# **Delays** ahead for U.S. Steel decision

Fear of job losses in Pa. leads Biden to postpone blocking a takeover bid

> BY JEFF STEIN AND DAVID J. LYNCH

White House officials are signaling that President Joe Biden will not imminently move to block Nippon Steel's bid to acquire U.S. Steel amid mounting concerns over the political and economic consequences of nixing the deal, according to three people with knowledge of the matter.

The White House last week had been preparing to announce that the president would formally block the Japanese company's proposed \$14.9 billion acquisition of U.S. Steel on national security grounds. But after vocal opposition to the idea, White House officials have now indicated that such a decision is unlikely in the short term and may not be made until after the 2024 presidential election, according to the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe confidential conversations.

The president remains opposed to the deal, officials said. No announcement was ever scheduled. But the pace of internal deliberations has slowed.

White House spokeswoman Saloni Sharma disputed that there had been a change of plans, saying an announcement was never imminent and that the president remains committed to waiting for a recommendation from an interagency review board, as the law requires.

The delay of any announcement, however, comes as investors, Pennsylvania Democrats and some members of the steelworkers' union warned that the deal's collapse could spark an economic calamity for Pennsylvania's beleaguered steel belt.

SEE U.S. STEEL ON A12



# A WWI salute delivered in bronze

25-ton sculpture 'A Soldier's Journey' in D.C. is the culmination of more than a decade of effort



TOP: The centerpiece of the National World War I Memorial in Washington, "A Soldier's Journey," is unveiled on Friday. ABOVE: Musicians at the program in Washington, where some observers wore re-creations of World War I uniforms.

BY KATIE SHEPHERD

The 58-foot-long bronze sculpture follows the story of an unnamed World War I soldier, beginning on the day he takes his helmet from his daughter's hands and ships out. It shows anguished scenes of war, with soldiers fighting alongside nurses who tend their injuries. And finally, a homecoming.

Years in the making, the 25-ton sculpture called "A Soldier's Journey" is the centerpiece of the National World War I Memorial and was unveiled Friday evening in a park at 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW, just

blocks from the White House. As the sun set on a breezy Washington evening, a crowd of veterans, military enthusiasts and others gathered to see the memorial. Observers lined barri-

Plan to label ultra-processed foods is latest front in fight against obesity

cades on Pennsylvania Avenue to watch the program. Some wore re-creations of World War I uniforms. The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" played the national anthem.

"This mammoth, epic, 60-footlong bronze is about humans," artist Sabin Howard said. "It is a memorial about us, we the people. It is a project that represents the everyman, the ones who make this country possible. And as I stand here in front of you, I am an example of why this country carries so much potential. It is the freedom to choose what we will do with the God-given gift of life. It is a country that grants us free will."

The massive sculpture took about a decade to complete from inception to reveal. Forged in Stroud, England, it is now the

SEE MEMORIAL ON A7

# Russia expels **British** envoys

#### **MOSCOW ALLEGES** SPYING, SABOTAGE

Putin warns against deep strikes with West's arms

#### BY ROBYN DIXON

Russia on Friday accused six British diplomats of spying and announced it had stripped them of accreditation, a move that came as Western leaders were discussing whether to allow Ukraine to strike military targets deep inside Russia using long-range Western weapons

On a day when President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer met at the White House to discuss their approach to the Russia-Ukraine war, President Vladimir Putin also warned that if Ukraine fires Western missiles deep into Russia, it would mean that Russia was at war with NATO and would respond accordingly.

Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said Britain's Foreign Office was coordinating "the escalation of the political and military situation" in Ukraine to ensure Russia's defeat in the war. It said the diplomats were "threatening the security of the Russian Federation."

The British Foreign Office described the FSB's accusations as SEE RUSSIA ON A9

White House visit: Biden affirms Ukraine support with Starmer. A10

# Putin using media firm for covert operations

Blinken: RT's activities aim to weaken U.S. and other democracies

## BY CATHERINE BELTON

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Russian state media company RT is being deployed by the Kremlin to conduct cyberintelligence and covert influence operations across the globe as well as to help procure weapons

for Russia's war against Ukraine. State Department officials warned Friday that the newly exposed covert Russian disinformation operation to influence public opinion in the United States represents only a small fraction of Moscow's efforts to undermine democracies globally through its state propaganda arm RT.

Announcing new sanctions against RT's parent companies, Rossiya Segodnya and TV-Novosti, that aim to cripple funding for RT and its operations, Blinken said new information showed that these entities "are no longer merely fire hoses of Russian propaganda and disinformation. They are engaged in covert influence activities aimed at undermining American elections and democracies, functioning like a de facto arm of Russia's SEE PROPAGANDA ON A9

**ELECTION 2024** 

# Harris's meme masters taking TikTok by storm

'Feral 25-year-olds' tap rhythms of online culture for quick-reaction virality

### BY DREW HARWELL

After Tuesday night's debate, as former president Donald Trump worked the reporters in the spin room in Philadelphia, Vice President Kamala Harris's TikTok team was busy appealing to a different

In the digital "war room" at campaign headquarters in Wilmington, Del., they hit the button on their pièce de résistance shortly after midnight: A six-second video that mocked Trump's performance by showing his lectern inhabited by a laughably dramatic "Dance Moms" star. "I thought I was ready to be back. I thought I was stronger than this but obviously I'm not," she lamented. "I wanna go home.'

Viewed more than 7 million times, the video was produced by a small TikTok team - all 25 and under, some working their first jobs - given unfettered freedom to chase whatever they think will go viral. Over the past eight weeks, Harris's social media team has helped supercharge her campaign, harnessing the rhythms and absurdities of internet culture to create one of the most inventive and irreverent get-outthe-vote strategies in modern pol-

They have trolled Trump inside his own social network, Truth Social. They have made viral memes out of bags of Doritos and camouflage hats. In 2016, a single Hillary Clinton tweet might have required 12 staffers and 10 drafts; today, many of Harris's TikTok videos are conceived, created and posted in about half an hour.

campaign empowers young people to speak to young people," said Parker Butler, the 24-year-old director of Harris's digital rapid response content, a team that watches all of Trump's speeches and can blast a clip onto social media at a moment's notice. "And we're here to put in the work.

Trump also has leaped forceful-SEE HARRIS ON A4

**Debate bump:** Harris uses buzz to make gains in redder areas. A5

New advisers: Harris adds Obama and Clinton campaign veterans. A5

Internet pounces: Trump's peteating claim sparks meme war. A14



Your food may soon come with

The Food and Drug Administration plans to propose labeling this fall for the front of food and drink packages to help Americans make healthier choices to address exploding obesity rates, years after other countries took similar action.

The labels are supposed to flag products containing high levels of sodium, saturated fat or added sugars - common features of

Warning: FDA may flag that snack

BY LAUREN WEBER AND RACHEL ROUBEIN ultra-processed foods that make up more than half of the calories Americans consume each day. But the labeling options under

consideration by the FDA are not clear enough to protect Americans' health, some nutrition experts and lawmakers say, including Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), chairman of the Senate health committee who has proposed a stricter system.

> "Other countries understand SEE LABELS ON A13

> > **STYLE**

Alone." C1

## IN THE NEWS

Boar's Head plant After a listeria outbreak, the Jarratt, Va., facility will close indefinitely, affecting hundreds of workers. A14

Missing Virginia woman A lawyer for the Manassas Park man charged with concealing the body of his wife, Mamta Bhatt, argued in court that she remains alive. B1

### **THE NATION**

**A survey** found about two-thirds of Americans back term limits for Supreme Court justices. A6 A Secret Service report documented failures before the Trump assassination attempt. A7

### **THE WORLD**

North Korea released uranium-site photos as Kim Jong Un demands more nuclear arms. A8 The Eiffel Tower creator's descendants say they don't want Olympic rings to stay on it. A10

#### THE ECONOMY **Tech giants** object to an

Ohio power company's

plan to have them pay more for grid updates for data centers. A11 **Boeing workers** walked out after rejecting a contract offer as the aerospace giant struggles with financial and safety issues. A12

## **THE REGION**

**Residents** who bought condos that turned out to be uninhabitable won a round in their bid to hold D.C. liable. B1 **Drought concerns** 

particularly affected. B1

#### grow in the region amid a month featuring almost no rainfall, with areas west of the District

**SPORTS** The U.S. team took a 6-2 lead over Europe after the first day of the Solheim Cup. D1

with her Hulu comedy

series, "How to Die

#### **BUSINESS NEWS** Writer-actress OBITUARIES. Natasha Rothwell steps into the leading role TELEVISION

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