

# 'The defining photo of the Biden presidency:' Image of Joe Biden crumpling during tense exchange with reporters at press conference on Afghanistan covers newspapers worldwide

(Courtesy of the Daily Mail)

- Critics mocked Biden over image that showed him hanging his head during a testy exchange with reporter
- Moment came during an emotional press conference after attack killed 13 US troops in Afghanistan
- Biden ended the press conference in dispute with Fox News' Peter Doocy when he hung his head
- Conservatives called it a 'defining image' of Biden's presidency saying it portrayed weakness
- Liberals seemed to see the same image as a moment of somber reflection at the death of US troops

Images of President [Joe Biden](#) hanging his head during tense exchanges with reports after the deadly suicide attack in Kabul are being called by some a 'defining' moment of his presidency.

The memorable scene unfolded at the end of Biden's press conference on Thursday, as [Fox News](#) reporter Peter Doocy pressed him on the disastrous pullout from Afghanistan, where 13 US troops and scores of Afghan civilians were killed in two suicide blasts.

The 78-year-old president was visibly emotional as he vowed revenge on ISIS-K, but while reporters from a pre-approved list asked him questions, he appeared lost for words at times and and frustrated in others, gripping his notebook and widening his eyes.

During the exchange with Doocy, Biden pressed the reporter to acknowledge that he remembered that [Donald Trump](#) had made a deal with the [Taliban](#) to withdraw -- then hung his head down toward the podium as Doocy pressed him on whether the manner of the withdrawal had been sound.

Photos of the moment quickly spread around the globe, featuring on the front pages and websites of the liberal-leaning New York Daily News and Washington Post as well as the conservative-leaning Fox News and New York Post.

Local daily papers such as the Terre-Haute, Indiana Tribune Star, the Roanoke Times in Virginia, and the Hot Spring, Arkansas Sentinel-Record also featured the image on their front pages Friday.

Internationally, the UK Telegraph ran the photo prominently alongside a commentary stating that Biden 'has blood on his hands and his presidency will not recover.'

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## Vamos caçá-los até o fim e fazê-los pagar, diz Biden sobre ataque no Afeganistão

Líder americano afirma que plano de retirada das tropas continua; explosões foram reivindicadas por braço do EI



26 ago 2021 às 18h40  
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EDIÇÃO IMPRESSA

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Rafael Balago

**WASHINGTON** Os ataques que deixaram ao menos 73 mortos no aeroporto de Cabul, entre os quais 13 militares americanos, não farão os EUA reverem os planos de retirar suas tropas do Afeganistão, disse o presidente Joe Biden nesta quinta (26).

O democrata lamentou as mortes e prometeu vingança contra os autores da ação, mas reafirmou que considera ter tomado a decisão correta sobre encerrar a operação no país, dizendo que isso evitará a perda de mais vidas americanas.

"Não vamos perdoar, não vamos esquecer. Vamos caçar vocês e fazê-los pagar", afirmou Biden, em pronunciamento na Casa Branca. Ele disse que a operação de retirada de americanos e aliados do país seguirá com o cronograma atual —a data limite estipulada é o próximo dia 31— e que os americanos não serão intimidados. "A missão para retirar os americanos e seus aliados do Afeganistão continua."



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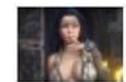
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UNITED STATES

# Biden promise to strike extremists faces new Afghan reality

**RB** By Robert Burns And Lolita C. Baldor The Associated Press  
Fri., Aug. 27, 2021 | 6 min. read

🕒 Article was updated 38 mins ago





AFGHANISTAN CRISIS

## US warns of 'credible threats' to Kabul airlift in wake of suicide bombing

At least 72 civilians and 13 US troops killed in Thursday's attack near Kabul airport, which has been claimed by the Islamic State jihadist group.



BLOOMBERG - ANALYSIS

## Deadly Kabul attack shakes Biden's Afghan exit strategy



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## Biden Following Orders

27 Aug, 2021 20:26



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Horror in Afghanistan on Thursday, as terrorists strike killing and wounding U.S. Troops. Wait until you see how one MSNBC analyst reacted to the news of the attacks. Plus, President Biden reveals during a press conference he is only answering questions from reporters he was told to call on.

Just one day earlier... President Joe Biden Jokes about Americans possibly being left behind. We'll show you what was said.

Riots are fast becoming the norm on the streets of Portland and the national media doesn't care. Andy Ngo DOES, and he joins us to discuss.  
President Biden gives a warning to those responsible for the terror attacks killing and wounding U.S. troops at Kabul airport. Do we believe him?  
Reporting on the exploits of Hunter Biden is off limits to the mainstream media, but soon there will be a movie all about "My Son Hunter", directed by actor Robert Davi. He's here to tell us all about it.

In Germany, WELT ran the image with a story reading: 'Joe Biden had campaigned with foreign policy experience and reliability. The chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan has ruined that reputation.'

The Buenos Aires Times in Argentina featured the image on its homepage with the headline 'Deadly Kabul attack shakes Biden's Afghan exit strategy.'

The Argentine article published text from American news site Bloomberg calling the bombings a 'trying day' for Biden's presidency and characterizing the president as having taken responsibility for 'all that's happened of late.'

Brazil's Folha de S. Paulo also ran the image with a neutral original story while other sites like the Toronto Star and Egypt's Al-Ahram ran similar images with neutral text from the Associated Press - a U.S. news agency.

The Russian state-owned news site RT did not appear to run the image but was particularly biting against Biden with its commentary, with an article simply headlined 'Biden Following Orders.' The outlet is registered as a foreign agent in the United States.

'Horror in Afghanistan on Thursday, as terrorists strike killing and wounding U.S. Troops. Wait until you see how one MSNBC analyst reacted to the news of the attacks,' the RT article reads. 'Plus, President Biden reveals during a press conference he is only answering questions from reporters he was told to call on.'

Stripped of specific context, the image resonated across the political spectrum, with liberals interpreting it as a moment of somber, emotional reaction to the loss of US life, and conservatives insisting it portrayed shame and weakness.

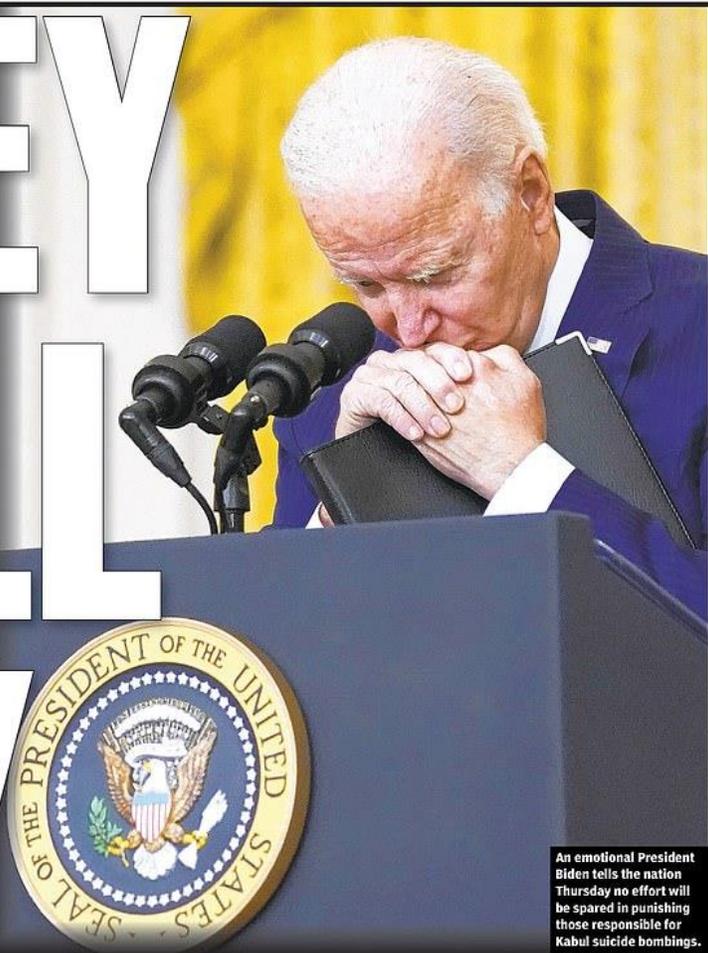
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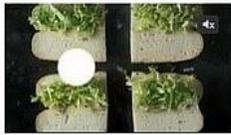
# THEY WILL PAY



An emotional President Biden tells the nation Thursday no effort will be spared in punishing those responsible for Kabul suicide bombings.

### Biden promises to hunt down terrorists who killed 13 U.S. service members

SEE PAGES 4-5



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'A defining image': Photo of Biden goes viral



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# Kabul airport blasts kill 13 U.S. troops, dozens of Afghans

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- 10:30 a.m.  
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Japan condemns Kabul attacks, says still working to evacuate citizens and staff

## ISIS claims responsibility; Biden vows retribution

By John Hudson, Alex Horton, Missy Ryan and Dan Lamothe

## ISIS-K, the group behind the attack, sees both the Taliban and the United States as enemies

By Hannah Allam and Souad Mekhennet



Wounded Afghans lie on beds at a hospital after a deadly explosion outside the airport in Kabul on Thursday. (Mohammad Asif Khani/AP)

## 'Dead people were everywhere': Carnage and chaos at Kabul airport

Afghan families desperate to flee Taliban were cut down by a suicide bomber.

By Susannah George, Ezzatullah Mehdad and Sudarsan Raghavan

- ♦ An army of veterans and volunteers organizes online to evacuate Afghans

## Biden receives heated criticism from Republicans, questions from some Democrats

By Paul Kane

## World leaders, Taliban condemn bombings

By Claire Parker



## Biden struggles to address most volatile crisis of his presidency

By Sean Sullivan and Anne Gearan

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## Joe Biden has blood on his hands and his presidency will not recover

We are slowly learning the full extent of Joe Biden's culpability for the Afghanistan debacle

By Nick Allen IN WASHINGTON  
27 August 2021 • 7:00am

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Joe Biden, USA, Taliban, Afghanistan, Kabul



President Joe Biden pauses as he listens to a question about the bombings at the Kabul airport | CREDIT: AP

Joe Biden now has not only Afghan, but American, blood on his hands. And it will stain his presidency forever.

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'The deep grief on President Biden's face as his eyes swelled with tears was painful to watch,' wrote New York Post columnist Michael Goodwin. 'But his personal suffering cannot exonerate him from the responsibility for what happened in Kabul.'

The Washington Post news section called Thursday's attack 'the most volatile crisis of his young presidency' noting that 'it may take time to show whether he can maintain his image as an able president with solid instincts.'

Republican strategist Matt Whitlock called the moment 'a defining image' while conservative commentator Benny Johnson similarly labeled it 'the defining photo of the Biden Presidency.'

The conservative Daily Caller remarked on Twitter that the image was an 'optics disaster'.

Writing for Fox News, opinion columnist James Jay Carafano said that Biden at the press conference had 'delivered more excuses why the hole he dug isn't getting deeper.'

The New York Times avoided using the image of Biden hanging his head. The newspaper noted in the news section that Biden's defense of the Afghanistan withdrawal was 'unlikely to satisfy his critics, including some members of his own party, who disagreed with the way Mr. Biden brought an end to the war.'

The Associated Press caption on a photo of Biden hanging his head described it thus: 'President Joe Biden pauses as he listens to a question about the bombings at the Kabul airport that killed at least 12 U.S. service members.'

Speaking later on Thursday to his network, Doocy reflected on his exchange with Biden, which came at the end of the press conference.

Though Biden had a prepared list of reporters to call on, he appeared to go off-script when he called on Doocy, whom he called 'the most interesting guy that I know in the press.'

'We were happy that the president took our question on a day that is very somber and very important to a huge portion of our viewing audience,' Doocy remarked later to Fox News host Sean Hannity. 'It's been a very somber day.'



**Matt Whitlock**   
@mattdizwhitlock



A defining image.



5:58 PM · Aug 26, 2021 · Twitter Web App



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## AFGHANISTAN WAR

# 'We will not be deterred'

## Biden vows to finish Kabul evacuation, avenge U.S. deaths

By **ROBERT BURNS, DARLENE SUPERVILLE AND MATTHEW LEE**  
Associated Press • Washington

President Joe Biden vowed Thursday to complete the evacuation of American citizens and others from Afghanistan despite the day's deadly suicide bomb attack at the Kabul airport. He promised to avenge the deaths of 13 U.S. service members killed in the attack, declaring to the extremists responsible: "We will hunt you down and make you pay."

Speaking with emotion from the White House, Biden said the Islamic State group's Afghanistan affiliate was to blame for the attacks that killed the Americans and many more Afghan civilians. He said there was no evidence they colluded with the Taliban, who now control the country.

He asked for a moment of silence to honor the service members, bowing his head, and ordered U.S. flags to half-staff across the country.

As for the bombers and gunmen involved, he said, "We have some reason to believe we know who they are ... not certain." He said he had instructed military commanders to develop plans to strike IS "assets, leadership and facilities."



Pause: President Joe Biden pauses as he listens to a question about the bombings at the Kabul airport that killed at least 13 U.S. service members. Biden speaks from the East Room of the White House.

Turn to **BIDEN, A7**



Boarding: Loadmasters and pilots assigned to the 616th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron load people onto a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday.

## Kabul airport attack kills 13 U.S. troops

### At least 60 Afghans killed, hundreds injured

By **SAVED ZIARMAI HASHEMI AND JOSEPH KRAUSS**  
Associated Press • Kabul, Afghanistan

Two suicide bombers and gunmen flocked to Kabul's airport Thursday, transforming a scene of desperation into one of horror in the waning days of an airlift for those fleeing the Taliban takeover. The attacks killed at least 60 Afghans and 13

U.S. troops, Afghan and U.S. officials said.

The U.S. general overseeing the evacuation said the attacks would not stop the United States from evacuating Americans and others, and flights out were continuing. Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command, said there was a large amount of security at the airport, and alternate routes were being used to get evacuees in. About 5,000 people were awaiting flights on the airfield, McKenzie said.

The blasts came hours after Western officials warned of a major attack, urging people to leave the

airport. But that advice went largely unheeded by Afghans desperate to escape the country in the last few days of an American-led evacuation before the U.S. officially ends its 20-year presence on Aug. 31.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the killings on its Amaq news channel. The IS affiliate in Afghanistan is far more radical than the Taliban, who recently took control of the country in a lightning blitz. The Taliban were not believed to have been involved in the attacks and condemned the blasts.

The blasts came hours after Western officials warned of a major attack, urging people to leave the

Turn to **ATTACK, A7**

## 33-foot-tall singer, flowers, apple trees symbolize Paris' small-town appeal

### Project brings 3 murals to buildings around town square

The simple pleasures of small-town life and its gradual pace are having a moment in 2021.

Businesses adapted to the pandemic's peak in 2020 by having employees work online from home, and the trend led many to continue that practice. Given the option, more Americans are choosing to live in small towns, while working remotely for companies dozens, even thousands, of miles away from the office. Interest is so high that some small towns, like those in northwest

Arkansas, are offering thousands of dollars to remote workers willing to move to their communities.

USA Today reported this month.

Forty-five percent of Americans say they'd prefer living in a small town or rural area, according to a CBS News poll released last week. Country living far outpolled life in a city (29%) or the suburbs (28%).



**MARK BENNETT**  
Tribune-Star

A mural project this summer in Paris, Illinois, celebrates that appeal.

The effort includes a 33-foot-tall image — still in progress — of native son and country music star Brett Eldredge on the side of the Goodwill building downtown, as well as two others that involved local school kids working alongside Paris Mayo Middle school art teacher and artist Millie Arp. All three are eye-catching.

"We're trying to get people excited about Paris and get them to come here," said Callie Keys, a lifelong resident and vice president of the Paris Improvement Organization (or PIO).

Turn to **BENNETT, A6**



Tribune-Star/Mark Bennett

Past meets present: Young artists painted this mural on the side of a building this summer in downtown Paris, Ill. It features a line from the 1943 movie "Casablanca," uttered by Humphrey Bogart's character Rick Blaine to his old flame Ilsa, played by Ingrid Bergman.

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Doocy was one of the six members of the press the president called on at the briefing.

The reporter asked him: 'There had not been a U.S. service member killed in combat since February of 2020. You set a deadline, you pulled troops out, you sent troops back in, and now 12 Marines are dead,' using the death toll that has since been updated to confirm an extra fatality.

'You said the buck stops with you. Do you bear any responsibility for the way things have unfolded the last two weeks?' Doocy asked.

Biden griped his notebook with both hands and was quick with his first answer.

'I bear responsibility for fundamentally all that's happened of late,' he responded.

He then tried to blame it on Donald Trump, saying Trump planned to be out by May 1 and that he delayed it.

'You know – I wish one day you'd say these things. You know as well as I do that the former President made a deal with the Taliban that he would get all American forces out of Afghanistan by May 1. In return the was made - that was a year before.

'In return for the commitment, the Taliban would continue to attack others but would not attack any American forces. Remember that? I'm being serious. I'm asking you a question,' he said.

'Is that accurate to the best of your knowledge, yes or no,' said Biden, trying to get Doocy to commit to an answer about Trump's blame in the affair.

MICHAEL GOODWIN

# Hiding behind tears Sorry Biden's decisions led to Kabul carnage



President Joe Biden's weak response to deadly bombings killing 13 service members and numerous Afghans is just another sign of him surrendering to the Taliban, The Post's Michael Goodwin writes.



**US troops will need to return to combat in Afghanistan 'to get ISIS': ex-defense secretary**



**Biden admits admin may have given Taliban 'kill list' of Afghans who aided US**

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## Fountain Lake mandates masks, quarantines rise

**BRANDON SMITH**  
*The Sentinel-Record*

**FOUNTAIN LAKE** — After a recent uptick in the number of positive cases of COVID-19 and students being quarantined, the Fountain Lake School District has implemented a mask mandate for students and staff on campus.

The new mask policy, which was approved unanimously during Tuesday night's school board meeting, went into effect immediately after the district saw 21 positive cases and 135 students quarantined. The mandate, which requires the wearing of masks while indoors

or on school buses during normal school hours, will remain in effect until Oct. 11, at which point the board will revisit the issue to determine whether or not it needs to be extended.

Fountain Lake Superintendent Michael Murphy brought recent community staff survey results before the board at the meeting, which showed 52.7% of the 866 surveyed in favor of a mask mandate and 47.3% opposed. He said Thursday that they began seeing an increase in positive cases once school started on Aug. 16.

"We came back to the board of education because we had 21

positive cases and over 130 students quarantined and we felt as though, by implementing a mask mandate, if both individuals are wearing a face covering and they're in close contact on a test-positive, it avoids them from having to quarantine unless they develop symptoms," he said Thursday.

"And so with the limited number of individual students who have received vaccines, it really gave us another method to keep kids in school. ... And so they did vote after about an hour and 45 minutes of deliberation. They did vote 5-0 to implement a mask mandate that

really focuses on our school buses and our classrooms. Any time that a child is outside, it's their discretion. So it's really, 'Can we socially distance in a classroom?'"

Murphy said he believes that many of those students who are currently quarantined will come off by this weekend and that the number will hopefully be going down going into next week. As of Thursday morning, out of the district's 1,382 total student population, 10 elementary school students had tested positive with 66



■ Fountain Lake Middle School teacher Michael Carey teaches U.S. History on Wednesday, Aug. 18.

See MASKS on Page 3A

## NPC gets approval to pursue four-year degrees

**JOHN ANDERSON**  
*The Sentinel-Record*

National Park College's Board of Trustees on Wednesday approved a resolution to move forward with submitting a Letter of Intent to the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to offer four-year bachelor's degrees.

The college plans to start by offering a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, "due to the critical need for the local health care industry and because students have repeatedly expressed the need for the degree," a news release said.

"We're excited obviously by the opportunity. There's a long way to go. We're just at the beginning of the process, but we certainly are excited to make the proposal," Wade Darden, NPC's vice president for academic affairs, said.

"The proposal itself that's coming before the board is a little generic because we have to ask the state and our creditors to change the scope of the college to allow for bachelor's degrees. But the only one that we are focusing on right now is a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, which would be a post-licensure degree because we already offer an associate degree and students get their nursing license upon receiving that degree. So it would basically be another 30 to 35 credit hours to receive that bachelor's degree," he said.

Getting the four-year degree in nursing for NPC is a long process. The college is required to submit a Letter of Intent to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. The Letter of Intent requires the college's board of trustees' approval, which they did on Wednesday, Darden said.

"Along with that is a role and scope proposal, which outlines sort of an overview of what our plans are, and our financial situation and our staffing situation, sort of an analysis of our resources. And then there is the degree proposal itself, which is the third step; we'll submit all of that at the same time. I think the deadline is Nov. 1 for us to submit that to the state for their consideration," he said.

The degree proposal will outline what courses will be

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See NPC on Page 2A

## U.S. troops among those attacked in Kabul

At least 13 Americans, 60 Afghans die by suicide bombers, gunmen



■ President Joe Biden pauses as he listens to a question about the bombings at the Kabul airport that killed at least 13 U.S. service members, from the East Room of the White House, on Thursday, in Washington.

**SAYED ZIARMAL HASHEMI, RAHIM FAIEZ, LOLITA C. BALDOR AND JOSEPH KRAUSS**  
*The Associated Press*

**ABUL, Afghanistan** — Two suicide bombers and gunmen attacked crowds of Afghans flocking to Kabul's airport Thursday, transforming a scene of desperation into one of horror in the waning days of an airlift for those fleeing the Taliban takeover. The attacks killed at least 60 Afghans and 13 U.S. troops, Afghan and U.S. officials said.

The U.S. general overseeing the evacuation said the attacks would not stop the United States from evacuating Americans and others, and flights out were continuing. Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command, said there was a large amount of security at the airport, and alternate routes were being used to get evacuees in. About 5,000 people were awaiting flights on the airfield, McKenzie said.

The blasts came hours after Western officials warned of a major attack, urging people to

See KABUL on Page 4A

## Majestic Park tours available in-person, via video, for free

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

Baseball fans who are unable to attend today's free tour of Hot Springs' new Majestic Park baseball complex can still get a bird's-eye view thanks to the generosity of a local resident.

Hot Springs resident Bob Nagy took high-definition drone

See TOURS on Page 4A



■ The restored steam locomotive Big Boy No. 4014 departs Malvern and heads to North Little Rock on Thursday. It is making its second journey through Arkansas this week. The locomotive is 132 feet long and weighs about 1.2 million pounds. According to the Union Pacific website, Big Boy No. 4014 departed Cheyenne, Wyo., on Aug. 5, and is also traveling through Colorado, Kansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas.

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■ The Ohio Club co-owner Dona Pletty, left, and Chef Michael Dampier display a dish of Landslide Fries at the club on Thursday.

## 'Landslide' victory The Ohio Club comes roaring back on Foody Friday

**TYLER WANN**  
*The Sentinel-Record*

"That's the joy I get, is walking out and seeing people take a bite of their food and smile, and that just makes me happy," said Michael Dampier with The Ohio Club. "That's the best review you can get, is seeing that smile and that nod, that the food is good."

Dampier now serves as the general manager and "burger chef" at the club. Though he's taken some classes, he said he doesn't have formal training.

"That's why when people, you know, 'Hey chef, hey chef,' I'm like 'I'm not a chef, just call me the burger chef,'" he said.

Dampier said his cooking inspiration comes from his mother, who he worked with on weekends for a time.

"I did not want to cook. My mom probably fed everybody that came through Montgomery County for 30 years. And I watched her work hard, sweat, and it was hard work and I swore I'd never do that," said Dampier. "But, I would grill food and cook out. In places that I worked for, I would be the guy feeding everybody for company picnics. And so I just

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The state has a new website for COVID-19 updates for Garland County and the rest of Arkansas: <https://bit.ly/2UIBAHR>  
County numbers reflect confirmed and probable cases but were not updated by presettler: cumulative cases, 14,146; deaths, 313; active cases, 694



Doocy responded by saying, 'Do you think the people have an issue with the way things have happened?'

Clearly frustrated, Biden put his head in his hands.

He lifted his head, took a breath to compose himself and answered.

'I think they have an issue that people are likely to get hurt. Some as we've seen have gotten killed, and that it is messy.

'The reason why, whether my friend will acknowledge it or has reported it, the reason why there were no attacks on Americans as you said from the day I came into office was because a commitment was made by President Trump: I will be out by May 1.

'In the meantime, you agree not to attack any Americans That was the deal. That's why no American was attacked.'

Biden seemed content with his answer and braced for the follow up question. His eyes widened and his body tensed. His hands dropped to in front of his body.

'So you squarely stand by your decision to pull out,' Doocy asked.

The president dug his heels in and demonstratively said, 'Yes, I do.'

'Because look at it this way folks, and I have another meeting for real. But imagine where we'd be if I had indicated on May the first that I was not going to renegotiate an evacuation date. We were going to stay there,' he said.

'I'd have only one alternative: to pour thousands of troops back into Afghanistan to fight a war that we had already won relative to the reason why we went in the first place.

'I have never been of the view that we should be sacrificing American lives to try to establish a democratic government in Afghanistan, a country that has never once in its entire history been a united country.

'And is made up of different tribes who have never ever ever got along with one another. So as I said before, and this is the last comment I'll make, we'll have a chance to talk about this unfortunately beyond because we are not out yet.

'And so, as I said before -- and this is the last comment I'll make, but we'll have more chance to talk about this, unfortunately, beyond, because we're not out yet -- if Osama bin Laden, as well as al Qaeda, had chosen to launch an attack -- when they left Saudi Arabia -- out of Yemen, would we have ever gone to Afghanistan? Even though the Taliban completely controlled Afghanistan at the time, would we have ever gone?'

I know it's not fair to ask you questions. It's rhetorical. But raise your hand if you think we should have gone and given up thousands of lives and tens of thousands of wounded.

'Our interest in going was to prevent al Qaeda from reemerging -- first to get bin Laden, wipe out al Qaeda in Afghanistan, and prevent that from happening again.

'As I've said 100 times: Terrorism has metastasized around the world; we have greater threats coming out of other countries a heck of a lot closer to the United States.

'We don't have military encampments there; we don't keep people there. We have over-the-horizon capability to keep them from going after us.

'Ladies and gentlemen, it was time to end a 20-year war.'

Biden's handling of the withdrawal has been almost universally condemned.