



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



PHOTOS BY ALLISON ROBERT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

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

BY KATIE SHEPHERD



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.

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-

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-foot-long 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

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 crowd.

In the digital "war room" at campaign headquarters in Wilmington, Del., they hit the button on their piece 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-out-the-vote strategies in modern politics.

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.

"This 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 forcefully

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 pet-eating claim sparks meme war. **A14**

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



HARUKO HAYAKAWA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Your food may soon come with warnings.

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

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**

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Drought concerns grow in the region amid a month featuring almost no rainfall, with areas west of the District particularly affected. **B1**

STYLE
Writer-actress Natasha Rothwell steps into the leading role with her Hulu comedy series, "How to Die Alone." **C1**

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

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The Washington Post
Year 147, No. 53974

