

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Kherson residents ordered to evacuate

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian-installed authorities in Ukraine told all residents of the city of Kherson to leave “immediately” Saturday ahead of an expected advance by Ukrainian troops waging a counteroffensive to recapture one of the first urban areas Russia took after invading the country.

In a post on the Telegram messaging service, the pro-Kremlin regional administration called on civilians to use boat crossings over a major river to move deeper into Russian-held territory, citing a tense situation on the front and the threat of shelling and alleged “terror attacks” by Kyiv.

Kherson has been in Russian hands since the early days of the nearly 8-month-long war in Ukraine. The city is the capital of a region of the same name, one of four that Russian President Vladimir Putin illegally annexed last month and put under Russian martial law on Thursday.

On Friday, Ukrainian forces bombarded Russian positions across the province, target-

ing pro-Kremlin forces’ resupply routes across the Dnieper River and inching closer to making a full assault on Kherson city. Ukraine has retaken some villages in the region’s north since launching its counteroffensive in late August.

Russian-installed officials were reported as trying desperately to turn Kherson city — a prime objective for both sides because of its key industries and ports — into a fortress while attempting to relocate tens of thousands of residents.

Ukrainian and Western officials have expressed concern about potential forced transfers of residents to Russia or Russian-occupied territory.

Ukrainian officials have urged Kherson residents to resist attempts to relocate them, with one local official alleging that Moscow wanted to take civilians hostage and use them as human shields.

Elsewhere in the invaded country, hundreds of thousands of people in central and western Ukraine woke up on Saturday to

power outages and periodic bursts of gunfire. In its latest war tactic, Russia has intensified strikes on power stations, water supply systems and other key infrastructure across the country.

Ukraine’s air force said in a statement Saturday that Russia had launched “a massive missile attack” targeting “critical infrastructure,” adding that it had downed 18 out of 33 cruise missiles launched from the air and sea.

In a Telegram post published later Saturday, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy referenced 36 missiles, “most of which were shot down.” The reason for the discrepancy in numbers was not immediately clear.

Air raid sirens blared across Ukraine twice by early afternoon, sending residents scurrying into shelters as Ukrainian air defense tried to shoot down explosive drones and incoming missiles.

“Several rockets” targeting Ukraine’s capital were shot down Saturday morning, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on the Telegram messaging service.

## New DOD policy on abortion may divide lawmakers

*CQ-Roll Call*

WASHINGTON — A day-old Pentagon policy on female service members’ access to reproductive health services is already triggering election-year sniping among lawmakers and figures to loom large in forthcoming legislation.

The new guidance is a reaction to the June Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, which allowed states to restrict most abortions. More than a dozen states have done so. As a result, some women in the military need to travel hundreds of miles to get an abortion.

In a Thursday memo to U.S. military brass and civilian Defense Department leaders, Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III ordered a number of actions

to safeguard service members’ access to reproductive health services.

One of these was requiring that the department cover travel and transportation expenses associated with accessing such services, including abortions, and permitting “administrative absences” in such cases that does not count against a service member’s allotment of leave.

The policy comes less than three weeks before midterm congressional elections in which abortion, in the wake of the *Dobbs* ruling, has become a contentious partisan issue.

Members of Congress have made plain in the hours since Austin’s memo that the Pentagon policy will continue to divide the parties when members return to the Capitol in the lame

duck session and, next year, in the new Congress, when Republicans are expected to have more members than they do now.

Most significantly, Rep. Mike D. Rogers of Alabama, in a statement Friday, signaled a legislative response is forthcoming.

Rogers is the top Republican on the House Armed Services Committee and he stands to become the chairman in the next Congress if Republicans gain the House majority.

Rogers and other Republicans will have to sign off on the fiscal 2023 National Defense Authorization Act later this year, and the GOP hand may be strengthened in the next Congress when the fiscal 2024 NDAA is written. Appropriators may also weigh in on the abortion issue

when they write their defense spending bills.

“Taxpayer dollars meant for deterring China and other adversaries should not be squandered on campaign politics,” Rogers said. “DoD must be blocked from wasting any portion of their budget on this horrendous policy.”

Democrats, notably including Jack Reed of Rhode Island, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, lauded the Pentagon’s new policy and also indicated that a legislative battle is on the horizon.

Reed, in a statement, promised “to do everything within my power to pass legislation in the U.S. Senate to protect our service members, their families, and to codify a woman’s right to choose.”

# Court blocks student debt relief plan

*The Washington Post*

A federal appeals court on Friday evening blocked the imminent cancellation of federal student loans under President Joe Biden's debt relief program, days after millions of borrowers began applying for up to \$20,000 in forgiveness.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit granted an administrative stay while it considers a request for an injunction filed by a coalition of six Republican-led states seeking to block the for-

givenness program. While it is unknown when the court will decide the case, it has agreed to an expedited briefing on the motion. In the meantime, the appeals court is instructing the Biden administration to stand down on discharging debt under the relief effort as the administration had prepared to start canceling loans as early as next week.

"We are pleased the temporary stay has been granted," Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson, a Republican, one of the

states' officials who sued the administration, said in a statement. "It's very important that the legal issues involving presidential power be analyzed by the court before transferring over \$400 billion in debt to American taxpayers."

The decision arrives a day after U.S. District Judge Henry E. Autrey, a George W. Bush appointee, dismissed the states' lawsuit for lack of standing. The ruling by Autrey was one of two victories Thursday for the administra-

tion's plan. Earlier, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett denied a separate request by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, working on behalf of a taxpayer's association, to pause the program.

The Biden administration has maintained that its debt cancellation plan is legal, saying a 2003 law authorizes the secretary of education "to alleviate the hardship that federal student loan recipients may suffer as a result of national emergencies."

# Sandy Hook families seek \$2.75T from Jones

*Bloomberg News*

Sandy Hook families asked a Connecticut judge to order Alex Jones to pay \$2.75 trillion in damages in addition to the almost \$1 billion a jury awarded for defamation, claiming only "the highest possible punitive damages," will stop the Infowars host from continuing to harm them.

The families said they're entitled to the amount because Jones broke a state law barring the sale of products using false statements. They reached the sum by multiplying the state law's \$5,000 per-violation fine by the 550 million social media exposures Jones' audience received on his Facebook, YouTube and Twitter accounts in the three years after a school shooting that claimed the lives of 20 first graders and six educators in 2012.

Jones called family members "crisis actors" for years and said their loved ones weren't murdered during an elementary school massacre. He denied his statements were defamatory.

"Alex Jones perpetrates this attack for one reason: greed," the families' lawyers said in the filing Friday. "Alex Jones will never treat them like real people, because they are too valuable to him as targets."

State Judge Barbara Bellis will determine the final amount Jones must pay. She has previously said Jones violated the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act, or CUTPA, by selling supplements and survival gear during shows that featured his false claims about Sandy Hook.

On Nov. 12, a Connecticut jury awarded eight families and an FBI agent who re-

sponded to the shooting \$965 million for the harassment they suffered from Infowars' fans who bought into Jones' hoax theory.

The jurors weren't asked to consider CUTPA and were only asked to calculate defamation and emotional distress damages after Bellis ruled in a separate proceeding that Jones had defamed the families.

Traditionally, CUTPA has been used to compensate individuals directly harmed by deceptively marketed products. However, the Connecticut Supreme Court decided in a case Sandy Hook's parents brought against the maker of the rifle used in the shooting that CUTPA damages could be awarded to victims indirectly harmed by products marketed with false statements.

# Bannon gets 4 months for defying 1/6 subpoena

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Steve Bannon, a longtime ally of former President Donald Trump, was sentenced Friday to serve four months behind bars after defying a subpoena from the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols allowed Bannon to stay free pending appeal, a potentially lengthy process, and also imposed a fine of \$6,500 as part of the sentence. Ban-

non was convicted in July of two counts of contempt of Congress: one for refusing to sit for a deposition and the other for refusing to provide documents.

Nichols handed down the sentence after saying the law was clear that contempt of Congress is subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of at least one month behind bars. Bannon's lawyers had argued the judge could've sentenced him to probation instead. Prosecutors had asked for Bannon

to be sent to jail for six months.

"In my view, Mr. Bannon has not taken responsibility for his actions," Nichols said before he imposed the sentence. "Others must be deterred from committing similar crimes."

The House panel had sought Bannon's testimony over his involvement in Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election. Bannon has yet to testify or provide any documents to the committee.

# EPA civil rights case targets Mississippi

*Associated Press*

JACKSON, Miss. — The federal government is investigating whether Mississippi state agencies discriminated against the state's majority-Black capital city by refusing to fund improvements for its failing water system, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday.

The announcement came days after leaders of two congressional committees said they were starting a joint investigation into a crisis that left most homes and businesses in Jackson without running water for several days in late August and early September.

The EPA gave The Associated Press the first confirmation that it is conducting a civil, not criminal, investigation of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the

Mississippi State Department of Health. The federal agency could withhold money from the state if it finds wrongdoing — potentially millions of dollars. If the state agencies don't cooperate with the investigation, the EPA could refer the case to the Department of Justice.

Heavy rainfall in late August exacerbated problems at Jackson's main water treatment facility. Republican Gov. Tate Reeves declared an emergency Aug. 29, and the state health department and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency have been overseeing operations and repairs at the facility since then.

About 80% of Jackson's 150,000 residents are Black, and about a quarter of the population lives in poverty. By the time Reeves issued the emergency order, Jackson residents had

already been told for a month to boil their water to kill possible contaminants. Volunteers and the National Guard had distributed millions of bottles of drinking water. Although the boil-water notice was lifted in mid-September, many residents remain skeptical about water safety.

NAACP President Derrick Johnson, who lives in Jackson with his family, called the EPA investigation a step in the right direction after years of the state withholding federal funds needed to improve the city's water system.

"We believe we gave compelling evidence that the state of Mississippi intentionally starved the city of Jackson of the resources to maintain its water infrastructure," Johnson told The AP on Thursday.

## Mississippi unveils 9-foot-tall Emmett Till statue

*Associated Press*

GREENWOOD, Miss. — Hundreds of people applauded — and some wiped away tears — as a Mississippi community unveiled a larger-than-life statue of Emmett Till on Friday, not far from where white men kidnapped and killed the Black teenager over accusations he had flirted with a white woman in a country store.

"Change has come, and it will continue to happen," Madison Harper, a senior at Leflore County High School, told a racially diverse audience at the statue's dedication. "Decades ago, our parents and grandparents could not envision that a moment like today would transpire."

The 1955 lynching became a catalyst for the civil rights movement. Till's mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, insisted on an open-

casket funeral in Chicago so the world could see the horrors inflicted on her 14-year-old son. Jet magazine published photos of his mutilated body, which was pulled from the Tallahatchie River in Mississippi.

The 9-foot tall bronze statue in Greenwood's Rail Spike Park is a jaunty depiction of the living Till in slacks, dress shirt and tie with one hand on the brim of a hat.

The rhythm and blues song, "Wake Up, Everybody" played as workers pulled a tarp off the figure. Dozens of people surged forward, shooting photos and video on cellphones.

Anna-Maria Webster of Rochester, N.Y., had tears running down her face.

"It's beautiful to be here," said Webster, attending the ceremony on a sunny afternoon during a visit with Mississippi rela-

tives. Speaking of Till's mother she said: "Just to imagine the torment she went through — all over a lie."

Mississippi has the highest percentage of Black residents of any state, now about 38%. Democratic U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, whose district encompasses the Delta, noted that Mississippi had no Black elected officials when Till was killed. He said Till's death helped spur change.

"But you, know, change has a way of becoming slower and slower," said Thompson, the only Black member of Mississippi's current congressional delegation. "What we have to do in dedicating this monument to Emmett Till is recommit ourselves to the spirit of making a difference in our community."

## Texas state police fire officer over Uvalde response

*Associated Press*

AUSTIN, Texas — The Texas Department of Public Safety fired an officer Friday who was at the scene of the Uvalde school massacre and becomes the first member of the state police force to lose their job in the fallout over the hesitant response to the May attack.

The department served Sgt. Juan Maldonado with termination papers, spokeswoman Ericka Miller said. No details were offered about his role at the scene of the May 24 shooting at Robb Elementary School or

the specific reason Maldonado was fired.

The firing comes five months after the mass shooting that has put state police under scrutiny over their actions on the school campus as a gunman with an AR-15-style rifle killed 19 children and two teachers.

Maldonado could not be reached for comment Friday night.

Body camera footage and media reports have shown the Department of Public Safety had a larger role at the scene than the department appeared to suggest after the shooting. State troopers were among the

first wave of officers to arrive but did not immediately confront the gunman, which experts say goes against standard police procedure during mass shootings.

Instead, more than 70 minutes passed before officers finally stormed inside a fourth-grade classroom and killed the gunman, ending one of the deadliest school attacks in U.S. history. Nearly 400 officers in all eventually made their way to the scene, including state police, Uvalde police, school officers and U.S. Border Patrol agents.

# Pfizer: COVID vaccine to cost \$110-130

*Associated Press*

Pfizer will charge \$110 to \$130 for a dose of its COVID-19 vaccine once the U.S. government stops buying the shots, but the drugmaker says it expects many people will continue receiving it for free.

Pfizer executives said the commercial pricing for adult doses could start early next year, depending on when the government phases out its program of buying and distributing the shots.

The drugmaker said it expects that people with private health insurance or coverage through public programs like Medicare or Medicaid will pay nothing. The Afford-

able Care Act requires insurers to cover many recommended vaccines without charging any out-of-pocket expenses.

A spokesman said the company also has an income-based assistance program that helps eligible U.S. residents with no insurance get the shots.

The price would make the two-dose vaccine more expensive for cash-paying customers than annual flu shots. Those can range in price from around \$50 to \$95, depending on the type, according to CVS Health, which runs one of the nation's biggest drugstore chains.

A Pfizer executive said Thursday that the

price reflects increased costs for switching to single-dose vials and commercial distribution. The executive, Angela Lukin, said the price was well below the thresholds "for what would be considered a highly effective vaccine."

The drugmaker said last year that it was charging the U.S. \$19.50 per dose, and that it had three tiers of pricing globally, depending on each country's financial situation. In June, the company said the U.S. government would buy an additional 105 million doses in a deal that amounted to roughly \$30 per shot. The government has the option to purchase more doses after that.

## Ore. mayor to ban homeless camps on streets

*AP/Report for America*

PORTLAND, Ore. — The mayor of Portland, Ore., plans to ban camping on city streets and move unhoused people to designated campsites, as the growing homeless population has become the top concern for the vast majority of residents.

"The magnitude and the depth of the homeless crisis in our city is nothing short of a humanitarian catastrophe," Mayor Ted Wheeler said Friday. "We need to move our scattered, vulnerable homeless population closer to the services that they need."

The resolution would establish at least three large, designated outdoor camping sites, with the first opening within 18 months of securing funding. Wheeler didn't specify when the funding would be confirmed or how much the measure would

cost.

The designated camping sites would initially be able to serve up to 125 people and would provide access to services such as food, hygiene, litter collection and treatment for mental health and substance abuse, Wheeler said. The sites could eventually serve 500 people.

Oregon's homelessness crisis has been fueled by a housing shortage, the coronavirus pandemic and drug addiction.

More than 3,000 people are living without shelter in Portland, a 50% jump from 2019, and there are more than 700 encampments across the city, Wheeler said.

The resolution is one of several that Wheeler plans to introduce in the City Council next week in a bid to address the city's homelessness and affordable housing

crises.

Under the measures, social workers would direct people camping on the street to the city's designated camping sites. Police could arrest or cite people if they refuse to leave, Wheeler said. But the citations could be waived as part of a "services diversion program" that would allow people cited for low-level offenses, such as violating the camping ban, to receive mental health or substance abuse treatment instead of jail time.

The Portland City Council declared a state of emergency on homelessness in 2015 and has extended it five times since then.

This year alone, Wheeler has issued four emergency declarations to address homelessness issues.

## Activist objects to museum selling Hindu deity toys

*Associated Press*

BOSTON — A Hindu rights activist is calling on a Massachusetts museum to stop selling children's plush toys representing three Hindu deities, which he says are "insensitive."

Toys depicting Lord Krishna, Lord Ganesh and Lord Hanuman were available on the Peabody Essex Museum's online shop last week but had been removed by Tuesday, Rajan Zed, president of the Universal Society of Hinduism, said in a statement.

The deities are "greatly revered in Hinduism and were meant to be worshipped in temples or home shrines and not to be thrown around loosely on the floor, bathrooms, cars,

etc." Zed said. He also called for a formal apology from the museum. Zed previously asked the Rubin Museum of Art in New York to stop selling the toys.

The Salem-based Peabody Essex Museum halted sales of the toys while it reviewed the complaint, spokesperson Whitney Van Dyke said in an email. "These items will be back on sale shortly," she said.

The museum pointed out that the toys are widely available and are manufactured by New Jersey-based Modi Toys, founded by an Indian American family.

They are intended to spark curiosity in Hindu culture and heritage, company co-founder Avani Modi Sarkar said in a statement.

"While we understand not all will agree with our approach, we take pride in knowing we are giving families an option to learn and practice Hinduism in a fun and a functional manner," she said.

Another organization, the Hindu American Foundation, which posts guidelines for the commercial use of Hindu imagery on its website, has no problem with the toys, spokesperson Mat McDermott said.

"While we recognize Mr. Zed's concerns, we have no categorical objection to the sale of these toys," said McDermott, who noted that he has seen them for sale in Hindu temples. The toys are also sold online by Amazon and Walmart.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Woman charged after releasing bees on police

**MA** SPRINGFIELD — A Massachusetts woman is facing multiple assault and battery charges for allegedly releasing a swarm of bees on a group of sheriff's deputies, some of them allergic to bee stings, as they tried to serve an eviction notice, authorities said.

Rorie S. Woods, 55, pleaded not guilty at her arraignment in Springfield District Court and was released without bail, Masslive.com, citing court records, reported.

The Hampden County Sheriff's Department deputies went to a home in Longmeadow on the morning of Oct. 12 and were met by protesters, according to the official department report.

Woods, who lives in Hadley, soon arrived in an SUV towing a trailer carrying bee hives, the report said.

She started "shaking" the hives and broke the cover off one, causing hundreds of bees to swarm out and sting several deputies, including three who are allergic to bees, the report said. Woods had put on a beekeeper's suit to protect herself.

### Fantasy Fest returns after COVID shutdowns

**FL** KEY WEST — Fantasy Fest kicked off in Key West, Fla., with a full slate of events for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic started more than two years ago.

The annual 10-day-long party runs through Oct. 30.

"Due to the COVID pandemic, this will be the first full Fantasy Fest since 2019," Fantasy

Fest board chair Steve Robbins said.

Dozens of themed events are set for the festival, including a nighttime parade featuring floats and elaborately costumed marching groups on Oct. 29.

Participants are encouraged to draw costume ideas from the festival theme, "Cult Classics & Cartoon Chaos," portraying characters inspired by favorite cartoons and television or film productions with a cult following.

### Car reported stolen in '92 found buried

**CA** ATHERTON — Three decades after a car was reported stolen in Northern California, police are digging the missing convertible out of the yard of a \$15 million mansion built by a man with a history of arrests for murder, attempted murder and insurance fraud.

The convertible Mercedes Benz, filled with bags of unused concrete, was discovered by landscapers in the affluent town of Atherton in Silicon Valley, Atherton Mayor Rick DeGolia said.

Police believe the car was buried 4 to 5 feet deep in the backyard of the home sometime in the 1990s — before the current owners bought the home.

The car was reported stolen in September 1992 in nearby Palo Alto, police said.

The sprawling home with a pool and tennis court was built by Johnny Lew, his daughter, Jacq Searle, told the San Francisco Chronicle. She said the family lived at the property in the 1990s, which is when Atherton police believe the car was

buried, and that her father had died in 2015.

### College wrestler saves teammate from bear

**MT** BILLINGS — A college wrestler from Northwest College in Wyoming helped his teammate survive a grizzly mauling by trying to wrestle the massive bear off his friend, eventually drawing a more brutal attack to himself.

Brady Lowry suffered a broken arm and puncture wounds in the initial attack southeast of Yellowstone National Park after they surprised the bear while searching for antlers shed by elk and deer in the Shoshone National Forest.

His teammate — Kendell Cummings — tried to stop the attack on Lowry by yelling, kicking and hitting the bear and pulling on its fur.

Both ended up at Billings Clinic Hospital, where Cummings underwent surgery.

Neither is listed as a patient there any longer, hospital spokesperson Zach Benoit said.

### Doorbell video shows abused kids seeking aid

**TX** CYPRESS — A teenager who told Texas police that he and his twin sister were handcuffed and endured horrific abuse escaped their family's home after he found a handcuff key and hid it in his mouth, authorities said in court records.

The twins, barefoot and holding handcuffs, were seen on doorbell video as they sought help in a Cypress neighborhood. The video was obtained by Houston TV station KHOU.

Their mother, Zaikiya Duncan, 40, was arrested hours later in Louisiana after police issued a missing children alert for five other children.

All seven children, including the twins, are now in Child Protective Service custody, authorities said.

The 15-year-old twins were severely malnourished and told police that abuse had been occurring for months, the affidavit said.

They told police that Duncan handcuffed them, forced them to drink bleach and other household cleaners and also sprayed oven cleaner in their mouths "if they talked too much," the affidavit said.

### Man charged in abuse of woman's corpse

**AL** BIRMINGHAM — A man was charged with abusing the corpse of a former girlfriend whose body was found in a shallow grave in an Alabama barn days after the two had met in the Florida Panhandle to exchange custody of their daughter.

Authorities in St. Clair County said Marcus Spanevelo, 35, was accused of mistreating the remains of Cassie Carli but wasn't charged in her death, news outlets reported.

Carli was last seen in March after meeting Spanevelo in the parking lot of a restaurant in Navarre, Fla., where she went to pick up their preschool-age daughter after a visit with the man, who is the child's father.

The woman's family reported her missing, and her body was discovered in a shallow grave in a barn in Springville on April 3.

— From Associated Press

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# Astros' Baker still chasing elusive title

Associated Press

Johnnie B. Baker Jr. — he answers to Dusty — has built a lifetime of memories by bearing witness to some of baseball's significant moments.

It might be more appropriate to call him Forrest Gump.

When Hank Aaron hit his 715th homer, Baker was kneeling in the on-deck circle.

When Steve Bartman reached over a Wrigley Field railing in an ill-fated pursuit of that foul ball, Baker watched in stoic disbelief from the dugout.

He was there, too, for epic pennant races and champagne-soaked celebrations from coast to coast.

Yet one thing — and it's a biggie — has eluded baseball's Renaissance man.

A World Series championship as a manager.

At 73, Baker may be staring at his last — and probably best — chance to fill in that one glaring omission on his résumé.

He's six wins away with a stellar Houston Astros squad

that chalked up 106 victories during the regular season, more than any team in a nearly three-decade-long managing career that should carry Baker to Cooperstown.

Dusty puts a philosophic spin on his quest.

Like a fine bottle of wine — another subject he knows a thing or two about — one can't uncork the bottle until the time is just right.

"You can't rush it before it gets here, because it ain't here yet," he said. "So you've just got to put yourself in a position to do it."

His players made it clear that giving Baker one of the few things he doesn't have is one of their most potent motivators.

"We love going out there every single day and competing for him," third baseman Alex Bregman said. "He loves this team. He loves winning. He loves the game of baseball. And a hundred percent we want to win for him."

Backing up his words with his

bat, Bregman hit a homer that accounted for all the runs in Houston's 3-2 victory over the New York Yankees in Game 2 of the AL Championship Series, which headed to the Bronx with the Astros up two games to none.

Six wins to go for Baker.

Six wins to go.

Stop right there, he'll tell you. With age comes wisdom, and he's learned that every single day is to be cherished. Six more wins might as well be another lifetime away. For a guy with far more days behind him than in front of him, there's no need to hasten the journey.

"I'm just taking it one game at a time and just living my life," Baker explained. "You can't live too far in the future or else you're not really enjoying today."

Baker got a glimpse of what he was in for as a manager in his very first season at the helm.

The year was 1993, and Baker took over a San Francisco Giants team that went 72-90 the

previous season but had signed the game's best player, Barry Bonds.

With a not-yet-bulked-up Bonds leading the way, the Giants won 103 games. They also happened to play in the same division as the Atlanta Braves, who won 104. In the last season before the wild card, the Giants sat at home with the game's second-best record.

And so it's gone for Baker ever since, plenty of regular-season joy mixed with staggering postseason heartbreak.

He's managed five teams. All of them have won division titles and reached the playoffs, making Baker the only manager to accomplish that feat with so many clubs. He's just the ninth manager to win pennants in both leagues. He also ranks ninth on the career wins list with 2,093 (plus another 45 in the playoffs).

But here's the thing: No manager has won so many games without capturing a World Series title.

## Schwarber, Segura help Phillies take 2-1 lead in NLCS

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jean Segura muffed a soft relay toss at second base on a play he made "3,000 times" over his baseball career. The Phillies second baseman even got picked off first, yes, in the same inning as his fielding miscue.

He heard a few boos, but it's Philly. Segura shook it off during Game 3 of the NL Championship Series on Friday night because he's played in scarier environments.

"It's just the way we handle the pressure in Dominican Republic. Even when we play winter ball, we've got guys in the stands, hey, when you get out, we're going to kill you," he said. "We're going to do something bad to you. It's just the way we play the game out there."

Segura simply had to survive an error and mental miscue — and no threats of violence — and also thrived in the chaos with a Gold Glove-worthy dive to save one hit and added a clutch knock of his own — one that moved Philadelphia a win closer to the World Series.

Kyle Schwarber led off with his latest scintillating home run, Segura atoned for a run-scoring error with a go-ahead single and the Phillies edged the San Diego Padres 4-2, giving them a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven matchup.

Game 4 was Saturday at Citizens Bank Park.

The Phillies returned home to another packed house for the first NLCS game in the city since 2010 and are now only two wins away from playing for

their first World Series championship since 2008.

The Phillies can take solace they survived the Padres without playing their best baseball. Outside of Schwarber's homer — Schwarbombs as they're affectionately known in Philly — the big bats were pretty quiet. Segura and Rhys Hoskins also made costly errors that made the game closer than it ever needed to be.

"I made a lot of mistakes, but it's part of baseball," said Segura, in his first postseason after 11 years in the majors. "You keep going forward. I came through. It happens."

Phillies starter Ranger Suarez survived shoddy fielding to earn the win. He walked none and allowed only two hits and one earned run over 68 pitches

in five sharp innings. Zach Eflin and Jose Alvarado each tossed scoreless innings and Seranthony Dominguez earned a six-out save as the Phillies headed into a Game 4 and what was expected to be largely a bullpen game.

After Josh Bell led off the ninth with a single, Jurickson Profar struck out on a full-count check swing that sent the outfielder into a rage. Profar, who had already slung his bat aside and headed toward first, cursed out third-base umpire Todd Tichenor for ringing him up.

Profar threw his helmet and kicked it as he stormed off the field, and was ejected by plate umpire Ted Barrett.

In MLB best-of-seven postseason series that were tied 1-1, the Game 3 winner has gone on to win 67 of 97 times, or 69%.

# Retaliation overshadowing Cup playoffs

Associated Press

The focus in NASCAR has yet to shift to the actual playoff racing as only three events remain to crown a new Cup champion.

But as the series heads to Homestead-Miami Speedway, the conversation over safety concerns has shifted to retaliation and what is over the line. Bubba Wallace has been suspended for Sunday's race for intentionally wrecking reigning Cup champion Kyle Larson last week in a dangerous act of retaliation that NASCAR and most of Wallace's competitors found over the line.

Retaliation has been an ongoing issue across all three of NASCAR's national series this season with drivers either seeking payback on the track or after in physical confrontations. Wallace shoved Larson several times after their crash.

The Wallace incident collected fellow Toyota driver Christopher Bell, who is eligible for the championship and dropped to last in the eight-driver playoff field after he was crashed at Las Vegas last Sunday. Wallace had to apologize to Bell and the entire Toyota group of teams and drivers, and the incident now follows NASCAR into the mid-

dle race of the third round of the playoffs.

"I definitely think that the penalties need to be severe," said Chase Briscoe of Stewart-Haas Racing. "I feel like over the last couple years, it kind of got out of hand a little bit just because I think guys have felt comfortable to do certain things and know there are probably not going to be major repercussions.

"I think (NASCAR is) trying to get the ball back in their court to where they have a little more control, probably. Which I think is probably needed. Look at how we race at the end of these road course races. There's just no respect a lot of times. Things like that."

Briscoe raced his way into the round of eight two races ago on the final lap on the hybrid road course/oval at Charlotte with a frantic last-gasp drive that eliminated Larson from the playoffs by two points. But NASCAR has alleged that Briscoe's SHR teammate Cole Custer deliberately held up traffic to help Briscoe gain positions, and SHR's appeal of its \$200,000 in fines and indefinite suspension of Custer's crew chief will be heard next week.

Briscoe is not alone in believing NASCAR had to act on the Wallace incident. Veteran

Kevin Harvick posted on social media the sanctioning body needs to "protect us from ourselves." Harvick admitted he's been in his share of retaliatory incidents.

Harvick indicated NASCAR needs tough leadership to get the drivers back in line.

"I've been guilty of several of these instances you see happening but I also had an iron fist of (NASCAR vice chairman) Mike Helton waiting for me after I'd acted like a fool," Harvick wrote. "I believe an iron fist is needed going forward and that will trickle down."

## Bell disappointment

Bell was the most consistent driver in the first round of the playoffs, but faltered in the second round to be pushed into a must-win situation at Charlotte to advance into the round of eight.

Now he's last in the standings because he was crashed in the brawl between Wallace and Larson, and the Joe Gibbs Racing driver is feeling rather down about his chances to make it to the championship finale. Only four drivers will race for the Cup title at Phoenix, and Joey Logano last week grabbed the first spot.

# Women's World Cup: US, Netherlands in Group E

Associated Press

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — The defending champion United States will face the Netherlands in the group stage of the women's soccer World Cup next summer, setting up an early repeat of the 2019 World Cup final.

The draw was made at a ceremony in Auckland on Saturday.

Four-time champion the United States was drawn in Group E with Vietnam, the Netherlands and a playoff winner still to be determined in a tournament expanded for the first time to 32 teams drawn into eight groups of four.

The U.S. will play all of its group matches in New Zealand in the tournament to be played in Australia and New Zealand in July and August 2023. The U.S. beat the Dutch 2-0 in the 2019 final in France.

Second-ranked Sweden is drawn in a group with South Africa, Italy and Argentina. Third-ranked Germany is with Morocco, Colombia and South Korea and European champion England is in with Denmark, China and a playoff winner.

In other soccer news:

■ Broadcasters were criticized by FIFA president Gianni Infantino on Saturday for what he called unacceptably low offers for rights to screen the Women's World Cup next year.

Offers of just 1% of the value of men's World Cup rights deals have been rejected, Infantino said, for the tournament that starts in July in Australia and New Zealand.

"100 times less, even more than 100 times in some occasions, then this is not acceptable," the FIFA leader said at a news conference ahead of the finals tournament draw. "I don't want to mention them, but those who are there, they know it."

The time zones in Australia and New Zealand mean many games will be played in the nighttime hours in lucrative markets in Europe and the Americas.

## Rangers lure Bochy as manager

The Texas Rangers have hired Bruce Bochy as their manager, bringing the three-time World Series champion with 2,003 career victories out of a short retirement to

take over a team that has had six consecutive losing seasons.

Texas made the surprising announcement Friday, just more than two weeks after its season ended. Bochy agreed to a three-year contract.

The 67-year-old Bochy hasn't managed since 2019, when he stepped away after 13 seasons and those World Series titles with the San Francisco Giants. The first championship came over Texas in 2010.

Rangers general manager Chris Young was a pitcher for San Diego in 2006, which was Bochy's final season with the Padres before going to San Francisco.

In other baseball news:

■ The Toronto Blue Jays named John Schneider their new manager Friday, fulfilling a dream Schneider has pursued for 15 years since giving up on playing and choosing to coach instead.

Toronto's former bench coach, Schneider was named the 14th manager in Blue Jays history, signing a three-year contract with the team he led on an interim basis for 78 games last season.

# Morant powers Grizzlies past Rockets

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Ja Morant scored 49 points and hit five three-pointers to lead the Memphis Grizzlies to a 129-122 victory over the Houston Rockets on Friday night.

Morant carried the team on a night Desmond Bane and Tyus Jones struggled. Bane made just three of 16 shots for 14 points and Jones was 4-for-13 with 11 points.

The Rockets led by 16 in the first half before the Grizzlies used a big run to start the third quarter and take the lead.

Morant has eight three-pointers in just two games this season after averaging 1.5 threes a game last season. Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins was asked if anyone can stop the young star now that he's incorporated more three-point shooting into his game.

"I don't think so," he said. "What a phenomenal game by Ja. Just in attack mode throughout the game."

Houston coach Stephen Silas agreed.

"It's changes everything because he's downhill," Silas said. "You have to honor the three. When he's making his three-point shot he's very, very hard to

guard."

**Nuggets 128, Warriors 123:** Nikola Jokic had a triple-double of 26 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists playing with a sore right wrist he had taped, and visiting Denver won a rematch of its first-round playoff series won by Golden State in five games on its way to the title.

Stephen Curry scored 34 points with five three-pointers after a second straight slow start shooting and has 30-point performances in his first two games. But the Warriors committed 19 turnovers that led to 30 Denver points.

**Trail Blazers 113, Suns 111 (OT):** Damian Lillard scored 41 points and host Portland beat Phoenix for its second straight victory to open the season.

Anfernee Simons made a layup with 7.2 seconds left in overtime and finished with 16 points. Jusuf Nurkic had 20 points and 17 rebounds.

**Celtics 111, Heat 104:** Jayson Tatum scored 29 points, Jaylen Brown added 28 and visiting Boston beat Miami in a rematch of last season's Eastern Conference finals.

The Celtics — whose most recent trip to Miami was a Game 7 win in that playoff series — out-

scored Miami 42-24 from three-point range, and improved to 2-0 under interim coach Joe Mazzulla.

**Nets 109, Raptors 105:** Kevin Durant broke a tie with a three-pointer with 56 seconds left and had 27 points to help host Brooklyn beat Toronto.

Durant's three gave Brooklyn a 105-102 lead. Kyrie Irving led the Nets with 30 points.

**Knicks 130, Pistons 106:** Jalen Brunson scored 17 points in his first home game at Madison Square Garden, Immanuel Quickley bounced back from a rough opener with 20 points and New York beat Detroit for its first victory of the season.

RJ Barrett, who also struggled with his shot in an overtime loss in Memphis in the season opener, rebounded with 18 points. Obi Toppin scored 16 points, and Julius Randle had 15.

**Jazz 132, Timberwolves 126, (OT):** Jordan Clarkson scored 29 points on 7-for-12 shooting from three-point range to lead his team's rally, and visiting Utah outlasted former teammate Rudy Gobert and Minnesota in overtime.

Lauri Markkanen had 24 points and 13 rebounds and got a

leaner in the lane to fall with 12 seconds left in the extra period to put the Jazz up by four.

**Pelicans 124, Hornets 112:** Jonas Valanciunas had 30 points and 17 rebounds and New Orleans spoiled Charlotte's home opener with a wire-to-wire victory.

Brandon Ingram added 28 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the Pelicans and C.J. McCollum had 21 points.

**Wizards 102, Bulls 100:** Bradley Beal's leaning bank shot with 7.4 seconds remaining lifted host Washington past Chicago in its first home game since the star guard signed his massive new contract.

DeRozan had 32 points to lead all scorers, and the Bulls nearly won their second straight game to start the season without Zach LaVine. **Spurs 137, Pacers 134:** Josh Richardson scored 27 points and Devin Vassell and Keldon Johnson each had 23 as visiting San Antonio survived a frantic final minute flurry to beat Indiana.

**Hawks 108, Magic 98:** Trae Young overcame a scoreless first half to finish with 25 points and 13 assists, John Collins added 23 points and 13 rebounds and host Atlanta beat Orlando.

# Point lifts Lightning over Panthers in overtime

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Brayden Point scored twice, including the game-winner on the power play 2:08 into overtime, and the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Florida Panthers 3-2 on Friday night.

The Lightning won it with Florida's Matthew Tkachuk in the box for slashing and boarding 39 seconds into overtime. Victor Hedman was called for roughing, which made it a 4-on-3 for the Lightning.

Steven Stamkos also scored for Tampa Bay. Tkachuk and

Rudolfs Balcers scored for Florida.

Florida, which was swept out of the Eastern Conference semifinals by the Lightning in May, came into the third holding a 2-1 lead.

With 9:29 remaining, Point deflected Nikita Kucherov's shot past Florida goalie Sergei Bobrovsky to tie the score.

**Blackhawks 4, Red Wings 3 (OT):** Max Domi stole the puck from Lucas Raymond and scored 2:16 into overtime to lift Chicago in its home opener.

Andreas Athanasiou, Philipp

Kurashev and Connor Murphy also scored for the Blackhawks in their first game in six days. Petr Mrazek made 15 stops before departing with an unspecified injury, and Alex Stalock had 10 saves in the third period and overtime.

Dominik Kubalik had a goal and an assist for Detroit, which dropped its second straight game in overtime. Dylan Larkin and Pius Suter also scored, and Alex Nedeljkovic made 25 saves.

**Kraken 3, Avalanche 2:** Karson Kuhlman scored the tie-

breaking goal in the third period to lift visiting Seattle.

Jaden Schwartz and Jared McCann scored 22 seconds apart in the second period and added an assist each for the Kraken. Philipp Grubauer had 17 saves before being replaced by Martin Jones midway through the third period. Jones got the win with just one save.

Bowen Byram had a goal and an assist and Evan Rodrigues also scored for Colorado, which has dropped two straight. Pavel Francouz had 35 saves.