

Russia won't let UN aid into dam collapse area

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — The Kremlin's spokesman said Monday that U.N. aid workers who want to visit areas ravaged by the recent Kakhova dam collapse in southern Ukraine can't go there because fighting in the war makes it unsafe.

The United Nations rebuked Moscow on Sunday for denying aid workers access to Russia-occupied areas where residents are stranded amid "devastating destruction."

The U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Ukraine, Denise Brown, said in a statement that her staff were engaging with both Kyiv and Moscow, which control different parts of the area, in a bid to reach civilians in need. They face a shortage of drinking water and food and a lack of power.

Brown urged Russian author-

ities "to act in accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law" and let them in.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov didn't admit that Russia had blocked U.N. access, but told a conference call with reporters that Ukrainian attacks made a visit too risky.

Ukraine's presidential office said Monday that the Kherson region affected by the flooding endured 35 Russian attacks over the previous 24 hours.

Ukrainian forces have advanced up to four miles into territory held by Russia, she said. Russia's Defense Ministry didn't confirm losing any ground to the Ukrainian forces.

Russia is also pursuing offensive actions, according to Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar.

Russia has concentrated a

significant number of its military units, and particularly airborne assault troops, in Ukraine's east, she said. They are stepping up Moscow's offensive around Kupiansk in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv province and Lyman in the eastern Donetsk province, Maliar said.

Ukrainian forces may have put their counteroffensive operations on hold as they review their tactics, according to the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank.

It noted that Kyiv "has not yet committed the majority of its available forces to counteroffensive operations and has not yet launched its main effort."

Russia attacked south and southeast Ukraine overnight with cruise missiles and self-exploding drones, Ukraine's air force reported Monday. Four Kalibr missiles and four Ira-

nian-made Shahed drones were shot down, it said.

According to regional officials, the southern province of Odesa and the southeastern Dnipropetrovsk region were targeted by the attack. No casualties or damage were immediately reported.

Three civilians were wounded by artillery fire in the Beryslav district of the Kherson province Monday, local officials said. A 64-year-old woman was in critical condition. At least five residential buildings, two private residences and an administrative building sustained damage.

Officials in Russia's southern Belgorod region, which borders Ukraine, said Monday morning that seven people, including a child, were wounded in Ukrainian drone attacks over the previous 24 hours.

Blinken, Xi pledge to secure deteriorated US-China ties

Associated Press

BEIJING — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met on Monday with Chinese President Xi Jinping and said they agreed to "stabilize" badly deteriorated U.S.-China ties, but America's top diplomat left Beijing with his biggest ask rebuffed: better communications between their militaries.

After meeting Xi, Blinken said China is not ready to resume military-to-military contacts, something the United States has considered crucial to avoid miscalculation and conflict, particularly over Taiwan.

Yet Blinken and Xi pronounced themselves satisfied with progress made during the two days of talks, without pointing to specific areas of agreement beyond a mutual decision to return to a broad agenda for cooperation and competition endorsed last year year by Xi and President Joe Biden at a summit in Bali.

It remained unclear if those understand-

ings can resolve their most important disagreements, many of which have international implications. Still, both men said they were pleased with the outcome of the highest-level U.S. visit to China in five years.

The two sides expressed a willingness to hold more talks, but there was little indication either is prepared to bend from positions on issues including trade, Taiwan, human rights conditions in China and Hong Kong, Chinese military assertiveness in the South China Sea and Russia's war in Ukraine.

Blinken said later that the U.S. set limited objectives for the trip and achieved them. He told reporters before leaving for a Ukraine reconstruction conference in London that he had raised the issue of military-to-military communications "repeatedly."

"It is absolutely vital that we have these kinds of communications," he said. "This is something we're going to keep working on."

The U.S. has said that, since 2021, China has declined or failed to respond to over a dozen requests from the Department of Defense for top-level dialogues.

According to a transcript of the meeting with Blinken, Xi said he was pleased with the outcome of Blinken's earlier meetings with top Chinese diplomats and said restarting the Bali agenda was of great importance.

"The Chinese side has made our position clear, and the two sides have agreed to follow through the common understandings President Biden and I had reached in Bali," Xi said.

In his remarks to Xi, Blinken said "the United States and China have an obligation and responsibility to manage our relationship."

"The United States is committed to doing that," Blinken said. "It's in the interest of the United States, in the interests of China and in the interest of the world."

More than 1M Americans dropped from Medicaid

Associated Press

More than 1 million people have been dropped from Medicaid in the past couple months as some states moved swiftly to halt health care coverage following the end of the coronavirus pandemic.

Most got dropped for not filling out paperwork.

Though the eligibility review is required by the federal government, President's Joe Biden's administration isn't too pleased at how efficiently some other states are accomplishing the task.

"Pushing through things and rushing it will lead to eligible people — kids and families — losing coverage for some period of time," Daniel Tsai, a top federal Medicaid official recently told reporters.

Already, about 1.5 million people have been removed from Medicaid in more than two dozen states that started the process in April or May, according to publicly available reports and data.

Florida has dropped several hundred

thousand people, by far the most among states. The drop rate also has been particularly high in other states. For people whose cases were decided in May, around half or more got dropped in Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and West Virginia.

By its own count, Arkansas has dropped more than 140,000 people from Medicaid.

The eligibility redeterminations have created headaches for Jennifer Mojica, 28, who was told in April that she no longer qualified for Medicaid because Arkansas had incorrectly determined her income was above the limit.

She got that resolved, but was then told her 5-year-old son was being dropped from Medicaid because she had requested his cancellation — something that never happened, she said. Her son's coverage has been restored, but now Mojica says she's been told her husband no longer qualifies. The uncertainty has been frustrating, she said.

Tornadoes hit Miss. as heat wave triggers storms, outages in South

Associated Press

Multiple tornadoes swept through Mississippi overnight, killing one and injuring nearly two dozen, officials said.

State emergency workers were still working with counties Monday morning to assess the damage from storms in which high temperatures and hail in some areas accompanied tornadoes. The death and injuries were reported by officials in east Mississippi's Jasper County. In a Monday morning news release, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency said more than 49,000 homes in central Mississippi were without power.

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves said the tornadoes struck in Jasper County and Rankin County, which borders the capital city of Jackson. Emergency crews were doing search and rescue missions and damage assessments, deploying drones in some areas

because they were impossible to reach by vehicle due to downed power lines.

Tens of thousands of people in Hinds County were still without power Monday morning after high winds pummeled the state early Friday.

Reeves said the state is opening command centers and shelters for those displaced by the severe weather.

Meanwhile, more than 100,000 customers in the southern U.S. remained without power Monday following damaging storms, leaving residents searching for relief as sweltering temperatures continued to scorch the region.

Power outages for some customers in the piney woods of Texas could stretch late into this week as crews scrambled to make repairs. In some parts of Louisiana and Mississippi, the heat wave has been accompanied by heavy rain, punishing winds, thunderstorms and hail.

Trump's ex-AG says indictment is his own fault

Bloomberg News

Former Attorney General Bill Barr said the U.S. has a "very strong" criminal case against Donald Trump for allegedly mishandling classified documents and said the former president has himself to blame.

"He had no right to those documents," Barr, who served as U.S. attorney general under Trump, said Sunday on CBS's *Face the Nation*. "The government tried for over a year, quietly and with respect, to get them back, which was essential that they do, and he jerked them around. And he had no legal basis for keeping them."

Barr dismissed suggestions by Trump and his supporters that the Presidential Records Act gave him a right to take the documents to his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida after leaving the White House.

He also lit into Trump's personality, calling him a "narcissist" who acts like a "defiant nine-year-old kid" and whose "reckless conduct" puts the Republican agenda at risk.

The former president's "conduct is indefensible," Barr said.

Trump, the first former U.S. president charged with committing federal crimes, pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to the 37 counts the Justice Department brought against him.

The indictment alleges that he willfully retained top-secret government documents and conspired to stymie officials' efforts to recover them.

He later told supporters he "had every right to have these documents," saying the boxes at Mar-a-Lago contained various "personal belongings" and he hadn't had a chance to go through all of them.

Trump alleges that the Justice Department's case is an attempt to derail his re-election bid.

Special Counsel Jack Smith, speaking on June 9 after the indictment was unsealed, said the charges reflect the fact that U.S. laws "apply to everyone."

Barr has repeatedly criticized Trump for his actions around the Mar-a-Lago documents, while also telling CBS "he has been the victim of unfair witch hunts in the past."

But the latest case is "entirely of his own making," he said.

Juneteenth observed with celebrations

Associated Press

DETROIT — Americans across the country this weekend celebrated Juneteenth, marking the relatively new national holiday with cookouts, parades and other gatherings as they commemorated the end of slavery after the Civil War.

While many have treated the long holiday weekend as a reason for a party, others urged quiet reflection on America's often violent and oppressive treatment of its Black citizens. And still others have remarked at the strangeness of celebrating a federal holiday marking the end of slavery in the nation while many Americans are trying to stop parts of that history from being taught in public schools.

"Is #Juneteenth the only federal holiday that some states have banned the teaching of its history and significance?" Author Michelle Duster asked on Twitter, referring to measures in Florida, Oklahoma and Alabama prohibiting an Advancement Placement African American studies course or the teaching of certain concepts of race and racism. Monday's federal holiday commemorates the day in 1865 when enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, learned they had been freed — two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued during the bloody Civil War.

On Juneteenth weekend, a Roman Catholic church in Detroit devoted its service to urging parishioners to take a deeper look

at the lessons from the holiday.

"In order to have justice, we must work for peace. And in order to have peace, we must work for justice," John Thorne, executive director of the Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance, said to the congregation at Gesu Catholic Church in Detroit.

Standing before paintings of a Black Jesus and Mary, Thorne said Juneteenth is a day of celebration, but it also "has to be much more."

It was important to speak about Juneteenth during Sunday Mass, the Rev. Lorn Snow told a reporter as the service was ending.

"The struggle's still not over with. There's a lot of work to be done," he said.

Weekend marked by mass shootings, violence

Associated Press

Mass shootings and violence killed and wounded people across the United States this weekend, including four people found dead of gunshots in a small Idaho town, a Pennsylvania state trooper killed in an ambush and multiple people firing guns into an Illinois holiday crowd. Here's a look at the shootings this weekend:

Kellogg, Idaho

Police in Idaho arrested a suspect in a shooting that killed four people on Sunday at a home behind a church.

Responding officers found four people, all dead from gunshot wounds, at a residence in Kellogg, according to the Shosh-

one County Sheriff's Office and news reports. Idaho State Police said a 31-year-old man was detained, KXLY-TV reported.

A neighbor at the scene told the TV station that there had been an ongoing dispute between neighbors at the location. It happened behind the Mountain View Congregational Church, the Shoshone News-Press reported.

Willowbrook, Ill.

At least 23 people were shot, one fatally, early Sunday in a suburban Chicago parking lot where hundreds of people had gathered to celebrate Juneteenth, authorities said.

The DuPage County sheriff's office described a "peaceful

gathering" that suddenly turned violent as a number of people fired multiple shots into the crowd in Willowbrook, Ill., about 20 miles southwest of Chicago.

A motive wasn't immediately known. Sheriff's spokesman Robert Carroll said authorities were interviewing "persons of interest," the Daily Herald reported.

Central Pennsylvania

One state trooper was killed and a second was critically wounded just hours apart in central Pennsylvania on Saturday after a gunman attacked a state police barracks.

The suspect drove his truck into the parking lot of the Lewis-

town barracks about 11 a.m. Saturday and opened fire with a large-caliber rifle on marked patrol cars before fleeing, authorities said Sunday.

Lt. James Wagner, 45, was critically wounded when he was shot after encountering the suspect several miles away in Mifflintown. Later, Trooper Jacques Rougeau Jr., 29, was ambushed and killed by a gunshot through the windshield of his patrol car as he drove down a road in nearby Walker Township, authorities said.

The suspect was shot and killed after a fierce gunbattle, said Lt. Col. George Bivens, who went up in a helicopter to coordinate the search for the 38-year-old suspect.

Hurricane center: Tropical depression likely to form

Orlando Sentinel

A tropical wave plowing its way across the Atlantic Ocean has an even greater chance to form into the season's next tropical depression or storm, according to the National Hurricane Center, which also began tracking a second system in the Atlantic.

In its 8 p.m. tropical outlook, the NHC said showers and thunderstorms associated with a broad area of low pressure continue to become better organized as it finds favorable waters for formation located several hundred miles southwest of the Cape Verde Islands.

"Environmental conditions

appear conducive for additional development, and a tropical depression or tropical storm is expected to form over the next day or so," the outlook stated. "This system is forecast to move westward at 15 to 20 mph across the central tropical Atlantic with further development through the middle part

of the week."

The NHC's forecast bubble for the likely path of the system puts it just off the Leeward Islands by next Sunday with a more likely path to bring it into the Caribbean than the NHC's forecast from Saturday when it looked like it might swing to the north in the Atlantic.

N. Korea to try again after satellite fails

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Top North Korean officials vowed to push for a second attempt to launch a spy satellite as they called their country's first, and failed, launch last month "the most serious" shortcoming this year and harshly criticized those responsible, state media reported Monday.

In late May, a North Korean rocket carrying a military reconnaissance satellite crashed soon after liftoff, posing a setback to leader Kim Jong Un's push to acquire a space-based surveillance system to better monitor the United States and South Korea.

The failed launch and North Korean efforts to modernize its weapons arsenal were discussed extensively at a three-day ruling party meeting that ended Sunday, with the presence of Kim and other top officials.

A lengthy Korean Central News Agency dispatch on the meeting didn't clearly say who spoke, but said a report to the meeting "bitterly criticized the officials who irresponsibly conducted the preparations for (the) satellite launch."

The report set forth tasks for officials and scientists to learn the lessons of the failed launch, find what caused the rocket's crash and make a successful launch in a short span of time, KCNA said.

It didn't say exactly when North Korea might attempt a second launch. But South Korea's spy agency earlier told lawmakers that it would take likely take "more than several weeks" for North Korea to determine what went wrong in the failed launch.

North Korea monitoring groups haven't reported any purges or dismissals of scientists or others involved in the failed launch.

A spy satellite is among several high-tech military assets Kim has publicly vowed to acquire to cope with what he calls U.S.-led hostility. Other weapons systems Kim wants to possess are a multi-warhead missile, a nuclear submarine, a solid-propellant intercontinental ballistic missile and a hypersonic missile.

Since the start of 2022, North Korea has carried out more than 100 missile tests, some of which were related to developing a spy satellite and other powerful weapons on Kim's wish list.

During the meeting, Politburo members also analyzed the "extremely deteriorating security situation" in the region caused by the "reckless war moves" of North Korea's rivals, the report said, apparently referring to the expanded U.S.-South Korea military drills.

The United States and South Korea have

been expanding their military drills in response to North Korea's advancing nuclear arsenal and warn that any attempt to use nuclear weapons would result in the end of Kim's government.

The Politburo members set down unspecified "important tasks" for strengthening solidarity with countries that are "opposed to the U.S. brigandish strategy for world supremacy," KCNA said.

North Korea has pushed to boost relations with Russia, including defending its military action in Ukraine. It says Russia is protecting itself against the West's "hegemonic policy."

The North has also sought to build on its ties with China, its main ally and economic lifeline that is locked in an intensified strategic rivalry with the United States over trade, technology and regional influence.

Russia and China, both veto-holding permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, have repeatedly blocked attempts by the U.S. and others to toughen U.N. sanctions on North Korea over its missile tests.

The party meeting also discussed efforts to improve North Korea's struggling economy, which experts say has been further strained by pandemic-related border closures.

Europe defense ministers discuss airspace defense

Associated Press

PARIS — Defense ministers and other representatives of 20 European countries will hold a conference in Paris on Monday on how to better defend Europe's airspace, a long-divisive issue that takes on new urgency because of Russia's war in Ukraine.

The talks will include anti-drone combat and ballistic missile defense, French organizers said, noting that Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has shown the importance and effectiveness of such equipment. Nuclear weapons deterrence will also be on the agenda.

The French Defense Ministry said among the nations taking part in the meeting are Ger-

many, the U.K. and Sweden as well as Ukraine's neighbors Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. Representatives of NATO and the European Union were also due to attend.

With the help of Western weapons and growing experience, Ukraine's air defense systems have made great strides since the war started last year, saving infrastructure and lives and preventing Russia from achieving air superiority.

"There is therefore a need for Europeans to think collectively and strategically about the threats coming from the skies," a French official said on condition of anonymity in accordance with the government's customary practices.

Jailed Russian opposition leader faces new charges

Associated Press

MELEKHOVO, Russia — Imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny went on trial Monday on new charges of extremism that could keep him behind bars for decades.

The trial opened at a maximum security penal colony in Melekhovo, 150 miles east of Moscow, where Navalny, 47, is serving a nine-year sentence for fraud and contempt of court — charges he has said are politically motivated. After it began, the judge ruled to close the trial despite Navalny's call to keep it open.

Navalny, who exposed official corruption and organized major anti-Kremlin protests, was arrested in January 2021 upon returning to Moscow after recuperating in Germany from nerve agent poisoning he blamed on the Kremlin.

Wearing his prison garb, Navalny looked gaunt at the session but spoke emphatically about the weakness of the state's case and gestured energetically.

Navalny has said the new extremism charges, which he rejected as "absurd," could keep him in prison for another 30 years. He said an investigator told him he would also face a separate military trial on terrorism charges that could potentially carry a life sentence.

Monday's trial came amid a sweeping Russian crackdown on dissent amid the fighting in Ukraine, which Navalny has harshly criticized.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Teen guilty of killing her sleeping father with lye

MI PONTIAC — A jury convicted a Michigan teenager of killing her father by throwing lye on him and burning him while he was sleeping.

Megan Imirowicz, 19, of Groveland Township in Oakland County, was found guilty of unlawful possession or use of harmful devices/irritants causing death and domestic violence following a four-day trial.

Imirowicz was arrested in October 2021 after she threw the lye, a chemical drain cleaner, on Konrad Imirowicz, 64, while he was sleeping. He suffered chemical burns all over his body. But he survived for five months before dying in March 2022 when removed from life support.

Deputy prosecutor Jason DeSantis said Megan Imirowicz was upset with her father because he was drunk and unable to drive her to a hair salon appointment before a planned 18th birthday party.

At Pride event, students destroyed decorations

MA BOSTON — School officials in Burlington are working to respond to a clash at a middle school where some students tore down rainbow decorations and chanted “USA are my pronouns,” as the school’s LGBTQ+ student group celebrated the beginning of Pride Month.

Students at Marshall Simonds Middle School organized the celebration — for which they distributed rainbow stickers, posted Pride signs and encouraged students to wear rainbow clothing.

Principal Cari Perchase said she supports members of the LGBTQ+ community who were targeted and told students she is “truly sorry that a day meant for you to celebrate your identity turned into a day of intolerance.”

“We ask all staff, teachers, and members of the Burlington Public School community to join us in taking a stand against homophobia and identity-directed hateful actions,” Superintendent Eric Conti wrote in a letter to the community.

Ex-Starbucks manager gets \$25.6M in firing suit

NJ CAMDEN — Jurors in federal court have awarded \$25.6 million to a former Starbucks regional manager who alleged that she and other white employees were unfairly punished after the high-profile arrests of two Black men at a Philadelphia location in 2018.

Shannon Phillips won \$600,000 in compensatory damages and \$25 million in punitive damages after a jury in New Jersey found that race was a determinative factor in Phillips’ firing, in violation of federal and state anti-discrimination.

In April 2018, a Philadelphia store manager called police on two Black men who were sitting in the coffee shop without ordering anything. Phillips, then regional manager of operations in Philadelphia, southern New Jersey, and elsewhere, was not involved with arrests. However, she said she was ordered to put a white manager who also wasn’t involved on administrative leave for reasons she knew were false, according to her lawsuit.

Phillips said she was fired less than a month later after ob-

jecting to the manager being placed on leave amid the uproar, according to her lawsuit.

Plane crash kills TV pilot, hunting guide

AK ANCHORAGE — Bush pilot Jim Tweto, known for his starring role in the Discovery Channel’s “Flying Wild Alaska” series, was killed along with a hunting and fishing guide from Idaho when their small plane crashed shortly after takeoff, Alaska State Troopers said.

Tweto’s family-run rural aviation business in Unalakleet was featured in three seasons of the television series a decade ago. He and passenger Shane Reynolds of Orofino, Idaho, died near the coastal village of Shaktoolik, roughly 125 miles east of Nome, the statement said.

The plane “was witnessed taking off but not climbing and then crashing,” their report said. Troopers were notified of an SOS activation, followed by a report that a Cessna 180 had crashed 35 miles northeast of Shaktoolik.

Troopers responding from Nome recovered both bodies. The National Transportation Safety Board said it is investigating.

State seeks federal funds to fix iconic Cliff Walk

RI NEWPORT — Rhode Island wants federal funds to help pay some of the nearly \$14 million it will take to repair Newport’s damaged Cliff Walk, one of New England’s most popular attractions.

Gov. Dan McKee issued a disaster declaration that will al-

low the state Department of Transportation to apply for \$10 million in emergency relief funds from the Federal Highway Administration.

Coastal erosion knocked out about 30 feet of the 3.5-mile paved trail in March 2022, which winds its way beside Gilded Age mansions and offers spectacular views of the ocean. No one was hurt.

The state estimates comprehensive Cliff Walk repairs could cost up to \$13.75 million.

PacifiCorp to pay punitive damages for wildfires

OR PORTLAND — A jury ordered the electric utility PacifiCorp to pay punitive damages for causing devastating wildfires in Oregon in 2020 — on top of an earlier verdict already expected to amount to billions of dollars.

The decision came two days after the jurors found PacifiCorp liable for the fires and said it must pay for damage to property as well as emotional distress. The jury awarded more than \$70 million to 17 homeowners named as plaintiffs in the case, with damages to be determined later for a broader class that could include the owners of about 2,500 properties, as estimated by plaintiffs’ attorneys.

The property owners alleged that PacifiCorp negligently failed to shut off power to its 600,000 customers during a windstorm over Labor Day weekend, despite warnings from then-Gov. Kate Brown’s chief of staff and top fire officials, and that its power lines were responsible for multiple blazes.

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Clark wins his first major at US Open

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — In the city of stars, Wyndham Clark had his own script in mind in the U.S. Open.

In front of him was Rory McIlroy, one of golf's biggest talents who looked ready to end his perplexing nine-year drought in the majors. Next to him in the final group Sunday was Rickie Fowler, a Southern California native who returned from a three-year slump and was poised to finally win his first major.

Clark carried a message from his late mother — “Play big,” she always told him — and the belief he could compete with anyone on any stage.

No stage was bigger than a U.S. Open on the edge of Beverly Hills. That's where Clark delivered clutch saves, a signature shot that gave him control and the steady nerves to hold off McIlroy and become a major champion.

“I feel like I belong on this stage,” Clark said after closing

with an even-par 70 for a one-shot victory over McIlroy. “Even two, three years ago when people didn't know who I was, I felt like I could still play and compete against the best players in the world.”

He won in only his seventh start in a major — his previous best was a tie for 75th — and it came six weeks after he captured his first PGA Tour title at Quail Hollow.

“It's gone faster than I thought as far as just starting to do some stuff mentally that I've never done before, but I feel like I'm one of the best players in the world,” Clark said “Obviously this just shows what I believe can happen.”

The final act was two putts from 60 feet on the 18th hole at Los Angeles Country Club, and the 29-year-old Clark pumped his fist when it settled a foot away. He tapped that in for a par, maybe the easiest shot he had all day.

Left in his wake was a collection of big names.

Scottie Scheffler, the No. 1 player in the world, couldn't catch him. Neither could British Open champion Cameron Smith. Fowler was playing in the final group of a major for the third time. Clark was playing in the final round of a major for the third time, and the previous two occasions he was done in time for lunch.

Clark let loose his emotions at the end, looking to the blue sky in tears and covering his face with his cap as he sobbed on the green.

He thought about quitting golf a decade ago when he struggled with the loss of his mother, Lise, to breast cancer. She was who kept him steady in good times and bad. He was thinking about her all week for all kinds of reasons.

“My mom lived in LA for a few years and I've had some people come up to me and show pictures of my mom when they knew her back in her 20s and early 30s when she was living here,” said Clark, who was born

in Denver. “So it was kind of a special vibe all week being here in LA. My parents got married at Riviera Country Club. I have some roots a little bit in this area.

“All I really wish is that my mom could be here and I could just hug her and we could celebrate together. But I know she's proud of me.”

For McIlroy, it was more disappointment in his quest to end nine years without a major.

He opened with a birdie and didn't make another the rest of the way. McIlroy played a final round that typically wins a U.S. Open — 16 pars, one bogey. Just not this one. Even as Clark showed signs of cracking during the rugged closing stretch, McIlroy missed fairways and didn't give himself any reasonable birdie chances.

It was similar to St. Andrews last summer at the British Open, when he hit every green and couldn't buy a putt. Instead, he'll face more questions about when he'll win another major.

Wizards trade Beal to Suns for two players, draft picks

Associated Press

Bradley Beal will soon be part of the NBA's newest Big 3, after the three-time All-Star agreed Sunday to be traded to the Phoenix Suns and team up with Kevin Durant and Devin Booker in a trio with serious offensive firepower and championship aspirations.

The Suns agreed to send Chris Paul, Landry Shamet and a package of future second-round picks to Washington, according to a person with knowledge of the negotiations. Some pick swaps will also be part of the trade, said the person, who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the deal is pending league approval.

The biggest domino to fall

was this: Beal waived his no-trade clause to be sent to the Suns, agent Mark Bartelstein said Sunday. There is a chance that the trade could eventually include a third team, particularly if a club wants to acquire Paul, but the basic framework is done.

ESPN first reported details of the trade.

For Phoenix, a franchise that had a 2-0 lead in the NBA Finals against Milwaukee in 2021 before falling in six games, the motivation is obvious — to win a title. The Suns will be different this coming season; Frank Vogel is succeeding the fired Monty Williams (who is now in Detroit) as coach, Paul will no longer be the starting point guard who is still searching for

his first championship, and Durant and Booker will have a training camp together for the first time.

It's also the start of something new, and probably needed, in Washington. The Wizards have finished with a losing record in each of the past five years, missing the playoffs in four of those, and haven't won a postseason series since 2018. The Wizards will pick eighth in Thursday's draft, and Kyle Kuzma and Kristaps Porzingis could decide later this week to become free agents by declining player options — moves that seem likely.

The deal was struck less than a week after Denver topped Miami in the NBA Finals, and with the Heat having also spent the past few days working with

the Wizards on the possibility of acquiring Beal.

It also begins a week where Victor Wembanyama will be the No. 1 pick in the NBA Draft Thursday by San Antonio — and where more players could be on the move, since trades frequently happen on draft night.

It is the second major acquisition for owner Mat Ishbia in Phoenix. He landed Durant for a massive combination of players and first-round draft picks just days after formally taking over the Suns in February.

There are 12 active players in the NBA with at least 500 games played while averaging at least 22 points per game. Phoenix now has three of them in Beal, Durant and Booker.

Florida edges out Oral Roberts at CWS

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Hurston Waldrep struck out 12 in six innings, and Florida homered three times in the first four innings to take a four-run lead on Oral Roberts.

Then things got interesting at the College World Series — again.

The Gators took control of Bracket 1 with a 5-4 victory Sunday night. But first Florida had to survive Matt Hogan's inside-the-park home run that pulled Oral Roberts within two runs, a bases-loaded situation in the eighth when its closer was forced out of the game because of a mound-visit rules violation, and finally another threat in the ninth.

"These past couple of games that have been played early on in the World Series have been kind of like thrill seekers toward the last couple innings," Gators shortstop Josh Rivera said.

For the first time in CWS history, which dates back to 1947,

five of the first six games have been decided by one run.

"I think people here in Omaha are getting their money's worth," ORU coach Ryan Folmar said.

The Gators (52-15) will play Wednesday against the winner of the Tuesday elimination game between ORU and TCU.

Sam Stoutenborough and two relievers limited Virginia to five hits, Cole Fontenelle drove in two runs and TCU eliminated the Cavaliers with a 4-3 win Sunday.

The Horned Frogs (43-23) lost to Oral Roberts, 6-5, in the opener.

Florida would have two chances, if needed, to get the one win that would send it to the best-of-three finals.

The Summit League's Golden Eagles (52-13), the first No. 4 regional seed since 2012 to play in the CWS, are known to punch above their weight, but they looked outclassed early against the No. 2 national seed Gators.

That changed in the seventh

when Hogan drove Ryan Slatner's pitch off the left-field wall. Center fielder Wyatt Langford had trouble picking up the ball off the carom, and by the time he did, Hogan was heading for third and not slowing down. Rivera took the cutoff and threw home, but Hogan got in easily with a head-first slide.

"Matt's swing was big, and I think just as big as the swing was the way he's running around the bases, the way he hustles, the way he plays," Folmar said. "I think that's contagious throughout our team. I think all of them have that."

The Eagles loaded the bases with two outs in the eighth against Brandon Neely. When Florida coach Kevin O'Sullivan came out to talk to his closer, the Gators were charged with their seventh defensive mound visit, one over the limit. Under the rule, O'Sullivan had to replace Neely. Cade Fisher came on and got Justin Quinn to fly out.

O'Sullivan blamed himself,

though he said someone in the dugout is assigned to keep track of the number.

"No one feels more terrible than I do about it," he said. "It's like a player that has a bad game or gives up a run in the ninth or extra innings ... you've got to move on from it. I apologized to the team after the game, and they said they had my back."

Florida held on in the ninth after ORU scored on a groundout and had runners on the corners with two outs. Jacob Godman flew out to end the game, and the Gators came pouring out of their dugout to celebrate.

Waldrep (10-3) allowed one run in his six innings despite scattering seven hits and walking three. ORU had at least one man reach base against Waldrep each inning, but the projected first-round pick came up with the big pitch when he needed it most and finished with double-digit strikeouts for a third straight outing.

First international goals by Balogun, Richards lift US

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Having scored his first goal for the United States and won his first medal, Folarin Balogun looked to a future that includes a 2026 World Cup co-hosted by America.

"I've only been here a short amount of time, but already I feel a part of it and I feel a part of something bigger," he said.

Balogun and Chris Richards scored their first international goals, both off assists from Gio Reyna, and the U.S. beat Canada 2-0 on Sunday night for the Americans' second straight CONCACAF Nations League title.

"It's another step in the right direction," U.S. captain Christian Pulisic said. "It's just going to be about these knockout

games. Come those big tournaments, Copa América, World Cup, it's time to get tough. We got to step up and score the goals when it counts and keep them out of our goal."

Richards scored in the 12th minute from Reyna's corner kick, bouncing a header from 7 yards to the left of goalkeeper Milan Borjan for his first goal in 10 international appearances.

Balogun, who debuted in Thursday's win over Mexico after choosing to play for the U.S. over England, doubled the lead in the 34th when he took a feed from Reyna and held off Scott Kennedy with his right arm to slot past Borjan.

"We're looking beyond to the 2026 World Cup, and we need to perform in high-intensity knockout games," interim

coach B.J. Callaghan said. "That's something that we learned from the World Cup."

Callaghan took over May 30 and will run the team in the CONCACAF Gold Cup starting next weekend. Gregg Berhalter, brought back as coach Friday, won't return to the sidelines until September.

Before a crowd of just 35,000 at Allegiant Stadium, the U.S. extended its home unbeaten streak against Canada to 22.

Reyna sparked both goals from a central midfield role rather than the wing Berhalter used him on, then left at half-time with a calf injury and was replaced by Luca de la Torre. Reyna's lack of hustle in training at the World Cup and his family's angry response created the controversy that let to Ber-

halter's January departure.

"It shows his quality that's on the field, his ball security, his ability to take on two or three players and connect passes," Callaghan said. "We've challenged Gio to do more work off the ball on the defensive side, and he's absolutely risen to the occasion."

Before Richards' goal, the Americans had not scored off a corner since Jordan Morris' goal at El Salvador on June 14 last year.

Callaghan made three changes from Thursday, inserting central defender Walker Zimmerman for Miles Robinson and midfielder Brenden Aaronson and right back Joe Scally for Weston McKennie and Sergiño Dest, both suspended after getting red cards against El Tri.

Sweep moves Marlins 10 games over .500

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—The Miami Marlins completed a three-game sweep Sunday, defeating the Washington Nationals 4-2 to move 10 games over .500 for the first time in 12 years.

The Marlins improved to 41-31 and are off to the second-best start in franchise history through 72 games, behind only the 1997 team that was 43-29 and went on to win the World Series. Miami, which is 10 games over .500 for the first time since May 28, 2011, has swept the Nationals in three of its four trips to Washington since the start of last season.

“Proud of the guys and how they go about their business every day,” first-year manager Skip Schumaker said. “Win or lose, they’re going about their business right. That’s the main thing. That’s the culture we’re trying to set.”

Lane Thomas homered for Washington, which has lost three in a row and 11 of 13. The Nationals are an NL-worst 27-43 and are a season-high 16 games under .500.

Jesús Luzardo, who was drafted by Washington in 2016, earned his first victory in three career starts at Nationals Park. Luzardo (6-5) yielded five hits and two runs in six innings while striking out five.

Red Sox 6-4, Yankees 2-1:

Alex Verdugo scored on a catcher’s interference to break a fourth-inning tie and then scored again in the fifth after reaching on a dropped pop, and host Boston completed a doubleheader and series sweep of New York.

Verdugo also had an RBI double off the Green Monster to lead the Red Sox to a win in the day game, a makeup of Saturday’s rainout.

It’s the first time the Red Sox have swept the Yankees in a doubleheader since Sept. 17, 2006, and the first time they did at Fenway Park since since July 31, 1976.

In the first game, Connor Wong and Verdugo hit consecutive RBI doubles with two outs in a three-run sixth inning. Adam Duvall and Justin Turner each added an RBI single for the Red Sox.

Reds 9, Astros 7: Rookie Elly De La Cruz and Jake Fraley drove in runs in a three-run 10th inning as visiting Cincinnati extended the longest active winning streak in the majors to eight games.

It’s Cincinnati’s longest string of wins since winning 10 straight in July 2012.

Mariners 5, White Sox 1: Julio Rodríguez hit a two-run double, rookie Bryce Miller pitched seven crisp innings and host Seattle overcame a dominant

performance by Lance Lynn in beating Chicago.

Lynn (4-7) matched a franchise record with 16 strikeouts in seven-plus innings, but Miller was terrific and Seattle got clutch hits from Rodríguez and Jarred Kelenic.

Padres 5, Rays 4: Manny Machado drove in two runs, Joe Musgrove worked six solid innings and Fernando Tatis Jr. and catcher Austin Nola teamed up to punch out a potential tying run at home plate as host San Diego beat MLB-leading Tampa Bay to take the three-game series.

Guardians 12, Diamondbacks 3: Josh Naylor had four hits and three RBIs, and visiting Cleveland pounded out 16 hits and avoided a three-game sweep.

Angels 5, Royals 2: Shohei Ohtani and Mike Trout hit back-to-back home runs, helping visiting Los Angeles defeat Kansas City in the finale of a three-game series.

Orioles 6, Cubs 3: Adam Frazier and Jorge Mateo each had an RBI single in visiting Baltimore’s three-run sixth inning in a win over Chicago.

Braves 14, Rockies 6: Eddie Rosario homered twice and drove in six runs, and NL East-leading Atlanta beat slumping Colorado to complete a four-game sweep and run its winning streak to six games.

Cardinals 8, Mets 7: Nolan

Arenado’s second homer of the game was a tiebreaking shot in the ninth inning that lifted visiting St. Louis past New York for a rare series win.

Tigers 6, Twins 4: Spencer Torkelson and Kerry Carpenter hit back-to-back homers in a five-run fifth inning, powering visiting Detroit past AL Central-leading Minnesota.

Brewers 5, Pirates 2: William Contreras hit a game-tying RBI single, Raimel Tapia followed with a sacrifice fly that plated the go-ahead run and Luis Urias added insurance runs with a two-RBI single — all in the eighth inning — as NL Central-leading Milwaukee completed a three-game sweep and sent visiting Pittsburgh to its sixth straight loss.

Rangers 11, Blue Jays 7: Corey Seager and Ezequiel Duran each had four hits, and host Texas pounded out 15 hits in a win over Toronto.

Giants 7, Dodgers 3: LaMonte Wade Jr. and Luis Matos each had two RBIs, and visiting San Francisco completed a rare rivalry series sweep on the road against Los Angeles.

Phillies 3, Athletics 2: Kyle Schwarber opened the game with his 20th home run and added an RBI single as visiting Philadelphia completed the series sweep with its sixth straight victory.

Palou continues hot IndyCar streak for Ganassi

Associated Press

ELKHART LAKE, Wis. — Alex Palou started the weekend at Road America with a car-damaging crash and rallied to end it with his third victory in the last four IndyCar races.

That’s how well things have been going for the Spaniard in his remarkable first half to the IndyCar season.

Palou built on his commanding lead in the points standings with a decisive victory Sunday. The Chip Ganassi Racing driver won by 4.5610 seconds over Indianapolis 500 winner Josef Newgarden, Team

Penske’s winner at Road America last year.

“It was an amazing day for us,” Palou said.

Palou’s victory was the 250th overall team win for Chip Ganassi Racing.

It’s been an amazing month, really.

Palou’s title follows victories on May 13 at the Indianapolis road course and June 4 at Detroit. The only race he hasn’t won out of the past four was the Indy 500, where he finished fourth but had the pole position and dominated for much of the race until he was spun on pit road during routine stops.

He has a 74-point lead in the points standings over Ganassi teammate Marcus Ericsson. The last time anyone had this big a lead eight races into the season was in 2020, when eventual series champion Scott Dixon owned a 117-point edge.

“I think we all need to be better if we want to catch the 10 car,” Newgarden said of Palou. “That’s just the reality of it.”

Pato O’Ward of Arrow McLaren was third, and Dixon of Ganassi was fourth. Colton Herta started from the pole and dominated but Andretti Autosport blew the strategy and Herta finished fifth.