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Senators claim China is trying to recruit US troops as spies

BY GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

Three senators warned the Pentagon on Tuesday that China is making aggressive efforts to recruit current and recent members of the U.S. military to spy against the United States.

"These actions by the [Chinese Communist Party] to gain insight on and exploit U.S. national security information and



Shaheen

tactics present a current and ongoing threat to our national security," Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., a member of the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations committees, wrote in a letter to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Air Force Gen. Charles "CQ" Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Sens. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., a former Army captain, and Mark Kelly, D-Ariz., a former Navy captain, also signed the letter.

The senators are requesting a briefing from the Pentagon by Dec. 15 on the issue and what steps can be taken within the Defense Department to curb attempts by Chinese intelligence agents to meet and recruit U.S. service members, especially those who are leaving the military and looking for employment.

The letter follows a federal judge in the U.S. District of Western Washington setting a Jan. 2 trial date for a former sergeant in the military intelligence section of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., accused of stealing and then trying to offer top secret documents to China.

SEE SPIES ON PAGE 5



HATEM ALI/AP

Palestinians cross to the Egyptian side of the border crossing with the Gaza Strip in Rafah on Wednesday.

Some Palestinians allowed to flee

Israeli strikes pound refugee camp more than three weeks into siege

BY NAJIB JOBAIN
AND SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — Hundreds of dual passport holders and dozens of seriously injured Palestinians were allowed to leave Gaza on Wednesday after more than three weeks under siege, while Israeli airstrikes destroyed apartments in a densely populated area for the second straight day.

The group were the first people to leave Gaza — other than four

MIDEAST
US sends 300 more troops to Middle East
Page 7

hostages released by Hamas and another rescued by Israeli forces — even as bombings have driven hundreds of thousands from their homes, and food, water and fuel

run low. It remained unclear whether more people would be allowed to leave Gaza in coming days.

Al-Jazeera television, one of the few media outlets still reporting from northern Gaza, aired footage of leveled apartments in the densely populated Jabaliya refugee camp near Gaza City, and of several wounded people, including children, being brought to a nearby hospital. The Hamas-run government said airstrikes killed and

wounded many people, but the exact toll was not yet known.

The Al-Jazeera footage showed nearly identical scenes as the day before; dozens of men dug through the gray rubble of demolished multistory buildings in search of survivors.

The toll from Tuesday's strikes was also unknown, though the director of a nearby hospital said hundreds were killed or wounded.

SEE BORDER ON PAGE 8

BUSINESS/WEATHER

E2 estimates over 400K new clean energy jobs

Associated Press

A nonpartisan business group that advocates for clean energy estimates that 403,000 jobs will be created by the 210 major energy projects announced since the Inflation Reduction Act took effect in mid-2022.

At least \$86 billion in investments have been announced, with the biggest job gains expected in the electric vehicles, battery storage and solar energy sectors, said the report issued Wednesday by Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2).

The IRA, signed August 2022,

contains \$500 billion in new federal spending to lower health care costs, increase tax revenues and address climate change by offering incentives so clean tech companies innovate and manufacture in the United States.

“We’re in the biggest economic revolution we’ve seen in generations thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act and other clean energy policies,” said E2 executive director Bob Keefe.

The EV sector had the strongest response to the IRA and represents

58% of investments when the projects were being announced. This sector is expected to support 185,700 jobs annually for five years. Battery storage is expected to support 48,000 jobs, and solar is expected to support 35,000, both annually for five years.

New jobs indirectly related to the announced projects could include lumber mills hiring more staff to handle growing demand for construction materials and restaurants getting busier because construction workers at new factories are starting to eat there.

EXCHANGE RATES			
Military rates			
Euro costs (Nov. 2)	\$1.03	Switzerland (Franc)	.9073
British pound (Nov. 2)	\$1.18	Thailand (Baht)	36.22
Japanese yen (Nov. 2)	147.00	Turkey (New Lira)	28.3246
South Korean won (Nov. 2)	1,322.00		
Commercial rates			
Bahrain (Dinar)	.3771	(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.)	
Britain (Pound)	1.2138		
Canada (Dollar)	1.3860		
China (Yuan)	7.3191		
Denmark (Krone)	7.0714		
Egypt (Pound)	30.9004		
Euro	.9478		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8234		
Hungary (Forint)	363.64		
Israel (Shekel)	4.0226		
Japan (Yen)	151.27	INTEREST RATES	
Kuwait (Dinar)	.3091	Prime rate	8.50
Norway (Krone)	11.1997	Interest Rates Discount rate	6.00
Philippines (Peso)	56.77	Federal funds market rate	5.33
Poland (Zloty)	4.24	3-month bill	5.49
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7513	30-year bond	5.04
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3705		
South Korea (Won)	1,355.93		

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MILITARY

3 divers rescued off coast of Guam

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

Three divers were rescued by a team of U.S. Coast Guard and naval aviators over the weekend after they went missing near Santa Rosa Banks off Guam's southwestern coast.

The unnamed divers were plucked from the water at 3:45 p.m. Saturday, 25 nautical miles off Agat, in a MH-60 Knighthawk by members of Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, the Coast Guard said in a news release Monday.

The men were found several miles from their charter boat, the statement said. There were no injuries reported.

"This successful rescue underscores the exceptional skills and dedication of our search and rescue teams," Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Christine Igisomar said in the release. "Their swift efforts, combined with the crucial aviation support, played a pivotal role in ensuring the safety of these divers."

First responders from Guam's Joint Rescue Sub-Center received a distress call from the charter operator at approximately 1 p.m. that three divers had failed to surface two hours earlier, the statement said.

The experienced male divers entered the water south of Guam wearing bright T-shirts with diving lights and emergency flotation equipment.

They planned to surface together in the event of problems, the release said.

An underwater current pushed the group about 1,200 feet from the charter boat, so they were not spotted when they surfaced, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sara Muir, a spokeswoman for U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia, Sector



U.S. Coast Guard

A U.S. Navy MH-60 Knighthawk from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 rescues divers Saturday off the coast of Agat, Guam.

Guam, said by email Wednesday. She referred further questions to the Navy.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Katie Koenig, a spokeswoman for Joint Region Marianas, referred Stars and Stripes to squadron spokeswoman Lt. j.g. Zoey Mau, who did not immediately respond to an emailed request for more information.

The search team found the men using search patterns that took into account the day's "favorable" weather conditions of 13 mph easterly winds and 3-foot swells, according to the release.

After being hoisted from the water, the men were taken to U.S. Naval Hospital Guam as a precau-

tion.

The Coast Guard operates nine rescue coordination centers at various geographic locations across the U.S., the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website said.

They also have two, called sub-centers, in U.S. territories Puerto Rico and Guam.

In addition to the Knighthawk, members of a Coast Guard sub center and a 45-foot response boat from the station at Apra Harbor also participated in the rescue, according to the release.

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DOD opens site for UFO reports

AARO website accepts accounts from vets, troops, and civilian defense employees

By MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Service members, veterans and civilian defense workers can now report unidentified anomalous phenomena, better known as UFOs, on the Defense Department website, the Pentagon announced Tuesday.

"Any current or former [defense] employees, military or civilian, or contractors, who believe that they have first-hand knowledge of ... UAP activity, please come forward using this new secure reporting mechanism. We want to hear from you," said Sean Kirkpatrick, director of the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office, or AARO.

Reports can be submitted at: <https://www.aaro.mil/AARO-Reporting-Information/>

Amid a rise in military-related UFO sightings, the AARO website was launched in August to serve as a "one-stop shop" for all things related to sightings. Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon's top spokesman, said at the time that the website was still being built but said the next phase would include military service members and civilian workers to report sightings.

"This website will provide information including videos and photos on resolved [unidentified anomalous phenomena] cases as they are declassified and approved for public release," he said.

The site is run by the AARO, which was established at the Pentagon a year ago to investigate UFOs. AARO will investigate sightings dating to 1945 reported to the site by current and former federal government employees and contractors.

The Pentagon, in collaboration

with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, released a report in October bringing the number of accounts of UFOs to 801. The AARO received 291 UFO reports during the reporting period from Aug. 31, 2022, to April 31, 2023. Between 2019 and 2022, 17 sightings occurred that had not been previously reported.

"Most reports still reflect a bias towards restricted military airspace, a result of reporting from military personnel and sensors present in such areas," the report states. "This bias has been lessened by reporting from commercial pilots showing a more diverse geographic distribution of UAP sightings across the United States."

Most sightings are over U.S. airspace and littoral waters, however, because of "U.S.-centric collection bias," the report states.

In July, three military veterans who claim to have seen UFOs told lawmakers in a House panel that such mysterious objects are a threat to national security. One of the veterans — former Air Force intelligence officer David Grusch — claimed the government is hiding proof of extraterrestrial life from past UFO crashes.

Kirkpatrick said since the AARO was created and he became the director, he has not spoken with Grusch.

"We have extended an invitation at least four or five times now for him to come in, over the last eight months or so, and [have] been declined," he told reporters Tuesday.

Kirkpatrick said his office understands the public is interested in reporting UFO sightings and the AARO is exploring methods in its upcoming third phase announcement.

Navy christens newest ship, USNS Robert F. Kennedy

Stars and Stripes

Military Sealift Command christened its newest ship, fleet replenishment oiler USNS Robert F. Kennedy, during a ceremony at the General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard in San Diego.

Among the dignitaries attending Saturday were Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro; former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.; Rear Adm. Brendan McClain; and Capt. Micah Murphy, commander, Military Sealift

Command Pacific, and command-er Task Force 33.

The ship honors Robert F. Kennedy, who served as the U.S. Attorney General from January 1961 to September 1964 during the presidency of his brother, John F. Kennedy. Robert Kennedy was assassinated in 1968 during his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Robert Kennedy's oldest child and ship's sponsor, broke the ceremo-

nial bottle of champagne against the ship's hull.

"The Navy is a fighting force and a force for peace," Kennedy Townsend said. "It is fitting that the Secretary of the Navy named a class of ship after civil rights leaders like my father."

The 746-foot Kennedy is the fourth ship in the John Lewis-class, according to a news release. This class can carry 162,000 barrels of diesel ship fuel, aviation fuel and dry stores cargo. The up-

graded oiler is built with double hulls to protect against oil spills and has strengthened cargo and ballast tanks. It will be equipped with a basic self-defense capability, including crew-served weapons and Nixie torpedo decoys.

It also has the capabilities for close-in weapons systems such as SeaRAMs, and an Anti-Torpedo Defense System. The Lewis-class of oilers will replace the current Kaiser Class fleet replenishment oilers.



SARAH CANNON/Military Sealift Command

USNS Robert F. Kennedy slides into the water Saturday.

PACIFIC

Japan protests, claims Russian copter in airspace

BY JEREMY STILLWAGNER
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — A suspected Russian helicopter entered Japanese airspace near Hokkaido, the northernmost of Japan's four main islands, on Tuesday, according to the Ministry of Defense.

The Japan Air Self-Defense Force scrambled fighters around 12:44 p.m. in response to the incursion off the Nemuro Peninsula in the island's northeast, the minis-

try said in a news release Tuesday. It did not specify the helicopter's type.

Tokyo complained to Moscow through diplomatic channels and demanded it take measures to prevent further incursions, a spokesman for Japan's Joint Staff told Stars and Stripes by phone Wednesday.

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command did not comment on the situation, according to an email Wednesday from spokeswoman Kirah Wurst.

The incident marked the first time a Russian helicopter has entered Japanese airspace since March 2022.

One flew near Hokkaido in March 2022, after Japan pledged \$200 million to support Ukraine and joined the United States and several European countries imposing economic sanctions on Russia.

That month, 16 Russian warships were spotted near Japanese waters, with a group of 10 sailing

through the Tsugaru Strait, which separates Hokkaido from Honshu, Japan's largest island. The strait is about 30 miles wide at its narrowest point.

"The Russian flotillas are a show of force designed to warn Japan against imposing further sanctions," James Brown, an international affairs expert at Temple University's Japan campus told Stars and Stripes at the time.

"As Japan imposes further sanctions, we can expect to see

more of this," he said.

The southernmost islands of the Kuril chain north of Hokkaido have been the subject of a territorial dispute between Tokyo and Moscow since the end of World War II.

The Kurils stretch from northern Japan to Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula.

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Japanese mayor's no-Halloween efforts fail to scare revelers

BY KELLY AGEE
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — About 15,000 people gathered in the streets of Shibuya for Halloween despite government attempts to tamp down the party spirit.

Shibuya Mayor Ken Hasebe discouraged celebrations in the city ward known for its nightlife following the deaths of 159 people at a Halloween celebration in Seoul on Oct. 29, 2022.

A spontaneous crowd surge in a narrow alley in the city's Itaewon entertainment district trapped hundreds of people with tragic results.

Hasebe's campaign included an alcohol ban and a plea for people to move their celebrations to a virtual version of Shibuya.

On Tuesday, police stationed in the streets near Shibuya Station urged swarms of pedestrians to keep moving.

This included the ward's busy scramble intersection, which can see thousands of people cross at once.

Vehicular traffic was blocked near the station and a small plaza that's home to an iconic dog statue, Hachiko, was curtailed off. The landmark is a popular meeting place.

There were no serious troubles reported Tuesday night, a ward spokeswoman said by email Wednesday. It's customary in Japan for some government officials to speak to media on the condition



PHOTOS BY AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

Police control crowds waiting to cross the iconic scramble intersection in Tokyo's Shibuya ward Tuesday.

of anonymity.

Though thousands turned out to celebrate Halloween, the crowds were thinner and fewer people wore costumes than in past years. Most appeared to obey the ban on street drinking.

"People showed understanding mostly to the messages sent by the ward and it was a quiet Halloween for Shibuya," Hasebe told reporters Wednesday.

About 23,000 people visited Shibuya last year for Halloween, the

ward spokeswoman said. In 2019, months before the pandemic, there were 40,000.

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.
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Halloween revelers in a Godzilla costume and horse mask wait to cross the scramble intersection in Tokyo's Shibuya ward Tuesday.

North Korea misses its deadline for launching spy satellite into orbit

BY DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — North Korea's self-imposed deadline for a third try at placing a military reconnaissance satellite into orbit passed without a launch from the communist regime.

After a failed attempt on Aug. 24, the North Korean National Aerospace Development Administration pledged to try again in October, according to a report

that day from the Korean Central News Agency.

A rocket carrying the Malligyong-1 satellite, launched at 3:50 a.m. Aug. 24 from North Pyongan province, traveled south over the Yellow Sea before failing, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a message to reporters at the time.

KCNA attributed the rocket's failure to a flawed third stage emergency blasting system.

Pyongyang's first attempt to

put a satellite into orbit came May 31.

Five weeks later, a salvage operation led by South Korea's military found parts of the launch vehicle that had "no military utility" in the Yellow Sea, about 125 miles west of the South's Eocheong Island, according to the Ministry of National Defense in Seoul.

Predicting North Korean satellite launches is difficult, South Korean Col. Lee Sung-jun,

spokesman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters Tuesday in Seoul. The South Korean military and the United States continue to monitor the situation, he said.

Prior to the two attempts, North Korea claimed to have conducted six satellite launches — two of them successful — since 1998, according to a May report by the Seoul-based East Asia Institute think-tank.

The U.S. and South Korea have alleged North Korea's satellite

launches are cover for weapons tests and said the technology is directly related to the regime's intercontinental ballistic missile program.

Although prohibited since 2006 by U.N. Security Council resolutions from "all ballistic missile activities," North Korea has fired 21 ballistic missiles in 14 days of testing so far this year.

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MILITARY

Spies: Senators urge DOD to take action

FROM PAGE 1

Joseph Daniel Schmidt, 29, was arrested Oct. 6 when he stepped off a flight from Hong Kong to San Francisco. A grand jury in Seattle had earlier charged him with felony possession of secret documents that he is accused of taking from his position with the 109th Military Intelligence Battalion at Lewis-McChord.

When Schmidt worked at Lewis-McChord, he would deal with communications from possible spies or others with knowledge of Chinese military and intelligence apparatus, according to court documents filed in his case. Schmidt “directly supported the Indo-Pacific Command, the U.S. Department of Defense’s geographic combatant command that covers the Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean region,” according to a court affidavit.

In a hearing on Monday, Schmidt was ordered to remain confined in a federal security facility until the trial. He faces 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each of his two charges.

In another recent case, a sailor serving at Naval Base Ventura County in Port Hueneme, Calif., pleaded guilty to providing intelligence information to the Chinese in exchange for cash, ac-

cording to the Justice Department.

Petty Officer Wenheng Zhao, 26, of Monterey Park, Calif., admitted to sending plans for a military exercise in the Indo-Pacific region to a Chinese intelligence agent for more two years — from August 2021 to May 2023.

Zhao worked in the Navy as a technician who installed and maintained electronic equipment at U.S. military bases. He would take photographs of computer display screens with “operational orders” for U.S. military units. He also sent installation blueprints and a diagram of a radar station at the U.S. military base on Okinawa.

He faces up to 20 years in prison and will be sentenced Jan. 8, federal officials said.

The three senators wrote an additional danger is service members who have key intelligence or technical skills and are contacted by the Chinese through intermediators with international job opportunities that can seem legitimate.

“The Chinese government has reportedly used companies that are both overtly and covertly backed by the Chinese Communist Party, including using deliberately innocuous and vague job

descriptions and promising lucrative pay, to deceive veterans into working for the People’s Liberation Army,” they wrote.

The U.S. is not the only nation facing attempts to recruit former military personnel.

“Similar targeted recruiting of military veterans has also been exposed in the United Kingdom, where the Chinese have sought to hire former pilots to teach NATO aircraft and aerial doctrine,” according to the letter.

Shaheen is trying to amend the Senate version of the fiscal 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, an annual, must-pass policy bill for the Pentagon, to prohibit service members from employment with security and military services of the Chinese Communist Party.

The NDAA amendment was added after a recent Air Force report that the Chinese have sought to recruit service members specifically to work on areas of their expertise while in the U.S. military.

“We urge you to take all action that is immediately available to resist this targeted recruitment of veterans and separating service members,” the senators wrote.

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China keeps up military pressure on Taiwan

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Taiwan said Wednesday that China sent 43 military aircraft and seven ships near the self-ruled island, the latest sign that Beijing plans no letup in its campaign of harassment, threats and intimidation.

Taiwan’s Defense Ministry said the figure was current for the 24 hours up to 6 a.m. Wednesday and that 37 of the aircraft had crossed the median line in the Taiwan Strait, which China no longer recognizes as an informal divider between the sides.

It said Taiwan had monitored the situation, scrambled jet fighters, dispatched ships and activated land-based missile systems, all standard responses to Chinese military activities, which include crossing into Taiwan’s air defense identification zone but not into its actual airspace.

Such Chinese maneuvers have become frequent and aggressive since then-U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August 2022.

China suspended military communication with the U.S. to show its displeasure over her trip to Taiwan, which Beijing considers part

of its territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary.

China’s military maneuvers are seen as intended to break down Taiwanese morale, exhausting its pilots and other personnel and wearing down its equipment. Despite that, the present status of de-facto independence remains popular among the island’s voters and the defense budget has been increased to purchase equipment from the U.S. and to produce some items locally, including submarines.

At an international defense forum in Beijing on Monday, China’s second-ranking military official Gen. Zhang Youxia reiterated threats by the Chinese government to retaliate against moves toward establishing Taiwan’s formal independence, saying that “no matter who tries to split Taiwan from China in any form, China and the Chinese military will never allow that to happen.”

The Beijing event, attended by military representatives from dozens of countries, was an occasion for China to project regional leadership and boost military cooperation.

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MILITARY

Senate sets vote on 3 top military officers

By Svetlana Shkolnikova
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Senate will circumvent a Republican senator’s hold on military confirmations to vote on the top officers in the Air Force and Navy as well as the Marines’ second-in-command after the Corps commandant was hospitalized this weekend.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said he will move to fill vacancies on the Joint Chiefs of Staff and confirm Lt. Gen. Christopher Mahoney as assistant commandant of the Marine

Corps because the illness of Commandant Gen. Eric Smith has left a leadership vacuum.

All three positions have been caught in a monthslong hold on military promotions by Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., who is refusing to comply with a standard confirmation process for senior officer nominees unless the Pentagon rescinds an abortion access policy for service members.

Smith was hospitalized Sunday after a “serious medical emergency,” Schumer said.

“Normally Lt. Gen. Mahoney

would have been able to immediately step in to temporarily serve as commandant, but unfortunately because of the blanket holds of just one senator — Sen. Tuberville — that cannot happen,” Schumer said Wednesday.

Mahoney was nominated for promotion to the Marine Corps’ second-highest officer in July.

Smith was confirmed to lead the Marine Corps in September after serving as assistant commandant and acting commandant for months while awaiting Senate confirmation. His duties are now

being performed by Lt. Gen. Karsten Heckl, the most senior officer at Marine Corps headquarters, according to the service.

Schumer has resisted holding individual votes on military promotions, which are normally voted on swiftly in blocks, but allowed stand-alone votes on Smith, Air Force Gen. Charles “CQ” Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and Gen. Randy George, the Army chief of staff, after Tuberville tried to force a vote on the Senate floor for Smith.

Tuberville’s office said

Wednesday that the senator had gathered enough support to force a vote for Mahoney, prompting another capitulation by Schumer.

Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, has for weeks tried to take action on Adm. Lisa Franchetti, nominated for chief of naval operations, and Gen. David Allvin, nominated for Air Force chief of staff. Both are performing the roles in an acting capacity.

Their confirmation would mark the first time the Joint Chiefs is fully staffed by Senate-confirmed officers since the summer.

DOD banks on team creating ‘perfect’ reef

Sea walls don’t fully protect US coastal bases

By Ashley Mizna
Miami Herald

MIAMI — The nation’s military has been working on a new weapon: Creating a “perfect,” self-healing coral reef that can withstand disease, warming temperatures and sea rise.

Many U.S. military bases along the coasts are feeling the effects of climate change, and their current methods of defense — like sea walls — aren’t working against flooding and erosion. A reef would break up waves before they crash against the base.

So for the past 14 months, the Department of Defense has been working with three international teams of scientists to build a hybrid reef made of concrete and coral.

If it works, it may be a solution for cities and regions that face the worst effects of climate change. And the military appears to think it’s worth banking on.

The project is expected to receive its next, second infusion of grant funding, on top of the \$7.5 million it’s already received. By the end of the project, the team could receive more than \$20 million.

It’s also a race against time, after higher-than-normal temperatures caused widespread bleaching of thousands of corals in the Florida Keys.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, selected the University of Miami to lead the Atlantic coral project. Rutgers University is focusing on oysters on the Gulf Coast; and the University of Hawaii is using coral from the Pacific Ocean.

The University of Miami-led project, called X REEFS, was giv-



ALIE SKOWRONSKI/TNS

University of Miami professor Andrew Baker poses in a wet lab while looking at corals last December, in Miami at the Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science. Baker is working on a military-funded research project to develop “hybrid reefs.”

en five years to take the concept from design to production and cost evaluation.

Miami’s team is made up of 12 organizations that in ordinary circumstances would not cross academic paths. Coral biologists are working with aerospace engineers, manufacturers and hydrologists.

“We essentially examined, is it going to cost more in the long run to adapt to climate change,” said Laura Cherney, program manager from AECOM. “And we found it’s not. And to adapt now, because there is saving.”

How it’s going to work

Compared to other artificial reef projects that are typically offshore and intended for fishing or deep water dives, the hybrid reef needs to be close to shore and must stay submerged at 12 feet, the lowest tide.

The reef design is made up of three stacked layers. The bottom

layer is a concrete chamber called the “sea hive” after its honeycomb shape. As waves hit the bottom row of sea hives, turbulence is reduced from underneath.

“We are trying everything we can do to move the water over, under and through,” said Borja G. Reguero, a researcher at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

The middle layer consists of concrete lattices that are gyroid-shaped. If the term gyroid doesn’t ring a bell from geometry class, think of a shape that’s infinitely connected with no straight lines and plenty of holes, like the inside of a bone or a butterfly wing. It’s one reason the team picked the gyroid shape: It already occurs in nature.

“Nobody else has done this, created these large concrete gyroid shapes, we’re definitely forging a path here,” said Michael Yukish, a Penn State aerospace engineering professor.

The top layer features “coral mimics” — squishy and fragile foam that is coated with an epoxy and Fiberglas to give it strength. Within that structure, living coral fragments will be seeded. As the sea rises, the coral should slowly grow, too, building its own skeleton around the concrete.

Breeding resistant coral

The Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric and Earth Science at Miami is considered the “Noah’s Ark” for the coral that’s being used in the hybrid reef project.

There, the coral is housed in large tanks where temperatures can be measured to the decimal point. The team makes sure the corals are well-fed, implanted with the correct algae and given plenty of light and a lot of water flow.

“The last four years have been the growing pains of getting this built, working out the kinks and

incrementally making improvements along the way to make things better and better,” said Andrew Baker, the professor leading the team on the project. “We’ve finally met that pipeline stage.”

The Florida Aquarium also is helping the Miami team breed coral. They’re looking for the “hardest coral” that grows quickly but can withstand stressors like temperature.

Military test

The X-REEFS team is waiting for results from the military’s first milestone test, proving the reef reduces wave “energy” by at least 70%. The calculation is complicated, but they’re measuring wave height and velocity to get the results. The team is optimistic because they tested their reef in Miami’s wind-wave tank that can create Category 5 hurricane force winds of up to 155 mph, and it met the requirement.

“If you think of a wave that breaks, like if you’re going to the beach it can knock you over,” said Catherine Campbell, the DARPA project manager. “But if you take all the energy out of the wave, it’s lapping at your feet.”

The second phase is moving out of the lab and onto collecting data about how the reef performs in the ocean. The team met in Miami this fall to visit the possible sample test site, which is less than a half mile off of Elliot Key at Biscayne National Park.

U.S. military installations have experienced more than \$10 billion in damage from storms and flooding over the past five years, and more than 1,700 posts may be affected by sea level rise.

“We’ve already seen this damage, we see the erosion every day,” Campbell said. “We’ve seen a lot of good successes in the laboratory that show us it’s possible to selectively breed coral, to be more thermally tolerant, to be more resistant to disease.”

“We’re trying to push science forward,” she said.

MIDEAST

US sends additional 300 troops to Middle East

Move comes as militant groups carry out more attacks against bases in the region

By DOUG G. WARE
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An additional 300 troops will deploy to the Middle East as militant groups carry out more attacks against U.S. bases in the region and the conflict between Israel and Hamas worsens, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

“We have strengthened our force posture across the region to deter any state or non-state actors from escalating this crisis,” said Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon’s top spokesman.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin gave pre-deployment orders last month to about 2,000 troops, informing them that they might be called for a mission to the Middle East. Last week, 900 of those troops were deployed and a second group of 300 has now been activated, Ryder said.

“These additional troops will provide capabilities in explosive ordnance disposal, communications and other support enablers for forces already in the region,” he said.

Ryder said the new deployments will come from bases in the United States but did not specify where the troops would deploy.

“I can confirm they are not going to Israel,” he said. “They are intended to support regional de-



ADRIANES JOHNSON/U.S. Navy

An MH-60S Seahawk lands on the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Ramage on Oct. 19.

terrence efforts and further bolster U.S. force-protection capabilities.”

The Defense Department has previously said none of them will go into Gaza, the small Palestinian territory controlled by the militant group Hamas and home to more than 2 million civilians. Israeli forces have repeatedly bombed Gaza and sent ground forces in Friday as part of its response to a Hamas attack on Oct. 7.

Tensions in the region exploded when Hamas unexpectedly

crossed into Israel and killed more than 1,400 people and took more than 200 hostages. U.S. and Israeli officials are trying to free hostages as Israel intensifies its attack on Gaza.

“We are coordinating closely with Israel to help secure the release of every man, woman and child seized by Hamas,” Austin said Tuesday during a hearing of the Senate Appropriations Committee. “We have no higher priority.”

Austin and Secretary of State

Antony Blinken appeared before the Senate panel to ask for new aid for Israel and Ukraine, which is still trying to fight off Russian forces after 20 months of war.

Ryder said there have been more attacks against American forces stationed in Iraq and Syria as part of the U.S. operation to defeat Islamic State terrorists. Since Oct. 17, U.S. bases in the two countries have been attacked at least 27 times by Iran-backed militant groups, he said.

“Sixteen in Iraq, 11 in Syria,”

Ryder said. “In some cases, they didn’t strike anything. To my knowledge, [there were] no injuries, no damage to infrastructure [in the latest attacks.]”

Some U.S. troops have suffered minor injuries in the attacks, though an American contractor did die of a heart attack while preparing for one of the strikes in Iraq, the Pentagon said.

“We know these groups are funded, trained, sponsored by the Iranian government,” Ryder said. “And we hold the Iranian government responsible.”

Hamas, Houthi rebels in Yemen and Hezbollah in Lebanon are three prominent groups in the region aligned with Iran.

A U.S. warship in the region shot down several Houthi rockets fired toward Israel on Oct. 19 and Israel also has been fighting smaller battles with Hezbollah in recent days along its northern border.

“We swiftly strengthened our force posture in the region to deter any state or non-state actor from escalating this crisis beyond Gaza,” Austin said. “All this underscores the president’s clear warning: No government or group that wishes Israel harm should try to widen this crisis.”

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Turkish activist urges protest around Incirlik to decry US stance on Gaza

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

A prominent Turkish activist is calling for large protests this week at a major U.S. air base in southeastern Turkey, where an American strategic bomber landed Tuesday amid continuing tensions in the region over the war between Israel and Hamas.

Bulent Yildirim, the chairman of a relief organization with ties to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, on Tuesday advocated for a march around Incirlik Air Base in connection with demands for a ceasefire in Gaza as Israel’s ground invasion gets underway.

Yildirim also urged Turkey’s parliament to vote on whether to shut down Incirlik and a small U.S. military outpost in Kurecik, where the Army operates a missile defense radar.

“We will march to Incirlik base from every part of Turkey, from every district and neighborhood. ... Let’s surround that Incirlik base,” he said at a news confe-

rence Tuesday, according to the state-run news agency Anadolu.

U.S. forces in Europe did not immediately say Wednesday whether security would be ramped up around the base.

Turkish media have reported that U.S. forces stationed at Incirlik have been restricted to base since the start of the Israel-Hamas conflict last month.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Air Force carried out a muscle-flexing mission at the base, where B-1B Lancers performed the first-ever hot-pit refueling at Incirlik.

The term refers to a refueling done while the plane’s engines are running, allowing the aircraft to get back in the air faster.

“By honing hot-pit refueling procedures and leveraging the advantages it offers, the U.S. and its allies fortify their combat readiness across the European theater,” U.S. Air Forces Europe and Africa said in a statement Tuesday.

The mission also underscored



J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

The passenger terminal at Incirlik Air Base near Adana, Turkey.

the strong ties between the U.S. and Turkey, according to the statement. Still, if Turkish authorities follow through on threats to have thousands of protesters descend on the base, those ties could be tested.

The conflict in Gaza puts a spotlight on the U.S. military presence in Turkey, which Ankara in the past has tried to use as leverage in political disputes, sometimes threatening to kick out American forces.

The public call for protests at Incirlik, where the U.S. has long maintained a stockpile of nuclear weapons, is the latest sign of tensions between the two countries over the situation in Gaza.

White House to develop an anti-Islamophobia strategy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden’s administration is preparing to announce that it will develop a national strategy to combat Islamophobia, according to people briefed on the matter, as it faces skepticism from many in the Muslim American community for its staunch support of Israel’s military assault on Hamas in Gaza.

The White House announcement had originally been expected to come last week when Biden held a meeting with Muslim leaders, but was delayed, three people said. Two of them said the delay was due in part because of concerns from the Muslim American community that the administration lacked credibility on the issue given its robust support for Israel’s military, whose strikes against Hamas militants have also killed thousands of civilians in Gaza. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the White House plans.

The launch of the anti-Islamophobia strategy has been anticipated for months, after the admin-

istration in May released a national strategy to combat antisemitism that also made passing reference to countering hatred against Muslims. The formal strategy is expected to take many months to formalize, following a similar process as the plan to counter antisemitism involving various government agencies.

Incidents of anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim hate have skyrocketed in the U.S. and abroad since the surprise Oct. 7 attack by Hamas militants on Israel that killed over 1,400 and saw hundreds taken hostage, and Israel’s response in Gaza, where it has pledged to use force to “destroy” Hamas. One of the most prominent attacks was the killing of 6-year-old Wadea Al-Fayoume and the wounding of his mother in an attack prosecutors in Illinois allege was driven by Islamophobia.

“This horrific act of hate has no place in America and stands against our fundamental values: freedom from fear for how we pray, what we believe, and who we are,” Biden said in the aftermath of the attack.

MIDEAST

Border: Israeli army pushes into outskirts of Gaza City

FROM PAGE 1

Israel said those strikes killed dozens of militants, including a senior Hamas commander who was involved in the militants' bloody Oct. 7 rampage that ignited the war, and destroyed militant tunnels beneath the buildings.

In a sign of increasing alarm over the war among Arab countries, Jordan on Wednesday recalled its ambassador from Israel and told Israel's ambassador to remain out of the country. Jordan, a key U.S. ally, signed a peace deal with Israel in 1994, the second Arab country after Egypt to do so.

Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister, Ayman al-Safadi, said the return of the ambassadors is linked to Israel "stopping its war on Gaza ... and the humanitarian catastrophe it is causing." He warned of the potential of the conflict to spread, threatening "the security of the entire region."

Israeli army advances

Israeli ground forces pushed to the outskirts of Gaza City, days after launching a new phase of the war that Israel's leaders have said will be long and difficult. Internet and phone service was cut for several hours Wednesday, a replay of the temporary communications blackout when Israeli ground troops first advanced in large numbers into Gaza over the weekend.

Over half of Gaza's 2.3 million people have fled their homes, and supplies of food, medicine, water and fuel are running low. A territory-wide blackout has left hospitals reliant on generators that could soon be forced to shut down.

The strikes in Jabaliya underline the anticipated surge in casualties on both sides as Israeli troops advance toward the outskirts of Gaza City and its dense residential neighborhoods. Israeli officials have said Hamas' military infrastructure, including hundreds of miles of underground tunnels, is concentrated in the city, which was home to some 650,000 people before the war.

Border opens

Six buses carrying 335 foreign passport holders left Gaza through the Rafah crossing into Egypt as of midafternoon Wednesday, according to Wael Abu Omar, a spokesman for the Palestinian Crossings Authority.

The authority said the plan was for more than 400 foreign passport holders to leave for Egypt. Egypt has said it will not accept an influx of Palestinian refugees because of fears Israel will not allow them to return to Gaza after the war.

Dozens of people could be seen entering the Rafah crossing — the only one currently operating — and ambulances carrying wounded Palestinians exited on the Egyptian side.

Egypt had earlier said that more than 80 Palestinians — out of many thousands wounded in the war — would also be brought in for treatment. But Dr. Mohamed Zaqout, a Health Ministry official in Gaza, told The Associated Press that 10 of the patients died before they could be evacuated to Egypt. The criteria for medical evacuation were not immediately clear.

Communication issues

Those who remain behind are contending with multiple crises, made worse Wednesday by the communications blackout. The Palestinian telecoms company Paltel said internet and mobile phone services were gradually being restored in Gaza following a "complete disruption" that lasted several hours.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said such blackouts make it harder for civilians to seek safety. "Even the potentially life-saving act of calling an ambulance becomes impossible," said Jessica Moussan, an ICRC spokesperson.

The Palestinian Health Ministry, meanwhile, said that the Turkish-Palestinian Hospital, Gaza's only facility offering specialized treatment for cancer patients, was forced to shut down because of lack of fuel, leaving 70 cancer patients in a critical situation.

Death toll rises

More than 8,700 Palestinians have been killed in the war, mostly women and minors, and more than 22,000 people have been wounded, the Palestinian Health Ministry said Wednesday, without providing a breakdown between civilians and fighters. The figure



ARIEL SCHALIT/AP

Israeli soldiers move toward the Gaza Strip border in southern Israel on Wednesday.

is without precedent in decades of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Over 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during Hamas' initial attack, also an unprecedented figure. Palestinian militants also abducted around 240 people during their incursion and have continued firing rockets into Israel.

Fifteen Israeli soldiers have been killed in Gaza since the start of the ground operation.

Israel has been vague about its operations in Gaza, but residents and spokesmen for militant groups have said troops appear to

be trying to take control of the two main north-south roads.

An estimated 800,000 Palestinians have fled south from Gaza City and other northern areas following Israeli orders to evacuate, but hundreds of thousands remain in the north.

Israel has allowed international aid groups to send more than 200 trucks carrying food and medicine to enter from Egypt over the past 10 days, but aid workers have said it's not nearly enough.

After Gaza, then what?

Israel has vowed to crush Ha-

mas' ability to govern Gaza or threaten it, while also saying it does not plan to reoccupy the territory, from which it withdrew soldiers and settlers in 2005. But it has said little about who would govern Gaza afterwards.

In congressional testimony on Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken suggested that "at some point, what would make the most sense is for an effective and revitalized Palestinian Authority to have governance and ultimately security responsibility for Gaza."

Hamas drove the authority's forces out of Gaza in a week of heavy fighting in 2007, leaving it with limited control over parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Palestinian support for the President Mahmoud Abbas has plunged since then, with many Palestinians dismissing the PA as little more than Israel's police force because it helps suppress Hamas and other militant groups.

In other developments:

■ In the West Bank, Israeli forces raided the Jenin refugee camp Wednesday morning, killing three Palestinians, local health officials said. The Israeli military said it carried out a drone strike in the camp, hitting several militants. Since the war began, 130 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank, either by Israeli forces or by Jewish settlers.

■ In northern Israel, mortars and anti-tank rockets were fired from Lebanon toward several Israeli communities, causing no injuries and prompting Israeli strikes on the launch sites, the military said. Hezbollah and Palestinian militants in Lebanon have exchanged fire with Israeli forces on a daily basis over the border.



ABED KHALED/AP

Palestinians look from windows at the damage caused by Israeli airstrikes in Jabaliya refugee camp, northern Gaza Strip, on Wednesday.

NATION

Expert: Trump could have defended Capitol

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI
Associated Press

DENVER — Then-President Donald Trump could have mobilized the National Guard and other federal agencies to protect the U.S. Capitol once violence broke out on Jan. 6, 2021, a law professor testified Tuesday as a case to bar the former president from the 2024 ballot moved into a new phase.

William Banks, a Syracuse University law professor and expert in national security law, said that once the attack on the Capitol began, Trump had options he did not use.

“He should respond to his constitutional responsibilities to protect the security of the United States when there’s an assault on our democratic process,” Banks said of Trump.

Banks was testifying as a witness for a group of Colorado voters who want to bar Trump from the ballot for allegedly violating his oath to uphold the Constitution in his attempt to overturn his 2020 election loss. They cite a rarely used clause in the 14th Amendment, adopted just after the Civil War, that prohibits those who “engaged in insurrection” against the Constitution from holding higher office.

The Colorado case and another before the Minnesota Supreme Court on Thursday are the two most advanced of dozens of challenges to Trump around the country. On Tuesday, his campaign filed a lawsuit in Michigan to stop a related case there. One of the cases is likely to end up at the U.S. Supreme Court, which has never ruled on the insurrection clause.

Trump’s attorneys have said the lawsuits are anti-democratic efforts to deny voters the opportunity to choose who leads the country.

They’ve also said they will show in court that Trump took the threat of violence seriously on Jan. 6.

On Tuesday, Geoffrey Blue, one of Trump’s Colorado attorneys, noted that a Department of Defense timeline shows that Trump previously had asked Army Gen. Mark Milley, then-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, if the military was prepared for protests that he himself had called against Congress’ Jan 6 certification of President Joe Biden’s win.



Banks

Milley said yes, according to the timeline.

Trump gave a fiery speech on the Ellipse before the assault, urging his supporters to march to the Capitol to protest the fictitious election fraud he claimed had stopped him from winning a second term. Attacks on the Capitol began earlier and intensified significantly after Trump wrapped up his speech.

Banks acknowledged he did not know what conversations were occurring in the White House that afternoon. Testimony to the House committee that investigated the attack shows that some aides were aghast that Trump wasn’t taking action, but the former president’s lawyers called the committee’s report a partisan document that was distrusted by Republicans.

The committee’s final report de-

tails Trump’s inaction as rioters stormed the Capitol, calling it “a dereliction of duty,” and suggested that Congress consider barring him from holding office in the future.

Earlier Tuesday, an expert in right-wing extremism testified about how violent groups interpreted Trump’s calls for a “wild” protest on Jan. 6. And on Monday, the trial’s opening day, police officers who defended the Capitol that day testified about the assault.

The case is expected to get to the constitutional issues that make it significant on Wednesday, when a law professor is scheduled to testify about whether Section Three of the 14th Amendment applies to the president, even though that office is not specifically mentioned in the text.

Trump’s sons to testify at trial that threatens empire

By MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press

NEW YORK — When Donald Trump became president in 2017, he handed day-to-day management of his real estate empire to his eldest sons, Donald Jr. and Eric.

Now, as the Trumps fight to keep the family business intact, the brothers are set to testify in the New York civil fraud case that threatens their Trump Organization’s future.

Donald Trump Jr. was expected to testify Wednesday and Eric Trump on Thursday, kicking off a blockbuster stretch as the trial in New York Attorney General Letitia James’ lawsuit enters its second month.

James, a Democrat, alleges that Donald Trump, his company and top executives, including Eric and Donald Trump Jr., conspired to exaggerate his wealth by billions of dollars on financial statements that were given to banks, insurers and others to secure loans and make deals.



EVAN VUCCI/AP

Eric Trump, left, and Donald Trump Jr. are scheduled to testify in the New York civil fraud case that threatens their company’s future. They took over day-to-day management of their dad’s real estate empire when he became president.

Donald Trump — the former president, family patriarch and 2024 Republican front-runner — is slated to testify Monday, followed by his eldest daughter, ex-Trump Organization executive and White House adviser Ivanka Trump, on Nov. 8. State lawyers

are expected to rest their case after that, giving Trump’s lawyers a chance to call their own witnesses.

Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump are both executive vice presidents at the Trump Organization and defendants in James’ lawsuit. Eric has oversight over

the company’s operations while Donald Trump Jr. has been involved in running the company’s property development. He and longtime company finance chief Allen Weisselberg were also trustees of the revocable trust Trump set up to hold the company’s assets when he became president.

Before the trial, Judge Arthur Engoron ruled that Trump’s financial statements were fraudulent. He ordered that a court-appointed receiver seize control of some of his companies — potentially stripping him and his family of such marquee properties as Trump Tower — though an appeals court has halted enforcement for now.

Like their father, both brothers have denied wrongdoing.

Eric Trump has spent several days at the trial, often on the days his dad has been there. He’s commented sporadically, mostly on social media. On Oct. 5, he posted a video montage to Truth Social of James criticizing his father. With it, he wrote: “this is the corruption

my father and our family is fighting! The system is weaponized, broken and disgusting!”

Donald Trump Jr. hasn’t been to court, but since testimony began Oct. 2, he’s repeatedly denounced the case and Engoron as a “kangaroo court.” State law doesn’t allow for juries in this type of lawsuit, so Engoron will decide the case.

“It doesn’t matter what the rules are, it doesn’t matter what the Constitution says, it doesn’t matter what general practices and business would be,” Donald Trump Jr. said Monday on Newsmax. “It doesn’t matter. They have a narrative, they have an end goal, and they’ll do whatever it takes to get there.”

Donald Trump blasted Engoron on Wednesday on Truth Social as a Trump-hating “political hack” who’s “doing the dirty work for the Democrat Party.”

“Leave my children alone, Engoron. You are a disgrace to the legal profession!” Trump wrote in one of several posts.

Justices likely to rule against a trademark in ‘Trump too small’ case

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court signaled Wednesday that it would rule against a man who wants to trademark the suggestive phrase “Trump too small.”

The dispute is over the government’s decision to deny a trademark to Steve Elster, a California man seeking exclusive use of the phrase on T-shirts and potentially other merchandise. It is the latest case relating to former President Donald Trump to reach the Supreme Court, following arguments Tuesday in social media cases with echoes of Trump.

The justices repeatedly invoked the phrase as they questioned whether the government was justified in denying the trademark. Elster’s lawyers argue that the decision violated his free speech rights, and a federal appeals court agreed.

Chief Justice John Roberts, positing what might happen if Elster were to win, said people then would race to trademark “Trump too this, Trump too that.”

The Justice Department is supporting President Joe Biden’s once and possibly future rival. Government officials said the

phrase “Trump too small” could still be used, just not trademarked because Trump had not consented to its use. Indeed, “Trump too small” T-shirts already can be purchased online.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor said that distinction was important because Elster is free to say and “sell as many shirts as he wants.”

Twice in the past six years, the justices have struck down provisions of federal law denying trademarks seen as scandalous or immoral in one case and disparaging in another.

The new case deals with another

measure calling for a trademark request to be refused if it involves a name, portrait or signature “identifying a particular living individual” unless the person has given “written consent.”

The phrase at the heart of the case is a reference to an exchange Trump had during the 2016 presidential campaign with Florida senator and GOP presidential rival Marco Rubio.

Rubio began the verbal jousting when he told supporters at a rally that Trump was always calling him “little Marco” but that Trump — who says he is 6-feet-3-inches

tall — has disproportionately small hands. “Have you seen his hands? ... And you know what they say about men with small hands,” Rubio said. “You can’t trust them.”

Trump then brought up the comment at a televised debate on March 3, 2016.

“Look at those hands. Are they small hands? And he referred to my hands — if they’re small, something else must be small. I guarantee you there’s no problem. I guarantee you,” he said.

A decision in *Vidal v. Elster*, 22-704, is expected by early summer.

Firefighters battle wind-driven blaze

Wildfire destroys buildings in rural Southern Calif.

By Marcio Sanchez
Associated Press

AGUANGA, Calif. — Hundreds of firefighters aided by aircraft on Tuesday battled a wind-driven wildfire that damaged or destroyed at least nine buildings in rural Southern California and prompted authorities to order 4,000 residents to evacuate.

Gusty Santa Ana winds spread the Highland Fire over about 4 square miles of brushy hills near the Riverside County hamlet of Aguanga after it broke out Monday afternoon.

Three structures were confirmed destroyed and six others were damaged, Riverside County Fire Department spokesperson Jeff LaRusso said.

By nighttime the fire was 10% contained but still threatened nearly 2,400 homes and other buildings, according to an update from fire authorities.

One firefighter was injured, but the statement didn't provide details.

Luis Quinonez was away when a house he owned burned to the ground. He was trying to keep his spirits up.

"It's not for sale anymore," Quinonez, covered in soot, joked in an interview.

He also lost 13 vehicles he had collected to sell. A second house he owns across the street was untouched. No one was hurt, he added, and his dogs, cats, chickens and roosters were also OK.

The terrain, streaked with pink from aerial retardant drops, was marked with signs of other firefighting successes. Scorched earth stopped at a white picket fence around a large horse stable. A nearby olive oil company also survived.

While the fire showed only min-



Members of the Jamul Fire Department, out of San Diego County, look for hot spots while fighting the Highland Fire on Tuesday in Aguanga, Calif.

imal growth Tuesday, winds were forecast to remain in the area through Thursday evening and could spread the blaze west and southwest, the Riverside County Fire Department said.

"Extremely steep and rugged terrain remains a challenge," the update said. "Current and expected weather of steady winds with low relative humidity may increase the risk of erratic fire behavior."

The cause of the blaze was under investigation.

The Highland Fire erupted as Southern California experienced its first significant Santa Ana wind conditions of the season. The witheringly dry winds typically form as air flows from the the interior of the West and descends to the Pacific Coast during the fall, often stoking destructive wildfires.

The fire was reported at about 12:45 p.m. Monday, and about 1,300 homes and 4,000 residents were put under evacuation orders. The region is sparsely populated, but there are horse ranches and a

large mobile home site.

Air tankers, helicopters and bulldozers were called in to fight the fire, one of the few large and active blazes to have erupted so far in California this year.

Power utility Southern California Edison was considering cutting electricity to nearly 55,000 customers in four counties to prevent fires in the event wind damages equipment. Only a few dozen customers were affected by public safety power shutoffs as of Tuesday night.

Airbnb sued over very batty vacation

By David Matthews
New York Daily News

A group of women has filed suit against Airbnb, claiming their Michigan vacation rental was infested with bats that attacked them.

The claimants rented "The Castle," a Victorian-style house in Alpena for their 50th high school reunion in late July, according to the lawsuit, which was filed by Detroit-based Mar-ko Law.

"This is every renter's worst nightmare. What was supposed to be a fun vacation turned into a house of horror for my clients. No one expects to be attacked by a horde of bats," attorney Jon Marko said in the press release.

"This played out like a scene from a Halloween horror movie."

On July 26, 2023 — the fourth night of their stay — two of the women staying in the house's large turret room were awakened by screeching and dark shapes crawling around the walls, according to a report in the Detroit Free Press.

The pair ran out of the room, shut the door and tried to seal the door frame with blankets, but the bats broke free.

The women "ran to the stairwell but found it consumed with bats" before trying to hide under bed covers in another bedroom.

"More and more bats began entering the living quarters.

The bats were coming down the old lathe walls and entering through the gaps in the baseboards.

The night was punctuated with screams that could be heard from one room, then the next, then the next, the statement said.

Some of the women ended up being bitten over the next several hours, which one of the women wrote about in the listing's review section.

An exterminator called to the property then found a bat colony in the attic along with evidence they'd been present for years.

Airbnb "negligently allowed the bat infested home to be advertised on its platform," the lawsuit states.

The women are also suing the owners and maintenance workers who "had a responsibility to ensure that the home was safe when renting it."

The women were advised to get vaccinated for rabies as a precaution.

Helicopters drop water on Oahu wildfire for 2nd day

Associated Press

HONOLULU — A wildfire in Hawaii's Central Oahu grew to cover more than a square mile in a remote mountainous area and burned native koa and ohia trees, officials said Tuesday.

No structures or homes were threatened and no evacuations were ordered.

Multiple helicopters from the Honolulu Fire Department, the U.S. Army and the state dropped buckets of water on the blaze from the air for a second straight day.

Mililani and Wahiawa are the towns closest to the flames, but

they weren't at risk. Army installations Schofield Barracks and Wheeler Army Airfield are also in the area, which is about about 20 miles north of Honolulu.

Video footage shot by the state Department of Land and Natural Resources showed white and brown smoke rising from green forests. Black and grey patches covered already scorched hill-sides.

Firefighters battled flames from the air because the terrain is rough and inaccessible. The fire was moving east on a ridge and was 30% contained by midafter-

noon Tuesday, the Honolulu Fire Department said in a news release.

The fire burned through heavy timber and native vegetation, the state said.

Hawaii's tropical forests evolved without experiencing frequent fires and flames aren't a part of their natural life cycle.

Invasive plants often grow on burned lands, which increases the risk of future wildfires, according to a 2013 state action plan for koa forests.

The report said climate change was expected to worsen Hawaii's

wildfire problem.

Oahu is currently going through a dry spell even though the winter rainy season began in October. The U.S. Drought Monitor said Central Oahu was in moderate drought as of last week.

In August, multiple wildfires erupted on 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 flames.

NATION



MARK TESKE/AP

In this photo provided by the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Lawrence Faucette sits with his wife, Ann, in the school's hospital in Baltimore, Md., in September before receiving a pig heart transplant.

Maryland man who received second pig heart transplant dies

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The second person to receive a transplanted heart from a pig has died, nearly six weeks after the highly experimental surgery, his Maryland doctors announced Tuesday.

Lawrence Faucette, 58, was dying from heart failure and ineligible for a traditional heart transplant when he received the genetically modified pig heart on Sept. 20.

According to the University of Maryland School of Medicine, the heart had seemed healthy for the first month but began showing signs of rejection in recent days. Faucette died Monday.

In a statement released by the hospital, Faucette's wife, Ann, said her husband "knew his time with us was short and this was his last chance to do for others. He never imagined he would survive as long as he did."

The Maryland team last year performed the world's first trans-

plant of a heart from a genetically altered pig into another dying man. David Bennett survived two months before that heart failed, for reasons that aren't completely clear although signs of a pig virus later were found inside the organ. Lessons from that first experiment led to changes, including better virus testing, before the second attempt.

"Mr. Faucette's last wish was for us to make the most of what we have learned from our experience," Dr. Bartley Griffith, the surgeon who led the transplant at the University of Maryland Medical Center, said in a statement.

Attempts at animal-to-human organ transplants — called xenotransplants — have failed for decades, as people's immune systems immediately destroyed the foreign tissue.

Now scientists are trying again while using pigs genetically modified to make their organs more humanlike.

Faucette, a Navy veteran and father of two from Frederick, Md., had been turned down for a traditional heart transplant because of other health problems when he came to the Maryland hospital, out of options and expressing a wish to spend a little more time with his family.

In mid-October, the hospital said Faucette had been able to stand and released video showing him working hard in physical therapy to regain the strength needed to attempt walking.

Cardiac xenotransplant chief Dr. Muhammad Mohiuddin said the team will analyze what happened with the heart as they continue studying pig organs.

Many scientists hope xenotransplants one day could compensate for the huge shortage of human organ donations. More than 100,000 people are on the nation's list for a transplant, most awaiting kidneys, and thousands will die waiting.

Infant death rate increase in 2022, largest since '02

By Mike Stobbe
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The U.S. infant mortality rate rose 3% last year — the largest increase in two decades, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

White and Native American infants, infant boys and babies born at 37 weeks or earlier had significant death rate increases. The CDC's report, published Wednesday, also noted larger increases for two of the leading causes of infant deaths — maternal complications and bacterial meningitis.

"It's definitely concerning, given that it's going in the opposite direction from what it has been," said Marie Thoma, a University of Maryland researcher who studies maternal and infant mortality.

Dr. Eric Eichenwald, a Philadelphia-based neonatologist, called the new data "disturbing," but said experts at this point can only speculate as to why a statistic that generally has been falling for decades rose sharply in 2022.

RSV and flu infections rebounded last fall after two years of pandemic precautions, filling pediatric emergency rooms across the country.

"That could potentially account for some of it," said Eichenwald, who chairs an American Academy of Pediatrics committee that writes guidelines for medical care of newborns.

Infant mortality is the measure of how many babies die before they reach their first birthday. Because the number of babies born in the U.S. varies from year to year, researchers instead calculate rates to better compare infant mortality over time. The U.S. infant mortality rate has been worse than other

high-income countries, which experts have attributed to poverty, inadequate prenatal care and other possibilities. But even so, the U.S. rate generally gradually improved because of medical advances and public health efforts.

The national rate rose to 5.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022, up from 5.44 per 1,000 the year before, the new report said.

The increase may seem small, but it's the first statistically significant jump in the rate since the increase between 2001 and 2002, said Danielle Ely, the CDC report's lead author. She also said researchers could not establish whether the 2022 rise was a one-year statistical blip — or the beginning of a more lasting trend.

Overall in the U.S., the death rate fell 5% in 2022 — a general decrease that's been attributed to the waning impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially on people 65 and older. U.S. maternal deaths also fell last year.

More than 30 states saw at least slight rises in infant mortality rates in 2022, but four states had statistically significant increases — Georgia, Iowa, Missouri and Texas.

In numbers, U.S. infant deaths surpassed 20,500 in 2022 — 610 more than the year before nationwide. But Georgia had 116 more infant deaths than the year before, and Texas had 251 more.

"It would appear that some of the states could be having a larger impact on the (national) rate," Ely said, adding that smaller increases elsewhere also have an effect — and that it's hard to parse out exactly what places, policies or other factors are behind the national statistic.

Mayor says he's not trying to harm migrants by asking them to leave

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Mayor Eric Adams said Tuesday that his administration is not trying to "mislead" or "harm" migrants in New York City by offering them free tickets out of the city.

The mayor's pushback follows the New York Daily News and other outlets reporting that some migrants have been directed to the administration's "reticketing office" despite saying they wish to stay in a city shelter. The office, which was recently opened in Manhattan's East Village, is focused on getting migrants to leave



Adams

New York by offering free transportation to other parts of the U.S. and beyond.

Speaking to reporters at City Hall on Tuesday, Adams said the purpose of the reticketing program is to alleviate pressure on the city's overcrowded shelter systems, which continue to house more than 64,000 migrants and nearly as many unhoused New Yorkers.

Adams also touted the fiscal

benefits of providing migrants with free transportation to other cities since that gets city taxpayers off the hook of bankrolling shelter beds for them.

But the mayor dismissed the notion that the initiative is part of a broader push to deter migrants from coming to New York in the first place.

"Our goal is not to deter," he said.

He continued: "It is not trying to be misleading, it's not trying to be harmful, it's allowing people for the first time to sit down and say, 'Do you want to go somewhere

else?' And giving them the option of assisting them to do so."

The reticketing office on East Seventh Street was opened around the same time migrants started being removed from city shelters because their 30- and 60-day notices were coming due.

The notices, which first started being handed out in July, limit the time single adult migrants can stay in the same city shelter bed to 30 consecutive days.

If they can't find their own "alternative housing" before their time is up, migrants are supposed to be able to reapply for new shel-

ter beds by going to the city's Roosevelt Hotel asylum-seeker intake center.

But several migrants ousted from shelters due to their notices coming due told the Daily News on Monday they were directed to the reticketing office even though they wanted to reapply to stay in the city's care. Other migrants removed from shelters have been sent to "waiting room" sites, which lack beds, and told to wait there until more appropriate accommodations become available, according to the news outlet The City.

TECHNOLOGY

Watchdog: AI child sex abuse images may flood internet

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The already-alarming proliferation of child sexual abuse images on the internet could become much worse if something is not done to put controls on artificial intelligence tools that generate deepfake photos, a watchdog agency warned on Tuesday.

In a written report, the U.K.-based Internet Watch Foundation urges governments and technology providers to act quickly before a flood of AI-generated images of child sexual abuse overwhelms law enforcement investigators and vastly expands the pool of potential

victims.

“We’re not talking about the harm it might do,” said Dan Sexton, the watchdog group’s chief technology officer. “This is happening right now and it needs to be addressed right now.”

In a first-of-its-kind case in South Korea, a man was sentenced in September to 2½ years in prison for using artificial intelligence to create 360 virtual child abuse images, according to the Busan District Court in the country’s south-east.

In some cases, kids are using these tools on each other. At a

school in southwestern Spain, police have been investigating teens’ alleged use of a phone app to make their fully dressed schoolmates appear nude in photos.

The report exposes a dark side of the race to build generative AI systems that enable users to describe in words what they want to produce — from emails to novel artwork or videos — and have the system spit it out.

If it isn’t stopped, the flood of deepfake child sexual abuse images could bog investigators down trying to rescue children who turn out to be virtual characters. Addi-

tionally, perpetrators could use the images to groom and coerce new victims.

Sexton said IWF analysts discovered faces of famous children online as well as a “massive demand for the creation of more images of children who’ve already been abused, possibly years ago.”

“They’re taking existing real content and using that to create new content of these victims,” he said. “That is just incredibly shocking.”

Sexton said his charity organization, which is focused on combating online child sexual abuse, first

began fielding reports about abusive AI-generated imagery earlier this year. That led to an investigation into forums on the so-called dark web, a part of the internet hosted within an encrypted network and accessible only through tools that provide anonymity.

What IWF analysts found were abusers sharing tips and marveling about how easy it was to turn their home computers into factories for generating sexually explicit images of children of all ages. Some are also trading and attempting to profit off such images that appear increasingly lifelike.

US, China among 28 nations at summit to pledge to contain AI risks

Associated Press

BLETCHLEY PARK, England — Delegates from 28 nations, including the U.S. and China, agreed Wednesday to work together to contain the potentially “catastrophic” risks posed by galloping advances in artificial intelligence.

The first international AI Safety Summit, held at a former code-breaking spy base near London, focused on cutting-edge “frontier” AI that some scientists warn could pose a risk to humanity’s very existence.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said the declaration was “a



Musk

landmark achievement that sees the world’s greatest AI powers agree on the urgency behind understanding the risks of AI — helping ensure the long-term future of our children and grandchildren.”

But Vice President Kamala Harris urged Britain and other countries to go further and faster, in a speech stressing the transformations AI is already bringing

and the need to hold tech companies accountable — including through legislation.

In a speech at the U.S. Embassy, Harris said we need to start acting now to address “the full spectrum” of AI risks, not just the most catastrophic.

The AI Safety Summit is a labor of love for Sunak, a tech-loving former banker who wants the U.K. to be a hub for computing innovation and has framed the summit as the start of a global conversation about the safe development of AI.

Harris set out the Biden administration’s more hands-on ap-

proach to “AI safety and equity.”

Harris is due to attend the summit on Thursday alongside government officials from more than two dozen countries including Canada, France, Germany, India, Japan, Saudi Arabia — and China, invited over the protests of some members of Sunak’s governing Conservative Party.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk is also scheduled to discuss AI with Sunak in a livestreamed conversation on Thursday night. The tech billionaire was among those who signed a statement earlier this year raising the alarm about the

perils that AI poses to humanity.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and executives from U.S. artificial intelligence companies such as Anthropic, Google’s DeepMind and OpenAI and influential computer scientists like Yoshua Bengio, one of the “godfathers” of AI, are also attending.

In all, more than 100 delegates were expected at the meeting held at Bletchley Park, a former top secret base for World War II code-breakers that’s seen as a birthplace of modern computing.

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WAR IN UKRAINE

2 killed in eastern Ukraine attacks

Associated Press
KYIV, Ukraine — A Russian attack on Kherson in eastern Ukraine on Wednesday killed one person and caused serious damage in the city's center, the region's governor said, and a Russian drone strike killed another civilian in the frequently targeted city of Nikopol.

The attack on Kherson, which Russian forces seized early in the war but then abandoned a year ago, also wounded two people. Despite the withdrawal, Russian attacks

from the other side of the Dnieper River persist.

"Again an apocalyptic scene," regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said on the Telegram messaging app. "Broken glass, torn window frames, ruined homes. People with trembling voices telling about what they have been through."

In Nikopol, which is on the opposite bank of the Dnieper from the Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, four people were wounded in the drone strike along

with the woman who was killed, according to regional Gov. Serhii Ly-sak.

Oleksii Kuleba, deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office, said "the occupiers are increasing the number and intensity of strikes, the air raid sirens were turned on in numerous regions last night."

Over the past day, three civilians were killed in the east and south of the country and at least 16 were wounded, according to a summary from the presidential office.

N. Korea reportedly ships more than 1M shells to Russia

Associated Press
SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's top spy agency believes North Korea sent more than a million artillery shells to Russia since August to help fuel Russian President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine, according to a lawmaker who attended a closed-door briefing Wednesday with intelligence officials.

North Korea and Russia have been actively boosting the visibility of their partnership in the face of separate, deepening confrontations with the United States. Their diplomacy — highlighted by a summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Putin in September — has triggered concerns about an arms arrangement in which North Korea supplies Russia with badly needed muni-

tions in exchange for advanced Russian technologies that would strengthen Kim's nuclear-armed military. According to lawmaker Yoo Sang-bum, the South Korean National Intelligence Service believes the North shipped more than a million artillery shells to Russia through ships and other transport means since early August to help boost Russia's war-fighting capabilities in Ukraine. Those shells would roughly amount to two months' worth of supplies for the Russians, Yoo said.

The agency believes North Korea has been operating its munitions factories at full capacity to meet Russian munition demands and has also been mobilizing residents to increase production, Yoo said.

Official: About 18M Ukrainians need aid

Associated Press
UNITED NATIONS — Russian strikes are inflicting unimaginable suffering on the people of Ukraine and more than 40% of them need humanitarian assistance, a senior U.N. official told the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday.

Ramesh Rajasingham, director of coordination in the U.N. humanitarian office, said thousands of civilians have been killed in strikes on homes, schools, fields and markets since Russia's invasion in

February 2022. The U.N. human rights office has formally verified 9,900 civilians killed, but he said "the actual number is certainly higher."

Ukrainian civilians are suffering "horrendous humanitarian consequences" and "unimaginable levels of suffering" from the Russian strikes, Rajasingham said. About 18 million Ukrainians — more than 40% of the population — need some form of humanitarian assistance, and as winter

approaches, "needs will be magnified," he said.

The Russian military methodically targeted Ukraine's power stations and other critical infrastructure with missile and drone strikes during the last winter season, resulting in frequent power outages.

To prepare for the freezing temperatures this winter, the U.N. official said, the humanitarian community is ensuring that water and heating systems are functional.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Mom charged with hosting parties for teens

CA SANTA CLARA — A woman accused of hosting parties for her teenage son and his friends in Northern California where she encouraged them to drink and sexually assault intoxicated girls was charged Monday with more than five dozen felony and misdemeanor counts.

Shannon Marie O'Connor, 49, was indicted by a grand jury in Santa Clara County on 63 charges including child endangerment for furnishing alcohol to minors and aiding and abetting sexual assault, the Mercury News reported.

Seventeen alleged victims testified at the grand jury hearing, the paper said.

Prosecutors contend that O'Connor staged six alcohol-fueled parties in 2020 at her-then home in Los Gatos and other places. Prosecutors allege she bought beer, vodka, whiskey and other liquor and encouraged the teens, who were mostly 14 and 15, to drink to the point of unconsciousness.

She also told them to keep the gatherings a secret and on several occasions helped teens sneak out of their homes in the middle of the night to attend them, according to court documents.

Death toll lowered to 7 in super fog crashes

LA NEW ORLEANS — The death toll from last week's series of highway crashes blamed on a "super fog" of smoke from marsh fires mixed with dense fog has been lowered from eight to seven people, according to Louisiana State Police.

The Oct. 24 pileups involved about 160 vehicles on Interstate 55 near New Orleans.

The final number was lowered to seven after further forensic investigation involving the St. John the Baptist Parish Coroner's Office, the Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office, and the LSU Forensic Anthropology and Computer Enhancement Services Laboratory.

Officials to pay \$125K to settle case related to meme

TN NASHVILLE — Authorities in Tennessee have settled a First Amendment lawsuit for \$125,000, the plaintiff's attorneys said Monday. The suit was filed by a man who said he was arrested over a disparaging social media post about a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty.

Joshua Andrew Garton was arrested in January 2021 after posting a meme depicting two people urinating on a gravestone with a photo of a Dickson County sheriff's officer who was fatally shot in 2018 pasted into the image. Garton's attorneys filed a federal lawsuit in Nashville, saying their client's First Amendment right to



BRETT COOMER/AP

Flourishing in the fall

Kids play on bounce toys during The Cigna Sunday in the Park Fall Series at Settegast Park on Sunday in Houston. This week's Cigna Sunday in the Park, which promotes health by featuring live music, games, dancing and other activities, had a Halloween theme.

free speech was violated.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation was called in at the request of District Attorney Ray Crouch. Investigators determined the photo was taken from an album cover with a copy of Baker's official work portrait "crudely" edited onto the grave, court documents show.

Garton was charged with harassment and jailed for nearly two weeks on a \$76,000 bond until a Dickson County judge dismissed the charges.

Deal ends Great Lakes shipping artery strike

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A deal was reached Sunday to end a weeklong strike that had shut down a major shipping artery in the Great Lakes, halting the flow of grain and other goods from the U.S. and Canada.

Around 360 workers in Ontario and Quebec with Unifor, Canada's largest private-sector union, walked out Oct. 22 in a dispute over wages with the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp.

The strike shut down 13 locks on the seaway between Lake Erie and Montreal, bottling up ships in the Great Lakes and preventing more ships from coming in.

The St. Lawrence Seaway and Great Lakes are part of a system of locks, canals, rivers and lakes that stretches more than 2,300 miles from the Atlantic Ocean to the western tip of Lake Superior in Minnesota and Wisconsin. It car-

ried over \$12 billion worth of cargo last year. Ships that travel it include oceangoing "salties" and "lakers" that stick to the lakes.

Canadian Solar to build \$800M solar factory

IN JEFFERSONVILLE — Ontario-based Canadian Solar Inc. will build an \$800 million solar panel factory in southeastern Indiana that will employ about 1,200 workers once production is fully ramped up, the company said Monday.

Canadian Solar said it will build the new photovoltaic cell factory at the River Ridge Commerce Center in Jeffersonville, an Ohio River city located just north of Louisville, Ky.

Production is expected to begin by the end of 2025, with the plant producing the equivalent of about 20,000 high-power solar panels per day, said the company, which is headquartered in Guelph, Ontario.

Void of Cherokee Nation casino license upheld

AR LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Supreme Court on Thursday upheld a judge's decision to void the casino license issued to the Cherokee Nation by a panel, setting up a new round of applications for the last of four casinos voters have approved.

In a 5-2 ruling, justices agreed with a Pulaski County judge who

struck down the license issued in 2021 to Cherokee Nation Businesses, and Legends Resort and Casino — the company set up by the Cherokee Nation — to build a casino in Pope County.

Pope County was one of four sites where casinos were allowed to be built under a constitutional amendment that voters approved in 2018. Casinos have already been set up in the other three locations, but the Pope County license has been tied up in ongoing legal battles.

Justices ruled that the 2018 amendment did not give the commission authority to issue a license jointly to Legends and Cherokee Nation Businesses.

The state said it was reviewing the decision and preparing for a new round of applications.

Man kills himself instead of carrying out attack

CO DENVER — A heavily armed man killed himself rather than carry out an apparent plan to shoot up a mountaintop amusement park in Colorado, his body discovered in a bathroom next to words scrawled on the wall, "I am not a killer," authorities said Monday.

Diego Barajas Medina, 20, was found dead in a women's bathroom at Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park by a maintenance crew on Saturday morning, before the park opened to the public. He died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, Garfield Coun-

ty Coroner Robert Glassmire said.

Medina apparently entered the park while it was closed, armed with an AR-style rifle, a semi-automatic handgun and explosives and was wearing body armor and tactical clothing, similar to what a police SWAT team member might wear, authorities said.

A message saying, "I am not a killer, I just wanted to get into the caves," was written on a wall of the bathroom where Medina's body was found lying on the floor, Garfield County Sheriff Lou Vallario said.

Vallario could not say for certain that Medina wrote the message.

Lawmaker indicted on intent to rape charge

ND BISMARCK — A former, longtime North Dakota lawmaker has been indicted on a federal charge alleging he traveled to Prague with the intent to rape a minor.

The four-page indictment against former state Sen. Ray Holmberg also charges him with one count of receiving images depicting child sexual abuse. The indictment was filed Thursday in federal court in North Dakota.

It accuses the 79-year-old Holmberg of traveling from North Dakota to the Czech Republic from about June 2011 to November 2016 with intent to rape a person under age 18.

FACES

New project a gift from Cher

Eclectic artist calls in all-star collaborators to create her 1st Christmas album, now out

By MARIA SHERMAN
Associated Press

There isn't much Cher hasn't done in her career. She's achieved EGOT status, she's the only artist to have a No. 1 song in each of the past six decades — heck, she's got her own gelato business, Cherlato. But a Christmas album? That's new territory.

So, why now?

"I just didn't want to do one," she said. "I didn't know how I was going to make it a 'Cher Christmas album.'"

The secret, of course, was to lean into the incredible eclecticism of her career, all while avoiding the sleepy, saccharine pitfalls of a "Silent Night" -heavy release.

Her first new album in five years, the appropriately titled "Christmas," dropped Oct. 27. In some ways, it required Cher to find her voice again. She hadn't sung since a March 12, 2020, performance was canceled at the start of the pandemic.

So she called up her vocal teacher, "Adrienne Angel, who's 96, who came out and hung with me and we worked every day."

"And then I went to the mic and I was able to sing," she says. "I have very young vocal cords."

On "Christmas," Cher enlists an all-star list of collaborators. There's Cyndi Lauper on "Put A Little Holiday In Your Heart," Stevie Wonder on "What Christmas Means to Me," Darlene Love on "Christmas (Baby, Please Come Home)," Michael Bublé on "Home," and even the rapper Tyga on "Drop Top Sleigh Ride" — you read that last one correctly.

But working with others in this way is something she says she's never done before. When you're Cher, do you really need a featured voice?

"Well, with Darlene, I wasn't going to sing her song without her," she says of the song they first sang together 60 years ago on "A Christmas Gift for You From Phil Spector."

"With Stevie, I did the song, I loved the song, but there were just things I couldn't do, that were just Stevie," she says. "So, I called him and just said, 'Stevie, I've done it. I'm pretty proud of it. But there are things I can't do, and I need you.'"

"I was still trying to sell him when he'd already said yes," she



says. "At some point he asked me, 'Is this my song?' And I went, 'You think I could call you to ask you to sing on someone else's song?'"

Alexander Edwards, Cher's romantic partner and a credited producer on the project, is best friends with Tyga, who helped make the most unexpected and delightful collaboration happen.

"Christmas" is dedicated to Cher's late mother, Georgia Holt, who died just before the holidays last year. But don't mistake this album as therapy — the act of reclaiming Christmas in the face of loss, or a way to memorialize Holt.

"I think about my mom all the time," she says. She doesn't need an album to remind her of her mom; her mom is everywhere.

"I don't have a bit of regret that my mom is gone because my mom was such a vibrant woman and she didn't like what was going on in her life," she adds.

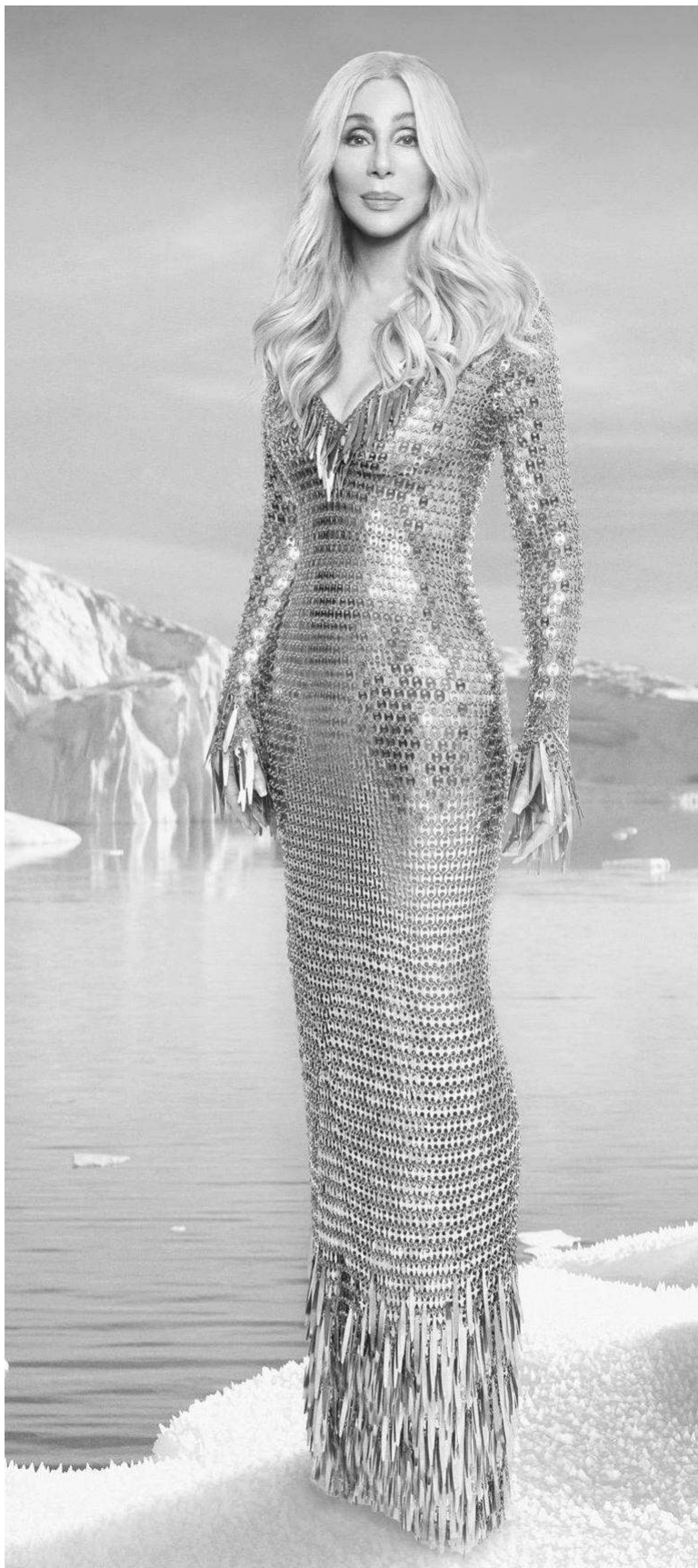
Cher says her mom sends her messages all the time — like recently when she rediscovered a huge plate she made her mom, flipped it over, and read what it said: "Dear mom, I love you, Merry Christmas."

"And it was like, 'Mom, you're just not going to leave me alone, are you?'" she says.

In addition to the album, Cher is preparing to release a 25th anniversary edition of her Grammy-winning album "Believe" on Friday. Its title track is credited as the first use of autotune — though, as she recalls, it was termed a "pitch machine" at the time.

She was arguing with her longtime producer Mark Taylor about the track, and he brought up the new technology.

"It started and it was like, 'Oh my God, this is the best thing ever.' And I thought, 'You don't even know it's me. This is the best thing ever.' And then we high-fived," she recounts.



AN LI/Warner Music

Cher's first new album in five years is also her first holiday album.

But don't mistake an openness to technology and musical innovation as an openness to artificial intelligence.

Of the technology, Cher is quick to say: "Not AI. Someone did me doing a Madonna song and it was kind of shocking. They didn't have it down perfectly. But also, I've spent my entire life trying to be myself, and now these a----- are going to go take it? And they'll do my acting and they'll do my singing?"

"I'm telling you, if you work forever to become somebody — and I'm not talking about somebody in the famous, money part — but an artist, and then someone just takes it from you, it seems like it should be illegal," she adds.

For those keeping count: It is also the 35th anniversary of Cher

winning the best actress Oscar for her role in "Moonstruck." When asked if she will act again, she's quick to point out the necessity of a resolution to the ongoing Hollywood actors strike.

She was asked to do a special, she says.

"They said, 'Well, we can do it in England.' I said, 'We can do it on the moon, but I'm not doing it,'" she says, not until an agreement is reached.

One place and time Cher will be performing is Manhattan on Thanksgiving day. Organizers of this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade have nabbed the superstar for their 97th annual event. Cher will make her appearance just before the parade's end, signaled by the arrival of Santa's sleigh, parade organizers said.

'General Hospital' actor Tyler Christopher dies

Tyler Christopher, an actor best known for starring in daytime soaps "General Hospital" and "Days of Our Lives," has died, according to a former co-star. He was 50.

Actor Maurice Benard confirmed the actor's death Tuesday on Instagram.

The post from the longtime friend and co-star said that Tyler died that morning "following a cardiac event" at his home in San Diego.

Christopher portrayed Nikolas Cassadine on America's longest-running soap opera from 1996 to 2016. His performance on the medical soap scored a Daytime Emmy Award for outstanding lead, as well as multiple nominations. Christopher also starred as Stefan DiMera on "Days of Our Lives" from 2018 to 2019, for which he earned his last of five Daytime Emmy nominations.

Christopher married "Desperate Housewives" star Eva Longoria in 2002, but the couple split in 2004. In 2008, he married former ESPN reporter Brienne Pedigo. He and Pedigo had two children and reportedly divorced in 2021.

Christopher disclosed on "State of Mind" in 2022 that he was in the process of writing a book detailing his struggles with mental health and substance abuse.

It's unclear whether Christopher's book was finished before his death.

Touring drummer Aaron Spears dies at 47

Aaron Spears, the renowned touring drummer who played alongside Usher, Justin Bieber, Ariana Grande, Lady Gaga and Miley Cyrus, among others, has died at age 47, his family announced on Monday.

Spears' wife, Jessica Spears, confirmed the news of her husband's death in an Instagram post shared on the drummer's page. The post did not include a time, date or place of death for Spears or a cause of death.

Spears earned a Grammy nomination for his production work on Usher's highly successful "Confessions" album.

In recent years, Spears held drum clinics and workshops throughout the world where he looked to harbor a learning and sharing environment for musicians of all ages and experiences.

Spears is survived by his wife, Jessica, and his son, August.

Other news

■ Milo Ventimiglia of "This Is Us" and "Gilmore Girls" has married model Jarah Mariano, a representative for the Emmy-nominated actor told the L.A. Times on Monday. Ventimiglia's representative confirmed the actor's marriage to Mariano, but declined to give further details.

From wire reports



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OPINION

Russia’s crimes are a long-running horror show

By LEE HOCKSTADER
The Washington Post

The reports pile up like desiccated bones in a mass grave, each brimming with a ghoul’s gallery of horrors, each bearing a dreary title and, often, the imprimatur of the United Nations: “Report on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine.” “Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine.” “Detention of Civilians in the Context of the Armed Attack by the Russian Federation Against Ukraine.” There have been dozens of such reports — fastidious, documented, footnoted — weighing in collectively at who-knows-how-many pages. Their heft alone, along with their repetitive sameness, exerts a numbing effect. Who can absorb such an endless litany of crushing cruelty? Yet the evidence attesting to Russia atrocities in Ukraine also obscures an essential fact: It represents a small fraction measured against the likely scale of atrocities carried out by President Vladimir Putin’s forces. We know that because we know this: Notwithstanding the lurid accounts detailing systematic torture, rape, execution and other forms of abuse deployed by Moscow’s troops, independent investigators are denied access to territory seized by Russian forces. That matters in what has become a static war, with front lines barely budging for months. It means the Kremlin’s commanders have time to eliminate traces of physical evidence as well as civilians who might bear witness to crimes. And it means that testimony gathered so far by international monitors comes mainly from survivors who manage to leave after Russian troops occupied their towns and villages. Those caught behind the lines are beyond reach. Yet even from a limited sampling, and in the

dry lexicon of U.N. commission reports, the abominations perpetrated by Russian security services and soldiers are plain. In its latest report, released Oct. 20, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, established by the U.N. Human Rights Council, recounted what it called evidence of war crimes. It includes details of electric shocks routinely used to torture detained Ukrainian civilians, a form of torture that Russian forces term “a call to Putin.” “Victims reported that perpetrators connected wires or clamps to earlobes, ankles, hands, toes, or genitals,” the report says. “According to victims, in some cases water was poured on them or otherwise used to amplify the effect of electric shocks. A woman who endured the electric shocks stated: ‘It was so painful that I could not stop screaming like crazy, I was crying.’ ” That report and others include chilling testimony about murders, rapes and other forms of sexual violence, as well as the removal of Ukrainian children forcibly taken to Russia — nearly 20,000 of them, according to Ukrainian authorities. Based on those abductions, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Putin. The Kremlin’s response was to use the children for photo ops in Red Square and to continue the kidnappings. The latest commission report outlines an array of abuses in Kherson province, a target of Russian invading forces last year. It describes a married couple in their 50s assaulted by three Russian troops, who beat the husband and took turns raping his wife. When the couple filed a report with a Russian commander, the commission found, three different soldiers returned and killed them both, according to neighbors. Many of the atrocities are acts of terrorism. They occur amid the quotidian backdrop of Russian air and artillery strikes against Ukrainian apartment buildings, cafes and other ci-

vilian targets — attacks with no military rationale. The world was shocked at the outset of Putin’s full-scale invasion by the killing spree in Bucha, near Kyiv, where Russian soldiers murdered several hundred unarmed civilians, shooting them in streets and cellars. To me it looked all too familiar. Nearly 30 years ago, I covered Russia’s first war in Chechnya, the southern Russian region that fought to free itself of Moscow’s rule. There, torture, rape and indiscriminate killing of noncombatants by Russian forces were routine. So was impunity; virtually no Russian soldiers were prosecuted. As a reporter in that war zone, I often listened to Chechen civilians recount the abuse they had suffered and the atrocities they had witnessed. Back then, Russian human rights organizations also bore witness — groups now banned and silenced by Putin. One report by Memorial, a respected human rights group dissolved in 2021, was based on interviews with hundreds of victims in Chechnya in 1995. It featured a man named Iziev, whose agonies are reminiscent of those meted out now in Ukraine. “They attached wires to the detainee’s neck, someone shouted ‘Turn!’ and an electric shock followed,” according to the report. “Once, the wire was placed into his mouth. He lost consciousness several times during the interrogations.” Russia’s subjugation of Chechnya, a little-known place, got scant attention. But in the military’s viciousness and brutality, it was a prelude to Putin’s current campaign. It’s a further reminder that Ukraine is fighting not only for its right to live as a democratic, pluralist and independent country, free of Russia’s yoke. It is also fighting for its life.

Lee Hockstader has been The Washington Post’s European Affairs columnist, based in Paris, since 2023. Previously he was a member of the Post editorial board; a national correspondent, a foreign correspondent, and a local reporter.

My beloved Gaza is gone, ruined and a place of grief

By HANI ALMADHOUN
Los Angeles Times

A mere two months ago, we had the rare privilege of visiting our family in the Gaza Strip, a place I’ve always romanticized despite the more than 16-year-long blockade, preceded by 55 years of Israeli military occupation. Even though we were displaced to Gaza as refugees from Ashkelon, it still represents home to me. As a Palestinian American who holds a Gaza ID, I can’t enter Gaza through Israel and I can’t exit without Israel’s permission. This summer, not sure if it would be my last visit for a long time, I relished the simple pleasures Gaza had to offer. Vibrant cafes buzzed all day. Evenings were filled with family and laughter by the Mediterranean beach. We took memorable road trips with young nieces and nephews. My young daughters indulged in horseback riding lessons, music classes and traditional Palestinian dabke dances at summer camp. We savored seafood, fresh bread and Instagram-worthy cafe dishes with a Gazan twist. We found deep spirituality in historic mosques, surrounded by humble, grateful people. Amid the bustling markets and notorious traffic, the faces of family members, who can’t visit us in the U.S., made our visit special, even though life in Gaza is subject to a siege imposed by Israel and condemned as illegal by the United Nations and

the majority of human rights organizations. These were my Gaza memories before everything changed on Oct. 7, when an attack on Israel resulted in unimaginable grief for Gazans who are caught in the crossfire. Nearly half of Gaza’s 2.2 million population, more than a million of whom are children, are displaced once more. Blocks upon blocks of homes are being reduced to rubble. An already scarce water supply has dried up. Endless queues for essentials stretch for hours. Overcrowded shelters mean an hour’s wait for a shared, dirty toilet. My sisters are taking refuge north of Gaza City in a hospital and a school operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, but no place in Gaza is safe. In a recent phone call with my mom in Gaza, a deafening explosion shook my phone speaker. The noise over the phone was so alarming that my wife, Roa, rushed downstairs fearing I’d been injured. My mother and the rest of my family members eventually ventured out into the street in northern Gaza, not knowing what to expect. This time, they were met by their neighbors, whose lifeless bodies dangled outside the building, limbs scattered about. My mother was shocked yet moved by the courageous young Palestinian men who rushed to assist, covering and evacuating those who might still have a chance to survive into an ambulance. That family was one of the

poorest in the neighborhood and caring for children with special needs. Palestinians can no longer hope to be spared from the horrors unfolding around them. Conditions have become so horrifying that my 5-year-old niece, Nour, who just started kindergarten a few weeks ago, now recites prayers that seem beyond her years, reminiscent of an adult’s devotion. What’s happening in Gaza — the rampant destruction of physical landmarks and countless families — is also erasing the cherished memories we once held of this place. Last night my family’s neighborhood was bombed. I haven’t heard from them yet. Will this cruelty ever end? I don’t know. “We’re going to turn [Gaza] into a parking lot,” a U.S. congressman said on Fox News recently. Right now, it feels as though we’re halfway there. The Gaza you see on TV and social media videos is not the Gaza that my family or I recognize. That Gaza, the one I love, is gone. To salvage what remains, to avert an even graver disaster and to reignite hope, I implore President Joe Biden and the international community to truly see Gaza’s plight, seek an end to the bombing, starting with a cease-fire, and provide more humanitarian assistance so that Gaza can live.

Hani Almadhoun is director of philanthropy at UNRWA USA, an independent nonprofit organization supporting the humanitarian work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19			20	21			
			22			23					24	25
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31					32				33			
34				35				36				
37			38				39					
		40					41			42	43	44
45	46					47	48			49		
50						51				52		
53						54				55		

ACROSS

- 1 Carrots' mates
5 NASCAR advertiser
8 Herring's kin
12 Ticklish Muppet
13 Luau bowlful
14 Carton sealer
15 Actor Hemsworth
16 LBJ's successor
17 Checks out
18 Japanese mat
20 High cards
22 Gilbert & Sullivan offering
26 Barbecue site
29 Author Fleming
30 Long time
31 Water, to Juan
32 Connections
33 Tennis score
34 Sawbuck
35 "Life of Pi" director Lee

DOWN

- 52 iPod type
53 Barracks beds
54 Pitcher Maglie
55 Fed. agents
1 Hide
2 Director Kazan
3 Latin 101 word
4 Neighbor of Kenya
5 Parsley piece
6 Male turkey
7 Toy-filled targets
8 Precipitous
9 Rubes
10 Chest-beating beast
11 — Moines
19 "O Sole —"
21 Record holder?
23 Door piece

- 24 Stir up
25 Green Gables girl
26 Walkway
27 Screenwriter James
28 Cheese-topped diner order
32 Prisoners
33 Clinic concern
35 Writer Rand
36 Small battery
38 Battery measures
39 Blogger's bane
42 Cain's dad
43 Eat in style
44 Like — of bricks
45 "The Wall" network
46 Tic-tac-toe win
48 Carte lead-in

Answer to Previous Puzzle

	C	O	D			H	E	R				
	S	U	R	E		V	O	L	T	A		
B	A	M	B	I		A	R	L	E	N	E	
T	W	I	S	T	E	D	S	I	S	T	E	R
S	S	N			I	V	I	E	S		I	R
			S	E	E	M			A	C	I	D
	T	R	U	S	S		P	U	R	S	E	
G	E	A	R			W	E	P	T			
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P	R	I	M	E	M	I	N	I	S	T	E	R
	S	N	A	R	E	S		L	A	R	A	S
		G	R	A	N	T		O	V	A	L	
		E	L	S				N	E	D		

11-2

CRYPTOQUIP

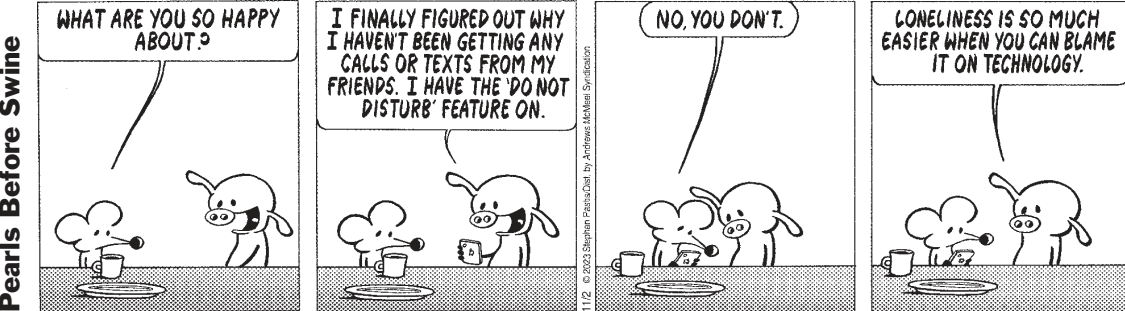
BRV FVISCFTVECQ YADXRBR
MGI EDXRBDAX MDBR GA
SQJ, JCQQ IGLVF, ESF QGTY
SE G LVBBVF IMSFJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AS THE GUY REPORTED ON THE CHURCH SERVICE HE HAD BEEN TO, HE GAVE A PRAY-BY-PRAY DESCRIPTION.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals G

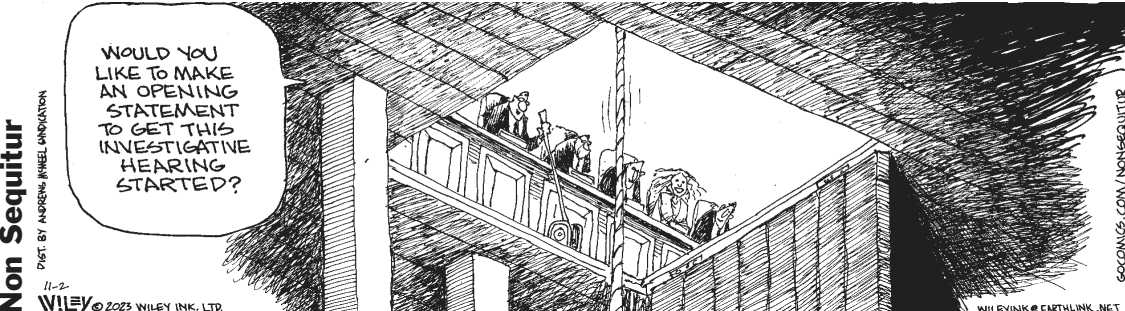
Frazz



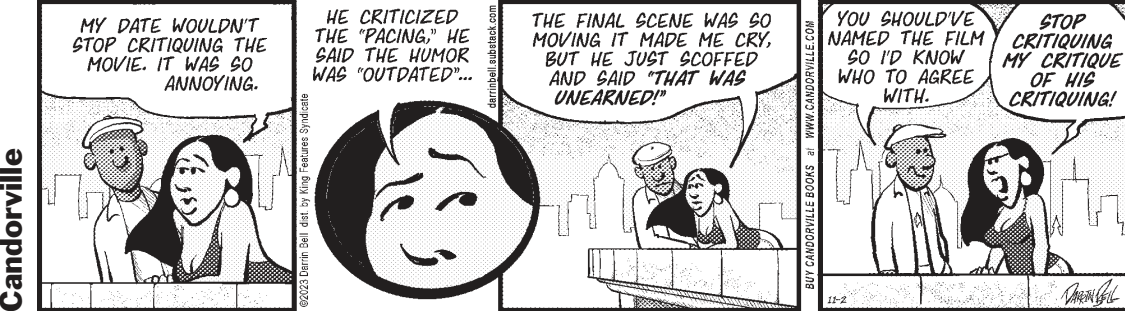
Pearls Before Swine



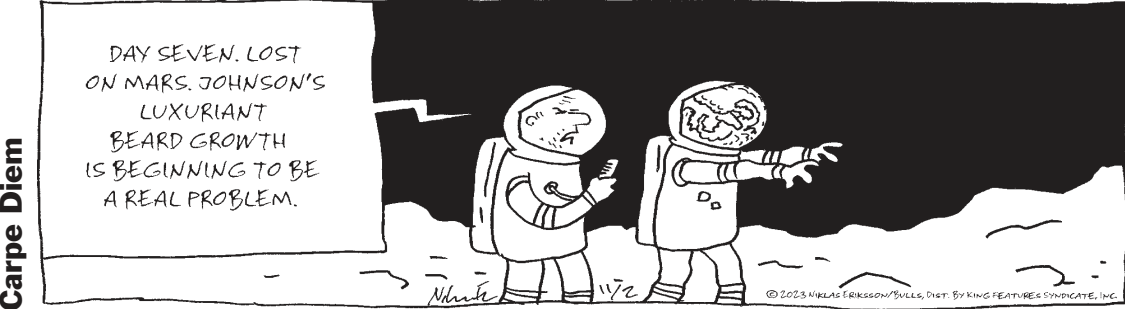
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



SCOREBOARD/TENNIS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
<p>Tuesday's scores</p> <p>MIDWEST Cent. Michigan 37, N. Illinois 31 Toledo 31, Buffalo 13</p> <p>AP Top 25 schedule</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Schedule</p> <p>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)</p>
TENNIS
<p>WTA Finals</p> <p>Tuesday Cancun Purse: \$9,000,000 Surface: Hardcourt outdoor Women's Singles group 2 Jessica Pegula (5), United States, def. Aryna Sabalenka (1), Belarus, 6-4, 6-3. Elena Rybakina (4), Kazakhstan, def. Maria Sakkari (8), Greece, 6-0, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (2).</p> <p>Women's Doubles group 1 Vera Zvonareva, Russia, and Laura Siegemund (6), Germany, def. Barbora Krejci-kova and Katerina Siniakova (4), Czech Re-public, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 10-5.</p> <p>Dow Tennis Classic</p> <p>Tuesday At Midland Community Tennis Center Midland Purse: \$115,000 Surface: Hardcourt indoor Women's Singles Round of 32 Ashlyn Krueger (5), United States, def. Varvara Lepchenko, United States, 6-1, 1-0, ret. Katherine Sebov, Canada, def. Lulu Sun, Switzerland, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5. Taylor Townsend (4), United States, def. Raluca Georgiana Serban, Cyprus, 1-6, 6-3, 6-2. Hailey Baptiste, United States, def. Vic-toria Hu, United States, 7-5, 7-5. Katrina Scott, United States, def. Renata Zarazua, Mexico, 7-6 (8), 4-6, 6-2. Jana Fett, Croatia, def. Arianne Hartono, Netherlands, 7-5, 6-0. Robin Anderson, United States, def. Elvi-na Kalieva, United States, 6-2, 6-2. Tatiana Prozorova, Russia, def. Katie Vo-lynets (8), United States, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.</p> <p>Paris Masters</p> <p>Tuesday At Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy Paris Purse: Euro 5,779,335 Surface: Hardcourt indoor Men's Singles Round of 64 Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, def. Benjamin Bonzi, France, 7-5, 6-3. Alexander Zverev (10), Germany, def. Marton Fucsovics, Hungary, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4. Tomas Martin Etcheverry, Argentina, def. Miomir Kecmanovic, Serbia, 4-6, 7-6 (6), 6-4. Hubert Hurkacz (11), Poland, def. Sebastian Korda, United States, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-3. Daniel Altmaier, Germany, def. Arthur Fils, France, 6-2, 6-4. Mackenzie McDonald, United States, def. Jeffrey John Wolf, United States, 1-6, 6-4, 6-2. Felix Auger-Aliassime, Canada, def. Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, 7-6 (3), 6-4. Ugo Humbert, France, def. Marcos Giron, United States, 6-4, 6-3. Francisco Cerundolo, Argentina, def. Gael Monfils, France, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 7-5. Round of 32 Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, def. Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, Spain, 6-2, 6-2. Karen Khachanov (16), Russia, def. Laslo Djere, Serbia, 6-4, 7-5. Roman Safiullin, Russia, def. Carlos Al-caraz (2), Spain, 6-3, 6-4. Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, def. Ni-colas Jarry, Chile, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (3). Andrey Rublev (5), Russia, def. Yoshihito Nishioka, Japan, 6-4, 6-3.</p>

PRO FOOTBALL						
NFL						
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

PRO SOCCER
<p>MLS playoffs</p> <p>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 0 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 Seattle 2, FC Dallas 0 Saturday: at FC Dallas x-Friday, Nov. 10: at Seattle Sporting Kansas City 1, St. Louis 0 Sporting Kansas City 4, St. Louis 1 Sunday: at Sporting Kansas City x-Saturday, Nov. 11: at St. Louis</p> <p>NWSL playoffs</p> <p>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</p>
DEALS

<p>Tuesday's transactions</p> <p>BASEBALL Major League Baseball MLB — Approved two roster substitutions for Texas due to injuries sustained by OF Adolis Garcia and RHP Max Scher-zer. American League SEATTLE MARINERS — Reinstated RHP Easton McGee from the 60-day IL. Sent RHPs Adam Oller and Easton McGee outright to Tacoma (PCL). TEXAS RANGERS — Activated INF/OF Ezequiel Duran and LHP Brock Burke. National League LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Named Lorenzo Sciarino senior vice president, global partnerships. Sent RHP Tyler Cyr outright to Oklahoma City (PCL). MIAMI MARLINS — Sent RHP Jeff Lindgren, LHP Emmanuel De Jesus and OF Jonathan Davis outright to Jacksonville (IL). MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Sent RHP Caleb Boushley outright to Nashville (IL). NEW YORK METS — Claimed RHP Penn Murfee off waivers from Seattle. BASKETBALL National Basketball Association NBA — Fined Philadelphia C Joel Embiid an undisclosed amount for repeatedly making an obscene gesture while on the court during an Oct. 19 game against Portland. CHARLOTTE HORNETS — Exercised its third-year option on C Mark Williams. FOOTBALL National Football League ARIZONA CARDINALS — Traded QB Joshua Dobbs and a conditional 2024 seventh-round draft pick to Minnesota in exchange for a 2024 sixth-round draft pick. Signed QB Jeff Driskel and OL Vitaliy Gurban to the practice squad. Placed WR Jeff Smith and RB Damien Williams on the practice squad injured reserve. Released DL Jacob Slade and CB Quavian White from the practice squad. ATLANTA FALCONS — Placed DT Grady Jarrett on injured reserve. BUFFALO BILLS — Signed RB Leonard Fournette to the practice squad. Released DT Kendal Vickers from the practice squad. CHICAGO BEARS — Waived DL Khalid Kareen. Released DB Joe Juan Williams from the practice squad. CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed OT Geron Christian, RB Kenyan Drake and WR James Proche to the practice squad. Released RB Nate McCrary and RB Jordan Wilkins from the practice squad. Placed T Ty Nsekhe on the practice squad injured reserve. Traded WR Donovan Peoples-Jones to Detroit in exchange for a 2025 sixth-round draft pick. DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed OL Dakoda Shepley to the practice squad. DETROIT LIONS — Placed LS Scott Daly on injured reserve. GREEN BAY PACKERS — Traded CB Rasul Douglas to Buffalo in exchange for 2024 third and fifth-round draft picks. HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed S DeAndre Houston-Carson from the Baltimore practice squad. Signed TE Eric Saubert. Placed OL Jarrett Patterson and TE Teagan Quitoriano on injured reserve. INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Promoted G Jack Anderson from the practice squad to the active roster. JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Waived OL Ben Bartch. KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed LB Darius</p>
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AP SPORTLIGHT
<p>Nov. 2</p> <p>1895 — Belmar, ridden by Fred Taral, wins the Belmont Stakes by a head over favorite Counter Tenor. The race is run under the jurisdiction of the Westchester Racing Association, because the New York Jockey Club had closed out its affairs. 1958 — Chicago and Los Angeles establish an NFL attendance record when 90,833 fill the L.A. Coliseum to see the Rams beat the Bears 41-35. 1974 — The Atlanta Braves trade then-MLB home run king Hank Aaron to the Milwaukee Brewers for outfielder Dave May. 1985 — Gordon Brown has 214 yards and quarterback Steve Gage has 206 to become the first teammates to each rush for more than 200 yards as Tulsa beats Wichita State 42-26. 1986 — Minnesota's Tommy Kramer passes for 490 yards and four touchdowns but the Vikings still lose to the Washington Redskins in overtime, 44-38. 1990 — The Golden State Warriors beat the Denver Nuggets 162-158 at McNichols Arena. The 320 points set an NBA record for the most points scored by two teams in a non-overtime game. 1991 — Nevada makes the biggest comeback in NCAA football history, overcoming a 35-point deficit in the third quarter and rallying to beat Weber State 55-49. 1996 — A.J. Pitorino of Hartwick rushes for an NCAA all-divisions record 443 yards on 45 carries in a 42-14 win over Wayne-sburg. 2006 — Minnesota's Niklas Backstrom becomes the first goalie in the modern era, which began in 1943, to win twice without starting. Backstom replaces an ill Manny Fernandez and stops all 19 shots he faces over the final two periods as the Wild rally for a 5-2 victory over Vancouver. Backstrom relieved Fernandez after a three-goal first period against Nashville on Oct. 7 before Minnesota came back for a 6-5 victory. 2013 — Quinn Epperly of Princeton sets an NCAA record by opening with 29 straight completions, and accounts for 401 total yards and six TDs in a 53-20 win over Cornell.</p>
DEALS

<p>Harris from the Las Vegas practice squad. Released LB Isaiah Moore. LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Released K James McCourt from the practice squad. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Waived TE Tre McKitty. MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Traded G Ezra Cleveland to Jacksonville in exchange for a 2024 sixth-round draft pick. Placed QB Kirk Cousins on injured reserve. Signed TE Michael Dogbe to the practice squad. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Placed WR Kendrick Bourne on injured reserve. NEW YORK GIANTS — Promoted QB Tommy DeVito from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed QB Matt Barkley to the practice squad. Released C Jaylon Thomas from the practice squad. Traded DL Leonard Williams to Seattle. NEW YORK JETS — Signed OL Rodger Saf-fold and DL Jalyn Holmes to the practice squad. Placed C Connor McGovern, G Wes Schweitzer and DT Al Woods on injured re-serve. Promoted DL Tanzel Smart and OL Dennis Kelly from the practice squad to the active roster. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Traded DL Kentavious Street and a 2025 seventh-round pick to Atlanta for a 2024 sixth-round pick. Placed DT Grady Jarrett on in-jured reserve. PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed S Jalen Elliott to the practice squad. Released OLB David Peralas from the practice squad. SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Released CB Anthony Brown. Signed OL Jesse Davis to the practice squad. Released CB Kendall Sheffield from the practice squad. Signed OL Jesse Davis to the practice squad. SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Waived WR Cody Thompson. Signed S Jonathan Sutherland to the practice squad. Released DT Carl Davis and RB SaRodoricck from the prac-tice squad. TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Released DL Pat O'Connor. Signed QB John Wolford. TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed LB Chance Campbell and DB Shyheim Carter to the practice squad. Designated DB Mike Brown to return fr5om injured reserve to practice. WASHINGTON COMMANDERS — Traded DE Montez Sweat to Chicago in exchange for a 2024 second-round draft pick. Traded DE Chase Young to San Francisco in ex-change for a conditional 2024 second-round draft pick. Signed G Nolan Laufen-berg to the practice squad. HOCKEY National Hockey League BOSTON BRUINS — Recalled D Ryan Mast from Maine (ECHL). BUFFALO SABRES — Recalled LW Brandon Biro from Rochester (AHL). CALGARY FLAMES — Recalled C Connor Zary from Calgary (AHL). COLORADO AVALANCHE — Recalled LW Riley Tufta and D Caleb Jones from Colora-do (AHL). DETROIT RED WINGS — Assigned RW Carter Mazur to Grand Rapids (AHL). EDMONTON OILERS — Placed LW Adam Erne on waivers. Signed F Sam Gagner to a one-year, two-way contract. PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Recalled D Will Zmolek to Lehigh Valley (AHL) from Read-ing (ECHL). Loaned G Felix Sandstrom to Lehigh Valley for conditioning. SAN JOSE SHARKS — Activated D Jacob MacDonald from injured reserve. SOCCER Major League Soccer AUSTIN FC — Signed M Ethan Finlay to a one-year contract.</p>

TENNIS BRIEFS
<p>Back from injury, Alcaraz loses in Paris Masters</p> <p>PARIS — Carlos Alcaraz’s hopes of finishing the season as the top-ranked player took a hit after a 6-3, 6-4 loss to qualifier Roman Sa-fiullin in the second round of the Paris Masters on Tuesday.</p> <p>In his return from injury, Alca-raz dropped serve four times and made 27 unforced errors to 21 for Safiullin, a former world No. 2 ju-nior.</p> <p>“I didn’t feel well, you know, in the game,” Alcaraz told a news conference. “I think I didn’t move well. In the shots, I think I had a good quality of shots. But, you know, physically, in the part of movement, I have to improve a lot.”</p> <p>The Spaniard was knocked out in the fourth round of the Shanghai Masters nearly three weeks ago and withdrew from the Swiss In-doors in Basel because of a left foot injury and muscle fatigue to his lower back.</p> <p>Alcaraz leads the ATP Tour with six titles this year but hasn’t lifted any trophy since Wimbledon. He seems to be running on fumes late-ly because of his demanding style of play.</p> <p>“Probably the season has been so, so long,” Alcaraz said. “Prob-a-bly that affects my game.”</p>
<p>Pegula beats Sabalenka to earn WTA Finals semis</p> <p>CANCUN, Mexico — As match point after match point came and went — there were six in all she didn’t convert — Jessica Pegula made sure she stayed calm against No. 1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka at the WTA Finals on Tuesday.</p> <p>When her seventh chance to end things arrived, Pegula finally was able to complete a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Sabalenka in round-robin ac-tion at the season-ending cham-pionship for the top eight players in women’s tennis.</p> <p>In Tuesday’s other singles match, 2022 Wimbledon cham-pion Elena Rybakina beat Maria Sakkari 6-0, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (2). That eliminated Sakkari from semifinal contention and means Sabalenka will face Rybakina on Thursday for their group’s second berth in the final four; that’s a rematch of the Australian Open title match in January, won by Sabalenka.</p> <p>Pegula has won both matches and all four sets she’s played so far at these WTA Finals, a year after going 0-3 at the competition.</p> <p>She had lost four times in a row to Sabalenka, who was the runner-up to Coco Gauff at the U.S. Open in September.</p> <p>The big-hitting Sabalenka — who lost just one game on Sunday against Sakkari — finished with more than twice as many unforced errors as Pegula.</p>

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/NHL



AL GOLDIS/AP

Michigan wide receiver Roman Wilson reacts after scoring against Michigan State on Oct. 21 in East Lansing, Mich. Michigan placed third in the first CFP rankings despite a probe into an alleged sign-stealing scheme.

Michigan ranked in CFP's top 4 despite investigation

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

The NCAA investigation hanging over Michigan as it heads into the final month of the season as a national championship contender is not affecting the College Football Playoff selection committee's assessment of the Wolverines.

Ohio State was No. 1, followed by Georgia, Michigan and Florida State in the season's first CFP rankings Tuesday night, with unbeaten Washington and its Pac-12 rival, Oregon, next.

The NCAA is investigating a sign-stealing scheme that allegedly involved impermissible in-person scouting by Michigan.

Selection committee chairman Boo Corrigan, who is the North Carolina State athletic director, said the allegations against Michigan were not part of the debate about where the Wolverines should be ranked. He called it an NCAA issue, not a CFP issue.

"Fact of the matter is no one knows what happened," CFP executive director Bill Hancock said. "The NCAA is dealing right now with allegations only. The committee's judgments are based on what happened on the field. And clearly Michigan has been a dominant team."

Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel is also part of the 13-member selection committee.

"No, there wasn't any suggestion that anything change regarding Warde's position on the committee," Hancock said. "He was fully engaged in the meeting the last two days, as usual."

The committee has a recusal policy that precludes Manuel from be-

College Football Playoff rankings

	Record
1. Ohio State	8-0
2. Georgia	8-0
3. Michigan	8-0
4. Florida State	8-0
5. Washington	8-0
6. Oregon	7-1
7. Texas	7-1
8. Alabama	7-1
9. Oklahoma	7-1
10. Mississippi	7-1
11. Penn State	7-1
12. Missouri	7-1
13. Louisville	7-1
14. LSU	6-2
15. Notre Dame	7-2
16. Oregon State	6-2
17. Tennessee	6-2
18. Utah	6-2
19. UCLA	6-2
20. Southern Cal	7-2
21. Kansas	6-2
22. Oklahoma State	6-2
23. Kansas State	6-2
24. Tulane	7-1
25. Air Force	8-0

ing part of discussions about Michigan's ranking.

"Warde brought credibility when he came to the committee and he still has it," Hancock said.

The Buckeyes (8-0) are No. 1 for the fourth time in the 10-year history of the CFP, and the first time since 2019. Victories over Penn State and Notre Dame, both ranked in the CFP's top-15, bolstered Ohio State's case, Corrigan said.

Two-time defending champion Georgia (8-0) and Michigan (8-0) have been Nos. 1 and 2 in The Associated Press college football poll since the preseason, but schedules light on big-time competition to this point worked against them with the 13-member selection committee.

Florida State (8-0) is in the CFP top four for the first time since the

2014 season.

Washington (8-0) beat Oregon (7-1) earlier this season and both still have ranked USC and Oregon State left on the schedule as the Pac-12 tries to snap a six-year playoff drought.

"The Pac-12 right now, from top to bottom, there's no gimmes," Washington coach Kalen DeBoer said in an interview with ESPN.

Texas (7-1) was seventh, ahead of Alabama (7-1). The Longhorns beat the Crimson Tide, but lost to Oklahoma (7-1), which was ranked ninth.

The first of six rankings sets the table for a month of scrutiny on the top teams and their performances.

The final rankings will be released Dec. 3, after the conference championship games, and those set the four-team playoff field, with semifinals at the Rose Bowl and Sugar Bowl ahead of the national championship game on Jan. 8 in Houston.

This is the final season for this playoff format before it expands to 12 teams.

Four is the magic number for now and just once have the initial CFP rankings revealed the eventual playoff field. That was 2020, the pandemic season, which was far from normal in so many ways.

Last year, Tennessee was the committee's first No. 1, followed by Ohio State, Georgia and Clemson. Only the Bulldogs and Buckeyes made the playoff.

Overall, 21 of the 36 teams (58%) that have appeared in the first CFP rankings of a season have made the playoff. Among the 36 teams that have made the playoff in nine years, 29 started in the top six.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference							
Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	9	8	0	1	17	29	14
Detroit	10	6	3	1	13	40	31
Montreal	9	5	2	2	12	28	30
Tampa Bay	9	4	2	3	11	32	28
Toronto	9	5	3	1	11	30	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
Arizona	8	4	4	0	8	28	21
Nashville	9	4	5	0	8	27	29
Minnesota	9	3	4	2	8	32	38
St. Louis	7	3	3	1	7	14	20
Chicago	9	3	6	0	6	19	32
Pacific Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	10	9	0	1	19	38	22
Vancouver	9	6	2	1	13	39	23
Los Angeles	9	5	2	2	12	39	31
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.

Monday's games

Carolina 3, Philadelphia 2
Seattle 4, Tampa Bay 3, OT
Boston 3, Florida 2, OT
Anaheim 4, Pittsburgh 3
N.Y. Rangers 3, Winnipeg 2, OT
Detroit 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, OT
Dallas 5, Columbus 3
Arizona 8, Chicago 1
Vegas 3, Montreal 2, SO

Tuesday's games

Los Angeles 4, Toronto 1
Vancouver 5, Nashville 2

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



CHRIS YOUNG/The Canadian Press

Los Angeles Kings goalie Cam Talbot looks on as the Maple Leafs' John Tavares goes after a loose puck Tuesday in Toronto.

NHL ROUNDUP

Talbot on his game for Kings

Associated Press

TORONTO—Cam Talbot made 30 saves as the Los Angeles Kings beat Toronto 4-1 on Tuesday night in a game in which Maple Leafs winger William Nylander extended his season-opening point streak to a franchise record nine games.

Talbot improved to 4-2-1 in his first season with the Kings after signing a one-year, \$2 million contract as a free agent after an injury-plagued season with the Ottawa Senators limited the 36-year-old to 36 games last season.

"I never take a day for granted here," Talbot said. "At this point in my career, all I wanted to do was get an opportunity to show that I can still play and still battle for starts."

"When I'm healthy, I feel like I'm gonna be at the top of my game like that."

Adrian Kempe, Phillip Danault, Arthur Kaliyev and Andreas Englund scored for the Kings. Quinton Byfield added two assists.

Joining the Kings, Talbot was reunited with head coach Todd McLellan, who was behind the bench for all four of his seasons with the Edmonton Oilers from 2015-16 through 2018-19.

"Very competitive," McLellan said of his netminder. "He's a little longer in the tooth like some of us, but he takes care of himself so well that he can play — and play a lot. He's hungry."

John Tavares scored for Toronto, which was coming off a 3-1-1 road trip that finished with a 3-2 overtime loss to the Nashville Predators on Saturday. Joseph Woll stopped 23 shots.

With an assist on Tavares' goal, Nylander passed former Maple Leafs Frank Mahovlich (1961-62), Lanny McDonald (1976-77) and John Anderson (1982-83), who had eight-game point streaks.

"Every team goes through times during the year where you have a difficult schedule," Tavares said.

Canucks 5, Predators 2: Elias Pettersson had the second hat trick of his career to lead host Vancouver to a win over Nashville.

Sam Lafferty and J.T. Miller also scored for Vancouver. Thatcher Demko made 27 saves.

Colton Sissons and Dante Fabbro scored for Nashville. Kevin Lankinen stopped 22 of the 26 shots he faced.

"You're not going to win every night, but if you can keep putting out a consistent product and everyone's kind of pulling the same rope, that's going to be what drives our ship," Fabbro said.

NFL

Raiders fire McDaniels, GM in midseason shakeup

By Mark Anderson
Associated Press

HENDERSON, Nev. — When the Las Vegas Raiders hired Josh McDaniels in January 2022, he said he had learned from his first stint as an NFL head coach.

But McDaniels' record actually was worse the second time around than it was with the Denver Broncos in 2009 and 2010, and late Tuesday night the Raiders announced that owner Mark Davis fired McDaniels and general manager Dave Ziegler.

McDaniels became the first non-interim coach in the Super Bowl era to be fired by two franchises before the end of his second season.

"After much thought about what the Raiders need to move forward, I have decided to part ways with Josh and Dave," Davis said in a statement. "I want to thank them both for their hard work and wish them and their families nothing but the best."

The Raiders announced linebackers coach Antonio Pierce will take over as the interim coach. His first game will be Sunday at home against the Giants. He played for New York from 2005-09.

Las Vegas also announced assistant general manager Champ Kelly will be the interim GM.

The team will conduct searches for replacements for McDaniels and Ziegler after the season.

McDaniels was the Raiders' play caller, so offensive coordinator Mick Lombardi might take over those duties.

Davis had hoped to bring New England's success westward when he hired McDaniels, the longtime Patriots offensive coordinator. Ziegler worked in New England's front office, and between the former teammates at John Carroll University, they transformed the Raiders into Patriots West by signing several players with ties to that organization.

But despite taking over a team that made the playoffs in 2021 before losing to the Cincinnati Bengals in the wild-card round, the success Davis so badly wanted never made its way to Las Vegas.

The Raiders under McDaniels went 6-11 in 2022 and are 3-5 so far this season for a .360 winning percentage. His record at Denver was 11-17 (.393 percentage).

Even so, Davis has stood by McDaniels, and the timing of this

dismissal is surprising. McDaniels met with the media early Tuesday afternoon and was scheduled for another news conference Wednesday morning to discuss facing the Giants.

But McDaniels had some things working against him. The Raiders have failed to score at least 20 points in eight of their past nine games dating to last season, and offense is his specialty. The one game Las Vegas reached that figure came because of a fourth-quarter safety in a 21-17 victory over the Patriots on Oct. 15.

Perhaps just as damaging was the public displeasure some of his players have shown. Star wide receiver Davante Adams, in particular, has been vocal since the offseason about his concerns regarding the direction of the franchise. Running back Josh Jacobs when asked after Monday night's loss to the Detroit Lions about what might spark the offense, said, "I don't know, that ain't my job."

McDaniels was hired following the 2021 season when Davis opted not to keep interim coach Rich Bissaccia on for the full-time job even after he led the team to a surprising playoff run.



JOHN LOCHER/AP

The Raiders fired coach Josh McDaniels on Tuesday after they failed to score at least 20 points in eight of the past nine games.

McDaniels and Ziegler were aggressive in their first offseason, trading first and second-round picks for Adams, giving a big free-agent contract to defensive end Chandler Jones and extending the contracts of Derek Carr, Maxx Crosby, Darren Waller and Hunter Renfrow.

But those moves didn't lead to positive results on the field as McDaniels never was able to build the high-powered offense Davis expected when he hired him and struggled to win games.

McDaniels benched Carr late last season and eventually cut him in the offseason, giving the Raiders no return for a starting quarterback who ended up getting a \$150 million contract from New Orleans.

McDaniels brought in his former pupil in New England, Jimmy Garoppolo, as the new starting quarterback and the offense severely regressed, becoming the first team since 2009 to score less than 20 points on offense in each of the first eight games of the season.

49ers acquire DE Young in biggest trade at deadline

By Rob Maaddi
Associated Press

Derrick Henry, Davante Adams and everyone on the Denver Broncos stayed put. Chase Young, Montez Sweat and Joshua Dobbs are on the move.

Rasul Douglas, Ezra Cleveland and Donovan Peoples-Jones also were dealt Tuesday before the NFL's trade deadline at 4 p.m. EDT.

Overall, there were six deals on the final day teams could improve their rosters by acquiring someone from another club.

The San Francisco 49ers (5-3) made the biggest move of the day, getting Young from the Washington Commanders for a compensatory third-round draft pick.

Young, the 2020 No. 2 overall pick, joins former college teammate Nick Bosa on San Francisco's defensive line. Young was limited to just 12 games in the past two seasons because of injuries. He has five sacks in seven games this season and should provide a major boost for the suddenly struggling 49ers, who've lost three in a row.

The Commanders traded Sweat to the Chicago Bears for a second-round pick.

Dobbs, who was Arizona's starting quarterback this season, goes to Minnesota to help replace the injured Kirk Cousins. The Vikings sent a sixth-round draft pick to the Cardinals and also receive a conditional seventh-rounder with Dobbs in return.

Dobbs joins his seventh team in seven seasons and third since training camp. He threw for 1,569 yards, eight touchdowns and five interceptions for the Cardinals (1-7).



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

The Cardinals traded quarterback Joshua Dobbs to Minnesota, where he's expected to replace injured Kirk Cousins.

He also has rushed for 258 yards and three scores.

Vikings coach Kevin O'Connell said the team is preparing rookie Jaren Hall to start this week against Atlanta, but wouldn't rule out using Dobbs. Minnesota (4-4) lost Cousins for the season after he tore his Achilles tendon.

"I've always kind of been a fan of the combination of his skill set from a standpoint of being able to provide some athleticism, make some plays in the pocket, outside the pocket," O'Connell said about Dobbs on Si-



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Chase Young was traded to the 49ers by the Commanders, who also dealt Montez Sweat to the Bears as they rebuild.

rius XM. "I think he's a very intelligent guy, which gives us an opportunity to get him in here in a short amount of time and try to prepare him for any snaps when that may occur. But at the same time, I think we're excited and confident in Jaren Hall and what we can put together a game plan for Jaren where he can go out against a really good team on the road in a tough environment down in Atlanta and hopefully play good football."

The AFC South-leading Jaguars (6-2) improved their offensive line by getting Cleve-

land from Minnesota for a sixth-round pick. Cleveland had started 45 consecutive games at left guard before missing the past two because of a foot injury. Walker Little, Jacksonville's starting left guard, has been dealing with a knee injury.

"It's just a matter of getting him caught up and getting him in the room with a really good offensive line," Jaguars coach Doug Pederson said on The Pat McAfee Show on ESPN. "Getting a guy like Ezra, we got a starting-type guard. Really, really solidifies our offensive line and makes us better."

Douglas, a ball-hawking cornerback with 10 interceptions in his past 36 games in Green Bay, goes to Buffalo along with a fifth-round pick for a fourth-rounder.

The Bills fill an immediate need at cornerback at a reasonable price. Douglas will count about \$600,000 against the salary cap for a team that entered the day with around \$4.1 million available. Douglas will get a chance to take Tre'Davious White's spot at left cornerback. White tore his right Achilles tendon in a 48-20 win over Miami on Oct. 1.

Kair Elam, Buffalo's 2022 first-round draft pick, struggled in his bid to replace White and was inactive last weekend, with fourth-year backup Dane Jackson taking over.

The Detroit Lions (6-2) added depth at wide receiver by acquiring Peoples-Jones from Cleveland for a 2025 sixth-round pick. People-Jones has eight catches for 97 yards this season after catching 61 passes for 839 yards last season.

NFL

Weekly statistics

AFC individual leaders						
Quarterbacks						
	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int	
Tagovailoa, Mia	274	193	2416	18	7	
Mahomes, KC	304	209	2258	15	8	
J.Allen, Buf	286	205	2165	17	8	
Lawrence, Jac	271	185	1935	9	4	
Herbert, LAC	252	173	1890	13	4	
Stroud, Hou	237	143	1800	9	1	
Jackson, Bal	227	160	1767	9	3	
Mac.Jones, NE	260	173	1641	9	8	
Wilson, Den	233	154	1613	16	4	
Burrow, Cin	264	175	1513	10	4	
Rushers						
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	
Moss, Ind	125	589	4.7	56t	5	
Etienne, Jac	151	583	3.9	35t	7	
Henry, Ten	120	526	4.4	63	3	
Mostert, Mia	97	520	5.4	49	10	
Cook, Buf	102	486	4.8	36	1	
Pacheco, KC	108	459	4.3	48t	3	
Mixon, Cin	112	453	4.0	22	2	
Bre.Hall, NYJ	78	443	5.7	83	2	
Edwards, Bal	105	426	4.1	20	5	
Jacobs, Las	133	408	3.1	24	3	
Receivers						
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	
T.Hill, Mia	61	1014	16.6	69t	8	
Diggs, Buf	64	748	11.7	55t	6	
Chase, Cin	60	656	10.9	63t	4	
K.Allen, LAC	54	643	11.9	42	4	
Kelce, KC	54	583	10.8	53	4	
N.Collins, Hou	33	577	17.5	52t	3	
Adams, Las	47	539	11.5	32t	3	
Pittman, Ind	50	529	10.6	75t	3	
Pickens, Pit	28	522	18.6	71t	3	
Kirk, Jac	43	520	12.1	45	3	
Punters						
	No	Yds	Lg	Avg		
Stonehouse, Ten	31	1606	74	51.8		
Cole, Las	27	1345	70	49.8		
Scoring						
Touchdowns						
	TDRush	Rec	Ret	Pts		
Mostert, Mia	12	10	2	0	72	
Etienne, Jac	8	7	1	0	48	
Kicking						
	PAT	FG	LG	Pts		
Butker, KC	19/19	18/18	60	73		
McManus, Jac	18/18	17/19	56	69		

AFC team statistics				
AVERAGE PER GAME				
OFFENSE				
	Yards	Rush	Pass	
Miami	453.2	151.8	301.5	
Kansas City	381.5	105.1	276.4	
Buffalo	376.9	113.1	263.8	
Indianapolis	362.4	129.0	233.4	
L.A. Chargers	362.4	103.6	258.9	
Baltimore	350.8	143.1	207.6	
Jacksonville	341.4	112.5	228.9	
Houston	330.4	91.9	238.6	
Cleveland	328.6	148.6	180.0	
Denver	302.1	116.8	185.4	
Tennessee	296.6	115.9	180.7	
New England	284.8	84.4	200.4	
Cincinnati	276.9	79.0	197.9	
N.Y. Jets	273.3	109.0	164.3	
Pittsburgh	271.7	79.7	192.0	
Las Vegas	268.2	70.0	198.2	
DEFENSE				
	Yards	Rush	Pass	
Cleveland	260.0	96.7	163.3	
Baltimore	276.5	99.9	176.6	
Kansas City	287.8	111.6	176.1	
New England	321.1	97.9	223.2	
Buffalo	326.1	122.0	204.1	
N.Y. Jets	329.3	144.9	184.4	
Miami	329.4	107.9	221.5	
Houston	335.4	99.3	236.1	
Las Vegas	337.6	140.6	197.0	
Tennessee	339.4	107.4	232.0	
Jacksonville	342.8	79.2	263.5	
Cincinnati	370.7	138.6	232.1	
Indianapolis	371.2	124.0	247.2	
Pittsburgh	382.6	137.1	245.4	
L.A. Chargers	390.9	93.4	297.4	
Denver	406.0	154.1	251.9	

NFC individual leaders						
Quarterbacks						
	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int	
Cousins, Min	311	216	2331	18	5	
Goff, Det	293	200	2174	12	5	
Howell, Was	308	206	2146	13	8	
Hurts, Phi	282	193	2140	13	8	
Stafford, LAR	278	166	2070	8	7	
Purdy, SF	224	153	2033	12	5	
Carr, NO	282	182	1910	8	4	
Ridder, Atl	240	157	1701	6	6	
G.Smith, Sea	225	152	1645	9	6	
Prescott, Dal	221	157	1637	10	5	
Rushers						
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	
McCaffrey, SF	137	652	4.8	65t	9	
Swift, Phi	117	571	4.9	43	3	
Walker, Sea	117	516	4.4	45	6	
Robinson, Atl	92	466	5.1	38	1	
K.Williams, LAR	97	456	4.7	31	6	
Pollard, Dal	108	423	3.9	31	2	
Barkley, NYG	110	412	3.7	34	1	
Gibbs, Det	76	399	5.3	27t	2	
Mattison, Min	106	390	3.7	19	0	
Montgomery, Det	94	385	4.1	42t	6	
Receivers						
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	
A.Brown, Phi	60	939	15.7	59t	5	
Nacua, LAR	61	795	13.0	37	2	
Moore, Chi	44	691	15.7	58	5	
St. Brown, Det	57	665	11.7	44	3	
Lamb, Dal	46	633	13.8	49	3	
Aiyuk, SF	35	620	17.7	42	2	
Thielen, Car	57	581	10.2	31	4	
Jefferson, Min	36	571	15.9	52t	3	
Olave, NO	44	517	11.8	45	1	
Evans, TB	33	507	15.4	70	5	
Punters						
	No	Yds	Lg	Avg		
Camarda, TB	33	1732	74	52.5		
Dickson, Sea	24	1227	73	51.1		
Scoring						
Touchdowns						
	TDRush	Rec	Ret	Pts		
McCaffrey, SF	13	9	4	0	78	
Addison, Min	7	0	7	0	42	
Kicking						
	PAT	FG	LG	Pts		
Elliott, Phi	22/23	18/20	61	76		
Aubrey, Dal	17/18	18/18	58	71		

NFC team statistics				
AVERAGE PER GAME				
OFFENSE				
	Yards	Rush	Pass	
Detroit	390.6	131.4	259.2	
Philadelphia	387.4	132.2	255.1	
San Francisco	376.6	133.5	243.1	
L.A. Rams	354.5	109.5	245.0	
Minnesota	353.8	73.2	280.5	
New Orleans	349.1	106.0	243.1	
Atlanta	341.1	126.2	214.9	
Dallas	338.0	117.1	220.9	
Seattle	334.7	107.1	227.6	
Chicago	320.6	132.8	187.9	
Washington	319.6	85.9	233.8	
Arizona	318.6	137.8	180.9	
Tampa Bay	298.3	77.9	220.4	
Green Bay	287.0	88.4	198.6	
Carolina	284.6	90.3	194.3	
N.Y. Giants	267.9	112.8	155.1	
DEFENSE				
	Yards	Rush	Pass	
Dallas	287.4	108.9	178.6	
New Orleans	296.4	106.9	189.5	
Atlanta	296.6	102.0	194.6	
Detroit	296.9	76.8	220.1	
Philadelphia	313.0	65.5	247.5	
San Francisco	315.0	86.1	228.9	
Minnesota	322.8	101.6	221.1	
Carolina	326.0	139.4	186.6	
Seattle	331.1	96.9	234.3	
L.A. Rams	333.6	115.1	218.5	
N.Y. Giants	338.9	127.4	211.5	
Green Bay	339.1	132.0	207.1	
Chicago	341.0	78.8	262.2	
Tampa Bay	354.6	98.6	256.0	
Arizona	355.8	130.6	225.1	
Washington	374.1	117.4	256.8	



STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH/AP

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts has overcome turnovers and a knee injury to play his best football over the past two weeks. The Eagles (7-1), who sit atop the NFC East, host Dallas (5-2) on Sunday.

ANALYSIS

Eagles remain elite, just not at level of last year

By ROB MAADDI
Associated Press

There’s no Super Bowl hangover in Philadelphia. The Eagles (7-1) have the NFL’s best record and have been the most consistent team over the first half of the season despite not playing up to their 2022 standard.

Jalen Hurts has overcome turnovers and a knee injury to play his best football in the past two weeks. A.J. Brown is breaking records at wide receiver, becoming the first player in NFL history with at least 125 yards receiving in six consecutive games.

The offensive line led by All-Pro Jason Kelce and Lane Johnson continues to dominate and the Eagles can beat teams running or passing the ball.

There’s still room for improvement all around, especially on defense.

“We have a lot of work to do to make sure we are continuing to climb,” coach Nick Sirianni said. “In this league, you have to be mentally tough to treat the walk-through, to treat the meetings, to treat the practice the exact same way as you treat it after a win, after a loss, after Week 1, after Week 4, after whatever week we are in right now. I know we’ve got the right guys in that locker room to make sure that we’re getting bet-



Tennessee Titans (3-4)
at Pittsburgh Steelers (4-3)
AFN-Sports
1:15 a.m. Friday CET
9:15 a.m. Friday JKT

ter.”

The Eagles host the rival Dallas Cowboys (5-2) on Sunday in an NFC East battle that kicks off a difficult six-game stretch against teams with a combined record of 26-12. After a bye next week, the Eagles visit the Chiefs (6-2) in a Super Bowl rematch, host the Bills (5-3) and 49ers (5-3), visit Dallas and Seattle (5-2).

Nothing less than a Super Bowl victory would be considered a success in Philadelphia after coming close last season only to lose 38-35 to Kansas City.

Burrow is back

If there was any doubt that Joe Burrow is completely back from a calf injury that limited him over the first month of the season, the star quarterback erased it on one play early in the first quarter of a convincing 31-17 win at San Francisco.

Burrow ducked, spun and elud-

ed defenders trying to sack him on a third-and-10, escaped the pressure and completed a first-down pass to Tee Higgins. He finished 28-for-32 for 283 yards and three TDs.

The Bengals (4-3) have won three in a row and after losing their first two and starting 1-3. They trail the Ravens (6-2) in the AFC North and have tough games coming up against Buffalo this week and at Baltimore on Nov. 16.

If Burrow plays the way he did against a formidable 49ers defense, the Bengals can beat anyone.

New era in Tennessee

The Titans have reason to be optimistic that they’ve found their quarterback of the future. Will Levis threw four TD passes in his NFL debut in a 28-23 win over Atlanta. The rookie second-round pick revived a passing attack that was porous under Ryan Tannehill. Even when Tannehill is ready to return from an ankle injury, the Titans (3-4) need to stick with Levis. They’re going nowhere in the AFC South and giving Levis more experience should be a priority.

The Titans visit Pittsburgh on Thursday night. It’ll be an opportunity for Levis to face a defense that has allowed the third-most yards in the NFL but has talented players, including 2021 AP Defensive Player of the Year T.J. Watt.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

PAC-12 PREVIEW

League set for last hurrah

By JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

The Pac-12 produced one of the great dynasties in sports history and some of the best college basketball players the game has ever known.

John Wooden's UCLA Bruins won 10 titles in 12 years with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar then Bill Walton. Reggie Miller played in the Pac-12. So did Gail Goodrich, Gary Payton, Sean Elliott and Jason Kidd.

Now, after 108 years of history and tradition, the Pac-12 could be entering its final chapter.

Ten of the conference's schools are headed out the door next season and the remaining two are facing uncertain futures, turning the "Conference of Champions" into a conference of ashes.

"I'm incredibly sad about the breakup of the Pac-12," said first-year California coach Mark Madson, who played at Stanford. "In the back of my mind, I hope in 20 years we'll be able to put it back together in some way. A lot of West Coast rivalries, even in different conferences, will still try to find a way to play each other."

Until then, they get one more shot as conference opponents.

The Pac-12 had four teams make the 2023 NCAA Tournament and could have at least that many

in this season's bracket, if not more.

No. 12 Arizona has added key players to a solid core, including former North Carolina guard Caleb Love. No. 21 Southern California has Boogie Ellis back and one of the nation's top recruiting classes, headlined by guard Isaiah Collier and LeBron James' son Bronny.

UCLA may take time to jell with a roster full of new players, but Mick Cronin brought in a stellar recruiting class with an international flavor. Colorado, led by power forward Tristan da Silva, could have its most talented team in 13 seasons under coach Tad Boyle.

Arizona State is looking for its second straight NCAA Tournament under Bobby Hurley. Utah has one of the conference's best big men in 7-footer Branden Carlson and so does Oregon with N'Faly Dante.

Washington has shown improvement the past two seasons under Mike Hopkins. Stanford has a veteran team and five-star freshman Andrej Stojakovic, whose father Peja played in the NBA.

If this is one last Pac-12 hurrah, it could be a good one.

"It probably means a little bit more to me that the league is not going to be here," Oregon coach Dana Altman said. "I've always re-

ally liked the league. I thought it was really competitive. Even in years that people said our league was down, I don't think it was."

Desert Love

Arizona had one of the biggest transfer splashes by adding Love. The dynamic guard took a star turn at the 2022 NCAA Tournament, nearly singlehandedly beating rival Duke in the Final Four. Love also has been criticized for his shot selection, particularly when the Tar Heels struggled last year, so Arizona coach Tommy Lloyd will have to find a way work him into the Wildcats' system.

"I know maybe he's been a little bit of a lightning rod because, when you play at a place like Carolina and you're preseason No. 1 and it doesn't work out, there's going to be some criticism that comes with that. He knows that," Lloyd said. "But he's someone that everyone in college basketball — media, fans — should be rooting for."

Bronny's status

Bronny James was one of the nation's most hyped incoming freshmen, in part because of his father. The freshman guard's status for this season came into doubt when he went into cardiac arrest on July 24 during an offseason workout.

USC coach Andy Enfield said



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

USC guard Boogie Ellis, left, and Arizona center Oumar Ballo are anchors for teams that should contend for the Pac-12 title.

James is progressing well and the Trojans are hoping he can play this season.

Beavers and Cougars

Ten Pac-12 teams will be heading to new conferences, Oregon State and Washington State are still trying to sort out their futures.

The Beavers had one of the more improbable Elite Eight runs under coach Wayne Tinkle in 2021, but won a combined 14 games the past two seasons.

The Cougars have been steady in four seasons under Kyle Smith, yet haven't been able to reach the NCAA Tournament.

"It's sad that, as a guy that grew up mostly in the Northwest and Spokane, I never saw this coming," Tinkle said. "It is what it is. We've got to find a way to deal with it, but I know this: who we are at Oregon State and Washington State could probably be painted with the same brush. We find ways to solve problems."

UConn's Castle heads freshmen set to make impact

By STEVE MEGARGEER
Associated Press

UConn freshman guard Stephon Castle understands the benefits that come with joining a team coming off a national championship.

"Just being able to go grab a rebound and push the ball and know that I'll probably have at least three shooters around me running the court with me, that's a blessing," Castle told reporters recently. "I feel like anybody who has the ball in their hand in college basketball would want that."

Castle arrives at UConn regarded as a potential NBA lottery pick after being ranked as the nation's No. 9 overall prospect in his class according to composite rankings of recruiting sites compiled by 247Sports. The 6-foot-6 guard from Covington, Ga., averaged a team-high 16.7 points along with 4 rebounds, 1.7 assists and 2.3 steals on UConn's three-game international summer tour.

He figures to make up for some of what the Huskies lost with Jordan Hawkins and Andre Jackson Jr. both going to the NBA. UConn's backcourt also returns point guard Tristen Newton and adds Rutgers transfer Cam Spencer.

"They already have a veteran backcourt, which means Castle should have every chance, just like Jackson did a year ago, to be a facilitator and playmaker for others and utilize his passing but not necessarily have the burden of being the sole point



GREGORY PAYAN/AP

Stephon Castle arrives at UConn regarded as a potential NBA lottery pick and is expected to make up for the loss of players from the last year's title team.

guard 100% of the time," said Adam Finkelstein, the director of college scouting for 247Sports. "I think it's a really good situation for him."

It's also a situation that comes with plenty of pressure as Castle begins his college career on a team with such high expectations. Castle believes he's ready for the challenge.

UConn coach Dan Hurley has called Castle the most ready freshman he's had in terms of being able to contribute right away.

Castle says he's prepared to provide the intensity Hurley's staff expects on defense.

"If you choose to come to UConn, you really don't have a choice," Castle said. "Be-

ing here, you have to play with that kind of passion and that kind of energy every day, especially with the coaches you have. They bring it every day, so if you don't bring it every day, it's like you don't want to be here. I chose this school for a reason. So I don't have a problem locking in and bringing that passion to that side of the ball."

Some other freshmen who should make an immediate impact this season:

Isaiah Collier, USC

Collier was the nation's No. 2 prospect in his class according to the 247Sports Composite and was ranked behind only Ron Holland, who joined the NBA G League Ignite. It wouldn't be a surprise if Collier is the first college player taken in next year's draft. The 6-5 guard was named the Naismith boys high school player of the year. He scored 25 points in the McDonald's All-American Game.

"He's also mature in the fact that he doesn't need to score points to impact the game," Finkelstein said. "In fact, he's probably most effective as a passer and playmaker for others. When you put him alongside a veteran like Boogie Ellis, I think they're going to complement each other really, really well."

Justin Edwards, Kentucky

Kentucky has three of the nation's top prospects according to the 247Sports Composite in Edwards (3rd), center Aaron Bradshaw (5th) and guard DJ Wagner (6th). Edwards, a 6-8 guard, looks like the most complete player in the trio. He had 23 points and seven rebounds when Kentucky beat Team Canada in the GLOBE Jam this summer.

Elmarko Jackson, Kansas

Ranked 20th in the 247Sports Composite, Jackson enters a situation that should allow him to thrive as he joins the top-ranked Jayhawks. The 6-3 guard averaged 10.6 points during Kansas' three-game tour of Puerto Rico this summer.

"He's not going to have the burden of being the primary or the only point guard from day one because they have Dajuan Harris there, who's a very proven point guard," Finkelstein said. "It's a really good situation for Elmarko to come in and be able to play minutes and impact winning but not have the burden of having to put up huge stats from day one."

Jared McCain, Duke

There's no doubting McCain's talent. The 6-3 guard was rated 14th in the 247Sports Composite, making him the top prospect in a Duke class that ranked second nationally. He will likely face competition for playing time at Duke, which returns four starters and is ranked second in the preseason AP Top 25. McCain was named the Gatorade state high school player of the year each of his last two seasons at Centennial in Corona, Calif.

Cody Williams, Colorado

This 6-foot-8 forward from Gilbert, Ariz., is the first five-star recruit to sign with Colorado since David Harrison in 2001. Williams, the younger brother of Oklahoma City Thunder forward Jalen Williams, was the No. 4 prospect in his class according to the 247Sports Composite. Williams played 26 minutes and had eight points and five rebounds in Colorado's exhibition victory over Metropolitan State-Denver.

WORLD SERIES/NBA

Title: Rangers scored first 10 runs with 2 outs, turning game into rout

FROM PAGE 24

Texas scored its first 10 runs with two outs, battering an Arizona staff that needed four pitchers to get its first eight outs. Miguel Castro’s wild pitch brought home the first run, and an error by Gold Glove first baseman Christian Walker — the first by either team in the Series — led to five unearned runs in the third.

“This was nothing that we saw coming,” Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said. “It all came unraveled on us there in a matter of two innings.”

Forty-two of 49 previous teams to take 3-1 leads have gone on to win the World Series. The most recent club to overcome a 3-1 deficit was the Chicago Cubs against Cleveland in 2016.

Seager and Semien, All-Star middle infielders signed as free agents for \$500 million combined before the 2022 season, have six RBIs each in the Series. Seager, the first shortstop with three Series homers, has four long balls in his last five games dating to the AL Championship Series. After leading the Los Angeles Dodgers to the 2020 title, he could join Sandy Koufax, Bob Gibson and Reggie Jackson as the only two-time World Series MVPs.

Jankowski, replacing García in right field, singled in the second and hit a two-run double in the third in his first Series at-bats.

“I was locked in last night waiting, preparing to start. I didn’t get the official news until 2 o’clock today,” Jankowski said. “Shoot, I’ve been ready to go 15 years ago.”

Andrew Heaney, a 32-year-old lefty with his fifth big league team, earned the win by allowing four hits in five innings. Six relievers followed, with closer José Leclerc getting the final out.

“We had a 10-run lead. It’s a lot easier to go out there, attack the strike zone and not feel so confined to having to make perfect pitches,” Heaney said.

There was a festive mood at Chase Field, where the roof was open for the second straight night and some fans arrived in Halloween costumes.

Josh Jung doubled off opener Joe Mantiplly leading off the second and in came Castro, who gave up García’s winning homer in the 11th inning of Game 1. Jung advanced on a groundout and put Texas ahead when Castro bounced a changeup off the plate for a wild pitch.

Semien hooked a slider that landed about 18 inches fair and bounced into the left-field corner for a two-run triple and a 3-0 lead.

Seager hit Kyle Nelson’s slider 431 feet off a video board above the right-center wall for his sixth post-season homer.



GODOFREDO A. VASQUEZ/AP

The Diamondbacks’ Ketel Marte throws his helmet after getting caught stealing second for the final out of the first inning Tuesday during Game 4 of the World Series in Phoenix.



World Series
x-if necessary (Best-of-seven)
Texas 3, Arizona 1
Texas 6, Arizona 5, 11 innings
Arizona 9, Texas 1
Texas 3, Arizona 1
Tuesday: Texas 11, Arizona 7
Wednesday: at Arizona
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**

“Made a mistake to the wrong hitter,” Nelson said. “The plan was to carefully pitch around him.”

In the first World Series to open with three errorless games, Arizona’s defense cracked at an inopportune time. After singles by Jung and Nathaniel Lowe with one out in the third, Luis Frías relieved and Heim hit a sharp grounder to Walker, who had a chance for a double play but dropped the ball on the transfer as he looked to throw to second.

Jankowski doubled and Semien sent a fastball at the letters over

the left-field wall for his first homer since Sept. 27.

“I hadn’t jogged around the bases in a while,” Semien said.

Heim had been 0-for-12 before his homer against Ryne Nelson.

Team Halloween

Rangers players gathered with their families at the team hotel at 10 a.m. About two dozen children were in costume, with Jankowski’s two sons and daughter dressed as a falcon, Spider-Man and Bingo from “Bluey.”

“I’m sure they’re all sugared up now, which is great,” Jankowski said after the game, breaking into a wide smile.

Late surge

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit a sacrifice fly in the fourth for Arizona and a three-run homer in the eighth against Chris Stratton. Tommy Pham had a sacrifice fly in the eighth, and Gabriel Moreno delivered a two-run single in the ninth.

Streaking

Arizona’s Ketel Marte had two hits, extending his record postseason hitting streak to 20 games.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	3	0	1.000	—
Philadelphia	2	1	.667	1
New York	2	2	.500	1½
Brooklyn	1	2	.333	2
Toronto	1	3	.250	2½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	2	2	.500	—
Orlando	2	2	.500	—
Charlotte	1	2	.333	½
Washington	1	2	.333	½
Miami	1	3	.250	1
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	3	.250	1½
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	3	0	1.000	—
New Orleans	2	1	.667	1
San Antonio	2	2	.500	1½
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	—
L.A. Clippers	3	1	.750	—
Sacramento	2	1	.667	½
L.A. Lakers	2	2	.500	1
Phoenix	2	2	.500	1

Tuesday’s games
New York 109, Cleveland 91
San Antonio 115, Phoenix 114
L.A. Clippers 118, Orlando 102

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

Thursday’s games
Toronto at Philadelphia
Detroit at New Orleans
Orlando at Utah
San Antonio at Phoenix

Friday’s games
Cleveland at Indiana
New York at Milwaukee
Brooklyn at Chicago
Golden State at Oklahoma City
Washington at Miami
Dallas at Denver
Memphis at Portland



DARRYL WEBB/AP

The Spurs’ Keldon Johnson scores against Phoenix with just over a second left during Tuesday’s game in Phoenix.

NBA ROUNDUP

Johnson’s late layup lifts Spurs

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Keldon Johnson stripped Kevin Durant and made a contested layup with 1.2 seconds left to give the Spurs their only lead of the game and a 115-114 victory over the stunned Phoenix Suns on Tuesday night.

The Spurs, who trailed by as many as 20 points, broke a nine-game losing streak against Phoenix.

Johnson had 27 points to lead San Antonio.

Top draft pick Victor Wembanyama missed his first five shots before throwing down a sensational dunk in the final seconds of the first half. He scored 18 points and had eight rebounds in 28 minutes. Devin Vassell also had 18 for the Spurs.

Durant led Phoenix with 26 points. Eric Gordon scored 20, Grayson Allen had 19 on 5-for-7 shooting from 3-point range for the Suns, who played without injured starting guards Bradley Beal and Devin Booker.

Knicks 109, Cavaliers 91: Julius Randle had 19 points and 10 rebounds, Jalen Brunson scored 19 points and visiting New York did not trail in the final three quarters of a victory over short-handed Cleveland.

Immanuel Quickley added 18 points off the bench and RJ Barrett had 16 in the teams’ first meeting since New York eliminated Cleveland in five games in the first round of the 2023 playoffs.

Donovan Mitchell scored 26 points in 29 minutes, and Isaac Okoro and Georges Niang had 11 points apiece for the Cavaliers, who have lost three straight.

Isaiah Hartenstein had 13 points and seven rebounds, and Mitchell Robinson added eight points and seven boards for New York. Cavaliers undrafted rookie Craig Porter scored 10 points.

Clippers 118, Magic 102: Paul George scored 27 points, Russell Westbrook added 18 and host Los Angeles beat Orlando as future teammate James Harden watched from a suite.

Harden could not be on the Clippers’ bench because the trade bringing him to Los Angeles from the Philadelphia 76ers has not been finalized.

Bones Hyland and Norman Powell added 18 points apiece for the Clippers.

Paolo Banchero led Orlando with 15 points and Franz Wagner had 14 points and eight rebounds. Moritz Wagner scored 13 off the bench.

SPORTS



Raiders fire McDaniels
Head coach loses job in second season for second time in career » **NFL, Page 20**



PHOTOS BY BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

The Rangers' Marcus Semien, right, celebrates his three-run home run Tuesday with Jonah Heim during the third inning of Game 4 of the the World Series in Phoenix.

Rangers one win from title



The Rangers' Corey Seager hit a two-run home run in the second inning and a double in the ninth.

Semien's 5 RBIs, Seager's HR help put Texas up 3-1

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Adolis García gathered Texas Rangers hitters in a clubhouse side room Tuesday afternoon and told them his World Series was over.

Max Scherzer was finished, too, injuries costing the American League champions their top slugger and potential Game 7 starting pitcher.

"Pull together, guys. Let's finish it!" Travis Jankowski recalled García saying.

Rangers batters not only bonded, they whipped through the Arizona Diamondbacks like a desert storm.

Marcus Semien's two-run triple and three-run homer powered Texas to a 10-

DID YOU KNOW?

Of the previous 49 teams to take 3-1 leads, 42 have gone on to win the World Series. The most recent team to overcome a 3-1 deficit was the Chicago Cubs against the Cleveland Indians in 2016.

SOURCE: Associated Press

run lead by the third inning, Corey Seager hit another long home run and the Rangers won 11-7 to move ahead three games to one in the World Series.

"That took a lot of guts for him to come out there and speak," Seager said of García. "He was vulnerable. He wants to be out there. He told us he loved us."

Texas improved to a record 10-0 on

the road this postseason and closed within one win of the first title in the 63-season history of a franchise that started as the expansion Washington Senators in 1961.

Nathan Eovaldi tried to clinch the third all-wild card Series on Wednesday night against Zac Gallen in a rematch of Game 1 starters.

Rangers batters built a 10-0 cushion by becoming the first team in Series history with consecutive five-run innings. Seager's third two-run homer of the Series capped the second, Semien's drive punctuated the third and Jonah Heim added an eighth-inning shot.

SEE TITLE ON PAGE 23

Ohio State sits atop first CFP rankings » College football, Page 19

