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STARS AND STRIPES®

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Attacks on US troops in Iraq and Syria rise

By DOUG G. WARE
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria have been attacked by militant groups almost two dozen times in the past two weeks amid growing unrest in the Middle East, a Pentagon official said Monday.

U.S. and coalition bases in Iraq and Syria have seen a dramatic increase in rocket and drone attacks since the militant group Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, which sparked a campaign by Israel that has included the bombing of Gaza and a ground invasion of the Palestinian territory. The Pentagon has said there had been several attacks on American and coalition forces in Syria and Iraq since the fighting started between Israel and Hamas. On Monday, a senior defense official said the number of attacks has increased to 23.

"From Oct. 17 to [today], U.S. and coalition forces have been attacked at least 14 separate times in Iraq and nine separate times in Syria," said the official, who gave updated details about the attacks on condition of anonymity. "Many of these attacks were successfully disrupted by our military. Most failed to reach their targets thanks to our robust defenses."

Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh told reporters later Monday that three of the new attacks in Syria occurred in recent days at bases in Green Village and al-Shaddadi. The number of attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria on Thursday had reached 16. Some of the previous attacks on the bases resulted in minor injuries to American personnel, but it wasn't clear Monday whether the new attacks caused new injuries.

SEE RISE ON PAGE 7



ARIEL SCHALIT/AP

An Israeli armored personnel carrier moves near the border with Gaza Strip on Tuesday.

Israelis push deeper into Gaza

800,000 Palestinians flee south as PM vows to crush Hamas militants

By WAFEE SHURAF
AND SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israeli troops battled Hamas militants and attacked underground compounds on Tuesday with a focus on northern Gaza. An estimated 800,000 Palestinians have fled south, even though Israeli airstrikes have pounded the entirety of the besieged enclave.

Buoyed by the first successful rescue of a captive held by Hamas, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected calls for a ceasefire and again vowed to crush Hamas' ability to govern Gaza or threaten Israel following its bloody Oct. 7 rampage, which ignited the war.



HATEM ALI/AP

Palestinians look for survivors after an Israeli strike in Rafah, Gaza Strip, on Tuesday.

In the Jabaliya refugee camp on Gaza City's outskirts, at least six airstrikes destroyed a number of apartment blocks in a residential area, the Hamas-run Interior Ministry said. It reported a large number of casualties but did not immediately provide details.

Footage of the scene from Al-Jazeera TV showed at least four large craters where buildings once stood, amid a large swath of rubble surrounded by partially collapsed structures. Dozens of rescue workers and bystanders dug through the wreckage, searching for survivors beneath the pancaked buildings. A group of young men pulled two children from the upper

SEE PUSH ON PAGE 8

BUSINESS/WEATHER

AB InBev earnings up; Bud Light backlash still strong

Associated Press

Anheuser-Busch Inbev said Tuesday that revenue growth in most of its global regions was offset by a drop in North American sales, in a sign of continuing fallout from a promotion with a transgender influencer that cost it sales.

The world's largest brewer and parent company of Bud Light said adjusted earnings for the latest quarter rose 4.1% to \$5.4 billion on revenues that climbed 5% to \$15.6 billion.

Revenue in the United States for the July-September period, however, tumbled 13.5%. AB InBev, based in Leuven, Belgium, noted that sales to retailers were down "primarily due to the volume decline of Bud Light."

Bud Light sales plunged amid a conservative backlash after the brand sent a commemorative can to transgender influencer Dylan Mulvaney in early April.

The controversy toppled Bud Light from its position as America's best-selling beer for more

than two decades. In June, it dropped to second place in U.S. retail sales behind Modelo Especial. Modelo remains the market leader, with nearly 9% share in year-to-date retail sales through Oct. 21. Bud Light has an 8% share.

U.S. dollar sales of Bud Light were down 29% in the four weeks ending Oct. 21 compared to same period a year ago, according to Nielsen data compiled by Bump Williams Consulting. They are down nearly 19% for the year to date.

EXCHANGE RATES			
Military rates			
Euro costs (Nov. 1)	\$1.04	Switzerland (Franc)	0.9066
British pound (Nov. 1)	\$1.19	Thailand (Baht)	36.01
Japanese yen (Nov. 1)	146.00	Turkey (NewLira)	28.2929
South Korean won (Nov. 1)	1314.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
Commercial rates		INTEREST RATES	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	Prime rate	8.50
Britain (Pound)	1.2136	Interest Rates Discount rate	6.00
Canada (Dollar)	1.3868	Federal funds market rate	5.33
China (Yuan)	7.3164	3-month bill	5.49
Denmark (Krone)	7.0406	30-year bond	5.04
Egypt (Pound)	30.9009		
Euro	0.9432		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8239		
Hungary (Forint)	360.56		
Israel (Shekel)	4.0328		
Japan (Yen)	150.98		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3091		
Norway (Krone)	11.1932		
Philippines (Peso)	56.83		
Poland (Zloty)	4.19		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7517		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3687		
South Korea (Won)	1352.27		

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MILITARY

New Marine Corps commandant hospitalized

By DOUG G. WARE
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Gen. Eric Smith, who was recently confirmed as the new commandant of the Marine Corps, has been hospitalized due to an emergency, the service said Monday.

Smith experienced a “medical emergency” Sunday night and was immediately taken to a hospital, the Marine Corps said.

The service did not specify whether Smith was at home during the emergency or address the nature or severity of his medical condition.



Smith

Lt. Gen. Karsten Heckl, the most senior officer at Marine Corps headquarters, is performing the duties of the commandant, the service said. Heckl is the commander of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

President Joe Biden nominated Smith in May to succeed Gen. David Berger as the Marine Corps commandant, which is the top-ranking position in the ser-

vice. But Smith’s appointment was delayed — along with those of hundreds of other top military officers — by Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., over a Pentagon policy that reimburses expenses to troops who want to travel to other states to get reproductive care, including abortions.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., in September placed several of the top nominations — including those of Smith and Air Force Gen. Charles “CQ” Brown, the nominee to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff — up for

individual votes on the Senate floor.

Smith was confirmed as the commandant in a 96-0 vote. Usually, large numbers of nominations are confirmed through voice votes.

Before Smith became commandant, he served in the Marine Corps for 36 years and deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. He attempted to crack down on hazing and sexual assault when overseeing Marines in California and said in an August message to service members that he will continue to work to eliminate is-

sues that cause division.

“I owe you a command climate where honest mistakes can be made, where Marines are treated like professionals and where discipline is central to who we are,” Smith wrote.

As a general officer, he commanded U.S. Marine Corps Forces Southern Command, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

Stars and Stripes reporter Svetlana Shkolnikova contributed to this report.
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Staff sergeant’s selfless act marked at base in Poland NCO died saving Polish soldier in Afghanistan

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Ollis’ heroics when he sacrificed his life to save a Polish soldier during an attack in Afghanistan in 2013 have become part of military lore in Poland.

The dining facility at Camp Kosciuszko in Poznan, where U.S. and Polish troops eat together, bears his name.

“The memorial reminds us of Michael’s courage and bravery throughout his service,” Brig. Gen. Eric Riley, deputy commanding general of the 10th Mountain Division, said Friday during a ceremony at Camp Kosciuszko.

At the ceremony, the dining facility was christened the Staff Sgt. Michael Harold Ollis Warrior Grill.

Ollis, who served with the 10th Mountain Division during Operation Enduring Freedom, was killed Aug. 28, 2013, when his outpost in Ghazni came under attack by insurgents. During the battle, he shielded Polish Lt. Karol Cierpika from a suicide bomber.

Ollis was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart and the Polish Army Gold Medal for valor. In 2019, his award was upgraded to the Distin-

guished Service Cross, the second-highest U.S. military honor.

“Michael is a revered hero in the Polish community,” the Army said in a statement. “He not only saved Cierpika but several lives during the attack.”

In the years since his death, Ollis’ family has forged a bond with Cierpika, who was on hand at the ceremony along with Ollis’ parents and sister, Kelly Manzolillo.

“He was fulfilling his dreams; he always wanted to be a soldier,” Manzolillo said. “Michael was brave and kind. His friends, teachers and everyone only have kind words to say.”

Polish army Lt. Col. Adam Dabrowski, commander of the 14th Garrison Support Unit in Poznan, said the renamed dining facility will serve as “a place where the Polish and Americans can dine together and strengthen as allies.”

“Ollis will always be in our hearts and minds,” Dabrowski said.

Camp Kosciuszko serves as the headquarters for the U.S. Army’s V Corps and was activated in March as the service’s first permanent garrison in Poland.

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KAREN SAMPSON/U.S. Army

Robert Ollis, father of U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Ollis, touches the embossed lettering of his son’s name on a memorial plaque at a ceremony on Oct. 27 when the dining facility at Camp Kosciuszko in Poznan, Poland, was named after Michael Ollis.

Marines wrap up 6-month rotation to Australia marked by loss

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

U.S. Marines deployed to Australia are back home after concluding a six-month rotation packed with training and marked by loss, the Marine Corps announced Monday.

The 2023 iteration of Marine Rotational Force-Darwin — the 12th since 2012 — officially ended Oct. 1 after months of training alongside the Australian Defense Force and other allies in Australia and elsewhere, the force said in a news release.

“In six months, we completed nine major military exercises and partnered with military organizations throughout the Indo-Pacific

to conduct valuable training events, all of which increased our collective readiness and posture for responding to crisis and contingency,” Col. Brendan Sullivan, force commander, said in the release.

The 2,500 Marines who comprised the rotational force began arriving in Australia in March.

The 1st Marine Regiment commands the force, which is made up of troops from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment and Combat Logistics Battalion 1, all from Camp Pendleton, Calif.; other components, such as Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363, contribute to the force.

In July, the Marines partici-

pated in Southern Jackaroo drills alongside the Australian army’s 7th Brigade and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, according to the release. The force also traveled to the Philippines numerous times, including for the Australia-Philippines exercise Indo-Pacific Endeavor.

“The training opportunities provided by our Allies and partners throughout the region are unlike any other I have experienced in my career,” Sullivan said.

In July and August, the Marines participated in the largest-ever iteration of the Talisman Sabre exercise alongside thousands of other American and Australian soldiers and more than a dozen allied

and partner militaries.

The force later visited Indonesia to take part in Super Garuda Shield, which ran from Aug. 31 to Sept. 13, alongside troops from Australia, Japan, Singapore, France, the United Kingdom and Indonesia itself.

This year’s deployment was marked by loss.

Less than a month after Talisman Sabre concluded on Aug. 4, three Marines attached to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363 and deployed to the rotation force died after their MV-22B Osprey crashed on Melville Island, north of Darwin in the Northern Territory.

The three Marines were Cpl.

Spencer Collart, 21, of Arlington, Va., a crew chief; Capt. Eleanor LeBeau, 29, of Belleville, Ill., a pilot; and Maj. Tobin Lewis, 37, of Jefferson, Colo., the squadron’s executive officer.

The crash marked the third fatal incident involving Marine Ospreys since March 2022.

“During the very difficult time surrounding the loss of our three beloved Marines, the Australians provided an outpouring of love and support, standing alongside us in our grieving process and assisting us in carrying on the mission,” Sullivan said.

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PACIFIC

China shadows Philippines near disputed shoal

By JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A Philippine navy patrol ship was shadowed by Chinese forces near a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, sparking a fresh exchange of accusations and warnings between the neighbors Tuesday.

Chinese and Philippine security officials gave conflicting accounts of Monday's encounter near Scarborough Shoal. China has surrounded the shoal with its navy and coast guard ships since a tense standoff with Philippine vessels more than a decade ago.

A rich fishing atoll and a safe mooring area during storms, Scarborough off the northwestern Philippines coast is one of most fiercely contested territories in the South China Sea, where Chinese and Philippine forces have faced off in recent months.

The frequent confrontations, which led to an Oct. 22 collision of

Chinese and Philippine vessels near another disputed shoal, have prompted the United States to repeatedly renew a warning that it's obligated to defend the Philippines, its oldest treaty ally in Asia, if Filipino forces, ships or aircraft come under an armed attack in the Pacific, including in the South China Sea.

Chinese air force Col. Tian Junli, a spokesperson for the Southern Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army, said a Philippine warship trespassed into what he said were Chinese waters around Scarborough Shoal on Monday and was "tracked, monitored, warned and restricted" by the Chinese navy and air force for seriously violating "China's sovereignty and international law."

"We urge the Philippine side to immediately stop its infringement and provocation to avoid further escalation," he said in a statement. "The troops assigned to the PLA



JOEL CALUPITAN/AP

A Chinese coast guard ship, left, with a Chinese militia vessel, right, blocks Philippine coast guard ship, BRP Sindangan as it tried to head toward Second Thomas Shoal at the disputed South China Sea during rotation and resupply mission on Oct. 4.

Southern Theater Command remain on high alert at all times to resolutely defend China's national sovereignty and security and peace and stability in the South China Sea."

Philippine National Security Adviser Eduardo Año, however, said in Manila that the Philippine navy ship carried out a routine patrol of the waters in the vicinity of Scarborough "without any untoward incident," but added that

"Chinese vessels, as usual, conducted shadowing on the movement" of the Philippine navy ship.

Año accused China of hyping up the encounter and "creating unnecessary tensions between our two nations."

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine coast guard will not be deterred by the aggressive and illegal activities" of China's navy, coast guard and militia forces, he added. "We will

protect our territory and sovereign rights at all cost," Año said, citing the orders of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to Filipino forces.

The territorial disputes in the South China Sea, which also involve Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei, have long been feared as an Asian flashpoint and have become a delicate fault line in the regional rivalry between the U.S. and China.

Japanese scallops, safety assurances delivered to Yokota

By JOSEPH DITZLER
AND JEREMY STILLWAGNER
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The U.S. ambassador to Japan delivered a shipment of Hokkaido scallops, along with assurances that the country's seafood is safe to eat, on Tuesday to a commissary where military families shop for groceries at this U.S. airlift hub in western Tokyo.

The staged delivery represents one part of a U.S. agreement to help Japan offset the loss of fresh fish sales to China by selling and consuming its seafood at U.S. military bases in Japan, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel said at the commissary.

"In America we have a saying about being a good neighbor," he said. "This is being a good neighbor."

The scallops delivery is the first of many to commissaries, naval vessels and other outlets serving U.S. service members, Defense Department personnel and their families, he said. He was joined at the commissary by representatives of Japan's government, the Hokkaido Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations, the Defense Commissary Agency, base commander Air Force Col. Andrew Roddan and Marine Corps



JUAN KING/Stars and Stripes

U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel speaks about local seafood inside the commissary at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Tuesday.

Brig. Gen. George B. Rowell, the deputy commander of U.S. Forces Japan.

China imposed a ban on imported Japanese seafood after Japan released water containing radioactive tritium from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant on Aug. 24 and again on Oct. 5, according to news reports.

Emanuel said he serves Japanese seafood at his table.

"I've served the products to my own children; I continue to eat the

products from the Fukushima area," he said. "I've served the fish products to some of the highest elected officials in the United States government and armed forces, and we will continue to stand with our friends in Japan."

Former U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy is among those who dined with Emanuel on Japanese seafood, the ambassador said.

He said the seafood deal begins with scallops from Hokkaido, the

northernmost of Japan's four main islands, but eventually all types of fish will be sold in the commissaries at all 17 U.S. installations in Japan, at farmers markets on some U.S. bases and served on U.S. Navy ships.

Information on the cost for the U.S. to sell or provide Japanese seafood to the military stationed in Japan was unavailable from Defense Commissary Agency representatives Tuesday. Emanuel and the others appeared at a ribbon-cutting event at a seafood cooler inside the Yokota commissary to draw attention to the arrangement.

Emanuel in September called the Chinese ban on Japanese seafood "economic coercion," according to The Associated Press. On Tuesday, he said the ban had backfired.

"If the intent was to isolate Japan, you've isolated China," he said.

Hokkaido was hard hit by the Chinese ban, according to The Japan Times on Sept. 22. Scallops have piled up in industry freezers there while seafood exports to China fell by nearly 70% in August compared to the previous year, the newspaper reported.

The March 2011 tsunami caused by a powerful earthquake off Ja-

pan's northeastern coast inundated the Fukushima power plant and caused a meltdown of its nuclear cores. The plant is slated for decommissioning, of which the release of stored water is one step, according to the Reuters news agency.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has said the millions of tons of water, when released, would have negligible impacts on people and the environment. The water, which cooled nuclear fuel rods, has been treated and will require decades to be emptied from storage tanks, according to the IAEA.

The treatment system removes 62 types of radionuclides but cannot remove tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen that cannot penetrate the skin but "may present a radiation hazard if inhaled or ingested but is only harmful to humans in very large doses," according to the IAEA.

Environmental groups like Greenpeace argue the effects of releasing water from Fukushima need further study.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jonathan Snyder contributed to this report.
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MILITARY

Judge halts barrier cutting

Federal agents must stop snipping wire on Mexico border

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Federal agents were ordered by a judge Monday to stop cutting wire barriers put near the U.S.-Mexico border by the Texas National Guard to deter migrants from crossing into the United States between legal ports of entry.

Texas filed a lawsuit that claims Border Patrol agents are damaging state property, yet a spokesperson with the Department of Homeland Security said the agency is obligated to reach the migrants once they are on American soil and take them into custody.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, a Republican, requested the emergency restraining order Friday to stop the practice of cutting the state's wire barriers just two days after filing a federal lawsuit about it.

"Another win for Texas and our historic border mission," Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said Monday on social media. "[President Joe] Bi-



ROSE L. THAYER/Stars and Stripes

A Texas National Guard soldier looks through a coiled barbed wire barrier into Mexico from Eagle Pass, Texas. U.S. Border Patrol agents have but through barriers like this one more than 20 times since Sept. 20, according to a lawsuit filed by Texas.

den created this crisis and has tried to block us at every turn."

Abbott sent troops to the border two years ago to work alongside the state police to deter human and drug smuggling along the state's border with Mexico. The mission, known as Operation Lone Star, is separate from a federal National Guard mission to support Customs and Border Protection with non-law enforcement activities.

The Texas Military Department said troops working on Operation Lone Star have installed nearly 106 miles of coiled barbed wire to curb the flow of migrants crossing between legal ports of entry all along the border with Mexico.

The wire is typically placed within the boundary of the U.S., and on property owned by the state, local governments or private citizens who have granted

permission for the Guard to access private property.

Border Patrol agents have cut those barriers more than 20 times since Sept. 20, according to the lawsuit filed in the Del Rio Division of the Western District of Texas. Cutting the barrier damages the state's property, according to the lawsuit.

Agents last week used a forklift to raise the wire barrier so more than 300 migrants who had already reached U.S. soil could walk under it and be processed by Customs and Border Protection, according to court documents. Paxton cited this incident in his emergency filing.

Judge Alia Moses put the temporary restraining order in place until Nov. 13 and only specified it protects barriers installed in the west Texas city of Eagle Pass, which has seen a steep increase in

border crossings this year. The judge granted an exception for medical emergencies, according to court documents.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a statement that it will comply with the court's order, but that it does not comment on pending litigation.

"Generally speaking, Border Patrol agents have a responsibility under federal law to take those who have crossed onto U.S. soil without authorization into custody for processing, as well as to act when there are conditions that put our workforce or migrants at risk," according to Homeland Security.

A court hearing is scheduled for Nov. 7, according to online court records.

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Fighter wing commander stepping down

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The head of the 8th Fighter Wing at Kunsan Air Base will relinquish command due to personal reasons after less than half a year on the job.

Col. Timothy Murphy will retire "earlier than planned" on Feb. 1 "solely due to family reasons," said a news release from 7th Air Force at Osan Air Base, roughly 75 miles north of Kunsan.

Murphy took charge of the wing on May 25. He previously served as vice commander of the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

"I did not make this decision lightly, but know it is the best choice for the well-being of my



Murphy

family and the 8th Fighter Wing," he said in the release. "I want to thank the Wolf Pack community for respecting our privacy and being so understanding as we transition to retirement."

The Wolf Pack is the 8th Fighter Wing icon: the initials WP are painted on the wing's aircraft tails. The wing is composed of about 3,200 U.S. service members and Defense Department civilian employees, as well as around 30 F-16s.

Reached by phone Tuesday, 7th Air Force spokeswoman Maj. Rachel Buitrago declined to elabo-

rate on the matter and said Murphy's decision was based solely on his family's well-being.

Col. Matthew Gaetke, commander of the 607th Air Operations Center at Osan, will take charge of the wing on Nov. 8 during a change-of-command ceremony at Kunsan, according to the release.

Seventh Air Force commander Lt. Gen. Scott Pleus thanked Murphy for his 22 years of service.

"We are thankful for Colonel Murphy's service and leadership, not only here in [South Korea], but throughout his entire distinguished career," Pleus said in the release. "Tim has done an incredible job leading the 8th Fighter Wing's Wolf Pack, and they are postured, ready and responsive

today because of that leadership."

During Murphy's tenure as wing commander, Kunsan F-16s have participated in numerous aerial exercises in and around the Korean Peninsula, including the first trilateral air drill between Japanese and South Korean fighter jets on Oct. 22.

Murphy was commissioned with a history degree from the Air Force Academy in 2001, according to his biography. He has clocked over 2,000 flight hours, 409 of them in combat, on F-16 Fighting Falcons and training aircraft. His awards include the Bronze Star, Inherent Resolve Campaign and Afghanistan Campaign medals.

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Paratroops to jump in Hawaii, then in Alaska

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Paratroopers with the Alaska-based 11th Airborne Division were slated to parachute into a training field Tuesday on Hawaii's Big Island as part of the multistate Arctic Aloha exercise.

The midmorning airborne assault by Task Force Spartan was to drop several hundred paratroopers into the 132,000-acre Pohakuloa Training Area, the division said in a statement Monday.

The Halloween jump is part of an exercise intended to prepare the Arctic-based troops for "decisive action operations" in U.S. Army Pacific's area of responsibility, the statement said.

Among those maneuvers will be establishing multiple staging bases, joint planning and joint forcible-entry operations in both the tropical and arctic settings in the Indo-Pacific, the statement said.

During a forcible entry operation, joint forces seize and hold an area against armed opposition that then allows the continuous landing of troops and equipment, according to an Army training document.

Task Force Spartan consists of Alaska-based units from the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) headquarters; the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment; 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion; and the 725th Brigade Support Battalion, the statement said.

The paratroopers were to fly in Air Force C-17s from March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, Calif., to Hawaii for Tuesday's jump. They planned to rig for the forcible entry operation while en route, the statement said.

Following the jump into Pohakuloa Training Area, paratroopers were to again board C-17s for a flight to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, for a second joint forcible entry slated for Thursday. A force-on-force exercise in that vicinity is set to continue through Sunday.

The Arctic Aloha exercise is just one of several being hosted by the Pohakuloa Training Area this week. U.S. Air Force Special Tactics Squad, based at Fort Liberty, N.C., dropped soldiers into the training area using the high-altitude, low-opening mode of skydiving.

U.S. Army Pacific's annual Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center rotation will also bring soldiers from the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division to Pohakuloa Training Area from Wednesday through Nov. 10.

MILITARY

Former soldier faces prison for disability fraud

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

An Army veteran faces up to 20 years in prison after lying about having to use a wheelchair and receiving about \$683,000 in disability benefits by exaggerating his post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms.

Kevin Paul McMains, 43, of Pace, Fla., pleaded guilty Oct. 25 to theft of government money and two counts of making false statements. The former is punishable by up to 10 years in prison, while

each charge of the latter carries a maximum term of five years. He is scheduled to be sentenced Jan. 17.

From May 2009 to February 2023, McMains received about \$683,000 in unwarranted payouts from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Social Security Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services, the Justice Department said in a statement Monday.

McMains left the Army on April 27, 2009, after about eight years. The following day, he received a

100% disability rating from the VA for PTSD, the statement said.

But McMains had exaggerated the severity of his PTSD by altering a VA form that was submitted to a mental health counselor, the Justice Department said. The 100% disability rating was based on the fraudulent information.

In 2019, McMains falsely told the VA that “he had been severely injured in an explosion while serving in Iraq, which he claimed resulted in paralysis and his confinement to a wheelchair since

2007,” the statement said.

He lied to the VA again in 2021, when he said he could not drive because of his injuries, according to court documents.

As of December 2022, monthly benefits for a 100% disability rating range from \$3,621 to \$4,148, depending on the recipient’s family size, according to the VA. The compensation is not taxable.

McMains told his story in a 2013 article about a retreat for veterans with PTSD published by the Kitsap Daily News in Washington

state.

He told the newspaper that from October 2006 to November 2007, he was a sergeant stationed in Baghdad, where he oversaw the helipad where helicopters landed with injured soldiers.

The story said that, “for a time, he was paralyzed and spent more than a year recovering” in Texas. Stars and Stripes was not immediately able to verify those details.

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Protester charged in pipe bomb scare at consulate on Okinawa

By MATTHEW M. BURKE AND MARI HIGA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A protester opposed to the U.S. military presence on Okinawa has been indicted on charges of making threats and brandishing a metal object resembling a pipe bomb in May outside the U.S. Consulate in Naha.



Miyagi was indicted last week for allegedly threatening police with a metal object feared to be a pipe bomb during a May protest at the U.S. Consulate on Okinawa.

Akino Miyagi, 45, of Higashi village, was arrested May 15 in Urasoe city with a metal pipe that had tape covering one end, Okinawa prefectural police said at the time. Police alleged that she threatened to throw the device when they tried to take it from her.

Miyagi was charged Friday in Naha District Court with obstructing police and violating Japan’s explosives control act, a spokesman for the Naha District Prosecutors Office said by phone Tuesday. If convicted, she faces a maximum of four years in prison or a \$6,700 fine.

Miyagi denied the charges in a post Sunday on X, formerly Twitter.

“I didn’t raise my voice or say I’d throw it,” she wrote. “I wonder how the prosecutors are going to prove it in court without any videos or recordings.”

The environmentalist has dedi-

cated her life to solving the “U.S. military waste issue in Yambaru,” the post said. Miyagi did not respond to requests for comment.

Yambaru is a subtropical forest in northern Okinawa that includes a protected national park. It is also home to Marine Corps base Camp Gonsalves and its Jungle Warfare Training Center, where Marines learn “jungle survival skills, tactical rope suspension techniques, and jungle warfare tactics,” according to the center’s website.

Miyagi — a writer and self-described butterfly scientist — was accused in December by the Okinawa Defense Bureau of trying to grab a rifle from a U.S. Marine



Akino Miyagi poses with U.S. military vehicles in northern Okinawa in this photo posted to social media.

whose squad wandered into her village from the training center.

According to her account on X of her May arrest, Miyagi arrived at the consulate wearing a T-shirt that read, “A present to America, a commemorative gift made with gunpowder from U.S. military waste in the World Heritage site in Yambaru,” Miyagi wrote four days after the incident. She brandished the pipe, which police described as a hollow, spent U.S. military flare filled with bullets.

“If you use force, I will throw it,” she said to police, the prosecutor’s office spokesman said.

Some government officials in Japan may speak to the media only on condition of anonymity.

The indictment accuses Miyagi of posing “a threat to the lives and bodies of the police officers,” the spokesman said. No one was hurt in the incident.

No trial date has been set, a spokeswoman for Naha District Court said by phone Tuesday.

Prosecutors on Friday also charged Miyagi with three counts of violating Japan’s traffic laws for obstructing U.S. military vehicles outside the Northern Training Area in 2022 on March 21, Aug. 2 and Oct. 21, the spokesman said.

No charges were filed following the alleged incident involving the Marine’s rifle in December.

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Honolulu, Army use helicopters to fight remote wildfire

Associated Press

HONOLULU — Honolulu and U.S. Army helicopters were dropping water from the air to battle a wildfire in a remote mountainous area in Central Oahu on Monday.

No structures or homes were threatened and no evacuations were ordered, the Honolulu Fire Department said in a news release.

But ash was falling on nearby neighborhoods and Army bases,

and the smell of smoke was in the air, said U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii spokesperson Michael Donnelly. Child development centers on base were keeping children indoors because of the ash and smoke, Donnelly said in an email.

The fire was about 60 acres in size and was 40% contained by late afternoon, the fire department said. The flames burned land belonging cooperatively to the city and state. The property borders

land controlled by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Two fire department helicopters and two Army Black Hawk helicopters were fighting the blaze. The state Department of Land and Natural Resources sent a contract helicopter to assist and was sending in ground personnel to secure a perimeter and conduct reconnaissance.

The Army was also deploying a CH-47 Chinook helicopter capable

of carrying up to 2,000 gallons of water — much more than the fire department’s helicopters, which are each able to carry 100 gallons.

The nearest towns are Mililani and Wahiawa, which are about 20 miles north of Honolulu. Army installations Schofield Barracks and Wheeler Army Airfield are also in the vicinity.

October is the rainy season in Hawaii but drought has been afflicting the entire state. The U.S.

Drought Monitor said Central Oahu was in moderate drought as of last week.

In August, multiple wildfires scorched Maui, including a blaze that killed at least 99 people and destroyed more than 2,000 structures in Lahaina. Powerful winds related to a hurricane passing far to Hawaii’s south helped fuel that fire and prevented firefighters from using helicopters to tackle the blaze.

MILITARY

Blinken, Austin push for aid to Israel, Ukraine

Request for \$105 billion has already hit roadblocks in divided Congress

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation’s top military and diplomatic leaders urged an increasingly divided Congress on Tuesday to send major immediate aid to Israel and Ukraine, arguing at a Senate hearing that broad support for the assistance would signal U.S. strength to adversaries worldwide.

The testimony from Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken came as the administration’s massive \$105 billion emergency aid request for conflicts in the two countries encountered roadblocks.



Blinken

While there is bipartisan support in the Democratic-led Senate for aid to both Ukraine and Israel, the request faces deep problems in the Republican-led House.

New Speaker Mike Johnson has proposed focusing on Israel alone, and slashing money for the Internal Revenue Service to pay for it.

As the congressional divisions deepen, Blinken and Austin warned that the consequences of failing to help Ukraine in its war with Russia and Israel as it strikes back against Hamas would be dire. Inaction, they said, would threaten the security of the U.S. and the rest of the world.

“We now stand at a moment where many are again making the bet that the United States is too divided or distracted at home to stay the course,” Blinken said. “That is what is at stake.”

Austin said that if the United States fails to lead, “the cost and the threats to the United States will only grow. We must not give our friends, our rivals, or our foes any reason to doubt America’s re-



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

A protestor is escorted out of the hearing room by a Capitol Police officer during a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing to examine the national security request on Capitol Hill in Washington on Tuesday.

solve.”

Biden has requested \$14.3 billion for Israel, \$61.4 billion to support Ukraine, \$9.1 billion for humanitarian efforts in Gaza and elsewhere and \$7.4 billion for the Indo-Pacific, where the U.S. is focused on countering China’s influence.

Some of the Ukraine funding would go toward replenishing domestic stockpiles of weapons that have already been provided.

The White House has also requested roughly \$14 billion to protect the U.S. border. That money would be used to boost the number of border agents, install new inspection machines to detect fentanyl and to increase staffing for processing asylum cases.

But the House is trying to set aside much of Biden’s request for now to focus on a roughly \$14.5 bil-

lion package for Israel. That plan faced immediate resistance among Senate Democrats — and put pressure on the Senate Republicans who support the Ukraine aid but are conscious of growing concerns about it within their party.

Speaking on the Senate floor, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said the House proposal “is clearly designed to divide Congress on a partisan basis, not unite us.” He said he hopes Johnson realizes he made a “grave mistake” and reverses course.

The two Cabinet secretaries argued that the aid should be tied together because the conflicts are interconnected. Blinken said that assisting Ukraine and Israel will strengthen the U.S. position against Iran, which is the biggest financial backer of Hamas.

“Since we cut off Russia’s traditional means of supplying its military, it has turned more and more to Iran for assistance,” Blinken said. “In return, Moscow has supplied Iran with increasingly advanced military technology, which poses a threat to Israel’s security. Allowing Russia to prevail with Iran’s support will embolden both Moscow and Tehran.”

Austin said the money would help Israel and Ukraine defend themselves against aggression — and also replenish U.S. stockpiles.

“In both Israel and Ukraine, democracies are fighting ruthless foes bent on their annihilation,” Austin said. “We will not let Hamas or Putin win. Today’s battles against aggression and terrorism will define global security for years to come.”

Senate Appropriations Chair-

woman Patty Murray, D-Wash., said at the start of the hearing that she and the panel’s top Republican, Maine Sen. Susan Collins, were drafting “strong bipartisan legislation” that would include aid for both countries.

“Make no mistake, we need to address all of these priorities as part of one package — because the reality is these issues are all connected, and they are all urgent,” Murray said.

Blinken and Austin were repeatedly interrupted by dozens of protesters in the room who called for Israel to end its bombardment of the Gaza Strip, and the hearing had to be suspended as police cleared the room. “Cease-fire now!” they yelled. “Save the children of Gaza!”

After the protesters were escorted out, Blinken said he heard “the passions expressed in this room and outside this room.” He said that the U.S. is committed to protecting civilian life, “but all of us know the imperative of standing up with our allies and partners when their security, when their democracies, are threatened.”

Despite growing questions about the Ukraine aid within the Republican conference, Senate GOP Leader Mitch McConnell has forcefully advocated tying the aid for Ukraine and Israel together.

He hosted Oksana Markarova, the Ukrainian ambassador to the United States, at an event in Kentucky on Monday and told the audience, “this is a moment for swift and decisive action.”

Senate Republicans who support the Ukraine aid are uncertain of the path forward. Further complicating the package, several of them have been negotiating border security measures that would go beyond Biden’s request, an attempt to help control the influx of migrants.

Rise: Nearly two dozen attacks carried out on US forces in recent weeks

FROM PAGE 1

“Most of those attacks have been unsuccessful,” the defense official said. “U.S. forces remain on our bases in a campaign to support local forces for the ‘defeat ISIS’ mission.”

The new attacks came after President Joe Biden ordered two F-16s on Thursday to carry out a pair of airstrikes against targets in eastern Syria, which the Pentagon called “focused precision proportionate attacks.” They occurred near al-Boukamal and officials said the F-16s struck two weapons and ammunition storage areas.

The senior defense official said Monday that those locations in Syria were chosen because they presented targets of opportunity.

“It’s not about the location. It’s about Iran and the [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps], who use infrastructure, militants and proxies on the ground across the Middle East to include both Iraq and Syria,” the official said.

The Pentagon said the attacks against American bases are being carried out by proxy groups supported by Iran and the IRGC, the country’s main military apparatus.

“Iran’s objective for a long time has been to force the withdrawal of the U.S. military from the region. We are still there,” the senior defense official said. “[We want] Iran’s senior leaders to direct its proxies and militias to stand down and stop these attacks and we have backed it up with the use of force.”

Since the Hamas attack on Oct. 7, the United States has sent numerous shipments of military aid to Israel, including air-defense equipment such as Iron Dome and Patriot batteries. On Monday, the senior defense official said the

U.S. military aid falls into three main categories — air defense, artillery and precision-guided munitions. Last week, the Pentagon said it will send two Iron Dome batteries that the Army has in Washington state, but the official said Monday that they have not yet arrived. Two Patriot batteries, however, have been delivered.

“There are shipments arriving every single day,” the defense official said. “We are looking at every possible way to get Israel what it needs, as fast as we can get it to them.”

The United States said its move-

ments in the Middle East are intended to do three things — support Israel, protect American forces and deter escalation in the region.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin sent pre-deployment orders to about 2,000 service members early last month, notifying them that they could be sent to the Middle East at any time to support the U.S. mission. A few days ago, the Pentagon said about 900 have so far been deployed, but none will go into Israel or Gaza.

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MIDEAST

Push: Airstrikes level apartment buildings in Gaza

FROM PAGE 1

floors of a damaged apartment block, cradling them as they climbed down.

More than half the territory's 2.3 million Palestinians have fled their homes, with hundreds of thousands sheltering in packed U.N.-run schools-turned-shelters or in hospitals alongside thousands of wounded patients. Israeli strikes have hit closer to several northern hospitals in recent days, alarming medics.

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, says nearly 672,000 Palestinians are sheltering in its schools and other facilities—four times their capacity. Thousands of people broke into its aid warehouses over the weekend to take food, as supplies of basic goods have dwindled because of the Israeli siege.

There has been no central electricity in Gaza for weeks, and Israel has barred the entry of fuel needed to power emergency generators for hospitals and homes.

UNRWA, which hundreds of thousands of people in Gaza rely on for basic services even in normal times, says 64 of its staff have been killed since the start of the war, including a man killed alongside his wife and eight children in a strike late Monday.

"This is the highest number ever of U.N. aid workers killed in any conflict around the world in such a short time," spokesperson Juliette Touma said. "UNRWA will never be the same without these colleagues."

The war has also threatened to ignite even heavier fighting on other fronts. Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group have traded fire on a daily basis along the border, and Israel and the U.S.

have struck targets in Syria linked to Iran, which supports Hamas, Hezbollah and other armed groups in the region.

In the occupied West Bank, where Israeli-Palestinian violence has also surged, the army demolished the family home of Saleh al-Aroui, a senior Hamas official exiled over a decade ago. Ali Kaseeb, head of the local council in the village of Aroua, said the home had been vacant for 15 years.

Jonathan Conricus, an Israeli military spokesman, said ground operations in Gaza are focused on the north, including Gaza City, which he said was the "center of gravity of Hamas."

"But we also continue to strike in other parts of Gaza. We are hunting their commanders, we are attacking their infrastructure, and whenever there is an important target that is related to Hamas, we strike it," he said.

The military said it struck some 300 militant targets over the past day, including compounds inside tunnels, and that troops had engaged in several battles with Palestinian militants armed with antitank missiles and machine guns. Video footage released by the military showed soldiers and a tank moving down a dirt road between two rows of demolished buildings, some of them three to four stories high.

Hamas released its own video showing what it said was a battle in northern Gaza on Sunday. A fighter wearing a GoPro-style camera emerged from a tunnel with a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and ran across sand dunes and shrubs with other militants amid the clatter of gunfire.



ODED BALILTY/AP

A man walks past new graffiti of Joe Biden depicting the U.S. president as a superhero defending Israel, in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Monday. Biden's popularity in Israel has soared thanks to his strong support for Israel in its war against Hamas militants.

It was not possible to independently confirm the reports.

Larger ground operations have been launched both north and east of Gaza City, which before the war was home to over 650,000 people.

Conricus said some 800,000 people have heeded the Israeli military's orders to flee from the northern part of the strip to the south.

But tens of thousands of people remain in and around Gaza City, and casualties are expected to mount on both sides as the battle moves into dense, residential neighborhoods.

The window to flee south may be closing, as Israeli forces reached Gaza's main north-south highway this week.

Video circulating Monday showed a tank opening fire on a car that had approached a sand berm but was turning around. Gaza's Health Ministry said three people were killed.

Zaki Abdel-Hay, a Palestinian man living a few minutes' walk from the road south of Gaza City,

said people are afraid to use it. "People are very scared. The Israeli tanks are still close," he said over the phone, adding that "constant artillery fire" could be heard near the road.

Dawood Shehab, a spokesperson for Islamic Jihad, a smaller militant group allied with Hamas, told Al Jazeera television that its fighters were battling Israeli forces who were trying to cut off the main highway and a parallel coastal road farther west.

In a news conference late Monday, Netanyahu rejected calls for a cease-fire to facilitate the release of captives or end the war, which he has said will be long and difficult.

"Calls for a cease-fire are calls for Israel to surrender to Hamas," he told a news conference. "That will not happen."

More than 8,500 Palestinians have been killed in the war, mostly women and minors, the Gaza Health Ministry said Monday. The figure is without precedent in decades of Israeli-Palestinian vio-

lence.

Over 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during Hamas' initial attack, also an unprecedented figure. Palestinian militants have continued firing rockets into Israel.

The military said Monday that special forces rescued one of the estimated 240 captives seized by Palestinian militants during the wide-ranging assault.

It said Pvt. Ori Megidish, 19, was "doing well" and had been reunited with her family.

Hamas has released four hostages, and has said it would let the others go in return for thousands of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, which has dismissed the offer. Hamas released a short video Monday showing three other female captives.

Gaza's humanitarian crisis, meanwhile, continues to worsen.

The World Health Organization said two hospitals have been damaged and an ambulance destroyed in Gaza over the last two days.

Yemen's Houthi rebels claim drone, missile attacks on Israel

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Yemen's Houthi rebels for the first time Tuesday claimed missile and drone attacks targeting Israel, drawing their main sponsor Iran closer into the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip and further raising the risks of a regional conflict erupting.

The Houthis had been suspected of an October attack targeting Israel by sending missiles and drones over the crucial shipping lane of the Red Sea, an assault that saw the U.S. Navy shoot down the projectiles.

This time on Tuesday, however, Israel said its own fighter jets and its new Arrow missile defense system shot down two salvos of incoming fire hours apart as it approached the country's key Red Sea shipping port of Eilat.

The Houthis, who have held Yemen's capital, Sanaa, since 2014 as part of that country's ruinous war, claimed three attacks on Israel in a later military statement, without elaborating on the time frame of the operations and whether Tuesday's salvos represented one or two attacks.

Beyond the attack that saw the U.S. shoot down missiles, there had been a mysterious explosion Thursday that hit the Egyptian resort town of Taba, near the border with Israel. The blast, which Egyptian authorities have not explained, wounded six people.

"Our armed forces launched a large batch of ballistic missiles and a large number of drones at various targets of the Israeli enemy," Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree said in a televised statement. "The Yemeni Armed Forces confirm that this operation is the third operation in

support of our oppressed brothers in Palestine and confirm that we will continue to carry out more qualitative strikes with missiles and drones until the Israeli aggression stops."

For Israel, Tuesday's attack marked an incredibly rare reported in-combat use of the Arrow missile defense system, which intercepts long-range ballistic missiles with a warhead designed to destroy targets while they are in space, according to the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Saree did not identify the spe-

cific weapons used in the attack. However, the use of the arrow suggests it was a ballistic missile.

It wasn't clear whether American naval forces in the region saw the incoming fire, as the troop-and-aircraft-carrying USS Bataan and other elements of its strike group likely are in the Red Sea now, along with other U.S. vessels.

The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, which patrols the Mideast, referred questions on Tuesday's attack to the Pentagon. Officials there did not respond to a request for comment.

NATION



ETHAN SWOPE/AP

A firefighter and resident converse on how to protect his possessions as the Highland Fire burns in Aguanga, Calif., on Monday.

Southern California fire prompts evacuation order for thousands

Associated Press

AGUANGA, Calif. — A wildfire fueled by gusty Santa Ana winds ripped through rural land south-east of Los Angeles, forcing about 4,000 people from their homes, fire authorities said.

The so-called Highland Fire erupted at about 12:45 p.m. Monday in dry, brushy hills near the unincorporated Riverside County hamlet of Aguanga. As of early Tuesday, the fire had grown to 3.5 square miles and was not contained, officials said in a social media post.

About 1,300 homes and 4,000 residents were under evacuation orders, fire spokesman Jeff LaRusso said Monday. Evacuation orders and warnings remained in place Tuesday morning, officials

said.

The fire had destroyed three buildings and damaged six others but it wasn't clear whether any were homes. The region is sparsely populated but there are horse ranches and a large mobile home site, LaRusso said.

No injuries were reported.

The National Weather Service issued a wind advisory for the region through Tuesday night, forecasting winds of 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 50 mph.

The strongest winds are expected in foothills and adjacent valleys.

On Monday, winds of 20 to 25 miles per hour with some higher gusts drove the flames and embers through grass and brush that were dried out by recent winds

and low humidity so that it was "almost like kindling" for the blaze, LaRusso said.

The winds were expected to ease somewhat overnight and fire crews would attempt to box in the blaze, LaRusso said.

But, he added: "Wind trumps everything. Hopefully the forecast holds."

A large air tanker, bulldozers and other resources were called in to fight the fire, one of the few large and active blazes to have erupted so far in California's year-round fire season, LaRusso said.

Southern California was seeing its first significant Santa Ana wind condition. The strong, hot, dry, dust-bearing winds typically descend to the Pacific Coast from inland desert regions during the fall.

US regulators sue SolarWinds and its security chief for alleged cyber neglect

Associated Press

U.S. regulators on Monday sued SolarWinds, a Texas-based technology company whose software was breached in a massive 2020 Russian cyberespionage campaign, for fraud for failing to disclose security deficiencies ahead of the stunning hack.

The company's top security executive was also named in the complaint filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission seeking unspecified civil penalties, reimbursement of "ill-gotten gains" and the executive's removal.

Detected in December 2020, the SolarWinds hack penetrated U.S. government agencies including the Justice and Homeland Security departments, and over 100 private companies and think tanks. It was a rude wake-up call that

raised awareness about the urgency of stepping up efforts to better guard against intrusions.

In the 68-page complaint filed in New York federal court, the SEC says SolarWinds and its then vice president of security, Tim Brown, defrauded investors and customers "through misstatements, omissions and schemes" that concealed both the company's "poor cybersecurity practices and its heightened — and increasing — cybersecurity risks."

In a statement, SolarWinds called the SEC charges unfounded and said it is "deeply concerned this action will put our national security at risk."

Brown performed his responsibilities "with diligence, integrity, and distinction," his lawyer, Alec Koch, said. Koch added that "we

look forward to defending his reputation and correcting the inaccuracies in the SEC's complaint." Brown's current title at SolarWinds is chief information security officer.

The SEC's enforcement division director, Gurbir S. Grewal, said in a statement that SolarWinds and Brown ignored "repeated red flags" for years, painting "a false picture of the company's cyber controls environment, thereby depriving investors of accurate material information."

The very month that SolarWinds registered for an initial public offering, October 2018, Brown wrote in an internal presentation that the company's "current state of security leaves us in a very vulnerable state," the complaint says.

Gunman's kin had concerns of mental health

Associated Press

LEWISTON, Maine — Five months before the mass shooting in Maine last week, the gunman's family alerted the local sheriff that they were becoming concerned about his deteriorating mental health while he had access to firearms, authorities said Monday.

After the alert, the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office reached out to officials of Robert Card's Army Reserve unit, which assured deputies that they would speak to Card and make sure he got medical attention, Sheriff Joel Merry said.

The family's concern about Card's mental health dated back to early this year before the sheriff's office was contacted in May, marking the earliest in a string of interactions that police had with the 40-year-old firearms instructor before he marched into a Lewiston bowling alley and a bar last Wednesday, killing 18 people and wounding 13 others.

After an intensive two-day search that put residents on edge, he was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot.

Card underwent a mental health evaluation last summer after accusing soldiers of calling him a pedophile, shoving one and locking himself in his room during training in New York, officials said. A bulletin sent to police shortly after last week's attack said Card had been committed to a mental health facility for two weeks after "hearing voices and threats to shoot up" a military base.

Documents released from the sheriff on Monday gave the most detailed timeline yet of other warning signs and failed efforts to stop the gunman months before he killed.

On Sept. 15, a sheriff's deputy was sent to visit Card's home for a wellness check at the request of the reserve unit after a soldier said he was afraid Card was "going to snap and commit a mass shooting" because he was hearing voices again. The deputy went to Card's trailer but could not find him — nor the next day on a return visit. The sheriff's department then sent out a statewide alert for help locating Card with a warning that he was known to be "armed and dangerous" and that officers should use extreme caution.

By this time, Card's reserve unit



ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/AP

Robert Card points a gun while entering Sparetime Recreation in Lewiston, Maine, on Wednesday.

had grown sufficiently concerned that it had decided to take away his military-issued firearms, the sheriff's office was told. Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Ruth Castro confirmed that account, adding that Card was also declared "non-deployable" and that multiple attempts were made to contact him.

According to the deputy's report after visiting Card's home, he reached out to the reserves' unit commander who assured him the Army was trying to get treatment for Card. The commander also said he thought "it best to let Card have time to himself for a bit."

The deputy then reached out to Card's brother. The brother said he had put Card's firearms in a gun safe on the family farm and would work with their father to move the guns somewhere else and make sure Card couldn't get other firearms.

Authorities recovered a multitude of weapons while searching for Card after the shooting and believe he had legally purchased them, including a Ruger SFAR rifle found in his car, officials said Monday. A Smith & Wesson M&P15 rifle and Smith & Wesson M&P .40-caliber handgun were with his body.

Authorities have not said whether they believe Card planned the Oct. 25 rampage in advance. Nearly three months ago, he tried and failed to acquire a device used to quiet gunshots, a gun shop owner in Auburn said.

Silencers are more heavily regulated under federal law than most firearms.

NATION

Officials seek EPA help to cut local food waste

By MELINA WALLING
Associated Press

CHICAGO — More than one-third of the food produced in the U.S. is never eaten. Much of it ends up in landfills, where it generates tons of methane that hastens climate change. That's why more than 50 local officials signed onto a letter Tuesday calling on the Environmental Protection Agency to help municipal governments cut food waste in their communities.

The letter came on the heels of two recent reports from the EPA on the scope of America's food waste problem and the damage that results from it. The local officials pressed the agency to expand grant funding and technical help for landfill alternatives. They also urged the agency to update landfill standards to require better prevention, detection and reduction of methane emissions, something scientists already have the

technology to do but which can be challenging to implement since food waste breaks down and starts generating methane quickly.

Tackling food waste is a daunting challenge that the U.S. has taken on before. In 2015, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the EPA set a goal of cutting food waste in half by 2030, but the country has made little progress, said Claudia Fabiano, who works on food waste management for the EPA.

"We've got a long way to go," Fabiano said.

Researchers say the EPA reports provide sorely needed information.

One report found that 58% of methane emissions from landfills come from food waste, a major issue because methane is responsible for about a quarter of global warming and has significantly more warming potential than carbon dioxide.



JEFF CHIU/AP

Organic material is picked up to be loaded onto a truck at a GreenWaste Zanker Resource Recovery Facility in San Jose, Calif., on Friday.

With the extent of the problem clearly defined, some elected leaders and researchers alike hope to take action. But they say it will take not just investment of resources but also a major mindset shift from the public. Farmers may need to change some practices, manufacturers will need to rethink how they package and market goods, and individuals need to find ways to keep food from going to waste.

So for the first time since the 1990s, the EPA updated its ranking of preferred strategies for waste reduction, ranging from preventing wasted food altogether

(by not producing or buying it in the first place) to composting or anaerobic digestion, a process by which food waste can be turned into biogas inside a reactor. Prevention remains the top strategy, but the new ranking includes more nuances comparing the options so communities can decide how to prioritize their investments.

But reducing waste requires a big psychological change and lifestyle shift from individuals no matter what. Researchers say households are responsible for at least 40% of food waste in the U.S.

It's a more urgent problem than ever, said Weslyne Ashton, a pro-

fessor of environmental management and sustainability at the Illinois Institute of Technology who was not involved with the EPA reports. Americans have been conditioned to expect abundance at grocery stores and on their plates, and it's expensive to pull all that food out of the waste stream.

"I think it is possible to get zero organic waste into landfills," Ashton said. "But it means that we need an infrastructure to enable that in different locations within cities and more rural regions. It means we need incentives both for households as well as for commercial institutions."

Last operating US prison ship set to close in NYC

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kenneth Williams spent his whole life in Brooklyn, but it wasn't until a night in 2018 when he crossed a narrow footbridge in shackles, that he learned about New York City's last floating jail. He remembers the murky East River water below him, the stench of mold, and a sinking feeling that soon turned literal.

"Every once in a while you could feel the boat dropping into the muck," Williams, 62, said. "It was a stark reminder that this place wasn't meant for human confinement."

Docked in the shallows off an industrial edge of the South Bronx, the Vernon C. Bain Correctional Center is a five-story jail barge that stretches the length of two football fields, resembling a container ship stacked with cargo.

It arrived in 1992 as a temporary measure to ease overcrowding on Rikers Island, the city's main jail complex for detainees awaiting trial. Three decades later, the 800-bed lockup — the last operating prison ship in the United States — is finally closing down.

The ship will be fully vacated by the end of this week, officials said, as part of a broader plan to replace



SETH WENIG/AP

The Vernon C. Bain Correctional Center is seen docked in the Bronx borough of New York on Oct. 16.

the city's long-troubled correctional system with a network of smaller jails.

For now, most of the roughly 500 people incarcerated on the ship will be transferred to Rikers Island, according to the Department of Correction, though the jails there are eventually supposed to close down, too.

Detainees and advocates have long regarded the boat as a grim vestige of mass incarceration, an enduring symbol of the city's failures to reform dangerous jails that exist on the periphery of New York, largely out of sight of most

residents and tourists.

In recent years, the unusual nautical jail has drawn attention primarily for its failures: Last September, a 44-year-old man, Gregory Acevedo, jumped from the top of the ship to his death. The year before that, Stephan Khadu, 24, died after contracting a form of treatable meningitis while in custody.

Darren Mack, co-director of the advocacy group Freedom Agenda, described the boat as a "modern day slave ship" used by the department to warehouse detainees, mostly Black and Latino men,

with minimal oversight. While noting the closure was long overdue, he added, "shifting people to the same hellish conditions on Rikers is not the answer."

The last of an armada of floating jails used by New York City in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Vernon C. Bain sits across the river from Rikers Island, between a wastewater treatment plant and a wholesale fish market.

Detainees are afforded a daily hour of recreation on a caged upper deck, where they were recently seen playing basketball on a sunny morning. Otherwise, their only natural light beams through the ship's tiny portholes.

Those who've spent time on board say the boat rocks in the river's current. Its fading blue and white exterior — a far cry from the freshly-painted surfaces visible in the 1993 film "Carlito's Way" — is known to leak in the rain, occasionally short-circuiting the electrical system.

Inside, rust cracks of the walls and detainees say they are packed into dormitories that grow suffocatingly hot in the summer, with cots that sit just a few inches from each other. "If you faced the person in the bed next to you, your knees would touch," said Williams, who was incarcerated there

for a few months and has since been released. "If they snored, you could smell their breath."

The use of maritime jails in the United States has long been controversial, dating back to the earliest days of the Revolutionary War, when thousands of Americans died aboard British ships parked in the New York Harbor.

Since then, the concept has been put to use sparingly — during the gold rush in California, most notably — often drawing allegations of cruelty and neglect, according to a recent study.

In the 1960s, a proposal by New York's correction commissioner to house inmates on repurposed ships was sunk by other local officials, who said the boats would give visitors the wrong image of the city. That sentiment began to change in the late 1980s and early 1990s, as drug arrests during the crack epidemic brought the population of Rikers Island to historic highs.

By the time the Vernon C. Bain boat arrived in the South Bronx, the city had already deployed four other floating jails — including two converted city ferries and a former trooper ship with the dissonant nickname, the "Love Boat" — as low-cost, temporary facilities.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Bomblet, ammo found in a donation at thrift store

WI JANESVILLE — A live cluster bomblet and ammunition have been found in a donation dropped off at a thrift shop in southeastern Wisconsin.

An employee at the Janesville Goodwill made the discovery while conducting inventory, according to the Janesville Police Department.

The store and surrounding area were evacuated as a bomb squad was called in to remove the small bomb and ammunition.

“Employees quickly followed safety protocols by informing store and donation center management and safety teams who then evacuated the building out of precaution for shoppers, donors and employees,” Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin said in a statement to WKOW-TV.

Janesville police are trying to determine who left the bomblet and ammunition at the Goodwill store.

Forgotten ‘first road’ gets new tourism focus

AL TUSCALOOSA — Byler Road is as old as Alabama, authorized by state lawmakers in 1819, to bring settlers to the western part of the state.

The Alabama Department of Tourism, lawmakers and the Byler Road Steering Committee are working to bring awareness and tourism dollars to communities along one of Alabama’s first roadways, the Tuscaloosa News reported.

“The fact that this is the cornerstone of the development of the state of Alabama from its earliest days makes it unique. I think it is going to have long-term positive consequences,” Lee Sentell, director of the Alabama Tourism Department, told the newspaper.

Byler Road was authorized by the Alabama State Legislature in 1819 and was constructed under the supervision of Capt. John Byler between 1820 and 1823.

Man sentenced in fishing scandal has new charges

PA HERMITAGE — One of two men who admitted stuffing fish with lead weights and fish fillets last year in an attempt to win thousands of dollars in a walleye fishing tournament on Lake Erie in Ohio is facing new charges in Pennsylvania.

Chase Cominsky, 36, of Hermitage was charged by the Pennsylvania Game Commission with eight wildlife crimes involving whitetail deer in Mercer County.

The Sharon Herald reported that game commission wardens received allegations that Cominsky had taken several antlered whitetail deer either after legal shooting hours or during closed season and without a valid license between 2013 and 2021.

The officials found five antlered



LINDSEY WASSON/AP

Sunny surfing in Seattle

A windsurfer navigates the waters of Puget Sound off of the beach at Golden Gardens park in Seattle.

whitetail deer heads in Cominsky’s living room that had been mounted between 2013 and 2021, the newspaper reported. Three were illegally tagged with another person’s name, officials alleged.

Cominsky and Jacob Runyan of Ashtabula, Ohio, were sentenced in Ohio in the fishing case in May to 10-day jail terms for cheating and unlawful ownership of wild animals. Cominsky also gave up his bass boat worth \$100,000. Both men were fined and also agreed to three-year suspensions of their fishing licenses.

Policy sought on trespass gamblers collecting wins

NV LAS VEGAS — The Nevada Gaming Control Board is trying to decide whether customers kicked out of a casino should be allowed to collect winnings if they sneak back in and win money.

According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, gaming board members voted to uphold paying a serial trespasser a \$2,000-plus slot machine jackpot he had won at the Casablanca hotel-casino in Mesquite, Nev.

The newspaper said the casino disputed the payment, saying the gambler had been ordered off the property for various alleged offenses including petty theft, drunk or disorderly conduct plus violations of prior trespasses six times between 2011 and last year.

But the Review-Journal said the

man reentered the casino and won jackpots three times over a span of several months.

Poultry firms: Dismiss polluted watershed rule

OK TULSA — A group of poultry producers, including the world’s largest, have asked a federal judge to dismiss his ruling that they polluted an Oklahoma watershed.

Arkansas-based Tyson Foods, Minnesota-based Cargill Inc. and the others said in a motion that evidence in the case is now more than 13 years old.

The filing said Oklahoma conservation officials have noted a steady decline in pollution.

The trial in the lawsuit that was filed in 2005 by the state of Oklahoma had ended in 2013 with no ruling for 10 years. In January, U.S. District Judge Gregory Frizzell in Tulsa issued his decision without addressing the reason for the decadelong delay.

White House eyes turning empty offices to housing

DC WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is launching a multi-agency effort to encourage states and cities to convert more empty office buildings into housing units, with billions of federal dollars available to help spur such transitions.

The new initiative involves the departments of Housing and Ur-

ban Development and Transportation, along with the General Services Administration and the Office of Management and Budget in a multi-pronged effort to address both the national shortage of affordable housing and the post-pandemic surplus of vacant office buildings.

“This presents an area of opportunity to both increase housing supply while revitalizing main streets. It’s a win-win,” said Lael Brainard, director of the National Economic Council. “We’re utilizing resources from across the government.”

State’s Dungeness crab season delayed again

CA SAN FRANCISCO — The start of the commercial Dungeness crab season in California has been delayed for the sixth year in a row to protect humpback whales from becoming entangled in trap and buoy lines.

The state Department of Fish and Wildlife said commercial crabbing will be delayed until at least Dec. 1. The situation will be reassessed on or before Nov. 17.

It’s the latest delay for the start of the commercial season, which traditionally begins in mid-November.

“Large aggregations of humpback whales continue to forage between Bodega Bay and Monterey and allowing the use of crab traps would increase the risk of an entanglement in those fishing

zones,” said Fish and Wildlife Director Charlton H. Bonham said in a statement.

Food delivery firm to fire 750 and close 90 centers

MN BLOOMINGTON — The food delivery business Yelloh — formerly known as Schwan’s Home Delivery — is cutting 750 jobs nationwide and closing 90 delivery centers.

The closures for the Bloomington, Minn.-based company will begin Dec. 8. The company will continue to serve 18 states with its iconic yellow trucks. Customers elsewhere will get deliveries via UPS, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported.

“Facing economic headwinds, rising business costs and the post-pandemic world, our teams across the country have worked valiantly to transform our company into a modern category leader,” the company said in a news release. “Despite those efforts, and like many retail businesses, we must now close locations and face a difficult reality.”

Yelloh trucks will continue to deliver in Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

NATION

Police release footage of day of Maui wildfire

By AUDREY McAVOY
Associated Press

HONOLULU — Maui police held a news conference on Monday to show 16 minutes of body camera footage taken the day a wildfire tore through Lahaina town in August, including video of officers rescuing 15 people from a coffee shop and taking a severely burned man to a hospital.

Chief John Pelletier said his department faced a deadline to release 20 hours of body camera footage in response to an open records request and wanted to provide some context for what people would see before the video came out.

Earlier last month, Maui County provided the AP with 911 call recordings in response to an open records request.

The 16 minutes of video released at the news

conference in Wailuku showed officers evacuating a Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf shop at a supermarket on Front Street, a neighborhood that largely burned in the blaze. Officers ushered out 15 people from the coffee shop as smoke swirled in the sky around them, loaded the group into police SUVs and took them to the Lahaina Civic Center.

In another clip, an officer finds a badly burned man at a shopping center and put him in the back seat of his patrol car. "I'll just take you straight to the hospital. That sound good?" the officer can be heard asking the man, who responds: "Yeah."

One video shows an officer tying a tow strap to a metal gate blocking a dirt road escape route while residents use a saw to cut the gate open so a line of cars can get past. Multiple shots show officers going door-to-door telling



MAUI (HAWAII) POLICE DEPARTMENT/AP

This image shows police body camera footage taken the day a wildfire tore through Lahaina on the Hawaiian island of Maui on Aug. 8. Police showed the footage Monday.

residents to evacuate.

The fast-moving wildfire on Aug. 8 killed at least 99 people and burned more than 2,000 structures. Those who made it out recounted running into barricades and roads that were blocked due to the flames and downed utility poles.

The cause of the fire is still under investiga-

tion. It may have been sparked by downed power lines that ignited dry, invasive grasses. An AP investigation found the answer may lie in an overgrown gully beneath Hawaiian Electric Co. power lines and something that harbored smoldering embers from an initial fire that burned in the morning and then rekindled in high winds that afternoon.

Ivanka Trump's testimony delayed to Nov. 8, will follow dad's

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ivanka Trump's testimony at her father's New York civil fraud trial is being delayed until next week so there is sufficient time for her to be questioned, a judge said Monday.

Former President Donald Trump's eldest daughter had been set to take the witness stand on Friday, when the Manhattan trial typically meets for a half-day session, but

lawyers in the case said her testimony is likely to take a full day, if not longer.

Judge Arthur Engoron, who last week rejected Ivanka Trump's bid to avoid testifying, said she will now appear on Nov. 8. The judge had floated the idea of making Friday a full-day court session, but Donald Trump's lawyers said they couldn't do that because of other commitments.

The scheduling change now puts Ivanka

Trump on the witness stand at the end of a blockbuster stretch in a case that threatens to disrupt her family's real estate empire.

She'll be testifying hours before her father, the 2024 Republican presidential nomination front-runner, holds a campaign rally in Miami.

New York Attorney General Letitia James sued Donald Trump, his company and top executives — including sons Eric

and Donald Trump Jr. — last year, alleging they conspired to exaggerate his wealth on financial statements that were used to secure loans and make deals.

Donald Trump and the other defendants have denied wrongdoing.

Originally scheduled to precede her father on the witness stand, Ivanka Trump will now follow him as the final witness called by James' lawyers.

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WORLD

Afghans head for border ahead of Pakistan anti-migrant crackdown

Associated Press
PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Large numbers of Afghans crammed into trucks and buses in Pakistan on Tuesday, heading to the border to return home ahead of the expiration of a Pakistani government deadline for those who are in the country illegally to leave or face deportation. The deadline is part of a new anti-migrant crackdown that targets all undocumented or unregistered foreigners, according to Is-

lamabad. But it mostly affects Afghans, who make up the bulk of migrants in Pakistan. The expulsion campaign has drawn widespread criticism from U.N. agencies, rights groups and the Taliban-led administration in Afghanistan. Pakistani officials warn that people who are in the country illegally face arrest and deportation after Oct. 31. U.N. agencies say there are more than 2 million undocumented

ed Afghans in Pakistan, at least 600,000 of whom fled after the Taliban takeover in 2021. Human Right Watch on Tuesday accused Pakistan of resorting to “threats, abuse, and detention to coerce Afghan asylum seekers without legal status” to return to Afghanistan. The New York-based watchdog appealed for authorities to drop the deadline and work with the U.N. refugee agency to register those without papers.

More than 80K turn out for Romanian Halloween fest

Associated Press
BUCHAREST, Romania — The Romanian capital of Bucharest boasts a perfect location for Halloween festivities — and visitors love it. More than 80,000 people descended last weekend on Bucharest’s Insula Ingerilor, or Angels’ Island peninsula, for the three-day West Side Hallo Fest, the largest Halloween festival in the Eastern European nation since the fall of communism. The venue was carefully chosen. Both the Angels’ Island and the surrounding Lacul Morii lake have been shrouded in mystery stories ever since the lake was artificially created in the late 1980s. When the lake was created, hundreds of homes, two schools and a church had to be demolished, along with a cemetery. Authorities moved about 11,000 graves, but left many others behind, feeding spooky tales of lost souls, wandering ghosts and strange lights appearing at night. The area around the lake remained deserted for years and lat-



A man wearing a Dracula costume takes a selfie with his partner at the West Side Hallo Fest, in Bucharest, Romania, on Saturday.

Police shoot woman on train after threats

Associated Press
PARIS — Paris police opened fire Tuesday on a woman who threatened to blow herself up after allegedly making death threats and speaking in support of terrorism on a train heading into the French capital. Police fired one shot, hitting and seriously injuring

the woman, the Paris prosecutor’s office said. It said she was hospitalized for emergency treatment. A police investigation was opened into the exact nature of threats the woman allegedly made while riding the RER C suburban train into Paris, and witness testimony will be gathered, the prose-

cutor’s office said. It said she is facing potential charges of making death threats, of defending terrorism and of intimidating behavior directed at police. Another police probe was opened into the shooting. That is automatic when officers use firearms.

er became a popular recreation area for Bucharest residents. But its reputation of eerie mystery stayed on, fully coming to life last weekend. Organizers brought in 18.5 tons of pumpkins and more than 2,300 hay bales, along with decorations by renowned Romanian floral designer Nicu Bocancea.

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FACES

Coppola slams Apple over defunded series

Director: Adaptation axed because of ‘unlikable’ female lead

By NARDINE SAAD
Los Angeles Times

Director Sofia Coppola says Apple executives axed her small-screen adaptation of an Edith Wharton novel because “the idea of an unlikable woman wasn’t their thing.” The “Priscilla” director was set in early 2020 to develop a series based on the incisive novelist’s 1913 book “The Custom of the Country” — a story that centers on the social ascent of protagonist Undine Spragg, a newly wealthy Midwesterner who tries to break into New York society. The social-climbing character, Coppola said when the project was first announced in May 2020, is her “favorite literary anti-heroine.”

The “Lost in Translation” Oscar winner would write and direct the prestige series for the streaming service, but, as she recently told the New York Times, the executives didn’t want to spend money on the five-hour project due to issues they had with the “unlikable” lead.

“But that’s what I’m saying about who’s in charge,” she said.

Representatives for Apple did not immediately respond Monday to The Times’ re-

quest for comment, nor to those made by the New York Times.

“The Virgin Suicides” director, daughter of award-winning “Godfather” filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola and Eleanor Coppola, said “the people in charge of giving money are usually straight men, still.”

She added later, “If it’s so hard for me to get financing as an established person, I worry about younger women starting out. It’s surprising that it’s still a struggle.”

“The Virgin Suicides” director said that being treated with respect by her key demographic — teens, young women and aspiring female filmmakers — feels “surreal” because she’s still facing challenges in Hollywood to budget female-fronted projects.

“I’m still fighting to get movies made and getting budgets cut. I don’t think I’m professionally treated in the way that I am when I encounter these young people.”

The director previously teamed with Apple for the 2020 father-daughter dramedy “On the Rocks,” which starred Rashida Jones and Bill Murray. Coppola’s most recent offering, a biopic about Priscilla Presley, is being touted as her best film in years.



VIANNEY LE CAER, INVISION/AP

Sofia Coppola, whose new biopic about Priscilla Presley has generated buzz, was set in 2020 to develop a series for Apple TV+ based on Edith Wharton’s 1913 book “The Custom of the Country.”

Meanwhile, Apple has Wharton content on its slate, including a youthful period drama based on her unfinished novel “The Buccaneers” that begins streaming Nov. 8.

Wharton’s stories of Gilded Age New York made their way to the big screen in 1993 with Martin Scorsese’s “The Age of Innocence” and in 2000 with “The House of Mirth,” which starred Gillian Anderson. A TV adaptation of “The Custom of the Country” had been in the works at Sony in 2014, with Scarlett Johansson being eyed to play the nouveau riche Undine.

John Legend stepping away from social media

John Legend has had enough of social media’s collective smart mouth.

“I used to be on social media a lot more than I am now. I generally post more on Instagram and some on TikTok, but I kind of stopped posting on Twitter,” Legend told Yahoo Life, adding that X (formerly known as Twitter) has become “a little too toxic,” “The Voice” coach said.

Legend’s break from social media follows wife Chrissy Teigen’s on-again, off-again relationship with social platforms. In 2021, after a roller-coaster relationship with Twitter, the model and cookbook author left the social media platform, where she’d long reigned as tweetress supreme, citing a toxic environment that had taken a toll on her mental health.

Teigen returned three weeks later.



Legend

Other news

■ Actor **Bridgette Wilson-Sampras**, best known for her roles in the 1995 Adam Sandler comedy “Billy Madison” and the 2001 Jennifer Lopez romantic comedy “The Wedding Planner,” was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in December, according to an X post by her husband, retired tennis legend Pete Sampras.

From wire reports

New this week: Awkwafina, Annette Bening and Jason Aldean

Associated Press

Here’s a collection curated by The Associated Press’ entertainment journalists of what’s arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

Movies

■ It took Diana Nyad more than 30 years and five tries to swim from Cuba to the Florida Keys. “Free Solo” filmmakers Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin’s “Nyad,” streaming Friday on Netflix, dramatizes her feat of endurance, along with the perseverance of her closest friends and collaborators. Bening plays Nyad, who was 60 when she began training herself again for the open-ocean swim. In a standout supporting performance, Jodie Foster plays her friend and trainer Bonnie Stoll.

■ In “Quiz Lady,” a 30-something accountant named Anne (Awkwafina) has devotedly watched every episode of “Can’t Stop the Quiz” since she was 4. After her pug is kidnapped and held for ransom, Anne and her estranged sister Jenny (Sandra Oh) go on a mission to get Anne on “Can’t Stop the Quiz,” a “Jeopardy!”-like show in which Will Ferrell plays an Alex Trebek-like host. “Quiz Lady” debuts Friday on Hulu.

■ Jessie Buckley, Riz Ahmed and Jeremy Allen White anchor director Christos Nikou’s “Fingernails,” a sci-fi drama set in a near-future where couples can use science to determine if they’re meant to be together. In the film, which debuts Friday on Apple TV+, Buckley and White play a couple with a 100% positive score, proving that they’re soulmates. Things get complicated when Buckley’s character hits it off with a colleague (Ahmed).

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle



Streaming on Friday: “Quiz Lady” (left), from Hulu, and “Nyad,” from Netflix.

Music

■ As the music world continues to mourn the loss of singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffett, who died Sept. 1, Mailboat and Sun Records have teamed up to release his final album, a posthumous release titled “Equal Strain on All Parts.” It features Paul McCartney, Emmylou Harris, Lennie Gallant, Angelique Kidjo and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band. Buffett’s lighthearted, good-time jams live on, as evidenced on the previously released tracks, “My Gummie Just Kicked In” and “Bubbles Up.”

■ “Highway Desperado” is the 11th studio album from mainstream country juggernaut Jason Aldean, released on the heels of his first Billboard Hot 100 No. 1 single, the controversy-creating “Try That in a Small Town.” Produced by Michael Knox, Aldean says “Highway Desperado” takes inspiration from his live show.

■ In 2008, after having been on a hiatus as a group for 12 years, Boston boy band New Kids on the Block returned with a new album, “The Block.” This year, to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the album respon-

sible for the second chapter of their career, NKOTB will release “The Block: Revisited.” It includes four previously unreleased tracks and a remix of their single “Dirty Dancing,” this time featuring a new generation of boy band: Dino, DK and Joshua of the best-selling K-pop group SEVENTEEN.

■ For some, Australian-via-Zimbabwe rapper-singer Tkay Maidza’s unique vocal tone might be most closely associated with her cover of the 1988 Pixies’ song “Where Is My Mind?” as utilized in an Apple AirPods commercial. But it’s her original work that deserves attention. “Sweet Justice,” her sophomore album that follows 2016’s self-titled debut and a 2020 EP series, is an eclectic collection of soulful electronics and psychedelic production elevated by her playful flow and smooth vocal tone.

— AP Music Writer Maria Sherman

Television

■ Before Charmaine Wilkerson’s novel “Black Cake” was published in 2022, Oprah Winfrey secured the TV rights in a bidding war and it’s now a new Hulu series. The first three episodes of “Black Cake” drop Wednesday, with new episodes released weekly. It follows Benny and Byron, adult estranged siblings whose mother has died and left them a mysterious flash drive with the details of her family history, explaining how she arrived in California from the Caribbean in the 1960s. The story also connects to a Caribbean Black cake from their heritage.

■ Another popular novel, the WWII-themed “All the Light We Cannot See” by Anthony Doerr, has been turned into a series. Shawn Levy directs the story of Marie (played by newcomer Aria Mia Loberti) as

a blind young woman in hiding in German-occupied France and a Nazi soldier named Werner (Louis Hoffman). He’s an orphan who was drafted against his will. The show explores how they’re linked by a radio broadcast, despite their different backgrounds. The four-episode series also stars Mark Ruffalo and Hugh Laurie and premieres Thursday on Netflix.

■ The animated historical drama “Blue Eye Samurai” about a mixed-race, revenge-seeking female samurai in Japan is already getting praise for its use of 2D and 3D artistry. Maya Erskine voices the lead character, Mizu, alongside Masi Oka, George Takei, Randall Park, Kenneth Branagh, Brenda Song, Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa and Darren Barnet. “Blue Eye Samurai” drops Friday on Netflix.

■ Naturalist Sir David Attenborough narrates a long-awaited third installment of “Planet Earth.” The new episodes use modern technology including drones, submersibles and high-speed cameras to capture awe-inspiring views of nature and the heartbreaking struggles of wildlife because of climate change. “Planet Earth III” debuts Saturday on BBC America and AMC+.

■ In 2021, National Geographic premiered the limited series “9/11: One Day in America” to critical acclaim. A second installment, “JFK: One Day in America,” premieres Sunday. The three-part series has previously unseen testimony from surviving witnesses to create an oral history of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Nov. 22 marks the 60th anniversary of his death. “JFK: One Day in America” will also stream on Disney+ and Hulu a day later.

— Alicia Rancilio



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OPINION

How Taiwan copes with a cross-strait challenge

By JIM GERAGHTY
Special to The Washington Post

TAIPEI, Taiwan
The Taiwanese government has its own Cabinet-level agency, the Mainland Affairs Council, dedicated to its relationship with the Chinese Communist Party regime in Beijing. The agency is separate from the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Before arriving on this island about 100 miles off China's southeastern coast last week, I assumed that the agency had been established because Taiwan and China interact across the Taiwan Strait in such myriad ways — culturally, socially and economically, if not always diplomatically — that their dealings were just too extensive to put within the Foreign Ministry. But Taiwan maintains a separate, China-focused agency for an entirely different reason. Mainland Affairs Council Deputy Minister Jan Jyh-horng, addressing a group of journalists here on a visit funded by the Taiwan government to convey its perspective on tensions with China, explained that “if we treat cross-strait relations as part of internal affairs, we couldn't properly separate Taiwan and mainland China. If we positioned cross-strait relations as ‘foreign affairs,’ China wouldn't dare to interact with us” — because Beijing insists that Taiwan is part of China.

Thus, in 1988, Taiwan created a forerunner of this neither-fish-nor-fowl agency, just to get diplomatic discussions started. To call the progress halting since then would be generous. In the current moment, it's essentially nonexistent. Over the years, Jan said, the tenor of negotiations has varied depending on the Chinese leader and the policies of the moment. Today, he said, “even if we call them ... they won't pick up the phone.”

It has been years since Taiwan and China held any significant diplomatic talks; the only

meeting between heads of state was in 2015. Jan, who has spent about three decades dealing with the relationship with China from posts within the Taiwanese government, said the days are long gone when Taiwan would send a delegation to China for a day or two of sober talks bookended by decidedly less sober parties, the first sponsored by the hosts, the second by the guests.

Taiwanese Deputy Foreign Minister Roy Chun Lee told us, “I often joke that rather than calling my colleagues ‘diplomats,’ I would prefer to call them ‘soldiers,’ because diplomatic foreign service in Taiwan is like fighting, pushing back against China's intimidation on a daily basis.”

Some of the intimidation tactics have been going on for years, as when China uses its leverage on other countries to deny Taiwan diplomatic recognition. The campaign has been hugely successful; when Honduras cut diplomatic ties to Taiwan after 82 years last spring, the total number of countries recognizing Taiwan dropped to 13, among them Belize, Guatemala and Haiti. The United States dropped diplomatic recognition of Taiwan in 1979 and maintains an intentionally vague stance on its sovereignty claims.

Taiwan Foreign Minister Joseph Wu told us Beijing also works “very hard” to isolate Taiwan in other ways, including by preventing it from gaining observer status at the United Nations and the World Health Organization. Taiwan's national police, he said, can't access or send data to the 19 databases of Interpol.

But, as is well-known, in recent years under President Xi Jinping's rule, China's bellicosity against Taiwan has ratcheted up. China now regularly makes military feints at Taiwan with naval and aerial incursions.

Wu, usually a thoroughly buttoned-down minister, betrayed a hint of exasperation with Beijing's constant harassment and criticism:

When the accountability goes, so does legitimacy

By KEVIN FRAZIER
The Fulcrum

“I'm just the middle guy.” It seems like a harmless and justifiable excuse. But when entire companies, governments and communities become dominated by “middle guys” working for “the boss,” the little guys lose out. This may not seem like a problem to those who can afford to get around middle guys. These are the folks who seemingly float above the barriers that slow everyone else down. They're the handful of individuals who can, for example, charter private jets and avoid the airline ticket counter — a dominion controlled exclusively by middle guys whose hands are always tied.

It turns out there's rarely a middle guy who can't be circumvented with some time and money. For everyone else, there's a looming accountability crisis brought on by promises being made by individuals and institutions with no intention of ever keeping them — and instead putting the blame on an unaccountable middle guy.

Accountability does not exist if those who hold power don't face consequences for taking inadequate, illegal or immoral actions. In the Age of the Middle Guy, Average Joes and Janes cannot afford to go after “the boss,” who is protected by complex contracts, well-paid lawyers and deep pockets. In short, in too many situations it now takes time and money to get back your time and

money.

Case in point, my friends hired a moving company to deliver their goods to a home in a new state. Well, that's what they thought. In actuality, they hired a “broker,” who hired a “mover,” who hired contractors to move their stuff. When their goods arrived damaged and two weeks late, they tried to get a refund from the contractors — who pointed them to the mover, who pointed them to the broker, who never answered their calls. My friends wanted to hire an attorney to go after anyone and everyone but lacked the time and money to get back their time and money.

Initially, I questioned why my friends didn't read enough Google reviews to hire a better company. Then, I realized ... Wow! I have sipped way too much Kool-Aid. I rushed to question the consumer — the Joes and Janes with no power rather than an industry and culture that has robbed little guys of any means to impose consequences on those who should be held accountable.

Those in power go out of their way to diminish the likelihood and magnitude of those consequences. In other words, they try to reduce the odds of getting caught and, if they somehow are caught, they try to limit the severity of the punishment.

Over time, the powerful have created more and more creative ways to evade detection and escape punishment. They'll use distance (see King George counting on an ocean to avoid facing the colonists); time

“Everything we do, everything we say, is provocative. ... The fact that Taiwan is a democracy is a provocation to China.”

That democratic quality will be on display in January, when Taiwan elects a new president. Officials say they are seeing considerable Chinese meddling and intimidation tactics — the military harassment is perceived as not only saber-rattling by a country that has repeatedly threatened to seize Taiwan but also election-season interference. The officials say they are also dealing with a steady stream of online disinformation. China's Foreign Ministry has furiously denounced Vice President Lai Ching-te, the ruling Democratic Progressive Party's presidential nominee.

Lai has pledged to never back down from China's threats, and this year he traveled to the United States over objections from Beijing; much like the term-limited President Tsai Ing-wen, he's insisting that differences across the Taiwan Strait must be resolved peacefully — while a major defense buildup continues. Few Taiwanese leaders would ever be sufficiently supine to placate the Chinese government, but Lai is a particular irritant to Beijing.

“The PRC” — the People's Republic of China — “wants to play a role in Taiwan's major elections,” Wu warned. “They want to decide Taiwan's future. That is not acceptable.” If “an authoritarian communist government” is allowed to decide the democratic results in Taiwan, he said, “I am sure they will try to do this even more in other countries through different kinds of means. That is something that all democracies should say no to.”

Wu smiled slightly. “If China likes to play a role in our democratic election, I think they should try their own election.”

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(see dictators throughout history delaying elections); middle guys (see moving companies hiring contractors); and bureaucracy (see some governments) — all in an effort to reduce the odds of little guys coordinating to actively hold them to account.

Regrettably, the powerful usually succeed. Little guys don't have the time and resources to sail across the sea or, in modern times, wait on hold. What's more, even when the powerful get caught in the act, they manage to avoid facing severe consequences — their contracts are too strong, their lawyers are on speed dial, and their political ties are too deep.

When accountability goes, so does legitimacy. When little guy after little guy has a story about being taken advantage of, with nothing to show for their suffering, entire institutions can start to crumble. The stories of corruption spread and the willingness of Joes and Janes everywhere to trust institutions dissipates.

That lack of trust is spreading today and has become one of the most important issues of our time. One way to restore that trust is to look for ways — through regulations, rules and norms — to cut out the middle guy and make sure that the powerful can be directly, swiftly and appropriately held to account.

Kevin Frazier is an assistant professor at the Crump College of Law at St. Thomas University. He previously clerked for the Montana Supreme Court.

Bizarro



SCOREBOARD/NBA

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

AP Top 25 schedule

Saturday's games
No. 1 Georgia vs. No. 14 Missouri
No. 2 Michigan vs. Purdue
No. 3 Ohio St. at Rutgers
No. 4 Florida St. at Pittsburgh
No. 5 Washington at No. 24 Southern Cal
No. 6 Oregon vs. California
No. 7 Texas vs. No. 25 Kansas St.
No. 8 Alabama vs. No. 13 LSU
No. 9 Penn St. at Maryland
No. 10 Oklahoma at Oklahoma St.
No. 11 Mississippi vs. Texas A&M
No. 12 Notre Dame at Clemson
No. 15 Louisville vs. Virginia Tech
No. 16 Oregon St. at Colorado
No. 17 Air Force vs. Army at Denver
No. 18 Utah vs. Arizona St.
No. 19 Tennessee vs. UConn
No. 20 UCLA at Arizona
No. 21 Tulane at East Carolina
No. 22 Kansas at Iowa St.
No. 23 James Madison at Georgia St.

Schedule

Wednesday's games
MIDWEST
Ball St. (2-6) at Bowling Green (4-4)
Kent St. (1-7) at Akron (1-7)
Thursday's games
SOUTH
South Alabama (4-4) at Troy (6-2)
MVSU (1-7) at Bethune-Cookman (1-7)
Wake Forest (4-4) at Duke (5-3)
SOUTHWEST
TCU (4-4) at Texas Tech (3-5)
Friday's games
EAST
Princeton (4-3) at Dartmouth (3-4)
Boston College (5-3) at Syracuse (4-4)
FAR WEST
Colorado St. (3-5) at Wyoming (5-3)

TENNIS

WTA Finals

Monday
Cancun
Purse: \$9,000,000
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Women's Singles
group 1
Iga Swiatek (2), Poland, def. Marketa Vondrousova (7), Czech Republic, 7-6 (3), 6-0.
Coco Gauff (3), United States, def. Ons Jabeur (6), Tunisia, 6-0, 6-1.
Women's Doubles
group 2
Storm Hunter, Australia, and Elise Mertens (2), Belgium, def. Shuko Aoyama and Ena Shibahara (3), Japan, 6-4, 6-2.

Paris Masters

Monday
At Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy
Paris
Purse: Euro 5,779,335
Surface: Hardcourt indoor
Men's Singles
Round of 64
Roberto Bautista Agut, Spain, def. Jiri Lehecka, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-2.
Nicolas Jarry, Chile, def. Alexei Popyrin, Australia, 7-5, 7-6 (6).
Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, Spain, def. Ben Shelton (15), United States, 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-3.
Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, def. Christopher Eubanks, United States, 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-4.
Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, def. Frances Tiafoe (14), United States, 6-3, 6-4.
Roman Safiullin, Russia, def. Alexandre Muller, France, 7-6 (4), 6-3.
Karen Khachanov (16), Russia, def. Max Purcell, Australia, 6-4, 6-4.
Alex de Minaur (13), Australia, def. Andy Murray, Britain, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-5.
Botic Van de Zandschulp, Netherlands, def. Adrian Mannarino, France, 6-4, 7-5.
Laslo Djere, Serbia, def. Luca van Assche, France, 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-4.
Taylor Fritz (9), United States, def. Sebastian Baez, Argentina, 6-1, 6-4.
Yoshihito Nishioka, Japan, def. Jordan Thompson, Australia, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-2.
Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria, def. Lorenzo Musetti, Italy, 6-2, 6-7 (4), 6-3.
Tommy Paul (12), United States, def. Richard Gasquet, France, 0-6, 6-2, 7-6 (6).
Dominic Thiem, Austria, def. Stan Wawrinka, Switzerland, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Dow Tennis Classic

Monday
At Midland Community Tennis Center
Midland
Purse: \$115,000
Surface: Hardcourt indoor
Women's Singles
Qualification
Robin Anderson (8), United States, def. Chloe Beck, United States, 6-4, 6-1.
Varvara Lepchenko, United States, def. Jana Kolodnyaska (2), Belarus, 6-7, 6-3, 6-3.
Lulu Sun (3), Switzerland, def. Louisa Chirico (5), United States, 6-1, 6-1.
Victoria Hu, United States, def. Victoria Jimenez Kasintseva (4), Andorra, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4.
Round of 32
Carole Monnet, France, def. Iryna Shymanovich, Belarus, 6-4, ret.
Alycia Parks (3), United States, def. Ann Li, United States, 6-2, 6-1.
Yulija Starodubtseva, Ukraine, def. Sophie Chang, United States, 3-6, 6-1, 6-0.
Peyton Stearns (2), United States, def. Victoria Jimenez Kasintseva, Andorra, 6-0, 6-0.

PRO SOCCER

MLS playoffs

Wednesday, Oct. 25
Eastern Conference Wild Card
New York 5, Charlotte 2
Western Conference Wild Card
Sporting Kansas City 0, San Jose 0,
Sporting Kansas City advanced 4-2 on penalty kicks
First Round
Best-of-three
x-if necessary
Eastern Conference
Philadelphia 1, New England 0
Philadelphia 3, New England 1
Wednesday, Nov. 8: at New England
x-Sunday, Nov. 12: at Philadelphia
Orlando 1 Nashville
Monday: Orlando 1, Nashville 0
Tuesday, Nov. 7: at Nashville
x-Sunday, Nov. 12: at Orlando
Columbus vs. Atlanta
Wednesday: at Columbus
Tuesday, Nov. 7: at Atlanta
x-Sunday, Nov. 12: at Columbus
Cincinnati 1, New York 0
Cincinnati 3, New York 0
Saturday: at New York
x-Saturday, Nov. 11: at Cincinnati
Western Conference
Los Angeles FC 1, Vancouver 0
Los Angeles FC 5, Vancouver 2
Sunday: at Vancouver
x-Thursday, Nov. 9: at Los Angeles FC,
Houston 1, Real Salt Lake 0
Houston 2, Real Salt Lake 1
Monday, Nov. 6: at Real Salt Lake
x-Saturday, Nov. 11: at Houston
Seattle 1, FC Dallas 0
Monday: Seattle 2, FC Dallas 0

Saturday, Nov. 4: at FC Dallas
x-Friday, Nov. 10: at Seattle
Sporting Kansas City 1, St. Louis 0
Sporting Kansas City 4, St. Louis 1
Sunday, Nov. 5: at Sporting Kansas City
x-Saturday, Nov. 11: at St. Louis
Semifinals
Nov. 25 - Nov. 26
Eastern Conference
Cincinnati/New York winner vs. Columbus/Atlanta winner
Philadelphia/New England winner vs. Orlando/Nashville winner
Western Conference
St. Louis/Kansas City winner vs. Los Angeles FC/Vancouver winner
Houston/Real Salt Lake winner vs. Seattle/Dallas winner
Conference Finals
Dec. 2 - Dec. 3
Conference Semifinals winners
Championship
Saturday, Dec. 9
Conference Finals winners
NWSL playoffs
QUARTERFINALS
Friday, Oct. 20
OL Reign 1, Angel City 0
Sunday, Oct. 22
Gotham FC 2, North Carolina 0
SEMIFINALS
Sunday, Nov. 5
Gotham FC at Portland
OL Reign at San Diego
FINAL
At San Diego
Saturday, Nov. 11
Semifinal winners

DEALS

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Claimed RHP Chris Rodriguez off waivers from the L.A. Angels.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — RHP Jacob Barnes elected free agency.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Waived WR Andre Baccellia.
ATLANTA FALCONS — Released P Pat O'Donnell. Re-signed LB Donovan Mutin to the practice squad.
BUFFALO BILLS — Signed RB Leonard Fournette.
CHICAGO BEARS — Re-singed OL Aviante Collins to the practice squad.
DENVER BRONCOS — Promoted LB Ben Niemann from the practice squad to the active roster.
DETROIT LIONS — Promoted RB Devine Ozigbo from the practice squad to the active roster. Elevated OL Michael Niese from the practice squad to the active roster.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed LB Rashan Gary to a contract extension.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Released DT Ross Blacklock from the practice squad. Signed S Tyreque Jones to the practice squad.
LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Reinstated LB Curtis Bolton from injured reserve. Placed LB Kana'i Mauga on injured reserve. Elevated K James McCourt and WR D.J. Turner from the practice squad to the active roster.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed CB Parry Nickerson to the practice squad. Released CB Mark Milton from the practice squad.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Traded DL Leonard Williams to Seattle in exchange for a 2024 second and 2025 fifth-round draft pick. Released WR Gunner Olszewski. Signed CB Stantley Thomas-Oliver to the practice squad.
NEW YORK JETS — Placed OL Connor McGovern and G Wes Schweitzer on injured reserve.

AUTO RACING

NASCAR Cup points leaders

Through Oct. 29

1.	William Byron	5000
2.	Kyle Larson	5000
3.	Ryan Blaney	5000
4.	Christopher Bell	5000
5.	Denny Hamlin	2355
6.	Tyler Reddick	2329
7.	Brad Keselowski	2278
8.	Chris Buescher	2263
9.	Ross Chastain	2242
10.	Bubba Wallace	2242
11.	Joey Logano	2239
12.	Martin Truex Jr.	2228
13.	Kyle Busch	2220
14.	Kevin Harvick	2194
15.	Michael McDowell	2157
16.	Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	2154
17.	Chase Elliott	799
18.	Ty Gibbs	755
19.	Daniel Suárez	730
20.	AJ Allmendinger	687
21.	Alex Bowman	681
22.	Aric Almirola	651
23.	Austin Cindric	624
24.	Ryan Preece	614
25.	Corey LaJoie	597
26.	Justin Haley	585



CHRIS SZAGOLA/AP

The Philadelphia 76ers’ James Harden, center, looks on from the bench with his teammates during the first half against the Portland Trail Blazers on Sunday in Philadelphia.

Harden: Sixers get several players, draft picks in return

FROM PAGE 24

with Morey could not be repaired — comparing it to a broken marriage. Coach Nick Nurse had said Harden would not play until he met certain conditioning requirements. Harden was scheduled to practice with the 76ers on Tuesday.

Instead, Harden is now on his way to California.

The 76ers are off until Thursday’s home game against Toronto. The Clippers were set to play Tuesday night against Orlando. There was no immediate word when all the traded players would be available to their new teams.

Harden joined Westbrook and Bob McAdoo as the only league MVPs traded four times in their careers.

This may be the Clippers’ last chance to win a title with this group of All-Stars. Both Leonard and George are eligible for extensions and the Clippers will have to decide whether it’s worth keeping the injury-prone duo together. Part of Harden’s complaint with the Sixers stemmed from the belief he should have earned a long-term contract with the team after last season.

Harden dressed in street clothes and sat on the bench for Sunday’s home opener against Portland. NBA MVP Joel Embiid and Tyrese Maxey have the 76ers off to a 2-1 start all while Morey navigated the Harden headache.

Harden and the 76ers are no strangers to turmoil. Harden’s wildly successful tenure in Houston — where he first teamed with Morey, then the general manager — included three scoring titles and the 2018 NBA MVP award. But his relationship with Houston eventually fell apart and he forced his way to Brooklyn in 2021. He

joined Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving and formed a Big Three that was never very big. The trio was socked by injuries and other controversies and played only 18 games together before Harden wanted out.

So it was off to Philly at the 2022 trade deadline. He was reunited with Morey and seemed comfortable in his role as a playmaker while the offense ran through Embiid. Harden even declined his \$47.4 million option in June 2022, saying he wanted to give the 76ers financial flexibility to improve their roster and compete for a championship. He signed a deal worth slightly over \$68 million, paying him about \$33 million last season with a \$35.6 million player option for this season.

Harden appeared determined to sever ties with the Sixers in August after he called Morey a liar at a promotional event in China.

“Daryl Morey is a liar and I will never be a part of an organization that he’s a part of,” Harden said at the event. “Let me say that again: Daryl Morey is a liar and I will never be a part of an organization that he’s a part of.”

The 76ers do get draft picks down the road, but the short-term win — besides shearing themselves of The Beard — is a glut of salary cap space next season.

While the Sixers failed to get prized guard Terance Mann in the deal, Batum, Covington (making his second stint with the 76ers), Martin and Morris all have expiring contracts at the end of the season. That leaves just Embiid, Paul Reed and Jaden Springer as the only players on the books for 2024-2025. For now, the Sixers are expected to use some of the cap space to extend Maxey next summer.

NBA/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

NBA ROUNDUP

Curry scores 42, Warriors win big

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — After Stephen Curry let it fly from 31 feet for his seventh made 3-pointer of the night, he crouched at mid-court and punctuated his latest memorable performance by punching his chest once with both fists.

Curry scored 42 points in 30 minutes and the Golden State Warriors improved to 3-0 on the road with a 130-102 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans on Monday night.

And it sounded like many of the fans in New Orleans who'd been waiting more than two years for Curry to play again in their city got their money's worth, even if it came at their own team's expense. They let out collective, awestruck "oooohs," after some of Curry's deep 3s and some even cheered.

"When the game kind of turns up like that and the home crowd enjoys the entertainment value and good basketball and the show, I feed off of it because love playing basketball and being in that environment," Curry said. "But it's not like any type of message. Just hooping."

Chris Paul scored 13 points off the bench, leading Golden State on a 13-1 run at the end of the third quarter that gave the Warriors a 98-78 lead.

"It's incredible to bring Chris Paul off the bench as your back-up point guard," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "He's still playing at an incredibly high level. It changes everything when you can start a game off with Steph Curry and then bring Chris with a great second unit into the game."

Zion Williamson helped New Orleans keep it close in the first half, but got into foul trouble in the

third quarter. He finished with 19 points as the Pelicans lost for the first time this season after opening with a pair of victories.

Nuggets 110, Jazz 102: Nikola Jokic had 27 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his second triple-double of the season, Jamal Murray added 18 points and 14 assists, and host Denver beat Utah.

Jokic is tied with LeBron James and Jason Kidd with 107 career triple-doubles.

Aaron Gordon scored 21 points, most on thunderous dunks, as Denver extended its season-opening winning streak to four games.

Bucks 122, Heat 114: Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 33 points, Damian Lillard added 25 and host Milwaukee built a 25-point lead before holding off Miami.

Tyler Herro scored 35 points for the Heat. Miami was playing without two-time All-Star center Bam Adebayo, who bruised his hip Saturday in a loss at Minnesota.

The Heat stunned the top-seeded Bucks in a first-round playoff series last season. This time, Miami trailed 103-78 early in the fourth quarter and got within six points with 1:22 left. Antetokounmpo converted a three-point play to help ice the game.

Hawks 127, Timberwolves 113: Dejounte Murray matched his career high with 41 points and host Atlanta bounced back from a 19-point halftime deficit to beat Minnesota.

Murray scored 22 points in the third quarter, wiping out Minnesota's 79-60 lead at the break.

Anthony Edwards, returning to his hometown, led the Timberwolves with 31 points.

Thunder 124, Pistons 112: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 32 points and host Oklahoma City



GERALD HERBERT/AP

Warriors guard Stephen Curry drives against Pelicans guard Dyson Daniels in the first half on Monday. Curry scored 42 points.

beat Detroit.

Gilgeous-Alexander shot 11-for-23 and had nine rebounds.

Nets 133, Hornets 121: Cam Thomas scored 33 points, and visiting Brooklyn built a 21-point first-quarter lead and held on to beat Charlotte.

Mikal Bridges had 24 points for the Nets, who got their first win of the season.

Bulls 112, Pacers 105: Nikola Vucevic scored nine of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, and visiting Chicago rallied past Indiana.

DeMar DeRozan scored 20 points and put Chicago ahead to stay on a layup that made it 101-99 with 3:46 remaining.

Mavericks 125, Grizzlies 110: Luka Doncic had his 58th career triple-double with 35 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists, and undefeated Dallas beat winless host Memphis.

Desmond Bane and Jaren Jackson Jr. had 30 points apiece for Memphis, which has lost its first four games for the first time since 2004.

Trail Blazers 99, Raptors 91:

Deandre Ayton had a career-high 23 rebounds, Jerami Grant scored 22 points, and visiting Portland beat Toronto for its first win of the season.

Scottie Barnes had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors, who shot a season-worst 4-for-29 from 3-point range.

Celtics 126, Wizards 107: Jaylen Brown scored 36 points and Jayson Tatum had 33 as visiting Boston beat Washington to begin the season 3-0.

Kyle Kuzma scored 21 points for the Wizards (1-2), who trailed throughout and were behind by 26 points after 10 minutes.

Lakers 106, Magic 103: D'Angelo Russell scored 12 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, LeBron James added nine of his 19 in the final period and host Los Angeles rallied late for a victory over Orlando.

Anthony Davis had 26 points and 19 rebounds for the Lakers, who handed the Magic their first loss of the season by finishing on a 12-5 run in the final four minutes.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	3	0	1.000	—
Philadelphia	2	1	.667	1
Brooklyn	1	2	.333	2
New York	1	2	.333	2
Toronto	1	3	.250	2½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	2	1	.667	—
Atlanta	2	2	.500	½
Charlotte	1	2	.333	1
Washington	1	2	.333	1
Miami	1	3	.250	1½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	2	1	.667	—
Milwaukee	2	1	.667	—
Detroit	2	2	.500	½
Chicago	2	2	.500	½
Cleveland	1	2	.333	1
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	3	0	1.000	—
New Orleans	2	1	.667	1
San Antonio	1	2	.333	2
Memphis	0	4	.000	3½
Houston	0	3	.000	3
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	4	0	1.000	—
Oklahoma City	3	1	.750	1
Minnesota	1	2	.333	2½
Utah	1	3	.250	3
Portland	1	3	.250	3
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	3	1	.750	—
Phoenix	2	1	.667	½
Sacramento	2	1	.667	½
L.A. Clippers	2	1	.667	½
L.A. Lakers	2	2	.500	1
Monday's games				
Golden State 130, New Orleans 102				
Denver 110, Utah 102				
Milwaukee 122, Miami 114				
Atlanta 127, Minnesota 113				
Oklahoma City 124, Detroit 112				
Brooklyn 133, Charlotte 121				
Chicago 112, Indiana 105				
Dallas 125, Memphis 110				
Portland 99, Toronto 91				
Boston 126, Washington 107				
L.A. Lakers 106, Orlando 103				
Tuesday's games				
New York at Cleveland				
San Antonio at Phoenix				
Orlando at L.A. Clippers				
Wednesday's games				
Milwaukee at Toronto				
Portland at Detroit				
Brooklyn at Miami				
Cleveland at New York				
Indiana at Boston				
New Orleans at Oklahoma City				
Washington at Atlanta				
Charlotte at Houston				
Denver at Minnesota				
Chicago at Dallas				
Memphis at Utah				
L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers				
Sacramento at Golden State				

Texas promotes ‘best win’ ahead of CFP rankings

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas coach Steve Sarkisian wants everyone to remember the Longhorns' résumé ahead of the first College Football Playoff rankings this week.

Especially that 34-24 win over No. 8 Alabama back on Sept. 9. No one, Sarkisian argues, has a better win so far this season.

"I haven't shied away from this: I think we've got a pretty good football team," Sarkisian said Monday. "I'd argue we have the best win in the country right now. The fact that we go into Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and beat a team that was 52-1 in the previous 53 games going in there. I hear so much about how tough the SEC is, but I haven't seen any

of those teams go into Alabama and win, either."

The playoff rankings were to be released Tuesday night. The No. 7 Longhorns have never been in the playoff but are 7-1 in a five-way tie for first in the Big 12.

The win over Alabama certainly created a lot of buzz about Texas at the time. The problem for the Longhorns is that the win was almost two months ago. A lot of time has passed and there have been other big games to attract eyeballs.

And Texas lost to No. 10 Oklahoma. The top five teams in The Associated Press college football rankings are undefeated and one-loss Oregon is No. 6. Texas did not get a

bump for beating BYU 35-6 with backup Maalik Murphy at quarterback for injured Quinn Ewers.

"We're a very versatile team. We started our backup quarterback against a 5-2 team and won 35-6. We get another opportunity this week to play with our backup quarterback. Not every team out has had to endure what we've had to. If they had their backup, how would they play?" Sarkisian said.

Sarkisian didn't mention that Texas won three games in a row — Wyoming, Baylor and Kansas — against opponents playing their backup quarterbacks.

Up next for Texas on Saturday is a home matchup against No. 25 Kansas State (6-2,

4-1 Big 12).

"I feel pretty good about our team and I think over time this whole thing will play itself out," he said, noting the logjam at the top of the Big 12.

"At the start of the year, a couple of teams in our league lost some games that maybe people didn't think they were going to lose, and some teams won some games in other conferences," Sarkisian said.

"We're starting to find that I think our league is probably a little stronger than people give it credit for in early September ... and maybe some of these other leagues aren't quite as strong," Sarkisian said. "Our league is tough."

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference								
Atlantic Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Boston	9	8	0	1	17	29	14	
Montreal	9	6	2	1	13	30	30	
Detroit	10	6	3	1	13	40	31	
Toronto	8	5	2	1	11	29	24	
Tampa Bay	9	4	2	3	11	32	28	
Florida	8	4	3	1	9	22	23	
Ottawa	8	4	4	0	8	32	26	
Buffalo	9	4	5	0	8	27	27	
Metropolitan Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
N.Y. Rangers	9	7	2	0	14	28	18	
Carolina	10	6	4	0	12	37	37	
New Jersey	8	5	2	1	11	33	30	
N.Y. Islanders	8	4	2	2	10	21	23	
Washington	8	4	3	1	9	19	26	
Philadelphia	9	4	4	1	9	30	28	
Columbus	9	3	4	2	8	23	30	
Pittsburgh	9	3	6	0	6	26	29	
Western Conference								
Central Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Colorado	8	6	2	0	12	28	20	
Dallas	7	5	1	1	11	22	18	
Winnipeg	9	4	3	2	10	29	31	
Nashville	8	4	4	0	8	23	21	
Arizona	8	4	4	0	8	33	22	
Minnesota	9	3	4	2	8	32	38	
St. Louis	7	3	3	1	7	14	20	
Chicago	9	3	6	0	6	20	37	
Pacific Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	10	8	0	2	18	38	24	
Vancouver	8	5	2	1	11	31	19	
Los Angeles	8	4	2	2	10	35	30	
Anaheim	9	5	4	0	10	29	27	
Seattle	10	3	5	2	8	24	34	
Edmonton	8	2	5	1	5	22	32	
Calgary	9	2	6	1	5	19	34	
San Jose	9	0	8	1	1	9	35	
Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.								
Sunday's games								
Buffalo 4, Colorado 0								
New Jersey 4, Minnesota 3								
Washington 3, San Jose 1								
Edmonton 5, Calgary 2								
Monday's games								
N.Y. Rangers 3, Winnipeg 2, OT								
Anaheim 4, Pittsburgh 3								
Arizona 8, Chicago 1								
Vegas 3, Montreal 2, SO								
Detroit 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, OT								
Seattle 4, Tampa Bay 3, OT								
Boston 3, Florida 2, OT								
Carolina 3, Philadelphia 2								
Dallas 5, Columbus 3								
Tuesday's games								
Los Angeles at Toronto								
Nashville at Vancouver								
Wednesday's games								
Buffalo at Philadelphia								
Dallas at Calgary								
St. Louis at Colorado								
Arizona at Anaheim								
Thursday's games								
Carolina at N.Y. Rangers								
Florida at Detroit								
Los Angeles at Ottawa								
N.Y. Islanders at Washington								
Tampa Bay at Columbus								
Toronto at Boston								
New Jersey at Minnesota								
Dallas at Edmonton								
Montreal at Arizona								
Nashville at Seattle								
Winnipeg at Vegas								
Vancouver at San Jose								
Friday's games								
Philadelphia at Buffalo								
New Jersey at St. Louis								
Scoring leaders								
Through Monday								
					GP	G	A	PTS
Jack Hughes, NJ					8	5	13	18
Dylan Larkin, DET					10	4	11	15
Artemi Panarin, NYR					9	5	10	15
Jesper Bratt, NJ					8	6	8	14
David Pastrnak, BOS					9	8	6	14
Elias Pettersson, VAN					8	2	11	13
Leon Draisaitl, EDM					8	4	9	13
Alex DeBrincat, DET					10	9	4	13
J.T. Miller, VAN					8	4	8	12
Mikko Rantanen, COL					8	5	7	12
William Nylander, TOR					8	6	6	12

ROUNDUP

Zibanejad, Rangers beat Jets in OT

Associated Press

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — Mika Zibanejad scored 4:34 into overtime, and the New York Rangers beat the Winnipeg Jets 3-2 on Monday night for their fifth straight win.

Rangers forward Artemi Panarin celebrated his 32nd birthday with a goal and two assists, stretching his season-opening point streak to nine games. Chris Kreider scored his sixth goal for New York, and Igor Shesterkin stopped 27 shots.

The Rangers closed out a 5-0 road trip. It was the first time in franchise history that the team had a perfect trip of at least five games.

“Everyone wants to go home, but we were determined to finish it off the right way and I thought we did and just battled through it and try to get these two points, and this one feels really good,” Zibanejad said.

Zibanejad’s winning one-timer was set up by Panarin. Rangers coach Peter Laviolette said Panarin is doing some “pretty special” things.

“The last one, just the game-winner, to be able to just part the way down the middle of the ice like that, push people off and then draw them in, and then have the vision to make the play to Mika, that’s a unique player and he’s playing really well for us right now,” Laviolette said.

Ducks 4, Penguins 3: Mason McTavish scored the tying goal early in the third period and then got a short-handed tally with 11.9 seconds to play to lift visiting Anaheim.

Frank Vatrano scored his ninth goal and Jakob Silfverberg scored in his 700th game with Anaheim.

John Gibson stopped six shots but left after the first period with an upper-body injury. Lukas Dostal made 33 saves in relief for the Ducks, who swept a four-game road trip. It was the fifth time, and first since the 2013-14 season, that Anaheim swept a road trip of at least four games.

Erik Karlsson got his second of the season and first goal at home for Pittsburgh. Evgeni Malkin scored with the man advantage as Pittsburgh snapped its 0-for-16 power-play slump, and Radim Zohorna also scored for the Penguins, who have lost two straight and five of six overall. Tristan Jarry had 23 saves.

Sidney Crosby recorded an assist and moved into sole possession of 15th place on the NHL’s all-time assists list, surpassing Hall of Famer and former teammate Mark Recchi.

Coyotes 8, Blackhawks 1: Michael Carcone had three goals and



FRED GREENSLADE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The Winnipeg Jets’ Mason Appleton (22) carries the puck into the New York Rangers’ zone as he is checked by the Rangers’ Mika Zibanejad during the second period in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on Monday.

an assist for his first career hat trick, and host Arizona pounded Connor Bedard and Chicago on Monday night.

Bedard scored 28 seconds into the game, and then it was all Coyotes.

Jack McBain had two goals and two assists for Arizona, which was coming off consecutive losses to the Los Angeles Kings. Liam O’Brien and Sean Durzi each had a goal and an assist, and Alex Kerfoot had three assists.

The Coyotes led 7-1 after two periods. It was more than enough for Connor Ingram, who made 31 saves in the win.

Arvid Soderblom gave up seven goals on 22 shots before he was pulled late in the second period. Petr Mrazek came on and stopped 10 of the 11 shots he faced.

Golden Knights 3, Canadiens 2 (SO): Jonathan Marchessault and Shea Theodore scored in the shootout and host Vegas improved to a league-best 9-0-1.

Paul Cotter and William Carrier scored in regulation, and Adin Hill made 37 saves for the Golden Knights.

Sean Monahan and Nick Suzuki scored for Montreal. Sam Montembeault made 24 saves.

The Golden Knights went to overtime for the third game in four nights, after losing to the Blackhawks in the extra period on Friday and winning a shootout in Los Angeles on Saturday.

Red Wings 4, Islanders 3 (OT): Lucas Raymond scored 1:25 into overtime to lift visiting Detroit past New York.

Daniel Sprong, Jake Walman

and J.T. Compher also scored for the Red Wings, who trailed 2-0 in the third period and snapped a three-game skid (0-2-1). Ville Husso stopped 37 shots.

Casey Cizikas, Brock Nelson and Bo Horvat had goals for the Islanders, who had won two straight. Ilya Sorokin finished with 32 saves.

In the extra period, after the Islanders failed to clear the puck in their end of the ice, Raymond got a return pass from Compher and beat Sorokin from the right side for his third goal of the season.

Kraken 4, Lightning 3 (OT): Jared McCann scored a power-play goal 2:53 into overtime, and visiting Seattle beat Tampa Bay.

With Tampa Bay’s Nick Paul in the penalty box for hooking, McCann converted a blast from the left circle for his fifth goal of the season. The Kraken earned their first victory in five tries against the Lightning since entering the NHL in 2021.

Brian Dumoulin, Yanni Gourde and Kailer Yamamoto scored in the first period for Seattle. Philipp Grubauer made 33 saves for his first win in five decisions this season.

Tanner Jeannot, Alex Barre-Boulet and Brandon Hagel scored for Tampa Bay, which finished 3-0-2 on a five-game homestand. Jonas Johansson, coming off back-to-back shutouts, finished with 40 saves.

Bruins 3, Panthers 2 (OT): Pavel Zacha scored with 84 seconds left on the clock in overtime and host Boston rallied from two goals to beat Florida.

Brad Marchand and Charlie McAvoy also scored as the Bruins improved to 8-0-1. Linus Ullmark stopped 36 shots against the team that knocked Boston out of the playoffs last season after a record-setting and Presidents Trophy-winning regular season.

Aleksander Barkov scored one goal and assisted on another, and Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 23 shots for Florida, which eliminated Boston in seven games in the first round and went on to reach the Stanley Cup Final.

Hurricanes 3, Flyers 2: Teuvo Teravainen scored the tiebreaking goal with 3:47 left to play and visiting Carolina beat Philadelphia.

Stefan Noesen and Michael Bunting also scored for the Hurricanes, who have won eight straight matchups. Frederik Andersen stopped 26 shots.

Owen Tippett and Garnet Hathaway had goals for the Flyers, losers of four of their last five. Carter Hart had 31 saves.

Stars 5, Blue Jackets 3: Matt Duchene, Wyatt Johnston and Evgenii Dadonov all scored in the third period and host Dallas beat Columbus.

Thomas Harley and Roope Hintz also scored, and Jamie Benn and Jason Robertson each had two assists for Dallas, which improved to 5-1-1 this season. Jake Oettinger stopped 22 shots to improve to 8-0-1 in his career against Columbus.

Dmitri Voronkov, Damon Severson and Sean Kuraly scored for the Blue Jackets, who have lost four straight games (0-2-2). Elvis Merzlikins finished with 28 saves.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Purdue returns reigning national player of the year Zach Edey and is favored to win a second straight Big Ten regular-season title.

BIG TEN PREVIEW

Purdue, Michigan State, then it's anyone's guess

By ERIC OLSON
Associated Press

Handicapping the Big Ten race comes down to this: Purdue, Michigan State, everybody else.

The Boilermakers, with reigning national player of the year Zach Edey and his strong supporting cast, are the prohibitive favorites to win a second straight regular-season championship. Michigan State is a possible challenger.

"I think other than maybe Purdue, because of Zach, you could probably throw them all in a hat and pull them out and say, 'Hey, they could finish here' and not be shocked," Illinois coach Brad Underwood said.

Purdue, unranked in the preseason a year ago, enters this season No. 3 and followed by No. 4 Michigan State. The Big Ten's only other ranked team is No. 25 Illinois. The Big Ten hasn't had so few teams in the preseason Top 25 since 2018-19.

Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said player movement through the transfer portal makes it difficult to predict how a team will come together.

"I think you're going to find this league is so much better than what I've seen in preseason rankings," Izzo said.

The Big Ten traditionally has older players, and that's been accentuated because of the NCAA pandemic policy that allows athletes to have a sixth year of eligibility.

The Boilermakers and Spartans have six players who are in their fourth or fifth seasons.

Top transfers

G Ace Baldwin Jr., Penn State, 6-1, 190, Sr.: Atlantic 10 player of the year and defensive player of the year accompanied new coach Mike Rhoades from VCU.

G Brice Williams, Nebraska, 6-7, 213, Jr.: Led Charlotte with 13.8 ppg and 5.3 rpg and shot just under 40% on 3-pointers.

F Olivier Nkamhoua, Michigan, 6-8, 225, Sr.: His stock rose rapidly when he scored 27 points for Tennessee in an NCAA second-round win over Duke.

F Jamison Battle, Ohio State, 6-7, 220, Sr.: Buckeyes are coming off a losing season and need the experience (103 games, 101 starts) and scoring (12.4 ppg) that Battle can provide.

C Ben Krikke, Iowa, 6-9, 230, Sr.: His 19.4 ppg for Valparaiso led the Missouri Valley Conference.

Top freshmen

F Mackenzie Mgbako, Indiana, 6-8, 217: Ranked as high as the No. 8 national recruit, he gives the Hoosiers the top freshman for the second straight year. The Gladstone, N.J., native was arrested on suspicion of criminal trespass and resisting law enforcement in connection with an incident at a Bloomington restaurant on Oct. 22.

F Xavier Booker, Michigan State, 6-11, 220: Rated the No. 1 national recruit at his position. At No. 11 overall, the Indianapolis co-player of the year is the highest-ranked recruit ever to sign with Izzo, according to 247Sports.

G DeShawn Harris-Smith, Maryland, 6-5, 215: Heralded as a tough-minded and fearless player, the stat-sheet stuffer from Woodbridge, Va., led his team to the state title last season.

G Jeremy Fears Jr., Michigan State, 6-2, 190: The Joliet native was player of the year in Illinois after averaging 18.8 ppg and 5.3 apg.

G Taison Chatman, Ohio State, 6-4, 175: The Minnesota player of the year led his Minneapolis school to two straight state titles, finishing strong after an injury slowed him to start his senior season.

ACC PREVIEW

Duke, Miami headline title chase

By AARON BEARD
Associated Press

Duke spent much of its first season under Jon Scheyer building to another Atlantic Coast Conference title. Yet it was Miami that outlasted the rest of the league in March for the program's first trip to the Final Four.

They are the ACC headliners to start the 2023-24 season, with the second-ranked Blue Devils eager to live up to projections as a national title contender and the 13th-ranked Hurricanes aiming for a third straight deep postseason run.

For Duke, that means relying on preseason Associated Press All-American Kyle Filipowski inside and a strong NBA Draft prospect in Tyrese Proctor among four returning starters to go with another top recruiting class. Scheyer, in his first full season as Mike Krzyzewski's successor, led Duke to the program's league-record 22nd ACC Tournament title before falling to Tennessee in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

"We have a core group returning," Scheyer said. "You see our freshmen can really help us and can really play. We need to continue to find roles."

That ACC title run included pushing past the Hurricanes in the semifinals. But the Hurricanes went on to follow an unexpected run to the Elite Eight in 2022 by reaching college basketball's final weekend. They return three starters from that group in guard Nijel Pack as the top returning scorer (13.6), forward Norchad Omier (13.1 points, 10.0 rebounds) and guard Wooga Poplar.

UNC's next act

North Carolina is counting on an offseason roster overhaul to avoid last year's turmoil.

The Tar Heels opened at No. 1 after an unexpected run to the NCAA title game in 2022, but became the first team to sit atop the AP preseason poll and miss the NCAA Tournament since its expansion to 64 teams in 1985.

They're the league's only other preseason AP Top 25 team at No. 19 after bringing in five transfers among seven newcomers.

"We've still got to figure out what we like, what we don't like," said big man Armando Bacot, a preseason AP All-American. "But I think all the guys we have have a great attitude, which will make it easier (to build cohesion) than I think for most."

Cavs' leader

Virginia needs to find a new floor leader after Kihei Clark's departure.

Clark had been a starter going back to the Cavaliers' run to the 2019 NCAA championship, ending a five-year career as the program's career leader in assists (718), wins (122), starts (141) and games (161).

The Cavaliers return just one starter in guard Reece Beekman, who has shown a knack for coming through in the clutch. Virginia also added a point guard with Georgetown transfer Dante Harris, who arrived at midseason last year after averaging 11.9 points in 2021-22.



JACOB KUPFERMAN/AP

Center Kyle Filipowski leads a Duke team ranked No. 2 in the preseason AP Top 25.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



MORRY GASH/AP

Dajuan Harris is part of an experienced and talented core returning for preseason No. 1 Kansas.

BIG 12 PREVIEW

Houston's Sampson: New league is full of big dogs

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

Kelvin Sampson walked into a meeting of Big 12 coaches not long ago and looked around the room, and the thought that popped into the Houston coach's head was that it felt like walking into a dog park.

"You've got two dogs walk by each other, kind of side-eye, or little one starts yapping at the big one and they start sizing each other up," Sampson said. "I was sizing them all up. It used to be you could look at a few of those little dogs and go, 'I can get that one. I can get that one. I can get that one.' I ain't seen nobody in this conference like that."

Indeed, the Cougars — along with UCF, Cincinnati and BYU — are taking a big step up by joining the Big 12 this year. The first three are joining from the American Athletic and BYU from the West Coast Conference. All of them know that their programs are in for some growing pains as they take on what has statistically been the best league in the country.

"They're all German shepherds, man. Where's the Shih Tzus? Where's the Chihuahuas at?" Sampson said. "Oh, that's a Rottweiler. Oh my God, that's a pitbull. This is a tough dog park, man."

The top dog once again is expected to be Kansas, preseason No. 1 in the AP Top 25.

The Jayhawks return a talented and experienced core led by Da-

juan Harris, Kevin McCullar and K.J. Adams. They landed a highly regarded freshman class headlined by Elmarko Jackson. And they brought in a group of impact transfers that features Hunter Dickinson, the ex-Michigan center widely considered the best player to hit the portal this past offseason.

They also return Bill Self, who missed the postseason after having a heart valve replaced. The Hall of Fame coach was taken to the hospital on the eve of the Big 12 Tournament, and top assistant Norm Roberts led the Jayhawks to a title game — losing there to Texas — and to the second round of the NCAA Tournament, where they were upset by Arkansas.

"I actually looked the other day because I didn't even know when we had been ranked preseason 1," Self said, "but in the years that we had, we've had good years but they haven't finished great. I'm certainly hopeful that we can change that trend."

The Jayhawks certainly will be tested. They have nonconference games against sixth-ranked and defending national champion UConn, No. 17 Kentucky, Missouri and Indiana. They also have a trip to the Maui Invitational, where they could see third-ranked Purdue, No. 5 Marquette, ninth-ranked Tennessee, No. 11 Gonzaga, Syracuse and UCLA.

Then comes the Big 12 slate, which includes seventh-ranked Houston, No. 18 Texas and No. 20 Baylor.

Familiar opposition

Transferring within a conference was once verboten, but that is no longer the case. Baylor lost LJ Cryer to Houston. West Virginia watched Joe Toussaint head to Texas Tech. Avery Johnson III departed Oklahoma State for TCU, which also picked up Ernest Udeh from Kansas. And Ithiel Horton bounced from UCF to Texas.

Welcome back

Plenty of new coaches in the league have Big 12 roots, beginning with Sampson, who spent a dozen years at Oklahoma and led the Sooners to the Final Four in 2002. Josh Eilert, a former Kansas State graduate assistant, was picked by West Virginia to replace Bob Huggins, who acrimoniously parted ways with the school after his drunken-driving arrest in June. Texas Tech's Grant McCasland, who played and coached at Baylor, was hired away from North Texas to replace Mark Adams.

Freshman focus

With so much attention on the portal, it's easy to forget several freshmen are talented enough to push their way into starting lineups this season. Omaha Biliew was a top-10 recruit that Iowa State managed to keep in state, just as Oklahoma State did with Brandon Garrison. Ja'Kobe Walker, the latest star produced by Missouri's Link Academy, signed with Baylor.

SEC PREVIEW

By JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

Texas A&M and Tennessee return top players like Wade Taylor IV and Santiago Vescovi from NCAA Tournament teams.

Alabama and Arkansas mined the transfer portal to replace a departed pair of NBA first-round picks apiece. Then there's Kentucky, where John Calipari raked in his latest impressive haul of Big Blue-chip prospects.

It makes for a potentially interesting ride for the Southeastern Conference, where five teams will enter the season ranked and harboring ambitions of becoming the first SEC team to make it to the Final Four since 2019. Calipari was far from alone in having to replace much of his roster.

"It's exciting because it's so new to you as a head coach," Calipari said. "But it's also difficult to get them all to come together. How quickly can you do it? We're all battling the same thing now."

The ninth-ranked Volunteers are banking on Vescovi, point guard Zakai Zeigler and Josiah-Jordan James to build on their first run to the Sweet 16 since 2019.

The preseason poll shows how tightly bunched the pack could be with No. 14 Arkansas, No. 15 Texas A&M, No. 16 Kentucky and defending league champion Alabama at No. 24.

The Wildcats brought in four five-star prospects. Arkansas and Alabama landed two of the top six transfer classes, according to 247Sports.

Portal pickups

There are too many immediate-impact transfers to mention, but a couple of top contenders are certainly relying on them. The Tide brought in a group that includes Grant Nelson (North Dakota

State) and Aaron Estrada (Hofstra).

Arkansas's crop was led by high-scoring newcomers El Ellis (Louisville) and Khalif Battle (Temple).

Kentucky added a key piece in West Virginia big man Tre Mitchell. Tennessee imported guards Jordan Gainey (USC Upstate) and Dalton Knecht, who led the Big Sky Conference in scoring for Northern Colorado.

Top freshmen

Kentucky landed three of 247Sports' top six prospects, including forward Justin Edwards, center Aaron Bradshaw and guard DJ Wagner, along with fellow five-star prospect Rob Dillingham. The Wildcats are having to replace No. 10 pick Cason Wallace and center Oscar Tshwibwe, the national player of the year two seasons ago.

Auburn could have its new point guard in Aden Holloway, the only other five-star high schooler to land in the SEC, per the 247Sports composite rankings.

New coach

Mississippi's Chris Beard is the only new coach and his hiring immediately ratcheted up expectations in Oxford.

Beard was fired from Texas after facing felony domestic violence charges that were later dismissed. There's no questioning his track record as a coach.

Beard has led three different programs to the NCAA Tournament since 2016, including an appearance in the 2019 championship game and an Elite Eight run the year before at Texas Tech. He is 237-98 as a head coach and 11-5 in the NCAA Tournament, earning AP national coach of the year honors in 2019.



JOHN AMIS/AP

Guard Wade Taylor IV returns to lead a Texas A&M team that played in the NCAA Tournament but was ousted in the first round.

NFL

Rookies shine in Lions' win

BY LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

DETROIT — The Detroit Lions can trace their turnaround to hitting more than missing in the draft.

Jahmyr Gibbs and Sam LaPorta are the latest examples.

Gibbs ran for a season-high 152 yards and a touchdown, LaPorta had eight receptions for 57 yards with a score, and the rookies helped the Lions beat the Las Vegas Raiders 26-14 on Monday night.

“We wanted to get Gibbs going,” coach Dan Campbell said. “You could tell he was feeling it.”

The NFC North-leading Lions (6-2) stalled on three early drives, turned the ball over three times, missed a field goal and still won by double digits.

“When your defense plays that good, you can overcome that,” Campbell said.

Jared Goff threw an interception that Marcus Peters returned 75 yards for a touchdown early in the third quarter, allowing Las Vegas (3-5) to pull within two points. Detroit’s next drive ended when Craig Reynolds fumbled at the Raiders 3.

The Lions kept the ball on their third drive of the second half, taking a two-score lead on Gibbs’ 27-yard touchdown run.

Riley Patterson made a 52-yard field goal to give Detroit a 12-point lead early in the fourth.

That was a comfortable cushion against the



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Lions running back Jahmyr Gibbs, left, runs against Raiders safety Tre'von Moehrig during the second half Monday in Detroit. Gibbs had 152 yards rushing and a touchdown.

offensively challenged Raiders.

Las Vegas welcomed the return of Jimmy Garoppolo, but lamented that he threw a league-leading ninth interception one play after the Raiders recovered a fumble in the first quarter. Kerby Joseph picked off Garoppolo’s lofted pass into double coverage toward Davante Adams in the end zone.

“This was definitely a bad day,” Garoppolo said. “I just have to be smart with the ball.”

Sometimes, he didn’t have much of a chance. Midway through the fourth, trying to rally, the Raiders gave up sacks on three of four snaps and turned it over on downs at their 28.

In all, Las Vegas allowed its beat-up quarterback to get sacked six times.

Garoppolo, who missed six quarters because of a back injury, was 10-for-21 for 126 yards.

Even when Garoppolo had time to throw and an open receiver, he misfired — as he did when Adams was all alone deep downfield late in the game. When that series ended, the standout receiver slammed his helmet on the sideline and sat disgustedly on the Raiders’ bench.

Josh Jacobs’ lackluster season continued.

The 2022 All-Pro running back finished with 15 carries for 61 yards and a 3-yard touchdown late in the first half that cut the Raiders’ deficit to 9-7. That was their only score on offense.

“I thought we did have some opportunities to make more plays on offense than we did, but we didn’t make them,” embattled coach Josh McDaniels said. “We just couldn’t string together enough plays in the passing game.”

Detroit did.

Goff completed 26 of 37 passes for 272 yards with an 18-yard strike to LaPorta for a touchdown that put Detroit up 16-7 late in the first half. Amon-Ra St. Brown had six catches for 108 yards.

Detroit also had a dynamic running game to keep the Raiders on their heels.

Entering the game, Las Vegas had held an NFL-high five teams to fewer than 200 yards passing.

Gibbs, the No. 12 pick overall, had a season-high 26 carries and five receptions for 37 yards.

“He’s a very talented player with a very dynamic skill set,” McDaniels said.

Giants, Commanders trade DL for picks

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — From afar, Pete Carroll always wanted a chance to have Leonard Williams on his team.

The affinity started when Williams was in college at Southern California, the place Carroll used to coach. It continued when Williams became a standout on the defensive line playing in the NFL in New York, first for the Jets and then the Giants.

“We watched him for a long time. I’ve known him for a good while — Trojan and all that — and he’s a fantastic football player,” Carroll said. “He’s the kind of guy can make a difference in games.”

Carroll got his wish on Monday when the NFC West-leading Seahawks acquired Williams from the struggling Giants for a pair of draft picks.

With Seattle sitting on top of its division and depth always a concern, Carroll’s squad landed one of the better players available ahead of Tuesday’s NFL trade deadline.

“He’s a terrific kid as a leader and competitor. Just the kind of guy you are fortunate to have on your team,” Carroll said.

The cost for Seattle is not cheap. The Seahawks (5-2) will send a second-round choice in 2024 and a fifth-rounder in 2025 to the Giants (2-6). The tradeoff for the draft capital is New York picking up most of the base salary owed to



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Defensive end Leonard Williams was traded from the New York Giants to Seattle, where he'll look to help bolster the defense for the NFC West-leading Seahawks.

Williams for this season, leaving Seattle to pay just the prorated veteran minimum the rest of the way.

Williams had a \$32 million cap hit this season, the highest on the Giants roster. Seattle does have two third-round picks in 2024, softening the blow of giving up the second-rounder.

Williams still has to pass his physical, which is expected Tuesday.

The Washington Commanders also got a second-round pick in the next draft in exchange for a

top pass rusher, trading Montez Sweat to the Chicago Bears on Tuesday.

Sweat, 27, is in the final year of his rookie contract and looks primed for a big payday in free agency, whether it’s with the Bears or elsewhere. He has 6½ sacks this season and 35½ to go along with 197 tackles since Washington drafted him in the first round in 2019.

Adding Williams is the second move Seattle has made in the past week to add to its defensive line. The Seahawks reunited with veteran defensive end Frank Clark last week after Uchenna Nwosu was lost for the regular season with a pec-toral injury in Week 7 against Arizona.

Williams will likely step into a rotation with Dre’Mont Jones, Mario Edwards Jr. and Jarran Reed on Seattle’s defensive front. Reed in particular has played a lot of snaps as a shaded nose tackle through the first seven games, and the Seahawks have wanted to get more pressure with the interior of their defensive line.

“Trying to get better and help our team, and this is one of the late opportunities to do something like that,” Carroll said.

A nine-year veteran, Williams started 53 of 61 regular-season games and two playoff games with the Giants after being acquired from the Jets in October 2019. He was the No. 6 overall draft pick by the Jets in 2015 and played 71 games for them.

Scoreboard

American Conference							
East							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Miami	6	2	0	.750	271	204	
Buffalo	5	3	0	.625	222	136	
N.Y. Jets	4	3	0	.571	126	129	
New England	2	6	0	.250	118	208	
South							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Jacksonville	6	2	0	.750	193	156	
Houston	3	4	0	.429	148	128	
Tennessee	3	4	0	.429	132	140	
Indianapolis	3	5	0	.375	205	229	
North							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Baltimore	6	2	0	.750	202	121	
Cincinnati	4	3	0	.571	131	144	
Cleveland	4	3	0	.571	154	139	
Pittsburgh	4	3	0	.571	113	147	
West							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Kansas City	6	2	0	.750	187	129	
L.A. Chargers	3	4	0	.429	174	168	
Denver	3	5	0	.375	172	226	
Las Vegas	3	5	0	.375	126	187	
National Conference							
East							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Philadelphia	7	1	0	.875	224	172	
Dallas	5	2	0	.714	197	120	
Washington	3	5	0	.375	171	228	
N.Y. Giants	2	6	0	.250	95	187	
South							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Atlanta	4	4	0	.500	138	161	
New Orleans	4	4	0	.500	171	154	
Tampa Bay	3	4	0	.429	121	128	
Carolina	1	6	0	.143	127	199	
North							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Detroit	6	2	0	.750	200	165	
Minnesota	4	4	0	.500	175	162	
Green Bay	2	5	0	.286	140	156	
Chicago	2	6	0	.250	171	218	
West							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Seattle	5	2	0	.714	168	138	
San Francisco	5	3	0	.625	218	140	
L.A. Rams	3	5	0	.375	175	184	
Arizona	1	7	0	.125	151	213	

Thursday's game	
Buffalo 24, Tampa Bay 18	
Sunday's games	
Carolina 15, Houston 13	
Dallas 43, L.A. Rams 20	
Jacksonville 20, Pittsburgh 10	
Miami 31, New England 17	
Minnesota 24, Green Bay 10	
N.Y. Jets 13, N.Y. Giants 10, OT	
New Orleans 38, Indianapolis 27	
Philadelphia 38, Washington 31	
Tennessee 28, Atlanta 23	
Seattle 24, Cleveland 20	
Baltimore 31, Arizona 24	
Cincinnati 31, San Francisco 17	
Denver 24, Kansas City 9	
L.A. Chargers 30, Chicago 13	
Monday's game	
Detroit 26, Las Vegas 14	
Thursday, Nov. 2	
Tennessee at Pittsburgh	
Sunday, Nov. 5	
Miami vs Kansas City at Frankfurt, Germany	
Arizona at Cleveland	
Chicago at New Orleans	
L.A. Rams at Green Bay	
Minnesota at Atlanta	
Seattle at Baltimore	
Tampa Bay at Houston	
Washington at New England	
Indianapolis at Carolina	
Dallas at Philadelphia	
N.Y. Giants at Las Vegas	
Buffalo at Cincinnati	
Open: Denver, Jacksonville, Detroit, San Francisco	
Monday, Nov. 6	
L.A. Chargers at N.Y. Jets	
Thursday, Nov. 9	
Carolina at Chicago	
Sunday, Nov. 12	
Indianapolis at New England	
Cleveland at Baltimore	
Houston at Cincinnati	
San Francisco at Jacksonville	
New Orleans at Minnesota	
Green Bay at Pittsburgh	
Tennessee at Tampa Bay	
Atlanta at Arizona	
Detroit at L.A. Chargers	
N.Y. Giants at Dallas	
Washington at Seattle	
N.Y. Jets at Las Vegas	
Open: Kansas City, L.A. Rams, Miami, Philadelphia	

WORLD SERIES

Seager's HR helps Texas take series lead

Early runs, stellar defense let Rangers keep Diamondbacks' offense in check

By DAVID BRANDT
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Corey Seager smashed a homer that rocketed off his bat at a speed few other mortals can match. Then he made a sliding stop and started a double play in the eighth inning that might have saved the game.

The star shortstop is once again playing at a different level in October.

That's good for the Texas Rangers, who may need more of those individual heroics after a costly victory put them ahead in this World Series.



World Series
x-if necessary
(Best-of-seven)
Texas 2, Arizona 1

Texas 6, Arizona 5, 11 innings
Arizona 9, Texas 1
Monday: Texas 3, Arizona 1
Tuesday: at Arizona
Wednesday: at Arizona, **AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. Thursday CET; 9 a.m. Thursday JKT**
x-Friday: at Texas, **AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. Saturday CET; 9 a.m. Saturday JKT**
x-Saturday, Nov. 4: at Texas, **AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. Sunday CET; 9 a.m. Sunday JKT**

Seager clubbed a two-run homer and turned in a terrific defensive play, Max Scherzer combined with four relievers for a gem on the mound and Texas beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 3-1 on Monday night to take a 2-1 lead in the Fall Classic.

"This is what you play for. This is where you want to be at this moment," said Seager, the NLCS and World Series MVP for the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2020. "Fortunately for me, having experience with this, it's always driven me. I've been fortunate enough to be part of some good teams and experience these things."

Texas overcame injuries to Scherzer and slugger Adolis García in improving to 9-0 on the road this postseason, this time in front of more than 48,000 fans at Chase Field.

The 29-year-old Seager — in the second year of a \$325 million contract — once again showed he was worth every penny on the game's biggest stage.

He smoked a two-run homer into the right-field seats as part of a three-run third after Diamondbacks rookie starter Brandon

Pfaadt left a first-pitch changeup high in the zone. The ball left Seager's bat at 114.5 mph, which made it the hardest-hit World Series homer in the Statcast era, dating back to 2015.

García cut down Christian Walker at the plate with a stellar throw from right field in the second, stifling some early Arizona momentum. García exited in the eighth with tightness on his left side after appearing to get hurt on a swing. He went to a hospital for an MRI to determine the severity of the injury.

Scherzer threw three scoreless innings before leaving with back tightness. Jon Gray, Josh Sborz, Aroldis Chapman and José Leclerc combined to keep Arizona's offense quiet most of the evening.

Scherzer said he was having back spasms and would know more about his availability for a potential Game 7 over the next 48 hours.

Gray replaced Scherzer and fired three shutout innings of one-hit ball for the win. Leclerc struck out two in a perfect ninth for his fourth save this postseason.



The Diamondbacks' Christian Walker, right, is tagged out by Rangers catcher Jonah Heim while trying to score from second base Monday during second inning of Game 3 of the World Series in Phoenix.

Game 4 in the best-of-seven Series was Tuesday at Chase Field.

The D-backs rallied in the eighth when pinch-hitter Emmanuel Rivera led off with a double against Chapman. Geraldo Perdomo followed with an RBI single, making it 3-1. But then Chapman worked out of the jam — striking out Corbin Carroll before Seager started a clutch double play, sliding on his knees to field a hot smash from Ketel Marte before flipping to Semien, who relayed to first.

After García threw out Walker, the Rangers grabbed the lead in the third. Nathaniel Lowe hit a leadoff double and scored on a two-out single by Semien, his first RBI in 10 games. Seager then launched his no-doubt homer deep into the right-field seats to make it 3-0.

Texas is 9-0 this postseason when scoring first, and the Rangers are the first team in major league history to win their first nine road games in one postseason.

The teams combined for no errors over the first two games of the series and the Rangers produced more defensive highlights that helped them take control of Game 3.

Walker led off the second with a double and Tommy Pham followed with a single, but Walker was thrown out at home. Diamondbacks third-base coach Tony Perezchica put up a stop sign, but Walker never hesitated as he rounded third.

García — a Gold Glove finalist who has one of the best arms in the big leagues — threw a 94.6 mph rocket to cut down Walker.

"I feel like that was a huge momentum swing," Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said. "That was a big moment. We got flat there for a couple innings."

Wanting to make up ground, Walker took one last look at Perezchica and put his head down, hoping to make up time with a tight turn around the bag.

Perezchica changed his mind and put up a stop sign. Walker never saw it and García made him pay.

In position to score the first run in Game 3 of the World Series, Walker instead ran into a costly out.

"The last time I saw him, he was waving and I never saw the stop sign," Walker said. "Just probably trying to do too much and should have been more aware."

Scherzer leaves Game 3 early due to back spasms

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Max Scherzer shook off catcher Jonah Heim twice and threw a 1-2 slider that struck out Evan Longoria in the third inning of Game 3 of the World Series.

"Something was there," the three-time Cy Young Award winner said.

Back in the World Series, the 39-year-old Texas right-hander felt a muscle spasm on the right side of his back. His outing was soon over, and perhaps his postseason, too.

Scherzer was forced from his start after three innings with Texas ahead by three runs. Jon Gray emerged from the bullpen and followed with three scoreless innings for the win, helping lift the Rangers over Arizona 3-1 on Monday night for a 2-1 series lead.

"I'm in full spasm. It's locked up pretty



Scherzer

good," Scherzer said. "I've had spasms before. The way this kind of goes, tomorrow will be sore, then it's the second day — the second day will let you know where this is at."

After striking out Longoria, Scherzer retired Geraldo Perdomo on a flyout. The spasm felt even tighter as he walked Corbin Carroll on five pitches. Scherzer retired Ketel Marte and went to the clubhouse for treatment.

"That's when it locked up," Scherzer said.

Scherzer tried to throw two warmups in the fourth but grimaced. Rangers manager Bruce Bochy and head athletic trainer Matt Lucero headed to the mound.

"I was finally going to catch some rhythm

and finally get deep into a ballgame," Scherzer said. "And here we are with another little ailment. It's as frustrating as heck, but that's the hand I'm dealt, so I got to deal with it and find a way around it."

Scherzer allowed two hits in three innings with two walks and one strikeout, throwing 21 of 36 pitches for strikes. He was hit on his right elbow by a 92.6 mph comebacker off Alek Thomas' bat in the second inning. The ball ricocheted to third baseman Josh Jung, who threw to first for the out.

Scherzer's elbow was fine. The back left him in considerable pain.

"I got to see how bad this is and if the drugs can work," he said.

Scherzer would be in line to start a potential Game 7 on Saturday on four days of rest. Asked whether he was taking a muscle re-

laxant or something stronger, Scherzer responded: "All of the above."

Acquired from the New York Mets on July 30, Scherzer strained a muscle in his right shoulder on Sept. 12 and returned to make two starts in the AL Championship Series against Houston, going 0-1 with a 9.45 ERA. Scherzer allowed five runs over four innings and took the loss in Game 3, and then gave up two runs in 2⅓ innings in a no-decision in Game 7.

He was pitching Monday with a cut on his right thumb covered with cotton and Super Glue, what he termed Sunday as "a little arts and crafts in the training room."

Gray, a 31-year-old right-hander, was a starter during the regular season. He heard the bullpen phone ring at the end of the second inning, after the comebacker.

Gray said he got off 10 warmup pitches.

SPORTS



Rangers take 2-1 lead
Texas ties road win streak record; García, Scherzer injured » **World Series, Page 23**

NBA



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Months after requesting a trade, with the Clippers as his preferred destination, James Harden is off to Los Angeles, ending a tumultuous tenure in Philadelphia.

Harden traded to Clippers

Source: Disgruntled guard dealt after months of drama, dispute with 76ers president

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — James Harden got his trade to the Los Angeles Clippers. The Philadelphia 76ers sent Harden, P.J. Tucker and Filip Petrušev to Los Angeles for Marcus Morris, Robert Covington, Nic Batum, K.J. Martin, a 2028 unprotected first-round draft pick, two second-round picks, a 2029 draft-pick swap and an additional first-rounder from a third team, a person familiar with the trade told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on the condi-



Morey

tion of anonymity Tuesday because the final details of the trade are not yet official. Harden, who told the 76ers that the Clippers were his preferred team from the moment he issued his offseason trade demand, now joins a loaded roster intent on making a title push. He joins Kawhi Leonard, Paul George and Russell Westbrook — Harden's former teammate in Oklahoma City and Houston — in a veteran lineup that

now make the Clippers a heavy betting favorite to win the NBA championship. The 34-year-old Harden vowed he would never play for a franchise run by 76ers team president Daryl Morey, and the disgruntled guard had yet to play for the team this season. Harden had picked up his \$35.6 million contract option in June with the belief the team would trade him. When a deal failed to immediately materialize, Harden's relationship with the 76ers ultimately soured. The 10-time All-Star led the NBA in assists last season with 10.7 per game, but it was Harden's wildly fluctuating offense

that frustrated the Sixers and helped doom them in the playoffs, where they lost in the second round to Boston. Harden, acquired at the 2022 trade deadline from Brooklyn, is now off to his fifth team. He was a late arrival to training camp and continued to practice with the 76ers until he was told to stay home for the team's first two road games in the wake of the trade demand. The lone time he spoke at practice, Harden said that his fractured relationship

SEE HARDEN ON PAGE 17

Lions lean on rookies in win over Raiders » NFL, Page 22

