicans rallied around Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp during the final stretch of his ultimately successful bid to fend off a Trump-endorsed pri-

mary challenger.

Few states have been as central to Trump's election lies as Georgia and Arizona, the two closest 2020 battlegrounds where he pushed aggressively to overturn the results and fumed when Kemp and Ducey refused to go along. Trump has already faced a setback in Georgia, and the Aug. 2 race in Arizona is among his last opportunities to settle scores and install allies to lead states that may prove decisive if he decides to run again in 2024.

"In Arizona, people are independent minded, much like they are in Georgia, and they pick the person that they think will be best for the responsibility," Ducey told The Associated Press. "In Georgia, the voters said Brian Kemp, and I'm hopeful in Arizona, they'll say Karrin Taylor Robson."

As an incumbent seeking reelection, Kemp had an advantage over his primary rival, David Perdue, and ultimately defeated him by nearly 52 percentage points. Without an incumbent on the ballot — Ducey faces term limits — the GOP contest in Arizona will likely be much closer. But what once looked like an insurmountable lead for Lake could end in a more competitive finish.

## Penalty trial begins for Fla. high school shooter

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The gunman who attacked the high school in Parkland, Fla., in 2018 returned to court Monday for the penalty phase of his case in which a jury will decide whether he is sentenced to death or life in prison without parole.

Nikolas Cruz, 23, pleaded guilty in October to 17 counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of 14 students and three staff members at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. He is contesting only his sentence. It is the nation's deadliest mass shooting to go before a jury.

A seven-man, five-woman panel, backed up by 10 alternates, will hear the case, which is expected to last about four months. The trial was supposed to begin in 2020, but it was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic and legal fights.

Lead prosecutor Mike Satz highlighted Cruz's brutality as he stalked a three-story classroom building and fired his AR-15 semi-automatic rifle down hallways and into classrooms. Cruz sometimes walked back to wounded victims and killed them with a second volley of shots.

The prosecutor described Cruz

as "cold, calculated, manipulative and deadly," citing a video Cruz made three days before the massacre.

"This is what the defendant said: 'Hello, my name is Nik. I'm going to be the next school shooter of 2018. My goal is at least 20 people with an AR-15 and some tracer rounds. It's going to be a big event, and when you see me on the news, you'll know who I am. You're all going to die. Ah yeah, I can't wait.'"

About 50 family members of the victims were in the courtroom, some couples holding hands. Some parents teared up as Satz described the deaths of their children. One mother, crying, got up and left. Others sat stoically, their arms folded across their chests. It wasn't clear if anyone was present to support Cruz, who sat at the defense table between his attorneys.

After Satz spoke, Cruz's lawyers announced that they will not give their opening statement until it is time to present their case weeks from now. That is a rare and risky strategy because it gives Satz the only say before jurors examine grisly evidence and hear testimony from survivors and the victims' families.



# UK broils as heat fuels fires in Spain, France

*Associated Press*

LONDON — Millions of people in Britain stayed home or sought shade Monday during the country's first-ever extreme heat warning, as hot, dry weather that has scorched mainland Europe for the past week moved north, disrupting travel, health care and schools.

The red heat alert covers a big chunk of England and is due to last through Tuesday, when temperatures were expected to climb as high as 104 degrees for the first time, posing a risk of serious illness and even death among healthy people, according to the Met Office, the United Kingdom's meteorological agency.

The highest temperature ever recorded in Britain is 101.7, a record set in 2019. The country isn't at all prepared to handle such heat — most homes, schools and small businesses in Britain don't have air conditioning.

The village of Cavendish in eastern England hit 99.5 by 3 p.m. and Wales provisionally recorded its highest-ever temperature, the Met Office said, a recording of 95.5 at Gogerddan on the west coast.

At least four people were reported to have drowned across the U.K. in rivers, lakes and

reservoirs while trying to cool off.

While Monday may bring record highs to southeastern England, temperatures are expected to rise further as the warm air moves north on Tuesday, Met Office CEO Penelope Endersby said. The extreme heat warning stretches from London in the south to Manchester and Leeds in the north.

"So it's tomorrow that we're really seeing the higher chance of 40 degrees and temperatures above that," Endersby told the BBC. "Forty-one isn't off the cards. We've even got some 43s in the model, but we're hoping it won't be as high as that."

Hot weather has gripped southern Europe since last week, triggering wildfires in Spain, Portugal and France. At least 748 heat-related deaths have been reported in the heat wave in Spain and neighboring Portugal, where temperatures reached 117 last week.

Climate experts have warned that global warming has increased the frequency of extreme weather events, with studies showing the likelihood of temperatures in the U.K. reaching 104 degrees Fahrenheit is now 10 times higher than in the pre-industrial era. Drought and heat waves tied to climate

change have also made wildfires harder to fight.

Officials in southern France's Gironde region announced plans to evacuate an additional 3,500 people from towns threatened by the raging flames. More than 1,500 firefighters and water-bombing planes are trying to douse the flames in the region's tinder-dry pine forests.

In Britain, train operators asked customers not to travel unless absolutely necessary, saying the heat was likely to warp rails and disrupt power supplies, leading to severe delays. Some routes were running at reduced speed or shutting down entirely from mid-afternoon, when temperatures were expected to peak.

Flights were disrupted at London's Luton Airport because of what was described as a "surface defect" on the runway amid the high temperatures. The airport said engineers were called to make repairs.

Some medical appointments were canceled to relieve strains on the health service. Some schools closed, and others set up wading pools and water sprays to help children cool off. Most British schools have not yet closed for the summer.

## Japan, S. Korea foreign ministers agree to improve ties

*Associated Press*

TOKYO — The foreign ministers of South Korea and Japan reaffirmed Monday the importance of bilateral ties and the three-way relationship with the United States as they renewed efforts to mend relations amid the war in Ukraine and other global tensions.

Park Jin, South Korea's top diplomat, and his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi agreed to work together on the nuclear threat from North Korea and on the need to resolve a dispute over Japan's colonial-era forced mobilization of Korean laborers, according to the

two foreign ministries. The countries' ties have been strained mostly over historical issues, including forced labor leading up to and during World War II.

At the heart of the dispute are South Korean court rulings in 2018, which ordered two Japanese companies, Nippon Steel and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, to compensate forced Korean laborers. The Japanese companies have refused to comply with the rulings, and the former laborers and their supporters responded by pushing for the forced sale of corporate assets of Nippon Steel and Mitsubishi.

The ministers shared a view that the disputes over the forced laborers must be resolved at an early date, the South Korean Foreign Ministry statement said. It quoted Park as saying South Korea would seek a resolution of the dispute before the sales of the two Japanese companies are made in South Korea.

According to the Japanese statement, Hayashi told Park that both sides need to build a constructive relationship based on the normalization of relations in 1965. Tokyo has long maintained that all compensation issues had been settled by then.

## Outbreaks from animals in Africa surge by 60% in last decade

*Associated Press*

LONDON — The number of outbreaks of diseases that jumped from animals to humans in Africa has surged by more than 60% in the last decade, the World Health Organization said, a worrying sign the planet could face increased animal-borne diseases like mon-

keypox, Ebola and the coronavirus in the future.

There has been a 63% rise in the number of animal diseases breaching the species barrier from 2012 to 2022, as compared to the decade before, the U.N. health agency said in a statement on Thursday.

There was a particular spike

from 2019 to 2020, when diseases originating in animals that later infected humans, made up half of all significant public health events in Africa, said WHO.

Diseases like Ebola and other hemorrhagic fevers were responsible for 70% of those outbreaks, in addition to illnesses

like monkeypox, dengue, anthrax and plague.

"We must act now to contain zoonotic diseases before they can cause widespread infections and stop Africa from becoming a hotspot for emerging infectious diseases," WHO's Africa director, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti said in a statement.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

**Police arrest man with \$200K in stolen goods**

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco police have seized more than \$200,000 in stolen retail goods from a home and arrested a man who they said made \$500,000 annually selling stolen over-the-counter medication, personal care products and other items online.

Investigators found the stolen goods Wednesday after receiving information from business owners and searching a home in the Ingleside neighborhood, police said in a statement.

Officers identified Sergio Manuel Puga-Tenorio, 38, of San Francisco, as the main suspect in the fencing operation and arrested him after finding the goods at his house, police said.

Police said Puga-Tenorio had been selling the stolen items on an online platform and shipping them throughout the United States for at least three years.

**FAA: Keep drones under 400 feet at beaches**

**IL** CHICAGO — The Federal Aviation Administration is warning people who fly drones at some North Side beaches in Chicago not to send them higher than 400 feet.

The FAA said it has received an increasing number of drone sighting reports from commercial airline pilots as they make their approach to land at O'Hare International Airport, WLS-TV reported Thursday.

The FAA said the following beaches are all in the landing flight path for O'Hare: Loyola and Hartigan beaches on the far North Side, Montrose Beach and Harbor in the Uptown neighbor-

hood and Osterman and Lane beaches in the Edgewater neighborhood.

Drones that fly too high in those areas pose a safety hazard, even if they're hundreds of feet away from an aircraft, the FAA said.

**DUI suspect's name not on order; results tossed**

**MI** TUSCARORA TOWNSHIP—Glassy eyes, poor balance, a large open can of beer: Police in northern Michigan figured they had a strong case of drunken driving, especially after they needed a boat to haul a man out of Indian River in 2020.

But the test results were thrown out in Cheboygan County because the court order authorizing a blood sample didn't have the man's name, only the jail.

The prosecutor argued that an attached affidavit with details of the vehicle crash in Tuscarora Township should be sufficient, but the court disagreed.

The man faces other charges, including resisting police and driving without a valid license. He ran into the Indian River after his SUV landed on its side.

**4 men accused of stealing \$2.4M of oil**

**ND** WATFORD CITY — Four North Dakota men are accused of stealing more than \$2.4 million worth of crude oil over a period of more than a year.

Michael Garcia, Mark McGregor, Darrell Merrell and Joseph Vandewalker are each charged in McKenzie County with felony counts of conspiracy to commit theft and dealing in stolen property. Garcia is also charged with a

felony count of leading a criminal association.

Court documents state that Merrell and Vandewalker, both truck drivers, skimmed oil they were offloading at a facility by manipulating equipment such as transfer pumps during their deliveries. They allegedly stored the oil in two tanks and later offloaded it and sold it.

McGregor arranged pickup dates and details for the oil and Garcia was the "money link" for selling the oil and paying drivers, documents said.

**6 of 9 miners rescued 20 years ago reunite**

**PA** JENNERSTOWN — Six of the nine men trapped in a flooded mine in southwestern Pennsylvania two decades ago gathered at a raceway over the weekend to kick off 20th anniversary celebrations of the dramatic rescue that ended their 77-hour ordeal.

The six took in the races Saturday at Jennerstown Speedway in Somerset County, only miles from the Quecreek Mine, sitting with former Pennsylvania Gov. Mark Schweiker, news outlets reported. Blaine Mayhugh, John Phillippi, John Unger, Robert Pugh, Ronald Hileman and Thomas "Tucker" Foy came to the track at intermission to applause from the crowd.

Miners broke through stone into the uncharted mine shaft on the night of July 24, 2002, releasing millions of gallons of water and trapping them more than 200 feet below the surface. Crews drilled a small shaft and lowered a small metal capsule, bringing them up one by one until the last was lifted to safety early on the morning of July 28

Mayhugh said living through Quecreek gave him a different outlook on life.

"I believed in religion more after the incident, and I appreciated life a lot, definitely a lot more," he said. "You think nothing's going to ever happen to you, at your guys' age, and then something like that puts it in perspective that it could happen anytime to anybody."

**Water seeping into fault lines may cause quakes**

**SC** COLUMBIA — Some scientists have said water seeping deep into the ground may be causing a swarm of earthquakes in the midlands region of South Carolina.

More than 60 earthquakes have been recorded since December in an area near the towns of Lugoff and Eglin, about 20 miles northeast of Columbia. Some geologists are now suggesting an initial December quake may have allowed water from the Wateree River to seep into new cracks opened by the quake, setting off additional temblors.

Pradeep Talwani, a retired geologist and former director of the South Carolina Seismic Network at the University of South Carolina, suggested the additional quakes may be caused by hydroseismicity, the effect of water impacting earthquake faults.

"What I'm thinking is contributing to all these earthquakes was the month to month-and-a-half of very high water levels we had," Talwani, a leading authority on the impact of water on seismic activity, told The State newspaper of Columbia. "Those pressure pulses are going into these fractures."

— From wire reports

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# NL stars adjusting to DH rule change

Associated Press

Max Scherzer misses hitting. He misses pitching to pitchers.

And yet the New York Mets right-hander is just fine with the full-time addition of the designated hitter to the National League as of this season, nearly 50 years after the American League adopted it.

"The biggest benefit," the three-time Cy Young Award winner said, "is that the sport is under one set of rules."

So now all Major League Baseball games, regardless of location, include a DH in the lineup. The ballot for Sunday's All-Star Game at Dodger Stadium included a DH for the NL (reigning MVP Bryce Harper of the Philadelphia Phillies led the voting for that spot but is out with a broken left thumb and will be replaced by William Contreras of the World Series champion Atlanta Braves). And scoring is up in the NL in 2022.

"In the future, you might be able to do some type of realignment, because everyone has the same rules," Scherzer said. "I don't know what it would look like, but you have more possibilities to do that."

Adding the DH should increase offense by putting a real batter in the lineup. It also changes a manager's job by eliminating some of the decisions about pinch-hitting, double-switching, etc.

"I've thought about it a few times: 'When's the pitcher coming up?' " Arizona Diamondbacks skipper Torey Lovullo said

early in the season.

Runs per game for NL teams were at 4.5 through June this season, an increase from 4.31 through June in 2021 (although still down from 4.78 in 2019).

Over that same portion of each year from 2017-21 (minus the pandemic-shortened 2020), pitchers for NL teams combined to produce a .154 batting average, .152 slugging percentage and .306 OPS with per-season average league-wide totals of 7.6 homers and 79.2 RBIs.

Compare that to the NL DH stats this year: .241 average, .408 slugging, .728 OPS, 159 homers and 567 RBIs.

"We don't really think about it anymore. It's just part of the game now," Harper said. "The DH is here and I don't think it's going anywhere anytime soon."

Scherzer said he was hoping for additional tweaks to the way the DH works — he called it the "double-hook DH."

Here's how that would work: Either the player in the batting order as the DH would need to leave the game when his team's starting pitcher gets removed or if the starting pitcher made a qualifying start by some measure — going five innings, say, or lasting 100 pitches — then his team would get to keep using its DH for the full game.

"If you connect the DH and the starting pitcher together, it would help promote keeping the starter in longer," said Scherzer, who is 6-1 with a 2.15 ERA this season.

"I feel like the game is using the starting pitcher less and less, and I think that's just a problem from an aesthetic standpoint."

Perspectives on the NL DH:

## Rather not DH

"If I DH too much, I don't want to be labeled something that I'm not. Personally, my favorite thing to do is to be out there in the field. I love playing first base. I feel like I can best contribute to the team by being out there. I'm young, I'm healthy, I'm fit, so I want to be out there as much as possible. When I'm older — if I'm still playing at 38, let's say — yeah, sure, I'll take a few extra DH days." — Pete Alonso, New York Mets.

## Likes the option

"I grew up liking the National League style of the game. I really enjoyed seeing the pitcher hit and everything that went into the game with that. But this year, of course, it's turned a little bit for me — being able to DH while (I was) hurt (earlier) really helped me out and helped my team out." — Harper, who could still DH.

## Veteran DH now in HL

"It's good for players: It will lengthen careers. It's good for the game, I guess, because fans want to see hitters hit. And it protects pitchers, too, so they don't have to hit or run the bases. ... You have to commit to being a DH full-time." — Nelson Cruz, Washington Nationals.

# Sons of ex-All-Stars Holliday, Jones go 1-2 in draft

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Matt Holliday heard from agent Scott Boras that his son was about to be picked first in baseball's amateur draft, and the 2007 batting champion didn't let on.

"That was kind of cool," Jackson Holliday said later. "He's like, 'All right, you're just going to find out.' That was really, really neat, and something I'll probably never forget."

Jackson watched on television about 30 seconds later Sunday when baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred announced that Baltimore chose the 18-year-old shortstop first overall.

The only other son of a major

leaguer to be a top pick was Ken Griffey Jr. in 1987.

Druw Jones, the son of All-Star Andruw Jones, had been projected first, but the 18-year-old outfielder went to Arizona with the second selection.

"It's like a video game, honestly," Holliday said. "Like every video game you play, you're the first pick."

Texas used the third pick on Kumar Rocker, a 6-foot-5 right-hander who failed to sign with the New York Mets after being selected 10th overall last year. Rocker will be reunited with Rangers minor league pitcher Jack Leiter, his teammate on Vanderbilt's 2019 NCAA baseball cham-

pionship team. Texas chose Leiter with the No. 2 pick last year.

MLB said this draft marked the first in which four of the first five picks were Black.

Family matters in this year's draft. Justin Crawford, a son of four-time All-Star Carl Crawford, was taken by Philadelphia at No. 17. Daniel Susac, a University of Arizona catcher who is a brother of former big leaguer Andrew Susac, was picked 19th by Oakland.

Holliday and Jones, both represented by Boras, have agreements for signing bonuses in excess of \$8 million, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

Boras was on the phone with

Matt Holliday while a member of his staff spoke to Druw Jones.

"A tough decision," Orioles general manager Mike Elias said. "I would liken it to deciding what to order at a five-star restaurant."

Holliday, a left-handed hitter from Stillwater High in Oklahoma, is 6-foot-1 and 175 pounds — quite a bit smaller than his 6-foot-4, 240-pound father. He hit .685 and with 89 hits in 41 games and broke a national record for hits in a high school season that had been held by J.T. Realmuto.

His dad was a seven-time All-Star in a big league career from 2004-18, including 2009-16 with the Cardinals. Holliday earned the 2007 NL batting title.



# Yanks pound Red Sox again, Sale hurt

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gerrit Cole hardly believes he's solved pitching to Rafael Devers. At least he doesn't have to worry about quieting teammate Matt Carpenter's bat.

The rest of the New York Yankees are satisfied with concluding a memorable first half with two decisive wins over their rival following their worst slump of the season.

Cole brushed back Devers and struck out 12, Carpenter drove in three more runs and the Yankees pounded the Boston Red Sox 13-2 Sunday after Red Sox ace Chris Sale broke his left pinkie finger in the first inning.

"I don't think I figured him out," Cole said of Devers, who has been a thorn in the ace's side. "I think I just executed the pitches that I wanted to execute today, and I think we sequenced better than we did last time."

New York reached double-digit runs for the 16th time — no other team has more than 10 such games — and cruised into the All-Star break with a major league-best

record of 64-28. Its 64 wins matched the 2018 Astros for third-most prior to the break since the All-Star Game began in 1933.

The Yankees outscored Boston 27-3 in the final two games of the series after losing five of six games, a stretch that included three extra-inning defeats.

"Great job by them," New York manager Aaron Boone said. "Been a little bit of a rough week obviously. To answer last night and today with two pretty emphatic victories, you want to roll into the break feeling good."

Cole (9-2) dusted Devers off the plate with a low, 99 mph fastball on his first pitch to the third baseman after allowing two homers to him July 7 in Boston. Devers glared at Cole from the dirt, then struck out swinging at a high fastball.

Cole allowed two runs and three hits in seven innings for his fourth straight win.

Aaron Judge singled twice and finished the first half with a major league-leading 33 homers, tied with Roger Maris for the fran-

chise record before the break. Judge reached 33 homers in 89 games while Maris hit 33 in his first 83 games in 1961 on his way to breaking Babe Ruth's single-season record.

Judge, Anthony Rizzo and DJ LeMahieu were hit by pitches after Cole knocked down Devers. LeMahieu was in considerable pain after being hit in the left elbow during the eighth inning and left the game.

Carpenter had an RBI groundout in a three-run first inning and added a two-run double in an eight-run fourth. Carpenter drove in 10 runs in the final two games of the first half and has 34 RBIs in 31 games since joining the Yankees on May 26.

"It's great when it's on your team, I'll tell you that," Cole said of Carpenter, who was 14-for-38 with four homers when the two faced each other frequently for Pittsburgh and St. Louis. "I've been watching that for a long time, the first half of my career, and I've been on the wrong side of that quite a bit."

Tim Lincecum hit a two-run homer off Jake Diekmann in the fourth.

## Mariners rough up Rangers for 14th straight victory

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Seattle Mariners won their 14th straight game as rookie All-Star Julio Rodríguez hit a two-run double and Ty France homered after joining him on the AL team to beat the Texas Rangers 6-2 on Sunday.

The Mariners moved closer to the team record of 15 consecutive wins during their most recent playoff season in 2001, when they went 116-46. The 14-game streak is the longest going into an All-Star break in major league history.

Cal Raleigh's two-run homer put Seattle ahead for good in the fourth inning as it matched reigning World Series champion Atlanta's June streak for the longest this season. St. Louis had a 17-game winning string last year.

With the Mariners leading 2-1 in the fourth, reliever Ryan Borucki (2-0) walked his first two batters to load the bases with two outs before getting rookie leadoff

hitter Josh Smith on a groundout. The left-hander retired Semien, All-Star Corey Seager and Nathaniel Lowe in order in the fifth.

Texas starter Glenn Otto (4-6) dropped to 0-4 in five starts since spending 15 days on the COVID-19 list.

**White Sox 11, Twins 0:** Dylan Cease spun a one-hitter for seven innings in his latest masterful start, and visiting Chicago walloped Minnesota and surged into the All-Star break by winning three out of four against first-place Minnesota.

Cease (9-4) allowed only a fifth-inning single to Alex Kirilloff and two walks. Andrew Vaughn had three hits and three RBIs to help bring the White Sox within three games of the Twins in the AL Central. Cleveland is two games back.

**Giants 9, Brewers 5:** Logan Webb (9-3) pitched six strong innings for his ninth win to keep host San Francisco rolling into the All-Star break with a victory

over slumping Milwaukee.

LaMonte Wade Jr. hit a three-run home run, and Brandon Belt also connected and drove in three runs as the Giants won their third straight against the Brewers after dropping the series opener. San Francisco has won seven of nine overall heading into the All-Star break after losing 14 of its previous 18.

NL Central-leading Milwaukee is heading in the opposite direction with its eighth loss in 11 games.

**Blue Jays 4, Royals 2:** Alejandro Kirk hit a two-run home run in the eighth inning, sending host Toronto over Kansas City.

**Rays 7, Orioles 5:** Brett Phillips, Randy Arozarena and Francisco Mejía homered as host Tampa Bay beat Baltimore despite losing hot-hitting Harold Ramírez to a broken thumb.

**Cubs 3, Mets 2:** Nico Hoerner hit a tiebreaking RBI single with two outs in the eighth inning, and host Chicago stopped a nine-

game slide by topping New York.

**Nationals 7, Braves 3:** Juan Soto and Victor Robles homered, and host Washington beat Atlanta to snap a nine-game losing streak.

**Diamondbacks 3, Padres 1:** Merrill Kelly gave up one run in six innings and David Peralta hit a solo homer to lead visiting Arizona over San Diego.

**Athletics 4, Astros 3:** Stephen Vogt hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning and visiting Oakland wrapped up a shaky first half by beating Houston.

**Pirates 8, Rockies 3:** Kyle Newman and Michael Chavis had three hits apiece, and Pittsburgh ended its 12-game road trip with a win over Colorado.

**Phillies 4, Marlins 0:** Aaron Nola struck out 10 and pitched scoreless ball into the ninth inning as visiting Philadelphia beat Miami for a three-game sweep.

Yairo Muñoz homered to help the Phillies head into the All-Star break at 49-43.

# US track turns in record-setting day

*Associated Press*

EUGENE, Ore. — Except for a single, barely perceptible flinch, this would've been a Perfect 10 for the U.S. track and field team.

As it ended up, the Americans still won nine medals on home turf Sunday at world championships in what will go down as one of the most memorable days for the red, white and blue in its long, successful history. It was the best single medal day for a nation at worlds, according to meet organizers.

Hurdler Devon Allen's false start kept the United States from a possible sweep in the 110-meter final and what could've been the 10th medal of the day. The speedster-slash-receiver will now take his talents to the football field, where he'll attempt to make the roster for the Philadelphia Eagles. It was hardly the way he wanted to finish at worlds.

"Track and field is so difficult because

you train the whole year for one competition that lasts 12, 13 seconds and that's that," said Allen, whose training camp with the Eagles starts July 26. "I'll learn from it and I'll make sure I just react not as fast next time."

Allen's disappointment hardly spoiled a day in which the recording of the "Star-Spangled Banner" got worn out.

It began with the hammer throw, where Brooke Andersen took gold and Janee' Kasanavold won bronze.

That was a warm-up act for the night session, where seven medals piled up in a span of about 10 minutes.

The women's pole vaulters led the run with Katie Nageotte and Sandi Morris finishing 1-2. Moments later — and following a delay as Allen unsuccessfully pleaded his case to officials to remain the race — Grant Holloway defended his hurdles title, with Trey Cunningham close behind in second.

Around the same time, the shot putters

wrapped up a podium sweep with two-time Olympic champion Ryan Crouser taking gold, Joe Kovacs earning silver and Josh Awotunde finishing with bronze.

All this came an evening after Fred Kerley, Marvin Bracy and Trayvon Bromell swept the 100. It got Crouser thinking of what was possible in his event.

"My heart rate was probably like at 120, 130," he said of watching the men's 100. "I probably shouldn't have watched it because I had trouble calming back down. I had to make a mental note to take a few deep breaths and be like, 'I don't have to compete right now.' Awesome to see Team USA sweep."

With their big-medal haul Sunday, the Americans now have six golds and 14 total medals. The next most is three medals each by Ethiopia, Poland, China and Jamaica, which swept the women's 100 to close out the night.

## Bell win at N.H. dimmed at JGR by Truex, Busch

*Associated Press*

LOUDON, N.H. — Joe Gibbs had a New Hampshire race victory to celebrate — and a future dinner to fill his belly courtesy of the 21-pound lobster awarded to winner Christopher Bell — but some things still didn't feel right to the Hall of Fame team owner.

No. 1, star driver Martin Truex Jr. had the dominant car most of Sunday's race but faded to fourth, meaning the winless driver is suddenly on the NASCAR playoff bubble with six races left before the 16-driver field is set.

No. 2, two-time Cup champion Kyle Busch is unhappy. Sure, that's not a new feeling for the notoriously prickly driver, but the circumstances bother him more than a run-in with another driver. Busch doesn't have a new contract for 2023 and the process is moving along at such a slow pace, the driver said this weekend that he has shopped himself to other teams.

"Turmoil is not a good word

for it," Gibbs said, laughing at a reporter's suggestion. "Give me a better word. Maybe struggle or something right now. I think that happens in pro sports. I think that's the reason why we all like it so much. It's hard. It takes a lot up here. The thing that is probably the hardest is to get four teams going in the right direction."

At least Bell pointed his No. 20 Toyota in the right direction — the one headed to NASCAR's playoffs. Bell clinched his spot with a strong run late Sunday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway and won his second career Cup race.

Bell was the 14th driver to earn a spot in the 16-driver playoff field. With six races left in the regular season, it leaves open the possibility that more than 16 drivers could win a race and the final playoff spot or spots would be decided on points.

Bell will race for the championship over the final 10 races of the season.

## Dixon continues climb through IndyCar history

*Associated Press*

Scott Dixon remembers winning his first IndyCar race more than two decades ago, back when the only thing he cared about was keeping his job, and the thought of having his name someday mentioned in the same breath as A.J. Foyt, the Unser family and Mario Andretti seemed downright laughable.

"There's some numbers that are achievable," Dixon explained, "but I think when you look at even getting to the Uners, then Mario, this sport can be super tricky. You can be in it one minute and out the next."

All these years later, and Dixon is still in it. Near the top of it, too.

Dixon ended a 22-race winless stretch — a maddening eternity by his standards — when he held off pole sitter Colton Herta on a late restart to win Sunday's return to the road course in Toronto. It was Dixon's 52nd win in the series, all but that first with Chip Ganassi Racing, and it

moved him into a tie with Andretti for second on the career list.

Foyt is the only one left ahead of him, though even Dixon acknowledged his 67 wins might never be touched.

"Probably have to be racing well into my 50s for that one," said Dixon, who turns 42 on Friday. "It's hard. The competition's really tough right now. Even the luckiness of pulling strategies — if you have a bad day, pull off a win from weird cautions and things like that — it gets a lot trickier because there's so many good teams now."

That wasn't necessarily the case back in 2001, when the 20-year-old New Zealander earned his first start for long-defunct PacWest Racing in Mexico. He led 14 laps that day in Monterey, which merely foreshadowed his day two races later, when he became the youngest winner in CART — a predecessor to IndyCar — and went on to finish eighth in the standings.