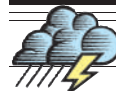


The Washington Post

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U.S. and China lay out rival visions

Both stress their security alliances in Indo-Pacific, underscoring tensions

BY ABIGAIL HAUSLOHNER AND CHRISTIAN SHEPHERD

SINGAPORE — Defense leaders from the United States and China laid out their competing visions of a modern security order in the Indo-Pacific this past weekend, with the American side championing Washington's expanded network of security partnerships, while Chinese officials promoted their own such alliances and cast the United States as a foreign aggressor meddling in Asian affairs.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and his Chinese counterpart, Dong Jun, each delivered addresses at the Shangri-La Dialogue, an annual international security conference in Singapore — one of the rare settings that brings senior officials from the rival militaries into proximity with one another through panel discussions, dinners and cocktail hours in a luxury hotel. Austin and Dong also met on the summit's sidelines Friday, their first meeting in two years.

Competing rhetoric over the course of the weekend's debates — much of it referencing recent events, such as China's spate of large-scale military exercises around Taiwan less than two weeks ago — underscored the sense that regional tensions have grown increasingly incendiary.

SEE CHINA ON A14

Spat led to Hunter Biden's gun trial

His brother's widow disposed of weapon at center of federal case

BY MATT VISER

Hallie Biden awoke on an October morning in 2018 after Hunter Biden, the brother of her deceased husband, Beau, had spent the night. While he slept, she dropped her two kids off at school and then returned to rummage through the truck he had parked outside, anxious as to what the admitted drug addict might be hiding.

When she found a newly purchased Colt Cobra .38 handgun, she was hit by a wave of anger and fear. She put the gun in a shopping bag and drove a few miles to a high-end grocery store, where she tossed it into a trash can. That set off a chain of events that would trigger a flurry of frantic text messages, launch another dark chapter in a doomed and difficult romance — and lead to Hunter Biden's federal trial beginning Monday.

When Hallie told Hunter, whose father at the time was contemplating a run for the presidency, how she had disposed of the

SEE HUNTER BIDEN ON A8

Trial details: Where, when and how long it's expected to last. **A8**

IN THE NEWS

Trump's legal future With one trial down, it is unclear when or if any of the remaining three cases will go before a jury. **A4**

Mexico votes As the nation awaited official results in its presidential election, former Mexico City mayor Claudia Sheinbaum appeared to lead in exit polls. **A16**

THE NATION Trump falsely told Fox News he never called for Hillary Clinton to be locked up. **A2**
Prominent Republicans have echoed Trump's criticisms of his hush money trial. **A3**

THE WORLD Israel's reservists say they are committed to serve, but they are also divided over what comes next in Gaza. **A12**
An uncrewed Chinese spacecraft touched down on the moon. **A15**

THE ECONOMY The Help Desk tests a new crop of AI chatbots built to serve as career coaches. **A17**

THE REGION Prepare for what could be the hottest summer in Washington since at least 2020, the Capital Weather Gang warns in its seasonal outlook. **B1**

Concerns over staffing and safety are fueling a labor dispute at the District's largest community health center. **B1**
Scared to drive over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge? Kent Island Express, a service that has been operating for more than 20 years, will do it for you. **B1**

STYLE The illegal trafficking of shahtoosh shawls, which can fetch up to \$20,000, is wiping out a rare Tibetan antelope that must be killed to produce the garments. **C1**
A new documentary investigates the creativity and ambition of the Muppets' creator. **C1**

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GRIEVANCE GAMES

Sports have changed from a unifying bond to a platform for division. Is there any going back?



ILLUSTRATION BY VICTORIA CASSINOVA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

SPLINTERED BY GRIEVANCE



Jerry Brewer

COLUMN

HUNTSVILLE, ALA. — At this sports crime scene, a great myth suffered a random death. The games we love lost their unifying superpower here. It ruptured in a sound bite.

Some consider Donald Trump the culprit, but he was just the closer. Tension was already there, prime for manipulation. Seven years ago, during a political rally at the Von Braun Center, Trump used his presidential privilege

to finish the job. With one vulgar and meandering diatribe against protesting NFL players, he made American sports civility collapse. It seems no one cares to rebuild it.

The president shouted: "Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say: 'Get that son of a bitch off the field right now. Out! He's fired!'"

His taunt became the soundtrack for sports discord.

It spawned a countermovement that politicizes the arena in ways more blatant than athletes railing

against inhumanity. On Sept. 22, 2017, a Friday night, Trump invited right-wing grievance to the fight, an intractable adversary that continues to haunt the environment long after his presidency.

When we gather for sports now, some Americans root against the United States in international competition for reasons ranging from too much bravado to too many vocal equality seekers. In 2018, people started burning their Nike attire after the company released a promotion featuring former quarterback

SEE BREWER ON A9

Covid inquiry strained physicians' friendship

Two politicians from opposing parties tussle over pandemic legacy

BY DAN DIAMOND

Brad Wenstrup was alarmed. It was February 2020, weeks before the coronavirus pandemic shuttered America's businesses and schools. But the Ohio congressman, a former military combat surgeon, was reading email from a fellow doctor on how U.S. and Chinese researchers had been experimenting on viruses in Wuhan, China, the center of the outbreak.

"Look, I'm military, a military



RICKY CARIOTI/THE WASHINGTON POST

Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-Calif.), left, and Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio) listen to testimony May 22 during their covid panel's hearing.

doc. ... I started thinking about biological weapons," Wenstrup recalled in a recent interview with The Washington Post.

Four years later, the Republican congressman is still thinking about China's potential links to covid, as part of his work to shape America's understanding of the pandemic. As chairman of the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic — the only panel in Congress solely devoted to investigating a health crisis that left more than 1 million Americans dead — Wenstrup has led investigations into

SEE COVID ON A6

Social distancing: Questions arise over basis for 6-foot rule. **A7**

Biden plan strains Israel

POLITICAL PRESSURE ON NETANYAHU

Hostage families push for cease-fire deal

BY SHIRA RUBIN, LIOR SOROKA, SARAH DADOUCH AND ADELA SULIMAN

TEL AVIV — Political pressure is mounting on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as more than 100,000 Israelis flooded the streets of this city on Saturday night demanding he accept a U.S.-brokered deal for a cease-fire in Gaza while members of his far-right coalition threatened that any such move would bring down the government.

The proposal, revealed in a surprise speech by President Biden on Friday, calls for a six-week pause in fighting, during which hostages taken from Israel by Hamas would be released in phases in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, and there would be a significant boost in aid shipments to the Gaza Strip. The key sticking point — the same one that has doomed past negotiations — is how and when the war will officially end.

Netanyahu's office said Friday
SEE GAZA ON A13

Executive editor of The Post steps down

In abrupt newsroom shake-up, Sally Buzbee departs after three years

BY ELAHE IZADI AND AMY ARGETSINGER

Sally Buzbee, the executive editor of The Washington Post since 2021, has stepped down, publisher and CEO William Lewis announced late Sunday.

She will be replaced by Matt Murray, the former editor in chief of the Wall Street Journal, Lewis said. After the presidential election in November, Robert Winnett, most recently the deputy editor of Telegraph Media Group, will take over in a newly created role of editor. Both have previously worked with Lewis.

The abrupt shake-up at the top of The Post — which Lewis announced alongside ambitious plans for a new division of the newsroom — is the biggest move by far from the British-born journalist since he took over as CEO in January.

Buzbee, previously the executive editor of the Associated Press, was the first woman to lead the nearly 150-year-old newspaper. She could not be immediately reached for comment.

The announcement — in the final months of a presidential

SEE BUZBEE ON A2