

## Navy subs hobbled by many challenges

*Bloomberg*

The U.S. Navy's two newest submarine programs have been hampered by growing costs, poor contractor performance and delays in the last year, according to an assessment by congressional auditors.

Costs for the 12-vessel Columbia class, America's next nuclear-missile submarine, have grown by \$3.4 billion to a projected \$112 billion before the first planned deployment in 2031, the Government Accountability Office said in its latest annual report on major U.S. weapons systems.

Similarly, over the last year work on the latest model Virginia-class attack submarine, which shares some of the same workforce, "fell further behind schedule, and construction costs continued to grow above original targets due to overall higher workforce demand and additional factors such as correspondingly less experienced workers," the agency said.

The Columbia class will replace the fleet of 14 Ohio-class submarines that carry Trident nuclear missiles and is envisioned as the front line of U.S. nuclear deterrence strategy into the late 21st century. The subs will carry one leg of the so-called nuclear triad along with land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles and air-launched weapons.

The 252-page GAO assessment — the most comprehensive evaluation of the De-

fense Department's weapons portfolio ever — reviewed 40 major current defense acquisition programs, four future major programs and 19 middle-tier projects. The submarine setbacks are among the most telling in the report released Wednesday. Both submarines are built jointly by General Dynamics Corp. and Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc.

Seventeen of the major programs GAO reviewed had delays, some of them "on top of past postponements," according to the report. Those include the DDG-1000 destroyer from General Dynamics, the MQ-4C Triton surveillance drone made by Northrop Grumman Corp., the CH-53K cargo helicopter from Lockheed Martin Corp. and Boeing Co.'s new Air Force One presidential jet and its MH-139A Gray Wolf helicopter to patrol ICBM silo fields.

As lawmakers press the Pentagon to accelerate deployment of new systems to counter China's rapid military development, the GAO findings provide little comfort.

"This year, we continued to see significant numbers of programs reporting delays, even as the department emphasizes the need to deliver capabilities to the warfighter more quickly," the agency concluded.

"In our 20 years of annual reports on DoD's costliest acquisition efforts, we have highlighted the consistent commitment of

DoD senior leadership to improving outcomes, including recent efforts to accelerate the development and delivery of capabilities," said the agency. "However, we continue to find that the department misses opportunities to gain appropriate knowledge before making significant investment decisions."

The Army's Extended Range Cannon Artillery, which is being developed as a rapid prototype and promoted as a counter to China, has "encountered multiple challenges during the past year, including delays in maturing critical technologies. These issues are likely to lead to schedule delays" and "may lead to cost growth," the GAO said.

Also of relevance to countering China's rapid development of hypersonic weapons, the joint Army-Navy Conventional Prompt Strike hypersonic program "identified a capacity-constrained supply market and limited manufacturing sources as high-priority risks," the GAO said. The delivery "of critical components was significantly delayed, impacting the flight test schedule."

The GAO said it provided a draft of its assessment to the Navy's submarine program office for review and it provided technical comments. The program office stated "that it took actions to reduce risks, such as ensuring stable requirements, executing manufacturing readiness and supplier base efforts, and pursuing cost reduction actions."

## Three more Navy commanders relieved of duties

**By ALISON BATH**

*Stars and Stripes*

Three U.S. Navy leaders, including two serving aboard a destroyer, were ousted late last week, the latest in a recent string of removals by the service.

USS Bulkeley commanding officer Cmdr. Devine Johnson and Command Master Chief Earl Sanders were relieved of their duties Friday because of "a loss of confidence in their ability to effectively function

as a leadership team," the Navy said in a Saturday statement.

Capt. William Harkin, the deputy commodore of Destroyer Squadron 2, will be temporarily assigned as commanding officer of Bulkeley until a replacement is identified.

Master Chief Petty Officer Christy Reed, of the same squadron as Harkin, will take over as command master chief until a replacement for San-

ders is assigned, the Navy said.

In a separate action, Capt. Jeffrey Sandin was removed as commanding officer of Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill., on Saturday, the Navy said in another statement.

Capt. Kertreck Brooks, chief of staff of the Naval Service Training Command, has assumed responsibilities of command. Sandin was reassigned to Naval Service Training Command headquarters.

In all, the service has re-

lieved six leaders of their duties since May 31.

The three other instances involved the commanding officer of an electronic attack squadron deployed to Europe and the commanding officer and executive officer of the Naval Justice School.

In each case, the Navy provided few details about the removals, saying only that the personnel had lost their posts because of a loss of confidence in their leadership ability.

# N. Korea plans crackdown amid Kim's push for unity

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his top deputies have pushed for a crackdown on officials who abuse their power and commit other “unsound and non-revolutionary acts,” state media reported Monday, as Kim seeks greater internal unity to overcome a COVID-19 outbreak and economic difficulties.

It wasn't clear what specific acts were mentioned at the ruling Workers' Party meeting on Sunday. But possible state crackdowns on such alleged acts could be an attempt to solidify Kim's control of his people and get them to rally behind his leadership in the face of the domestic hardships, some observers say.

Kim and other senior party secretaries discussed “waging a more intensive struggle against unsound and non-revolutionary acts including abuse of power and bureaucratism revealed among some party officials,” the official Korean Central News Agency said.

Kim ordered the authority of the party's auditing commission and other local discipline supervision systems to be bolstered

to promote the party's “monolithic leadership” and “the broad political activities of the party through the strong discipline system,” KCNA said.

Kim has previously occasionally called for struggles against “anti-socialist practices” at home in the past two years amid outside worries about his country's fragile economy that has been battered by pandemic-related border shutdowns, U.N. sanctions and his own mismanagement.

The North's elevated restrictions on movement in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak could cause a further strain on the country's economic difficulties, some experts say.

North Korea on May 12 admitted the omicron variant of the coronavirus had infected people, and it subsequently has said about 4.5 million people — more than 17% of its 26 million people — have fallen ill with fevers and only 72 have died. Foreign experts widely doubt the outbreak was North Korea's first, and they believe the statistics being disclosed in state media are manipulated to prevent political damage to Kim while bolstering internal control and promoting his leadership.

## South Korea military: Suspected rocket fire Sunday from North

By DAVID CHOI  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — North Korea apparently fired short-range multiple rocket launchers Sunday morning, according to the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The suspected rocket artillery fire was detected between 8:07 a.m. and 11:03 a.m., according to a message from the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“Our military tightened surveillance and vigilance, and South Korea and the U.S. are maintaining a thorough readiness posture, working closely together,” the Joint Chiefs said in a message.

No further details were available from

the Joint Chiefs.

South Korean leaders “were concerned about the fact that North Korea has been consistently improving a range of weapon systems to pose direct threats to our security and reaffirmed the government's stance that it calmly and strictly responds and continues to check situations in the future,” according to a separate statement from South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's office on Monday.

The rocket fires followed a meeting Saturday between South Korean Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin during the Shangri-La Dialogue, an Asian defense summit in Singapore.

## Pentagon chief meets Thai PM to boost alliance

Associated Press

BANGKOK — Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin met with Thailand's prime minister on Monday as part of an effort to strengthen what Austin says is Washington's “unparalleled network of alliances and partnerships” in the region.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, who is also defense minister, met Austin last month in Washington. Thailand and the United States are longtime military allies, despite a cooling of relations after the 2014 military coup that brought former army commander Prayuth to power.

A U.S. Defense Department statement said Austin's visit, his first to Thailand as defense secretary, is an important step toward modernizing the U.S.-Thai alliance and expanding the depth and breadth of military cooperation.

Thai media reported that Prayuth would likely discuss arms procurement with Austin, including F-35 fighter aircraft. No details of what they talked about were immediately available.

Tensions between the U.S. and China have been growing in part over Beijing's claims to Taiwan and much of the South China Sea, and its increasing power and influence in the region.

In a speech Saturday at the annual Shangri-La Dialogue defense summit in Singapore, Austin said China's “steady increase in provocative and destabilizing military activity near Taiwan” threatens to undermine the region's security and prosperity.

He said he was proud that Washington's “unparalleled network of alliances and partnerships has only deepened” in the past year.

China's defense minister, Gen. Wei Fenghe, said at the same conference that the U.S. is trying to turn Southeast Asian countries against Beijing and is seeking to advance its own interests “under the guise of multilateralism.”

China, over the past decade, has been trying to extend its influence in Southeast Asia, both through aid and investment, including its “Belt and Road” infrastructure projects and use of its navy and other maritime resources to press its claims to vast areas of the South China Sea.

# Battle of Donbas could prove decisive

*Associated Press*

Day after day, Russia is pounding the Donbas region of Ukraine with relentless artillery and air raids, making slow but steady progress to seize the industrial heartland of its neighbor.

With the conflict now in its fourth month, it's a high-stakes campaign that could dictate the course of the entire war.

If Russia prevails in the battle of Donbas, it will mean that Ukraine loses not only land but perhaps the bulk of its most capable military forces, opening the way for Moscow to grab more territory and dictate its terms to Kyiv. A Russian failure could lay the grounds for a Ukrainian counteroffensive — and possibly lead to political upheaval for the Kremlin.

Following botched early attempts in the invasion to capture Kyiv and the second-largest city of Kharkiv without proper planning and coordination, Russia

turned its attention to the Donbas, a region of mines and factories where Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces since 2014.

Learning from its earlier missteps, Russia is treading more carefully there, relying on longer-range bombardments to soften Ukrainian defenses.

It seems to be working: The better-equipped Russian forces have made gains in both the Luhansk and Donetsk regions that make up the Donbas, controlling over 95% of the former and about half of the latter.

Ukraine is losing between 100 and 200 soldiers a day, presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak told the BBC, as Russia has “thrown pretty much everything non-nuclear at the front.”

When the war was going badly for Russia, many thought President Vladimir Putin might claim victory after some gains in Donbas and then exit a conflict that

has seriously bruised the economy and stretched its resources. But the Kremlin has made clear it expects Ukraine to recognize all the gains Russia has made since the start of the invasion — something Kyiv has ruled out.

Russian forces control the entire Sea of Azov coast, including the strategic port of Mariupol, the entire Kherson region — a key gateway to Crimea — and a large chunk of the Zaporizhzhia region that could aid a further push deeper into Ukraine, and few expect that Putin will stop.

On Thursday, he drew parallels between the Ukrainian conflict and the 18th century wars with Sweden waged by Peter the Great. Now, as in those czarist times, “our lot is to take back and consolidate” historic Russian lands, Putin said. Moscow has long regarded Ukraine as part of its sphere of influence.

Unlike earlier battlefield failures, Russia appears to be using

more conservative tactics. Many had expected it to try to encircle Ukrainian forces with a pincer movement from the north and south; instead it has used smaller moves to force a retreat and not overextend its supply lines.

Keir Giles, a Russia expert at London's Chatham House think-tank, said Russia was “concentrating all of its artillery on a single section of the front line in order to grind its way forward by flattening everything in its path.”

Western officials still praise the ability of Ukrainian forces to defend their country, fighting back fiercely and similarly relying on artillery and retreating in some sections while launching frequent counterattacks.

A senior Western official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the sensitive issue in public said the Russian campaign “continues to be deeply troubled at all levels.”

## Another Navy ship sent to Europe to boost NATO

By ALISON BATH  
*Stars and Stripes*

A U.S.-based Navy destroyer is headed to the Mediterranean Sea, making it the latest U.S. ship deployed to that theater in the past several months as NATO steps up to deter Russian aggression.

USS Forrest Sherman left its homeport in Norfolk, Va., on Saturday to serve as the flagship of Standing NATO Maritime Group 2, the Navy said in a statement Saturday. The deployment includes presence operations and participation in exercises, according to the statement.

Standing Naval Forces make up the maritime component of the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force, part of the NATO Response Force. This is the second deployment for Forrest Sherman since February. In April, it re-

turned to Norfolk after a three-month surge deployment in the eastern Atlantic Ocean and the North and Baltic seas under the commander of U.S. 2nd Fleet, according to the statement. As part of Standing NATO Maritime Group 2, Forrest Sherman will operate with allied navies including those of Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The Mediterranean is in the U.S. 6th Fleet's area of operations. The USS Harry S. Truman carrier strike group, which includes Destroyer Squadron 28, has been operating in the Mediterranean since December. It was originally slated to deploy to the Middle East but amid a Russian military buildup and the subsequent war in Ukraine, the carrier was ordered to remain in the Mediterranean.

## Retired 4-star resigns post with think tank amid probe

*Associated Press*

The president of the Brookings Institution resigned Sunday amid a federal investigation into whether he illegally lobbied on behalf of the wealthy Persian Gulf nation of Qatar.

Retired Gen. John Allen wrote in a letter to the think tank that he was leaving with a “heavy heart” but did not offer a direct explanation.

“I know it is best for all concerned in this moment,” Allen's letter said.

A retired four-star Marine general who led U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, Allen's announcement came less than a week after the Associated Press was first to report on new court filings that showed the FBI had seized Allen's electronic data as part of the lobbying probe. Allen

has not been charged with any crimes and has denied any wrongdoing.

Brookings, which had put Allen on administrative leave the day after the AP's initial report, issued a statement thanking Allen for guiding the think tank through the coronavirus pandemic and other contributions.

The new court filings detail Allen's behind-the-scenes efforts to help Qatar influence U.S. policy in June 2017 when a diplomatic crisis erupted between the gas-rich Persian Gulf monarchy and its neighbors.

An FBI agent said in an affidavit that there was “substantial evidence” that Allen had knowingly broken a foreign lobbying law, and had made false statements and withheld “incriminating” documents.

# Trump 'detached from reality' over loss

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's closest campaign advisers, top government officials and even his family were dismantling his false claims of 2020 voting fraud on election night, but the defeated president was becoming "detached from reality," clinging to outlandish theories to stay in power, several said.

Trump's former campaign manager Bill Stepien testified Monday before the House Jan. 6 committee that Trump was "growing increasingly unhappy" at the election results as the night wore on.

Son-in-law Jared Kushner tried to steer Trump away from attorney Rudy Giuliani and his far-flung theories of

voter fraud that advisers believed were not true.

Former Justice Department official Richard Donoghue recalls breaking down one claim after another — from a truckload of ballots in Pennsylvania to a missing suitcase of ballots in Georgia — and telling Trump "much of the info you're getting is false."

"He was becoming detached from reality," said former Attorney General William Barr, who resigned. "I didn't want to be a part of it."

The witnesses appeared before the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol attack as the panel focused on the "big lie," Trump's false claims of voter fraud that fueled the defeated Republi-

can president's efforts to overturn the 2020 election and provoked a mob of his supporters to lay siege to the U.S. Capitol.

Most of those appearing did so in previously recorded testimony from closed door interviews over the course of the panel's yearlong investigation. The committee has interviewed some 1,000 witnesses and compiled 140,000 documents, and some members said they have uncovered enough evidence for the Justice Department to consider an unprecedented criminal indictment against the former president.

Chairman Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., opened Monday's hearing saying Trump "betrayed the trust of

the American people" and "tried to remain in office when people had voted him out."

Stepien was to be a key witness Monday, but abruptly backed out of appearing live because his wife went into labor. The ex-campaign manager is still close to Trump, and had been subpoenaed to appear. The panel marched ahead after a morning scramble, showing previously recorded testimony from the ex-campaign manager and others close to the president as Trump latched on to repeated false claims about the election, although those closest told him the theories of stolen ballots or rigged voting machines were not true.

## Capitol officer testifies at father-son riot trial

Associated Press

A police officer lauded for his bravery during the U.S. Capitol riot testified on Monday that a man carrying a Confederate battle flag jabbed at him with the flagpole before joining the mob that chased him up a staircase.

In his first public testimony since the Jan. 6, 2021, siege, Capitol Police officer Eugene Goodman described his encounter with the flag-toting Delaware man, Kevin Seefried, and his adult son, Hunter, at their trial on charges that they stormed the Capitol together.

Goodman has been hailed as a hero for leading a group of rioters away from Senate chamber and up a set of stairs to an area where other officers were waiting.

Goodman recalled seeing Kevin Seefried standing alone in an archway and telling him to leave. Instead, Seefried cursed at him and jabbed at the officer with the base end of the flagpole

three or four times, Goodman said

"He was very angry. Screaming. Talking loudly," Goodman said. "Complete opposite of pleasant."

U.S. District Judge Trevor McFadden is hearing testimony without a jury for the Seefrieds' bench trial, which started Monday.

The Seefrieds waived their right to a jury trial, which means McFadden will decide their cases.

Widely published photographs showed Kevin Seefried carrying a Confederate battle flag inside the Capitol after he and his son entered the building through a broken window.

The charges against both Kevin and Hunter Seefried include a felony count of obstruction of an official proceeding, which was the joint session of Congress for certifying Joe Biden's victory over then-President Donald Trump in the 2020 presidential election.

## US: Pfizer COVID shot for under 5 appears effective

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal health officials said Sunday that kid-sized doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccines appear to be safe and effective for kids under 5, a key step toward a long-awaited decision to begin vaccinating the youngest American children.

The Food and Drug Administration posted its analysis of the Pfizer shot ahead of a Wednesday meeting where outside experts will vote on whether the shots are ready for the nation's 18 million babies, toddlers and preschoolers. Kids under 5 are the only group not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccination in the United States.

Late last week, the FDA posted a similar analysis of Moderna's shots for children under 6.

If regulators clear the shots by one or both companies, vaccinations could begin as soon as next week with the drugmakers ready to rapidly ship doses ordered by the government. Par-

ents have been pressing federal officials for months for the opportunity to protect their smallest children as more adults shed masks and abandon other public health precautions.

While only about 3% of U.S. COVID cases are in the age group of 6 months to 4 years, hospitalization and death rates in that group are higher than those for older children, according to the FDA's analysis — one reason experts have said protecting this group is important.

The FDA said children who received Pfizer's shots during testing developed high levels of virus-fighting antibodies expected to protect them against coronavirus. That's the basic threshold needed to win FDA authorization. But additional testing turned up key differences, with stronger results for Pfizer.

On Wednesday, the FDA will ask an independent panel of vaccine experts to debate both companies' data before voting.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### 10-year-old starts library giving free LGBTQ books

**LA** LAFAYETTE — A 10-year-old Louisiana girl is responding to discussions about banning books in public libraries by creating her own tiny library box decorated with a rainbow and an LGBTQ flag.

Cora Newton had been thinking about building a tiny library in Lafayette for a while, but decided to go with the Little Queer Library theme after attending a Lafayette Public Library Board of Control meeting a few months ago, where the board discussed banning a book called “This Book is Gay.”

The library board did not ban the book, but did decide to move all books currently in the teen nonfiction section to the adult nonfiction section. Library Director Danny Gillane also told library managers to stop displaying books about LGBTQ topics right before the beginning of June’s Pride Month, which celebrates LGBTQ history and culture.

The free libraries like the one Cora is building provide books in small, weatherproof boxes. People are encouraged to take a book or leave a book.

### Fiancee grave decoration leads to litter conviction

**AL** AUBURN — An Alabama man was convicted of criminal littering and ordered to pay about \$300 for repeatedly placing boxes full of flowers on the grave of his fiancée, whose father didn’t like the decorations or approve of their relationship.

The Opelika-Auburn News reported that Winston “Winches-

ter” Hagans was convicted Thursday in Auburn city court on a warrant signed by the Rev. Tom Ford, the father of Hannah Ford, who died in a wreck in January 2021 about a month after becoming engaged to Hagans.

Evidence showed that Hagans repeatedly put small planter boxes with flowers on the woman’s grave, and her father repeatedly removed them. Under Alabama law, citizens can obtain arrest warrants in municipal court under certain circumstances.

Since May 2021, Ford testified, a total of 10 boxes have been placed on the grave, and he either discarded them or sent them back to Hagans.

The cemetery is owned by the city, and municipal prosecutor Justin Clark said regulations prohibit “benches, urns, boxes, shells, toys and other similar articles” on graves.

### Police seize arsenal of 65 guns, ammunition

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — Police seized an arsenal of weapons and thousands of rounds of ammunition from the home of a homicide suspect in Northern California during a search.

The San Jose Police Department said in a statement late Friday that it recovered more than 65 firearms, of which about 25 were illegal assault weapons, along with multiple high-capacity magazines and thousands of rounds of ammunition from the home of the 38-year-old suspect.

The suspect was arrested this month in connection with a fatal shooting in San Jose on June 4. Police obtained a search warrant for his residence and on Wednesday discovered the stash of weap-

ons, which also included two stolen guns and two so-called ghost guns, which are privately made firearms without serial numbers.

In addition to homicide charges, the suspect also faces several more illegal firearm charges, the statement said.

### 10-year fight for planned McDonald’s nearing end

**CT** HARTFORD — A 10-year legal battle over a proposed McDonald’s on a vacant lot in Hartford is nearing a conclusion.

The city has reached a tentative agreement with a developer who had sought to build a fast-food restaurant on a small lot in the West End that had been opposed by neighborhood residents and the city, the Hartford Courant reported.

Under the tentative agreement, the city will pay developer Eliot Gersten \$1.8 million to resolve litigation over the former gas station spot, which has been vacant for a decade. The settlement has to be approved by the city’s Court of Common Council, which is expected to take it up this month.

There is no current timetable for developing the site, but the city is expected to offer potential developers a package of incentives to build a mixed-use retail and apartment building, the Courant reported.

### Transit agency to try elevator urine sensors

**MA** BOSTON — Urine trouble no more, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority hopes, with a new program to tackle public urination in system elevators with

technology.

The MBTA, which services Boston and the surrounding area, is launching a pilot program this summer in which urine detection sensors will be placed in four downtown elevators. The sensors alert transit ambassadors, who can dispatch a cleaning crew, the Boston Herald reported.

The sensors on the ceiling of an elevator have an attached fan, which allows them to suck in air and “basically smell what is present,” said Meghan Collins, a program/projects manager for MBTA.

The pilot kicks off in August. Data will be collected for several months before the agency makes a decision about whether to implement the program by year’s end, the newspaper said.

### Disguised man carjacks, robs armored truck

**DE** WILMINGTON — Police in Delaware are searching for a man who was disguised as a security worker when he robbed an armored truck and assaulted two employees.

The suspect was armed with a handgun and wearing a mask and a Garda uniform when he robbed one of the company’s armored trucks near Wilmington on Friday morning, according to the Delaware State Police.

The Delaware News Journal reported that the man used a stun gun on one of the employees. The woman had minor injuries, police said.

The suspect drove off in the armored truck but later abandoned the vehicle, fleeing with an undisclosed amount of money.

— From wire reports

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# Open season: Mickelson's arrival stirs debate

Associated Press

BROOKLINE, Mass. — Luke Gannon is playing in his first U.S. Open and had one of those moments that made him realize this was a stage unlike any other the Kansan has played. It was a bit awkward, too.

He looked down 131 yards to the 11th green to find a tiny target on the shortest hole at The Country Club. Off to the left of the green waiting on him to hit was a player wearing white shorts, a black shirt, remnants of a beard, no hat and someone in no hurry.

Phil Mickelson was carrying only a wedge and a putter and waved him through.

The Sunday before U.S. Open week is rarely more peaceful with only a few dozen players getting a look at the course, some caddies arriving ahead of their players to walk the course and check the yardages.

The peace won't last long, and this time isn't all about the U.S. Open and its reputation as the toughest test in golf.

Mickelson had arrived from London, where he was among a dozen players at the U.S. Open who took part in the Saudi-funded debut of the LIV Golf Invitational. Half of those players were PGA Tour members a few weeks ago. Mickelson still is, choosing not to resign his membership.

The first official day of practice on Monday includes Mickelson in the first press conference of the week, where it's likely he'll face more questions about the lucrative LIV Golf renegade circuit than his bid to finally ended 30 years of frustration at the only major he hasn't won.

Mickelson didn't want to share any of those thoughts until Monday. He went about his work, placing four hole-sized placards around the green to practice.

The topic is unavoidable and threatens to

overshadow the second-oldest championship in golf held at Brookline, one of the five founding golf clubs when the USGA was formed in 1894.

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan only stoked the passion of the debate when he offered his first public thoughts since he announced he was suspending all PGA Tour members who joined. For how long? Monahan wasn't prepared to say.

But he made pointed remarks during his 12-minute appearance on CBS during the Canadian Open. He referred to LIV Golf as nothing more than a series of exhibition matches. He said true, pure competition was found at the PGA Tour, and it was that stage that created the profiles and presences of players now cashing in on Saudi riches.

As for the blowback for players taking money provided by the sovereign wealth fund of Saudi Arabia, a country known for its abysmal record on human rights?

"I would ask any player that has left, or any player that would ever consider leaving, 'Have you ever had to apologize for being a member of the PGA Tour?'" Monahan said.

He was asked why players like Mickelson, Dustin Johnson, Bryson DeChambeau and even the lesser-known players like Taylor Gooch couldn't play both tours. He answered with a question of his own.

"Why do they need us so badly?" Monahan said.

"Those players have chosen to sign multi-year, lucrative contracts to play in a series of exhibition matches against the same players over and over again. You look at that versus what we see here today."

The Canadian Open featured a final group of Rory McIlroy, Justin Thomas and

Tony Finau and wasn't settled until the end. McIlroy birdied his last two holes for a 62 to win by one over Finau (62), while Thomas bogeyed the last two holes for a 64.

One day after LIV Golf finished its 54-hole event with Charl Schwartzel winning \$4.75 million (\$4 million for his score, \$750,000 as part of the winning team), the Canadian Open had enormous crowds with thousands surrounding the 18th green.

"It's true and pure competition that creates the profiles and presences of the world's greatest players," Monahan said. "And that's why they need us. That's what we do."

McIlroy got into the act. It was the first time he had defended a title on the PGA Tour — he had to wait two years when the Canadian was canceled in 2020 and 2021 by the pandemic — and his TV interview included a dig at Norman.

McIlroy has said such a "super league" was a bad idea even before Norman got involved. Norman told the Washington Post that McIlroy had been "brainwashed" by the tour.

The victory was the 21st on the PGA Tour for McIlroy.

"One more than somebody else," McIlroy said.

Norman has 20.

McIlroy already has four majors, twice as many as Norman, and he will hope to add to that total and get away from questions on why he has gone eight years without one.

With so much chatter on whether this Saudi-backed league is good for golf, a force for golf or simply a money grab for a majority of players on the back end of their careers, McIlroy probably won't get pestered about when he'll win his next major.

Maybe that will change on Thursday.

## LIV critic McIlroy doubles down after win in Canada

Associated Press

TORONTO — Rory McIlroy won the RBC Canadian Open on Sunday and gave the PGA Tour a strong response to the start of the Saudi-funded LIV Golf Invitational, closing with an 8-under 62 to win a wild race to the finish with Justin Thomas and Tony Finau.

McIlroy had his first successful title defense on the PGA Tour, even if he had to wait. He won

golf's fourth-oldest national open in 2019 at Hamilton Golf & Country Club, only for the the COVID-19 pandemic to cancel the next two editions.

Thomas pushed him to the end at St. George's Golf & Country Club, and the tournament effectively ended on the 17th hole. McIlroy and Thomas were tied and in the rough. McIlroy hit a wedge that rolled out to tap-in range, while Thomas missed a

10-foot par putt, a two-shot swing. Thomas closed with two bogeys and still shot 64.

McIlroy finished at 19-under 261 for a two-stroke victory.

McIlroy has been one of the strongest opponents of the LIV Golf series and spoke out against the money being paid to players like Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson. Greg Norman, who runs LIV Golf, told the Washington Post that McIlroy had been

"brainwashed" by the PGA Tour.

McIlroy won for the second time this season, adding to his October win in Las Vegas in the CJ Cup. He won for the 21st time on the PGA Tour.

"This is a day I'll remember for a long, long time," McIlroy said soon after the victory. "Twenty-one PGA Tour wins, one more than somebody else."

It was a dig at Norman, who had 20 career tour wins.

# Braves win 11th straight, Phils' streak ends

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Adam Duvall homered twice off José Quintana, William Contreras and Matt Olson also connected, and the Atlanta Braves won their 11th straight game, 5-3 over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Sunday.

The defending World Series champion Braves began the day having trimmed five games off the New York Mets' division lead since the winning streak started June 1. They were 5½ games back in the NL East.

This stretch is the club's best since it won 14 in a row from July 26 to Aug. 9, 2013. During the streak, Atlanta has outscored opponents 74-30 with 22 homers. The pitching staff has a 2.32 ERA over the same span.

**Diamondbacks 13, Phillies 1:** Christian Walker had three hits and three RBIs, Jake McCarthy homered and visiting Arizona ended Philadelphia's nine-game winning streak, giving interim manager Rob Thomson his first loss.

Ketel Marte and Alek Thomas each drove in two runs for the Diamondbacks, who finished a 10-game trip 4-6.

**Yankees 18, Cubs 4:** Matt Carpenter homered twice and tied his career high with seven RBIs, powering host New York to complete a weekend sweep of Chicago for its 11th win in 12 games.

The 36-year-old Carpenter, signed on May 26 after spending the first seven weeks at Texas' Triple-A Round Rock, became the second player since 1900 to hit six home runs in his first 10 games for a team after Colorado's Trevor Story in 2016.

**Brewers 4, Nationals 1:** Willy Adames homered and drove in three runs, helping

visiting Milwaukee snap an eight-game losing streak.

It was the first time this season last-place Washington entered the final game of a series with a chance at a sweep.

**Mets 4, Angels 1:** J.D. Davis and Pete Alonso homered, Taijuan Walker struck out 10 and host New York closed its long trip to California with a victory over Los Angeles.

Jeff McNeil had three hits for the Mets, who took two of three at The Big A to go 5-5 on their season-high 10-game trip.

**Astros 9, Marlins 4:** Justin Verlander earned his major league-leading eighth win, Jeremy Peña and Jose Altuve homered and host Houston snapped its three-game losing streak.

Verlander (8-2) set down the first 10 batters he faced before giving up a flare single into shallow right field in the fourth inning. He gave up four unearned runs and three hits, walked one and struck out five in seven innings, lowering his ERA to 1.94.

**Giants 2, Dodgers 0:** Carlos Rodón pitched two-hit ball for six innings and host San Francisco completed a three-game sweep of division-leading Los Angeles.

Austin Slater and Mike Yastrzemski homered off Julio Urías in the first to send the stumbling Dodgers to their sixth loss in eight games.

**Guardians 6, Athletics 3:** José Ramírez had three RBIs, including a two-run double in the first inning, to continue his torrid production and host Cleveland defeated Oakland.

Ramírez, who leads the majors with 59 RBIs, pulled a double down the left-field

line that put the Guardians ahead after the Athletics scored a run in the top of the inning. The three-time All-Star added an RBI groundout in the seventh and has driven in 25 runs over the last 21 games.

**Rangers 8, White Sox 6 (12):** Jonah Heim hit a two-run single in the 12th inning and visiting Texas turned a double play on a ball hit to the warning track to end a win over Chicago.

**Red Sox 2, Mariners 0:** Rafael Devers hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning, spot starter Kutter Crawford and five relievers combined on a one-hitter and visiting Boston edged Seattle.

**Blue Jays 6, Tigers 0:** Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered, Ross Stripling pitched one-hit ball for six innings and visiting Toronto beat Detroit.

**Reds 7, Cardinals 6:** TJ Friedl hit a tie-breaking triple in the seventh inning and Tommy Pham added a solo homer as visiting Cincinnati beat St. Louis to snap a four-game losing streak.

**Rays 6, Twins 0:** Jeffrey Springs threw two-hit ball into the sixth inning, Randy Arozarena stole two bases after twice getting hit by pitches and visiting Tampa Bay beat Minnesota.

**Rockies 4, Padres 2:** Ryan McMahon hit a go-ahead, two-run double with two outs in the eighth and Germán Márquez pitched seven strong innings to lead visiting Colorado past San Diego.

**Orioles 10, Royals 7:** Anthony Santander, Ryan Mountcastle and Rougned Odor hit solo home runs, leading visiting Baltimore past Kansas City.

## Irish oust Vols, join Ole Miss, OU, Hogs, Texas in CWS

Associated Press

No. 1 national seed Tennessee got knocked out of the NCAA baseball tournament on the same day Mississippi, the last team selected, punched its ticket to the College World Series.

Sunday produced the biggest surprises of a tournament that went mostly according to form in the regional round. Super regionals have made up for that lack of drama.

Notre Dame defeated the Volunteers 7-3 in the deciding third game of their super regional and joined Ole Miss, Oklahoma, Ar-

kansas, Texas and Texas A&M in the CWS.

The final two CWS spots will be filled Monday when Connecticut plays No. 2 Stanford and Auburn meets No. 3 Oregon State in Game 3s. The CWS begins Friday in Omaha, Neb.

Tennessee is the third straight No. 1 national seed to get eliminated in super regionals. Arkansas was bounced last year and UCLA in 2019. There was no tournament in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Notre Dame will get to Omaha and enjoy that and probably

do some damage. It's a really tough group," Vols coach Tony Vitello said. "What needs to stick with our guys, once time passes ... What do they say? Time heals all wounds? I don't know who 'they' are, because sometimes those take a long time."

Until Sunday, Tennessee was the toast of college baseball with an explosive offense and a pitching staff stocked with projected major leaguers. It finished with a school-record 57 wins after getting out to a 31-1 start and sweeping the SEC regular-season and tournament titles. Its

158 homers were fourth-most all-time in Division I. It lost just one three-game series before the super regional in Knoxville.

Three Irish pitchers combined to allow five hits, with freshman lefty Jack Findlay giving up one and holding the Vols scoreless over the last five innings.

Notre Dame erased a 3-1 deficit in the seventh inning. David LaManna, who entered the game with one home run, hit a two-run shot to tie it and Jack Brannigan followed with the go-ahead blast.

# Suárez's win shows Trackhouse's rise

Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. — Of all the surprising developments to ponder during this one-week break in a highly entertaining NASCAR Cup Series season, the emergence of Trackhouse Racing might be the most unlikely of all.

That's right, the 2-year-old team co-owned by Pitbull and piloted by two drivers who had never won a Cup race three months ago. Trackhouse has already racked up three victories and 15 top-10 finishes while producing some of the most memorable moments of the year to date.

"To be such a new group, this isn't supposed to happen," driver Ross Chastain said. "But we've got two fast cars."

Mr. Worldwide and his deep-pocketed co-owner, Justin Marks, could be celebrating even bigger achievements in the months to come with two compelling drivers and two diverse, talented teams behind them.

Daniel Suárez's inaugural Cup Series victory at Sonoma Raceway on Sunday was the latest superlative in a seasonlong series of encouraging performances from Trackhouse. Chastain got the team in the winner's circle with his first two career victories at Circuit of the Americas and Talladega, and both drivers appear capable of keeping the team's versions of the Next Gen car near the

top of the leaderboard all season.

"I'm not surprised that we're a winning race team," Marks said after watching Suárez raise a celebratory goblet in wine country. "I wouldn't have started this project if I didn't truly believe the opportunity existed to build a new race team in this sport that could win. It just happened really quickly. That's been the surprise. But it kind of makes sense, too, because we've got such great people that work so hard, and the promise of this car is being delivered every single weekend."

It's a fast return on Marks' investment after he bought Chip Ganassi Racing's operation for the new season. The introduction of the Next Gen car theoretically opened the door for any team good enough to walk through it, and the new Trackhouse mix of former Ganassi employees has done splendidly so far.

"We're just having fun," said Travis Mack, Suárez's crew chief. "I've never been at a place that's had so much fun. We're building fast race cars, and everybody is enjoying work. It's just a great place to be right now. Team chemistry is amazing between (Chastain's No.) 1 and (Suárez's No.) 99. It really feels like one team loading two cars."

Sunday's victory in wine country was also Mack's first win as a crew chief. He believes he was Trackhouse's second hire, and he ex-

plifies the team's willingness to take risks: Mack is not an engineer like most Cup Series crew chiefs, but a onetime shock specialist and front-end mechanic who worked his way into the leadership position.

Trackhouse also hopes to be part of a surge in racing interest in Latino culture when combined with developments such as Sergio Perez's success in Formula One and Pato O'Ward's growing profile in IndyCar. Suárez and Pitbull, the Miami-born son of Cuban immigrants, are both eager to captivate Hispanic fans who haven't traditionally seen themselves in the top levels of North American auto racing. Suárez became the first Mexican-born driver to win a NASCAR Cup race on Sunday.

"Trackhouse is a team that anybody and everybody can be a fan of," Marks said. "To me, this is sort of a representation of what America stands for. It's a place that you can come with big dreams, and you can work hard to achieve those dreams. ... That just shows the amazing place we live. It's great to be able to write those stories."

Trackhouse's teams are diverse, as anybody who watched the crew's joyous celebrations of Suárez's victory could see. Suárez also has a lead engineer from Mexico City, although Jose Blasco-Figueroa missed the Sonoma race because he was ill.

## Newgarden wins Road America, get \$1 million bonus

Associated Press

ELKHART LAKE, Wis. — Josef Newgarden wanted to thank the pet service that helped him adopt his 30-pound mutt, Axel, that has become part of his family.

The Team Penske driver repaid the shelter — literally — with his performance behind the wheel.

Newgarden earned a \$1 million bonus Sunday for winning at Road America, where his third win of the season completed a trifecta of victories on IndyCar's different circuits. That means, among other things, the Nashville chapter of Wags and Walks can build a new dog adoption center.

"They solve all sorts of dogs — all sorts," Newgarden said. "You should hear some of these heart-

breaking stories these guys go through to find these dogs homes. We're very happy to be able to get some money to this group because they've done a lot for us and for a lot of people in Nashville."

Newgarden won on the oval at Texas and the street course in Long Beach this season, and headed to Road America searching for a road course win that would make him the first IndyCar driver this season to win on all three circuits.

The reward was a \$1 million payout from The PeopleReady Force for Good Challenge, which split the bonus between Team Penske and charities of Newgarden's choice. The American selected Wags and Walks of Nashville and SeriousFun Children's Network.

"To have something like this challenge, I think, just fires you up more competitively," Newgarden said. "You want to get it done for them."

The heads of both charities participated in Newgarden's post-race press conference via Zoom to thank the driver.

"We are absolutely so, so thrilled," said Kathryn Hurley of Wags and Walks. "It's going to impact literally thousands of dogs here in Nashville and allow us to build an amazing adoption center."

It was the first year of the challenge and was won before the halfway point of the IndyCar season; Newgarden is the only driver with multiple wins through eight of 17 races.

Newgarden beat Indianapolis 500 winner Marcus Ericsson of

Chip Ganassi Racing by 3.371-seconds following two late restarts, but Ericsson reclaimed the points lead with the runner-up finish.

It's the seventh time the points lead has changed hands this season.

"I think it's going to be a tough season, a long season, but we've put ourselves in really good position now going into this sort of second half," Ericsson said. "We've just got to keep doing what we've been doing."

Alexander Rossi, the Andretti Autosport driver who started on the pole in search of his first win in three years, finished third and was followed by teammates Romain Grosjean and Colton Herta.

Chevrolet won the race with Newgarden, but Honda took the next four spots.