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STARS AND STRIPES

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America decides

Voters head to the polls, but the results could take awhile

MATT ROURKE/AP

Voters wait in line to cast their ballots at Scranton High School in Scranton, Pa., on Election Day on Tuesday.

BY PATRICK MARLEY AND AMY GARDNER
The Washington Post

Finding out who won the presidency may take days.

Election officials in key swing states are urging Americans to be patient as they tally results, a process that varies from state to state because each has different vote-counting laws. Polls show an extremely tight presidential race, and the closer the election is, the longer it will take to know the outcome.

In the hours and days after polls close, states begin to publish unofficial results that news outlets use to project winners.

The states themselves don't declare winners until weeks later, once the vote tallies have been

RELATED

N. Korea launches ballistic missiles on eve of US elections Page 3

canvassed and certified.

In 2020, The Associated Press and other news outlets determined Joe Biden had won the presidency four days after the election. The swing states that took the longest then could again be slow this year: Pennsylvania, Arizona and Nevada. If the race is close, other states could join the list.

In addition to legal restrictions

SEE VOTERS ON PAGE 9



YUKI IWAMURA/AP

Voters cast their ballots at the Bronx County Supreme Court in New York on Election Day.

20 years on, memories of Fallujah still linger for vets

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Even the dead insurgents lining the streets and alleys of Fallujah were a threat to the U.S. Marines pushing into the Iraqi city two decades ago.

Troops shot up the often booby-trapped corpses lying ahead of them as a precaution. Enemy snipers hid in the buildings. Others sprung from spider holes and fired from a high-powered Western arsenal that included .50-caliber machine guns, much of it seized from earlier fights.

The initial push on Nov. 7, 2004, marked the start of what would turn out to be the bloodiest battle of the Iraq War, confronting U.S. forces with fighting on a scale not seen since Vietnam.

Twenty years later, memories from the battle, which killed nearly 100 U.S. service members, remain raw for many who fought there. And some continue to grapple with the legacy of what it all meant.

"I kind of came to grasp that, you know, the world's probably a worse place for what we did," said Marine veteran Alex Nicoll. "People died, limbs were lost, and I don't know if any outcome came of it."

Nicoll and a group of Fallujah veterans reflected on their experiences and the battle's legacy as part of a special commemoration sponsored by the organization Disabled American Veterans.

"It's pretty impressive when rules of engagement are thrown out the window, the wall of lead that comes with Marines," Nicoll said in his video testimonial. "I'm glad I got to see that. For a just reason or not? That's debatable."

SEE FALLUJAH ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS/WEATHER

S. Korea fines Meta \$15M for illegal data collecting

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's privacy watchdog on Tuesday fined social media company Meta \$15 million for illegally collecting sensitive personal information from Facebook users, including data about their political views and sexual orientation, and sharing it with thousands of advertisers.

It was the latest in a series of penalties against Meta by South Korean authorities in recent years as they increase their scrutiny of how the company, which also owns Instagram and WhatsApp, handles private information.

Following a four-year investigation, South Korea's Personal Information Protection Commission concluded that Meta unlawfully collected sensitive information about around 980,000 Facebook users, including their religion, political views and whether they were in same-sex unions, from July 2018 to March 2022.

It said the company shared the data with around 4,000 advertisers.

South Korea's privacy law provides strict protection for information related to personal beliefs, political views and sexual behavior, and bars companies from processing or using such data without the specific consent of the person involved.

The commission said Meta amassed sensitive information by analyzing the pages the Facebook users liked or the advertisements they clicked on.

South Korea's privacy law provides strict protection for information related to personal beliefs, political views and sexual behavior, and bars companies from processing or using such data without the specific consent of the person involved.

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | | Commercial rates | |
|---------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| Euro costs (Nov. 6) | 0.89 | Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3768 |
| British pound (Nov. 6) | \$1.27 | Britain (Pound) | 1.3000 |
| Japanese yen (Nov. 6) | 148.00 | Canada (Dollar) | 1.3868 |
| South Korean won (Nov. 6) | 1343.00 | China (Yuan) | 7.1031 |
| | | Denmark (Krone) | 6.8440 |
| | | Egypt (Pound) | 49.0978 |
| | | Euro | 0.9174 |
| | | Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.7715 |
| | | Hungary (Forint) | 375.45 |
| | | Israel (Shekel) | 3.7468 |
| | | Japan (Yen) | 152.23 |
| | | Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.3063 |
| | | Norway (Krone) | 10.9929 |
| | | Philippines (Peso) | 58.32 |
| | | Poland (Zloty) | 4.00 |
| | | Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7555 |
| | | Singapore (Dollar) | 1.3167 |
| | | South Korea (Won) | 1380.26 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 0.8641 | | |
| Thailand (Baht) | 33.60 | | |
| Turkey (NewLira) | 34.3460 | | |

(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.)

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Prime rate | 8.00 |
| Interest Rates Discount rate | 5.00 |
| Federal funds market rate | 4.83 |
| 3-month bill | 4.55 |
| 30-year bond | 4.47 |

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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PACIFIC

North Korea fires several ballistic missiles

Launches occur on eve of US elections

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

SUWON, South Korea — North Korea fired several short-range ballistic missiles off its eastern coast Tuesday, the South's military said, just hours before Americans headed to the polls.

At least seven missiles were launched between 7:30 a.m. and 7:39 a.m. from about 35 miles south of Pyongyang, according to the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff and Japan's Ministry of Defense. They flew approximately 250 miles before splashing down.

Japan assessed the missiles reached a peak altitude of 62 miles before falling outside the country's exclusive economic zone, according to its news release posted on its website.

The weapons did "not pose an immediate threat" to the U.S. or its allies, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said in its own news release.

North Korea has fired more than 45 ballistic missiles in 12 separate days of testing so far this year.

Tuesday's launch came five days after the North launched an



Rodong Sinmun

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attends the launch of a Hwasongpho-19 intercontinental ballistic missile on Oct. 31 in this image from the state-run Rodong Sinmun newspaper.

intercontinental ballistic missile that flew 620 miles to a peak altitude of 4,776 miles, a record for the communist regime, according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

Air forces from the U.S., South Korea and Japan conducted a bomber escort drill over the air identification zones between Seoul and Tokyo on Sunday in direct response to the ICBM test, accord-

ing to the South's military that day.

One B-1B Lancer out of Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., was escorted by two U.S. F-16 Fighting Falcons, four South Korean F-15K Slam Eagles and four Japanese

F-2s, according to aircraft tail markings in photos from the South's Ministry of National Defense.

Kim Yo Jong, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's sister, described the allies' show of force as a "frantically staged" demonstration in a statement through KCNA on Tuesday.

The U.S., South Korea and Japan's military drills pose a "serious threat to not only our state, but also regional peace and security," she said in the report.

Tuesday's launch occurred a day before the presidential election takes place in the United States.

The next U.S. president will be facing new challenges from Pyongyang, North Korean Ambassador to the U.N. Song Kim said in a Sept. 30 speech at the organization's headquarters in New York.

"Whoever takes office in the United States, we will only deal with the state entity called the U.S., not the mere administration," he said at the time. "Likewise, any U.S. administration will have to face [North Korea], which is different from what the U.S. used to think."

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.

Navy contractors had key roles in lead-up to Red Hill water disaster

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Defense Department's complex management of the defunct Red Hill underground fuel storage facility in Honolulu relied on contractors for essential services in the years preceding disastrous fuel leaks in 2021, according to a government watchdog.

"DOD used a decentralized structure that, in part, relied on a complex and interconnected set of roles and responsibilities to manage the operations, maintenance, and repair activities at Red Hill," the U.S. Government Accountability Office said in a report Monday.

"Prior to the 2021 leaks, contractors also played an essential role in the maintenance and repair of equipment," it said.

The GAO report offers no conclusions about the degree to which contractors might have contributed to the fuel leaks.

The review, however, was sparked in part by the role a contractor played in a November 2022 spill of a concentrated form of a hazardous fire-fighting foam at the facility.

About 1,300 gallons of foam es-

caped into the environment because a contractor improperly installed a valve on the system that allowed the release, a DOD investigation concluded.

"Both the fuel leaks and the [foam] concentrate release have raised questions about what role, if any, that contractors had in the operations, maintenance, and repair of Red Hill and the Navy's oversight of its contractors," the GAO report states.

The GAO review was requested by Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee's subcommittee on readiness.

Jet fuel leaks in May and November 2021 contaminated the Navy's water distribution system that supplied military communities on and near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The contamination forced thousands to temporarily relocate to area hotels as the Navy flushed the system and isolated the tainted well.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced in March 2022 that the World War II-era facility would be permanently closed. The Navy is amid a multiyear effort to clean the 20 massive tanks and clean up contamination in

the area surrounding them.

A Navy investigation into the cause of the fuel leaks concluded that several deficiencies had led to the spill, including poor training and ineffective command and control.

Several DOD entities had a hand in the Red Hill operation in 2021, including Navy Region Hawaii, the Defense Logistics Agency, Navy Supply Systems Command, Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command and the Army Corps of Engineers, the GAO report states.

At the time of the leaks, the Navy managed Red Hill operations, maintenance and repair activities with support from the Defense Logistics Agency, which owned the fuel in the tanks.

"The decentralized structure at Red Hill necessitated careful coordination, communication, and management of responsibilities and relationships," the report states.

For example, the logistics agency was not involved in day-to-day operations unless fuel was being delivered, at which time they coordinated with Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor.



GLENN SLAUGHTER/U.S. Navy

A Navy contractor collects a drinking water sample at Moanalua Preschool in Honolulu in February.

And although the logistics center was responsible for operating the facility, it had no role in larger maintenance or repair of the tanks or facility.

Contractors performed key roles in maintaining and repairing equipment at Red Hill in the years leading up to the 2021 leaks, according to the report.

"Contractors were responsible for performing preventative maintenance and corrective repairs on the fuel tanks, pipelines, supporting equipment and systems, as well as monitoring ser-

vices," the report states.

The Navy, however, changed its approach to contracting for Red Hill after the contamination. It awarded eight of the 10 pre-spill contracts reviewed by GAO on a competitive basis.

"After the 2021 fuel leaks, the Navy awarded all six of the contracts GAO reviewed noncompetitively, in part to address urgent safety or environmental concerns, improve facility operations, and identify needed maintenance and repairs," the report states.

MILITARY

Fallujah: Squad leader says battle brought him closer to fellow Marines

FROM PAGE 1

But it's irrelevant, too. We got to be a part of Marines being unleashed."

Like the Iraq War itself, the battle has left conflicted feelings. The bravery of U.S. forces in Fallujah and the hardships they endured are now part of military lore.

The battle showcased how an unleashed Marine Corps, backed by U.S. soldiers, could lay waste to a tough adversary in brutal urban warfare conditions.

Yet the battle didn't pave the way to a bigger turnaround in a war that had many dark days ahead. It would be more than two years before the tide started to clearly turn, with the 2006 "Anbar Awakening" and the troop surge of 2007 eventually helping to quell much of the fighting.

But even those successes proved to be short-lived. When U.S. forces pulled out in 2011, Iraq was in shambles and Iran's influence in the country was larger than ever. By 2014, a new group of militants that came to be known as ISIS was on the march.

Complicated retrospective

The legacy of Fallujah is muddled in ways other major operations in history aren't, such as the great battles of World War II that are memorialized every year for the role they played in American victories in Europe and the Pacific.

In Iraq, there were none of the traditional measures of military success — no unconditional surrenders, no peace treaties — that helped make the sacrifices at Fallujah seem worth the cost.

The November battle was launched months after a precursor in Fallujah was called off amid international outcry over the scale of civilian casualties.

Hundreds of Iraqi civilians were believed to have been killed during that clash between U.S. forces and insurgents.

After pulling out of the city on May 1, 2004, the U.S. turned the mission over to the Iraqi Fallujah Brigade, which quickly folded.

Many of those Iraqi troops joined up with the insurgents. After the American withdrawal, Fallujah festered throughout the summer, becoming the center of opposition to the U.S.-led coalition.

The city also served as the main base for the militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who di-

rected numerous high-profile kidnappings, executions and beheadings of foreigners.

By the end of the summer, American commanders and the Iraqi government had determined that an operation to clear the city of an estimated 4,000 insurgents would be needed.

Responsibility for the second Battle of Fallujah, known as Operation Phantom Fury, fell to I Marine Expeditionary Force, which commanded a contingent of more than 12,000 U.S. troops drawn from every Pentagon service and an array of coalition soldiers.

Perhaps the biggest problem facing them would be distinguishing guerrilla fighters from civilians still trapped in their homes. Civilian casualty estimates from the battle ranged between 580 and 800.

On Nov. 8, U.S. forces stormed into the city. While the Marine Corps was the main element, the U.S. Army also played a large role.

Then-Staff Sgt. David G. Bellavia, an Army squad leader, on the third day of the battle charged into a house infested with insurgents, doing battle from room to room in close-quarter combat.

Bellavia was credited with singlehandedly saving an entire squad, and in 2019 he received the Medal of Honor, becoming the first living Iraq War veteran to receive the honor.

"Men go into battle because it is our love of nation, our way of life and our love of those we serve with side by side," Bellavia said during a ceremony at the time. "We defend, we avenge, we sacrifice, we bleed and we are willing to die for this unique creation, the United States of America."

Medals and memories

Scores of valor medals were awarded in the aftermath of the fighting, including at least 10 Navy Crosses for Marines.

Then-Sgt. Aubrey McDade, a machine gun squad leader, was one of the recipients of the Navy Cross, the military's second-highest combat medal.

But McDade said he struggled for years to come to terms with the carnage he had witnessed and the screams in battle he heard from injured Marines.

"I struggled so bad," he said during his testimonial shared with Disabled Ameri-



KIMBERLY SNOW/U.S. Army

Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop clear houses in Fallujah, Iraq, on Nov. 12, 2004. The soldiers were part of the largest single urban battle of the Iraq War in the years following the 2003 invasion.

can Veterans. McDade compared his recollections to being in a trance and being "forced to watch a movie I didn't want to watch."

Nicoll also struggled for years after the war. He and his team did battle in what came to be known as the "House of Hell," where bullets and grenades were flying everywhere as they fought off scores of insurgents. During the shootout, Nicoll was badly injured.

Amid the mayhem, then-Cpl. Robert Mitchell, Nicoll's squad leader, was putting a tourniquet on Nicoll's leg when an insurgent lunged at them. Mitchell pulled his combat knife and, in a swipe, instantly killed the fighter, according to the Marine Corps' account.

Mitchell went on to receive the Navy Cross for his actions.

"In those situations, you just react and

decide how to gain the upper hand," Mitchell told the student media at Arizona State University in a 2012 interview. "Your training takes over and you forget about everything else because one of your guys is injured and you have to be there for him."

The experience of Fallujah drew him closer to his fellow Marines, Mitchell said.

"When you think you are in the worst situation possible, whether it's in training or in combat, there is always someone who knows just what to say to make light of the situation," he said.

Nicoll, who lost his leg below his left knee in Fallujah, said it took him about 15 years to find new purpose in life.

Now he works as a motorcycle mechanic. But all these years later, he said, there's no replacing the bonds formed under fire.

"You're never going to get those buddies again," Nicoll said.

US soldier dies in wake of injuries from Gaza aid delivery

By ALISON BATH

Stars and Stripes

A U.S. soldier critically injured earlier this year while assigned to the Pentagon's humanitarian aid operation off the coast of Gaza has died.

Sgt. Quandarius Davon Stanley was receiving treatment in a long-term care facility after being injured in May while helping move aid to a temporary pier built by the U.S. military, the Army said Tuesday in a statement.

The Army did not specify the date of death, but the 23-year-old, from Columbia, S.C., died Oct. 31, according to an obituary posted online by the Jackson and McGill Funeral Home in Marion, S.C.

Stanley "was an instrumental

and well respected first line leader ... especially during the mission to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza," said Col. John "Eddie" Gray, commander of the 7th Transportation Brigade Expeditionary. "Our entire unit mourns alongside his family."

It wasn't clear how Stanley and two other soldiers were injured in a mishap on a ship near the Gaza coast around May 23. The ship was not docked at the pier.

At the time, Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, deputy commander of U.S. Central Command, which oversees military operations in the Middle East, said three service members had minor non-combat injuries, but one was taken to an Israeli hospital for an un-

disclosed issue.

CENTCOM subsequently said the soldier was in critical condition. The other two soldiers recovered from their injuries and returned to duty, CNN reported on Monday.

Stanley, who had served in the Army since July 2020 as a motor transport operator, was later flown in critical condition from Israel to Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas.

He was retired from the Army on Oct. 25 due to his injuries, according to the Army statement.

The Gaza pier became operational May 17 but the mission was hampered by bad weather and logistical issues that repeatedly delayed aid delivery.

Just two weeks after it entered

service, officials were forced to suspend operations and remove the pier from the shore to repair damage caused by rough weather.

The pier again was removed from the Gaza shore at the end of June due to bad weather and had been in the Israeli port of Ashdod for weeks when officials announced July 17 that the operation was ending.

Defense Department officials characterized the estimated \$230 million mission that delivered more than 1 million pounds of aid as a success. All told, the effort involved about 1,000 soldiers and sailors.

Stars and Stripes reporter Matthew Adams contributed to this report.



U.S. Army

Army Sgt. Quandarius Davon Stanley, who was injured while assigned to the pier operation in Gaza, died Oct. 31, according to an obituary posted online.

MILITARY

B-52 bombers arrive in Middle East region

By CAITLYN BURCHETT

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A group of B-52 bombers have arrived in the Middle East and the destroyer USS The Sullivans departed days after Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered more U.S. armed forces to the region.

The bombers arrived in the region during the weekend, Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, the top Pentagon spokesman, confirmed Monday. Additionally, The Sullivans departed Saturday from Naval Station Mayport, Fla., for an independent deployment to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations, which includes the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean, the Navy said.

The military assets are moving to the Middle East after Austin on Friday ordered several B-52s, a squadron of fighter jets, tanker aircraft and Navy destroyers to deploy to the region. The other ships and planes will arrive in the coming months as the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln ends its deployment there and transitions back to the United States.

“These appointments are in keeping with our commitment to the protection of U.S. citizens and forces in the Middle East, the defense of Israel and deescalation through deterrence and diplomacy,” Ryder said.

The bombers, which are part of



ALEXA TRAFTON/U.S. Navy

The Arleigh Burke-class, guided missile destroyer USS The Sullivans departs Mayport, Fla. for a scheduled deployment to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations, which includes the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean.

Minot Air Force Base's 5th Bomb Wing, N.D., have strategic, long-range capabilities. The Sullivans, an Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer, is armed with vertical launch anti-submarine rockets, Tomahawk missiles and MK-46 torpedoes and is capable of shooting down ballistic missiles.

“The Sullivans' crew is trained and ready to engage in a variety of activities, from escorting ships to participating in joint exercises with allied and partner navies in the Middle East,” said U.S. Fleet

Forces, which oversees East Coast-based Navy warships.

The military moves come as Israel's wars against Hamas militants in Gaza and Hezbollah militants in Lebanon rage, including a retaliatory strike on Iran a week ago that likely damaged a base that builds ballistic missiles and launches rockets as part of the country's space program.

The U.S. is pressing for cease-fires while repeatedly saying it will defend Israel and continue to protect Americans and allies in the region, including from Ye-

men-based Houthi attacks against ships in the Red Sea.

Austin's latest order shows the “U.S. capability to deploy worldwide on short notice to meet evolving national security threats,” Ryder said. Austin “continues to make clear that should Iran, its partners, or its proxies use this moment to target American personnel or interests in the region, the United States will take every measure necessary to defend our people.”

The Lincoln and two of its destroyers are now in the Gulf of Oman, and its third destroyer is with two other warships in the Red Sea. It deployed July 11 from its homeport of Naval Base San Diego for what was intended to be a Pacific tour, but the carrier's strike group was directed to the Middle East in late August. The group is expected to leave the region in the coming months.

The USS Harry S. Truman aircraft carrier and its three warships will move to the Mediterranean Sea, but the group won't get there before the Lincoln departs. The Truman strike group has been in the North Sea, participating in a NATO military exercise. The battle group deployed from Naval Station Norfolk, Va., and Naval Station Mayport in September.

There are also two destroyers and the USS Wasp amphibious

ready group, which includes three ships, in the Mediterranean. The Wasp group, which includes the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York and dock landing ship USS Oak Hill along with elements of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, deployed June 1 from Naval Station Norfolk and Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Va.

The Sullivans returned in February from a two-month deployment to the Mediterranean. The ship defended against ballistic missiles amidst the Israel-Hamas conflict.

The Sullivans, alongside USS Delbert D. Black, additionally provided relief for the USS Thomas Hudner and USS McFaul, allowing both ships to return home after multiple deployment extensions. The Sullivans also escorted the USS Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group and USS Bataan amphibious readiness group during their deployments.

“This deployment is [The Sullivans'] fifth deployment in three years, reflects the Navy's ongoing commitment to ensuring a strong U.S. presence in critical areas and further bolsters the U.S. deterrence posture in the region, providing increased options to the combatant commander,” U.S. Fleet Forces said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Lawmakers question use of US military in Israeli conflicts

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A group of progressive House lawmakers is questioning the involvement of the U.S. military in the expanding conflict in the Middle East, arguing the deployment of American troops to Israel and other support violated constitutional law.

Five House Democrats are asking President Joe Biden to detail and justify the role of U.S. service members in assisting Israel with its ground invasions of Lebanon and the Gaza Strip as well as the country's exchanges of hostilities with Iran and Iran-backed militants.

The lawmakers contend that the U.S. military's comprehensive intelligence sharing and operational coordination with Israel, along with the decision last month to send 100 American troops to Israel to operate a missile defense system, overstepped the bounds of presidential authority.

“American military involvement in these wars has not been authorized by the United States Congress, as required by the Constitution and U.S. law,” the lawmakers wrote in a letter to Biden. “Congress has the sole power to declare war.”

The letter was led by Reps. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., and Cori Bush, D-Mo., and was also signed by Reps. André Carson, D-Ind., Summer Lee, D-Pa., and Ilhan Omar, D-Minn.

The lawmakers have been vocal in their



ZACHARY WILLIS/U.S. Air Force

An Air Force 72nd Air Refueling Squadron boom operator refuels a Navy F/A-18E over the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility on Oct. 15. The F/A-18E is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations to help ensure maritime security and stability in the Middle East region.

opposition to Israel's military operations in the Middle East and said they are seeking to reassert congressional war powers amid increasing volatility in the region.

An uneasy peace in the Middle East unraveled last year after Hamas and other militants from Gaza stormed into Israel, massacring civilians and taking hostages. The attack sparked Israel's deadly war in Gaza and led to conflict with other Iran-backed militants, including Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen.

Iran and Israel have also been trading di-

rect strikes against each other for months.

“The American people have made it clear that they want to see an immediate cease-fire, an end to these wars, and the return of hostages, not deepening American involvement in potentially endless regional war,” the lawmakers wrote.

They said they were concerned by the deployment of American troops to the region as well as the participation of special operations and intelligence personnel in the locating of targets for Israeli operations in Gaza.

The lawmakers also expressed alarm over reports that American military officials have discussed U.S. military strikes against Iran.

“This current involvement, and any additional involvement or deployment, of the armed forces in the Israeli government's expanding regional war fall under the definition of ‘hostilities’ in the War Powers Resolution and are not in response to an imminent or actual attack against the United States,” the lawmakers wrote. “As such, these actions are unauthorized.”

The War Powers Resolution of 1973 stipulates only Congress can authorize sending American service members into action abroad, either through a declaration of war, a statutory authorization or in case an attack against the U.S. creates a national emergency.

Congress can also direct the removal of any American troops involved in unautho-

rized hostilities, according to the resolution.

“The executive branch cannot continue to ignore the law without congressional intervention,” the lawmakers warned in their letter. “The American public deserves a say on the issue of war. Thus, Congress' involvement and debate are necessary.”

Democratic and Republican members of Congress have bristled at the lack of congressional input in recent conflicts.

In January, senators challenged the legality of American airstrikes against Houthi rebels in Yemen, who began launching drones and missiles at vessels in the Red Sea at the start of the Gaza war.

“We have long advocated for deliberate congressional processes and authorizations for decisions that put service members into harm's way overseas,” the senators said.

Congress has not signed off on any war authorizations since the Iraq War in 2002 and last asserted its war powers in 2019, when it passed a resolution calling on then-President Donald Trump to end U.S. support for a Saudi Arabia-led military intervention against the Houthis.

An authorization that Congress approved in 2001 to allow the U.S. president to go after those responsible for the 9/11 attacks has been widely used in the years since to justify military operations in at least 22 countries, according to the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University.

MILITARY

Lawmaker seeks more spouse hires at Landstuhl

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — A U.S. lawmaker wants to know whether the Pentagon's largest overseas medical facility is denying employment to qualified military spouses in favor of local applicants in Germany.

In a letter last month, Rep. August Pfluger, R-Texas, questioned the Defense Health Agency's hiring practices at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.



Pfluger

The letter is addressed to DHA director Lt. Gen. Telita Crossland and seeks information specific to the Defense Department's hospital near Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Instead of being hired, military spouses often are referred to volunteer for the American Red Cross and "essentially perform the duties and responsibilities of a medical practitioner ... without financial compensation," Pfluger wrote in the Oct. 8 letter, which asked for LRMC's hiring data for the past five years.

Pfluger also requested information about how the agency is prioritizing military spouses for hir-

ing as well as compensation data for spouses who work in full- or part-time positions at military medical facilities worldwide, among other information.

"If they're actually prioritizing (people) other than fully qualified spouses, then we want to know what those practices are, what the priority list looks like and how they're making their decisions," said Pfluger, a second-term representative who served 20 years in the Air Force as a pilot and now is a colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

A DHA spokesperson confirmed receipt of the letter but said the agency couldn't address the questions without first formally responding to Pfluger.

The letter echoes decades of frustration by military spouses who say they are forced to quit their well-paying jobs when their family is posted overseas. Due to a multinational pact, most have few employment opportunities when living in Europe.

As a result, many military families must live on one income, dig into savings and sometimes rely on a Defense Department supplemental food program to make ends meet.

There have been some improvements. For example, recent agreements reached in Italy and Spain now allow U.S. military spouses



LANDSTUHL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER/Facebook

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany at dusk. Rep. August Pfluger, R-Texas, is questioning Defense Health Agency practices related to the hiring of qualified military spouses at LRMC, the Pentagon's largest medical facility overseas.

living in those countries to work remotely for their American employers.

That change followed years of policy that forbade the practice unless a military spouse gave up rights and protections afforded them through the NATO Status of Forces Agreement.

But problems persist. The situation has helped to create a pipeline of highly skilled, cheap — and in many cases free — labor exploited by military hospitals and other base organizations, a Stars and Stripes investigation last year found.

For example, military spouses who are nurses, physical ther-

apists or other medical professionals said they were encouraged to give as much as 40 hours a week to the Red Cross or other organizations in the hope that doing so could lead to an eventual paid position.

In Germany, those professionals saved LRMC more than \$600,000 in unpaid labor, according to Red Cross figures in 2023.

Asking qualified military spouses to volunteer their medical skills for free is not only unacceptable but also frustrating, said advocate Beth Conlin.

However, a June 2023 White House directive that ordered federal agencies to develop a strateg-

ic plan for hiring and retaining military spouses is empowering, she said.

With that power, spouses can better advocate for themselves, directly question a hiring manager about employment practices and ask what is being done to comply with the order, Conlin said.

Still, the DHA should be more proactive in hiring military spouses, which would benefit everyone, she said.

"This is filling the gaps that they have at their facilities overseas," said Conlin, who chairs the board of the Military Spouse Chamber of Commerce and is an adviser for Blue Star Families. "This is employing military families, and this is improving the care of those that go to those facilities."

Pfluger said he wrote the letter after learning about the recent experience of a military spouse who wanted to work at LRMC, as well as stories of others who faced similar situations.

When the DHA responds, Pfluger's office will review the data and evaluate its compliance with federal mandates, he said.

"One hundred percent we will be pursuing any sort of change to the law if we find that that's not the case and that the hiring practices favor others (over) spouses," he said.

Former administrator of POW/MIA group charged with embezzling funds

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

A Virginia woman whose scheming almost liquidated a prominent advocacy organization for American prisoners of war now awaits punishment for embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Jennifer Giorffino, a former administrator for the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, pleaded guilty Thursday in federal court in Alexandria to a single count of wire fraud, according to the Justice Department.

She could receive a prison term of up to 20 years when she is sentenced next year, a DOJ statement said Thursday.

Between October 2022 and April this year, the 53-year-old Giorffino stole \$257,259 from the nonprofit, also known as the National League of POW/MIA Families, court records state.

The organization was nearly out of money at the time of the embezzlement. It was slated to be dissolved after a Jan. 31, 2023, vote by

its board of directors, according to a series of League statements between January and June 2023.

But less than two weeks later, an anonymous benefactor stepped in and pledged \$400,000 annually over five years to fund the group, according to a February 2023 statement.

Ann Mills-Griffiths, who has led the organization since 1978, was listed as board chairwoman on League statements during the period in which the fraud took place. Mills-Griffiths did not reply Monday to an email seeking comment.

Giorffino's job included processing donations. Instead, she used the money for personal retail purchases, according to the Justice Department.

She also stole Mills-Griffiths' identity and fraudulently applied for at least 30 credit cards and lines of credit for additional spending, authorities said.

She made over \$36,000 worth of purchases on one card alone and paid off the cards every month until April using League funds, the Justice Department statement said.



MICHAEL O'NEAL/U.S. Army

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency staffers talk about the National League of POW/MIA Families' flag with Thai workers during an excavation in Lampang province, Thailand, on Feb. 16, 2022. A former administrator for the league pleaded guilty on Thursday in Virginia to embezzling over \$250,000.

In February, Giorffino opened a checking account in the League's name and began diverting checks and online donations into the account, accumulating \$29,746, the Justice statement said.

The organization's funds were largely drained by March, but she forged bank statements and wrote checks she knew would bounce,

according to prosecutors.

The chairwoman's credit card was declined at a restaurant around the same time the theft was discovered, the statement said. Giorffino gave the board falsified bank statements at an April meeting and she stopped working at the League on April 27, according to court records.

It is unclear what Giorffino was charged with before the plea deal was negotiated. A spokesman for the Eastern District of Virginia on Monday declined to comment further.

In 1971, the League created the iconic black-and-white POW/MIA flag that currently flies over government and military institutions.

NATION



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

The Nashville, Tenn., skyline is reflected in the Cumberland River.

Man arrested, accused of plot on Tenn. power site

By **KIMBERLEE KRUESI**
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Department of Justice said Monday that federal agents have arrested a Tennessee man with ties to white nationalist groups who they say attempted to use what he believed to be an explosive-laden drone to destroy a Nashville energy facility.

According to court documents, Skyler Philippi, 24, is accused of planning to attach several pounds of C-4 explosives to an aerial drone with the intent of destroying an electric substation in Nashville.

The newly unsealed court records reveal that Philippi in July allegedly told a confidential source who was working with the FBI that he wanted to attack several substations to “shock the system.” That confidential source later introduced Philippi to an undercover FBI employee, who began to collect information about Philippi’s plan with other undercover

agents.

“Philippi researched previous attacks on electric substations and concluded that attacking with firearms would not be sufficient,” wrote Angelo DeFeo, an FBI special agent, in the court records released Monday. “Philippi, therefore, planned to use a drone with explosives attached to it and to fly the drone into the substation.”

Philippi allegedly told undercover law enforcement officials that he was affiliated with several white nationalist and extremist groups, including the National Alliance, which calls for eradicating the Jewish people and other races. Such extremist groups increasingly have viewed attacking the United States’ power grid as a means of disrupting the country.

The U.S. grid includes more than 6,400 power plants and 450,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines that span the country.

Kenyan man convicted of plotting 9/11-style hit

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A Kenyan man was convicted Monday of plotting a 9/11-style attack on a U.S. building on behalf of the terrorist organization al-Shabab.

A federal jury in Manhattan found Cholo Abdi Abdullah guilty on all six counts he faced for conspiring to hijack an aircraft and slam it into a building, according to court records.

He’s due to be sentenced next March and faces a mandatory minimum of 20 years in prison.

Abdullah represented himself during the trial, which opened last week. He declined to give an opening statement and did not actively participate in questioning witnesses.

In court papers filed ahead of the trial, prosecutors said Abdullah intended to “merely sit pas-

sively during the trial, not oppose the prosecution and whatever the outcome, he would accept the outcome because he does not believe that this is a legitimate system.”

Lawyers appointed to assist Abdullah in his self-defense didn’t respond to an email seeking comment Monday.

Federal prosecutors, who rested their case Thursday, said Abdullah plotted the attack for four years, undergoing extensive training in explosives and how to operate in secret and avoid detection.

He then moved to the Philippines in 2017 where he began training as a commercial pilot.

Abdullah was almost finished with his two-year pilot training when he was arrested in 2019 on local charges.

Boeing factory strike ends as workers accept contract

By **DAVID KOENIG,**
LINDSEY WASSON
AND **HANNAH SCHOENBAUM**
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Factory workers at Boeing voted to accept a contract offer and end their strike after more than seven weeks, clearing the way for the aerospace giant to resume production of its bestselling airliner and generate much-needed cash.

Leaders of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers district in Seattle said 59% of members who cast ballots agreed to approve the company’s fourth formal offer and the third put to a vote.

The deal includes a 38% wage increase over four years, and ratification and productivity bonuses.

However, Boeing refused to meet strikers’ demand to restore a company pension plan that was frozen nearly a decade ago.

The contract’s ratification on the eve of Election Day cleared the way for a major U.S. manufacturer and government contractor to restart Pacific Northwest assembly lines that the walkout idled for 53 days.

Bank of America analysts estimated last month that Boeing

was losing about \$50 million a day during the now-ended strike, which did not affect a nonunion plant in South Carolina where the company makes 787s.

Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg said in a message to employees that he was pleased to have reached an agreement.

“While the past few months have been difficult for all of us, we are all part of the same team,” Ortberg said. “We will only move forward by listening and working together. There is much work ahead to return to the excellence that made Boeing an iconic company.”

According to the union, the 33,000 workers it represents can return to work as soon as Wednesday or as late as Nov. 12. Ortberg has said it might take “a couple of weeks” to resume production in part because some workers might need retraining.

The average annual pay of Boeing machinists is currently \$75,608 and eventually will rise to \$119,309 under the new contract, according to the company. The union said the compounded value of the promised pay raise would amount to an increase of more than 43% over the life of the agreement.

“It’s time for us to come together. This is a victory,” IAM District 751 President Jon Holden told members while announcing the tally late Monday. “You stood strong and you stood tall and you won.”

Reactions were mixed even among union members who voted to accept the contract.

Although she voted “yes,” Seattle-based calibration specialist Eep Bolaño said the outcome was “most certainly not a victory.” Bolaño said she and her fellow workers made a wise but infuriating choice to accept the offer.

“We were threatened by a company that was crippled, dying, bleeding on the ground, and us as one of the biggest unions in the country couldn’t even extract two-thirds of our demands from them. This is humiliating,” she said.

For other workers like William Gardiner, a lab lead in calibration services, the revised offer was a cause for celebration.

“I’m extremely pumped over this vote,” said Gardiner, who has worked for Boeing for 13 years. “We didn’t fix everything — that’s OK. Overall, it’s a very positive contract.”

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NATION

Feds: Russia, Iran efforting to lie to US voters

BY CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY
AND ALI SWENSON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's federal law enforcement and election security agencies are debunking two new examples of Russian election disinformation on the eve of Election Day, highlighting attempts by foreign actors to sow doubt in the U.S. voting process and warning that the efforts run the risk of inciting violence against election officials.

In a joint statement late Monday, federal officials pointed to a recent article posted by Russian actors falsely claiming that U.S. officials across presidential swing states were orchestrating a plan to commit fraud, as well as a video that falsely depicted an interview with an individual claiming election fraud in Arizona.

U.S. intelligence reveals that Russia-linked influence actors "are manufacturing videos and creating fake articles to undermine the legitimacy of the election, instill fear in voters regarding the election process, and suggest Americans are using violence against each other due to political preferences," read the statement issued by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the FBI and the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. "These efforts risk inciting violence, including against election officials."

A spokesperson for the Russian Embassy did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

Federal officials warned that Russia will likely release additional "manufactured content" on Election Day and poses "the most active

threat" when it comes to foreign election influence. The statement also noted that Iran remains a "significant foreign influence threat to U.S. elections."

The effort described by federal officials is part of a wide-ranging influence operation by Russia designed to undermine confidence in the electoral process and sow discord among American voters. Intelligence agencies have assessed that Russia, which also interfered on Donald Trump's behalf in the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections, again prefers the Republican nominee and is likely to persist in its influence operations well after Election Day.

Besides manufactured videos intended to promote disinformation, U.S. officials also have accused Russian state media of a covert, multimillion-dollar operation to

spread pro-Russia content to American audiences and have seized dozens of internet domains they said fostered propaganda.

In their statement, officials also drew fresh attention to Iran's attempts to interfere in the election, which include a hack-and-leak operation designed to harm Trump's candidacy. The Justice Department in September charged three Iranian hackers in that effort.

Iranian actors also have created fake news sites and impersonated activists online in attempts to sway voters, according to analysts at Microsoft. The tech giant said last month that Iranian actors who allegedly sent emails aimed at intimidating U.S. voters in 2020 have been surveying election-related websites and major media outlets, raising concerns they could be preparing for another scheme this

year.

As large tech firms and intelligence officials have called out foreign interference this election cycle, Russia, China and Iran have rejected claims that they are seeking to meddle with the U.S. election.

The Arizona video promoted on social media by Russian actors on Monday purported to show an anonymous whistleblower revealing an election fraud scheme. Federal officials said the Arizona Secretary of State's office had already refuted the content of the video.

Earlier this week, U.S. officials confirmed that a video claiming to show voter fraud in two left-leaning counties in Georgia was fake and the product of a Russian troll farm. And last month, they attributed to Russia another fake video of a person tearing up ballots in what appeared to be Bucks County, Pa.

Lawyers: Giuliani cleared out apartment weeks before deadline

BY PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rudy Giuliani cleared out valuables from his Manhattan apartment weeks before a court deadline to surrender his belongings as part of a \$148 million defamation judgment, according to a letter filed in federal court Monday.

Lawyers for Ruby Freeman and her daughter, Wandrea "Shaye" Moss — the two former Georgia election workers who were awarded the massive judgment — also said in their Manhattan court filing that Giuliani and his lawyers have refused to answer basic questions about the location of most of the valuables subject to the court order.

"That silence is especially outrageous given the revelation that Defendant apparently took affirma-



STEPHANY MATAT/AP

Rudy Giuliani speaks to reporters after voting in West Palm Beach, Fla. on Thursday.

tive steps to move his property out of the New York Apartment in recent weeks, while a restraining notice was in effect and while a turnover motion was pending with respect to that property," wrote Aaron Nathan, an attorney for the election workers.

The letter to U.S. District Court Judge Lewis Liman comes after the deadline for the former New York City mayor and legal adviser to Donald Trump to surrender items passed last week without any assets changing hands.

Lawyers for the women were given access to the Upper East Side apartment Thursday in order to assess, along with a moving company representative, the transportation and storage needs for the property meant to be turned over.

Nathan, in his letter, said the residence was already "substantially empty" when the group arrived and that they were told most of the contents of the apartment had been moved out about four weeks prior. "Save for some rugs, a dining

room table, some stray pieces of small furniture and inexpensive wall art, and a handful of smaller items like dishes and stereo equipment, the Apartment has been emptied of all of its contents," he wrote.

That, Nathan said, includes the "vast majority" of the valuables known to be stored there, including art, sports memorabilia and expensive furniture.

He said Giuliani's lawyers have since said some of the property has been moved to a storage facility in Ronkonkoma, roughly 50 miles east of Manhattan on Long Island.

Nathan said it's not clear what property is stored there as the former mayor's attorneys have not provided an inventory.

Last month, Liman ordered Giuliani to hand over, among other

things, his \$5 million apartment, a 1980 Mercedes once owned by movie star Lauren Bacall, and a variety of other belongings, from his television to a shirt signed by New York Yankees legend Joe DiMaggio to 26 luxury watches.

Giuliani's lawyers have argued — so far unsuccessfully — that Freeman and Moss should not be allowed to obtain and sell his belongings while his appeal is pending in a federal court in Washington.

Both sides are expected to go before Liman on Thursday if the former mayor's assets aren't turned over by then.

The \$148 million judgment stems from Giuliani's role in pushing Trump's unfounded claims that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from him.

Tiny New Hampshire town splits 'first in the nation' vote between Harris, Trump

The Washington Post

At midnight, the six residents of a tiny township in New Hampshire cast their ballots — with officials touting their status as the "first in the nation" to do so in person on Election Day.

The vote was a tie, reflecting the divisions across the country in what is expected to be one of the tightest, tensest and most historically consequential presidential campaigns in recent memory.

Three of the six residents of Dixville Notch in New Hampshire voted for Vice President Kamala Harris and the remaining three voted for former President Donald Trump, officials announced, later inscribing the result on a handwritten sign.

"Following the national trend!"

said Tom Tillotson, the town moderator, which is an elected position charged with regulating town business, referencing Harris and Trump being neck-and-neck in the polls in a charged political environment.

Four of the registered voters in the town are Republicans and the other two are independents.

The tiny forest town of Dixville Notch, located near the Canadian border, has kept its midnight voting tradition since 1960 and is usually the first in the country to report election results.

Watching the results in Dixville Notch is a hobby for some political observers, although there's no correlation between the outcome there and the final tally of the presidential

race.

President Joe Biden swept the hamlet in 2020 — and went on to win the U.S. election. Getting a unanimous vote in Dixville Notch was a first since 1960, when all nine of the community's voters chose Republican Richard M. Nixon over Democrat John F. Kennedy.

In 2016, Hillary Clinton earned four votes in Dixville Notch, while two residents voted for Trump and one selected Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson. Clinton went on to lose to Trump in the election.

The hamlet was once a destination for presidential candidates, but the visits have slowed to a trickle since the Balsams Resort — where residents cast their vote at midnight — closed in 2011 and the local popu-



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Dixville Notch, N.H., officials count the ballots cast by the town's 6 voters Tuesday. Kamala Harris and Donald Trump each got 3 votes.

lation declined with it. The property's new owners are now planning to redevelop it, according to CNN.

This year, residents of Dixville Notch also cast their vote in the com-

petitive New Hampshire governor's race: Five voted for Republican Kelly Ayotte and one for Democrat Joyce Craig, the former mayor of Manchester, N.H.

NATION

World seeks an Electoral College education

By **BRYAN PIETSCH**
The Washington Post

The U.S. presidential election is drawing the world's attention—and its questions.

The quadrennial vote comes with a steep learning curve, as people and media outlets around the globe seek crash civics courses on the intricacies of the Electoral College, a complex topic for U.S. voters that approaches the inscrutable for some abroad trying to make sense of it all.

One sticking point internationally is why the candidate with the most votes is not guaranteed the win, as was the case in Donald Trump's victory over Hillary Clinton in 2016 and George W. Bush's victory over Al Gore in 2000. But the entire system, for people used to very different

ways of voting, bears plenty of explaining.

"The electoral college is not a place," the website of the U.S. Embassy in the United Kingdom helpfully explains.

Instead, it is a patchwork of winner-takes-all (with some exceptions) elections at the state level, a correspondent for French newspaper *Le Monde* explains in a video, speaking in front of a small reproduction of the Statue of Liberty — perhaps a nod to France's largesse in gifting the original.

The overall winner accrues the majority of electors, of which each state and the District of Columbia are assigned a set number based on population. "It's simple," the correspondent says, almost appearing to

believe it.

Electors are not assigned in direct proportion to a state's population. Each state receives two electors for its two senators, regardless of whether its population is in the hundreds of thousands, as is Wyoming's, or in the millions, as is California's.

Each state also receives an elector for each of its congressional representatives, a figure that is based on population. The least populous states have three electors each. The most populous, California, has 54 electoral votes.

"I have been asked about gerrymandering and the electoral college in London pubs and Greek tavernas," Anna Russell, a contributing writer for the *New Yorker* based in London, writes. Louisa Compton,

head of news for British broadcaster Channel 4, told her: "For Brits, it's mad that a country of three hundred and fifty million people is going to come down to, potentially, a couple of hundred thousand votes in a few swing states."

Some foreign governments have criticized the Electoral College, including that of China — a one-party state without democratic elections. The flaws in the U.S. electoral system are "self-evident," the state-backed newspaper *China Daily* wrote in an article enumerating the findings of a Chinese report on U.S. democracy.

"I think there's a reason few if any other countries in the world have copied the American election system," said Aaron Ettinger, an associate

professor of international relations at the University of Carleton in Ottawa, Canada's capital: Most democracies use a popular vote or a parliamentary system to pick their leader.

In Britain, voters elect lawmakers to parliament, who elect a prime minister as the head of government.

Germany uses an electoral college system based on the makeup of its legislative body, the Bundestag, to elect its president — but not the chancellor, who leads the government.

India also uses an electoral college system, in which electors are state and federal lawmakers. But the United States is alone in having votes filtered through a set of electors whose sole purpose is to vote in the presidential election.

Voters: Battleground states not uniform on ballot-counting rules

FROM PAGE 1

on when officials can count mail ballots, long lines at polling places at the end of the day can also slow counting, as voters who are in line at closing time are still allowed to vote.

And then there are ballots from overseas voters and those in the military, which sometimes arrive after Election Day, along with provisional ballots cast by voters whose eligibility is in question. In very close elections, the outcome is unclear until these last ballots are counted.

Here's a look at the seven battleground states and when results can be expected.

Pennsylvania

In 2020, the Associated Press called the state for Biden on the Saturday after Election Day. Election officials expect the tally to take several days again this year.

Unlike many states, officials there are not allowed to begin processing absentee ballots until 7 a.m. on Election Day. The process is laborious. Workers must check that voters have provided all necessary information, then remove the ballots from the envelopes, unfold them, ensure they haven't been damaged and feed them into voting tabulators.

Pennsylvania has arcane rules that can lead to challenges over ballots. Absentee ballots must be placed in a secrecy envelope that is then placed in a mailing envelope. The envelopes must be properly dated. If there are mistakes, the ballots may not be counted.

Arizona

Four years ago, Fox News and The Associated Press called Arizona for Biden on election night in a move that others called premature. Most networks waited days to determine if Biden won the

state. This time, unofficial results could again take that long.

Arizona allows election officials to process early ballots as soon as they receive them, but many voters wait until Election Day to drop them off.

There are worries that it could take even longer to count votes in Arizona this year, as the ballot is unusually long. In Maricopa County, the state's most populous county, the races and ballot questions stretch across two pages instead of one — which means voters and officials will have to feed twice as many pieces of paper into vote-counting machines this year. That increases the chances for paper jams that slow down vote counting.

Nevada

In 2020, The Associated Press called Nevada for Biden the Saturday after Election Day.

Voting in Nevada is conducted largely by mail, and Secretary of State Cisco Aguilar, a Democrat, has advised counties to start tabulating those ballots as soon as the polls open on Election Day instead of after they close, as they have in the past.

On Election Day, after the last voter has voted, the secretary of state will give counties the green light to release totals for all in-person ballots as well as all mail ballots that arrive before that day. What's left will be in-person Election Day ballots as well as mail votes arriving that day or later. Election Day precinct totals will start trickling out Tuesday night but are unlikely to be fully reported until later in the week.

Most states require ballots to be returned by Election Day, but Nevada counts mail ballots without a postmark that arrive up to three days after Election Day and those with a postmark up to four days af-

ter Election Day. That creates uncertainty on when the results will be known, especially in a close election. The second biggest day for receiving mail ballots in Nevada is typically the day after the election.

Georgia

Networks called Georgia for Biden the Friday after the election in 2020. Election officials expect counting this year to go faster.

Election officials can process absentee ballots as they arrive and can start counting them at 7 a.m. on Election Day.

One hour after the polls close on Election Day — which is scheduled for 7 p.m. Eastern time — state election officials plan to release the counts of all processed mail ballots and early ballots. Early voting has been wildly popular this year, and more than half of registered voters have already cast their ballots. Officials estimate that most county Election Day tallies will be published before midnight Tuesday. They will also publish the total number of ballots cast that day, which will let the public know how many ballots remain to be counted.

A few stragglers will take longer, likely including Fulton County, the state's largest jurisdiction, which is managing a new counting facility this year.

Michigan

Michigan was called for Biden the day after Election Day. This year, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a Democrat, said she expects to have unofficial results for the state by the end of the day Wednesday at the latest.

Large and medium-sized communities this year started to process their mail ballots last week; communities with fewer than 5,000 residents can process them



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Voters line up to enter their polling place at the Cincinnati Observatory on Tuesday, in Cincinnati.

Monday. All jurisdictions will tally the votes on Election Day.

In 2022, Michigan approved a measure allowing in-person early voting. Those who vote that way feed their ballots into tabulators, just as they would on Election Day. That means less work for clerks on Election Day and should help speed up the count.

Wisconsin

In 2020, the count in Wisconsin was completed early in the morning the day after Election Day, and The Associated Press called the state for Biden that afternoon.

Election officials cannot count mail and in-person early ballots until Election Day, which can lead to counting delays.

Milwaukee, a Democratic bastion and the largest city in the state, is expected to be one of the last cities in the state to report its full results because it needs time to tally its early and mail ballots at its central count facility.

Milwaukee's election director expects to have complete unofficial results sometime after midnight. A few other jurisdictions in the state could report their results

after that.

North Carolina

The state in the past has reported most results relatively quickly and could provide early clues to how Republican nominee former President Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Vice President Kamala Harris will fare nationally.

The counting process moves faster in North Carolina, as election officials may remove mail ballots from their envelopes and feed them into tabulators weeks before Election Day. They tally those results on Election Day but cannot announce the results until after the polls close at 7:30 p.m. Eastern time.

Election officials will first report totals for mail ballots and later report totals from those who voted early in person or on Election Day.

Because of damage from Hurricane Helene, some precincts will have to call in their results to election offices instead of delivering computer memory sticks to them. This could slow the reporting of results in some counties.

NATION

America reaches its Election Day

By ZEKE MILLER,
MICHELLE L. PRICE
AND WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A presidential campaign marked by upheaval and rancor was finally headed for an Election Day finale, as Americans decided whether to send Donald Trump back to the White House or elevate Kamala Harris to the Oval Office.

Voters faced a stark choice between two candidates who have offered drastically different temperaments and visions for the world's largest economy and dominant military power. More than 82 million people voted early. Those casting ballots on Tuesday mostly encountered a smooth process around the country, with isolated reports of some hiccups that regularly happen, including long lines, technical issues and ballot printing errors.

Harris, the Democratic vice president, stands to be the first female president if elected. She has promised to work across the aisle to tackle economic worries and other issues without radically departing from the course set by President Joe Biden.

Trump, the Republican former president, has vowed to replace

thousands of federal workers with loyalists, impose sweeping tariffs on allies and foes alike, and stage the largest deportation operation in U.S. history.

The two candidates spent the waning hours of the campaign overlapping in Pennsylvania, the biggest battleground state. They were trying to energize their bases as well as Americans still on the fence or debating whether to vote at all.

In Scranton, Pa., Liza Fortt arrived at her polling location in a wheelchair and not feeling well. But she ventured out anyway to vote for Harris.

"It means a lot to me and my grandkids, my granddaughters, my nieces. ... I was just waiting for this day to come," said Fortt, who is 74 and Black. She said she never thought she'd have such an opportunity, to cast a ballot for a Black woman in a presidential race.

"I'm proud, to see a woman, not only a woman, but a Black woman," Fortt said.

Harris and Trump entered Election Day focused on seven battleground states, five of them carried by Trump in 2016 before flipping to Biden in 2020: the "blue wall" of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin as well as Arizona



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Election workers process mail-in ballots for the 2024 General Election at the Chester County, Pa., administrative offices, Tuesday, in West Chester, Pa.

and Georgia. Nevada and North Carolina, which Democrats and Republicans respectively carried in the last two elections, also were closely contested.

Tommy Ray Brewer, a 72-year-old auto mechanic, voted for Trump in Black Mountain, N.C., which was hard-hit by Hurricane Helene.

"People are really divided right now. They're mad. They're angry because of the situation that the United States is in," Brewer said. "I have heard people say we're in the best shape we've ever been in. But I say, 'have you been to the grocery store, have you been to

the gas station?'"

The closeness of the race and the number of states in play raised the likelihood that, once again, a victor might not be known on election night. There was one early harbinger from the New Hampshire hamlet of Dixville Notch, which by tradition votes after midnight on Election Day. Dixville Notch split between Trump and Harris, with three votes for each.

In the 2020 presidential race it took four days to declare a winner. Regardless, Trump has baselessly claimed that if he lost, it would be due to fraud. Harris' campaign was preparing for him to try to de-

clare victory before a winner is known on Tuesday night or to try to contest the result if she wins. Four years ago, Trump launched an effort to overturn the voters' will that ended in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Trump voted in his adopted home state of Florida on Tuesday, then planned to spend the day at his Mar-a-Lago estate in advance of a party at a nearby convention center.

Harris already voted by mail in her home state of California. She planned to attend a watch party at her alma mater, Howard University in Washington.

Control of Congress is at stake and with it, the next president's agenda

By LISA MASCARO
AND MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Control of Congress was at stake Tuesday, with ever-tight races for the House and Senate that will determine which party holds the majority and the power to boost or block a president's agenda, or if the White House confronts a divided Capitol Hill.

The key contests are playing out alongside the first presidential election since the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, but also in unexpected corners of the country after what has been one of the most chaotic congressional sessions in modern times.

In the end, just a handful of seats, or as little as one, could tip the balance in either chamber.

The economy, border security, reproductive rights and even the future of U.S. democracy itself have all punctuated the debate.

In the Senate, where Democrats now have a slim 51-49 majority, an

early boost for Republicans is expected in West Virginia.

Independent Sen. Joe Manchin's retirement creates an opening that Republican Jim Justice, now the state's governor, is favored to win. A pickup there would deadlock the chamber, 50-50, as Republicans try to wrest control.

Top House races are focused in New York and California, where in a politically unusual twist, Democrats are trying to claw back some of the 10 or so seats where Republicans have made surprising gains in recent years with star lawmakers who helped deliver the party to power.

Other House races are scattered around the country in a sign of how narrow the field has become, with just a couple of dozen seats being seriously challenged, some of the most contentious in Maine, the "blue dot" around Omaha, Nebraska, and in Alaska.

Vote counting in some races could extend well past Tuesday.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Visitors walk around the Capitol in Washington, on Saturday.

"We're in striking distance in terms of taking back the House," House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, who is in line to make history as the first Black speaker if his party wins control, told The Associated Press during a recent campaign swing through Southern California.

But House Speaker Mike Johnson, drawing closer to Trump, predicts Republicans will keep "and grow" the majority. He took over after Kevin McCarthy was booted from the speaker's office.

Capitol Hill can make or break a new White House's priorities, giv-

ing Trump or Harris potential allies or adversaries in the House and Senate, or a divided Congress that could force a season of compromise or stalemate.

Congress can also play a role in upholding the American tradition of peacefully transferring presidential power.

Four years ago, Trump sent his mob of supporters to "fight like hell" at the Capitol, and many Republicans in Congress voted to block Joe Biden's election. Congress will again be called upon to certify the results of the presidential election in 2025.

Judge allows Musk's voter sweepstakes

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The \$1 million-a-day voter sweepstakes that Elon Musk's political action committee hosted in swing states was allowed to continue through Tuesday's presidential election, a Pennsylvania judge ruled Monday.

Common Pleas Court Judge Angelo Foglietta — ruling after Musk's lawyers said the winners are paid spokespersons and not chosen by chance — did not immediately explain his reasoning.

District Attorney Larry Krasner, a Democrat, had called the process a scam "designed to actually influence a national election" and asked that it be shut down.

Musk lawyer Chris Goyer said the recipients will be in Arizona on Monday and Michigan on Tuesday.

"The \$1 million recipients are not chosen by chance," Goyer said. "We know exactly who will be announced as the \$1 million recipient today and tomorrow."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Lyft pays \$2.1M to settle case saying drivers lied to

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Lyft is paying \$2.1 million to settle a lawsuit accusing the ride-hailing service of exaggerating how much money drivers could make while the company was trying to recover from a steep downturn in demand during the pandemic.

The agreement resolves a case filed by the U.S. Justice Department in San Francisco federal court Oct. 25 — the same day that Lyft disclosed it had negotiated the terms of the settlement revolving around the same issues with the Federal Trade Commission.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Peter Kang signed an order formalizing the settlement Thursday before it was made publicly available Friday. Besides having to pay \$2.1 million, Lyft has also been prohibited from engaging in the misleading practices flagged in the case.

Both the Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission have been investigating Lyft since uncovering evidence that it was advertising inflated compensation rates while trying to recruit more drivers as the pandemic began to ease and ride-hailing demand perked up.

US sued over lithium mine putting rare plant at risk

NV RENO — Conservationists and a Native American tribe are suing the United States to try to block a Nevada lithium mine they have said will drive an endangered desert wildflower to extinction, disrupt groundwater flows and threaten cultural resources.

The Center for Biological Diversity promised the court battle a week ago when the U.S. Interior Department approved Ioneer Ltd.'s Rhyolite Ridge lithium-boron mine at the only place Tiehm's buckwheat is known to exist in the world, near the California line halfway between Reno and Las Vegas.

It is the latest in a series of legal fights over projects President Joe Biden's administration is pushing under his clean energy agenda intended to cut reliance on fossil fuels, in part by increasing the production of lithium to make electric vehicle batteries and solar panels.

Firefighters across state battle stubborn brush fires

MA BOSTON — Firefighters in Massachusetts are continuing to battle stubborn brush fires across the state with officials urging residents to take precautions to help avoid sparking new blazes.

Hundreds of acres in the greater Boston area have already burned in the past week, with new fires cropping up in the western and central parts of the state.

In Massachusetts, an average of 15 wildland fires are reported each October. This year, the month's total capped at about 200 — an increase of about 1,200% over the av-



YUKI IWAMURA/AP

On your mark

Runners cross the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge at the start of the New York City Marathon on Sunday.

erage, rivaling the monthly numbers usually seen in the traditional early spring brush fire season.

About 100 fires were reported over the last seven days of the month and preliminary information indicates that all of them started with human activity, according to fire officials. The fires prompted some communities last week to cancel school classes and Halloween activities.

Court confirms takeover of jail, limits budget power

MS JACKSON — An appeals court says a federal receiver can proceed with a takeover of a Mississippi jail where a judge found unconstitutional conditions and “a stunning array of assaults, as well as deaths.”

A panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Thursday that U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves acted properly in 2022 when he appointed a public safety consultant to act as a receiver for the Raymond Detention Center in Hinds County.

The takeover has been blocked pending the appeal by Hinds County, which argued that a federally appointed consultant would be “utterly unaccountable” to voters and taxpayers.

The appellate judges told Reeves, however, to reevaluate the scope of the consultant's work and remove his budgeting power, ruling that the judge had given him “overly broad” authority to determine the annual

budget for the jail, including for staff salaries and benefits, medical and mental health services and facility improvements.

State first to sign into new US health care program

MD ANNAPOLIS — Maryland became the first state Friday to join a federal program designed to improve health care quality and equity while lowering costs for all health care payers, including Medicare, Medicaid and private insurers.

It builds on Maryland's Total Cost of Care Model, which sets a per capita limit on Medicare's total cost of care in Maryland and encompasses the state's unique all-payer hospital payment system, which reduces per capita hospital expenditures and supports improved health outcomes, as encouraged by the Affordable Care Act.

This new federal framework, known as the AHEAD model, has been designed to deliver high-quality health care through greater coordination, with a focus on health equity and social needs to support underserved patients.

Brutal campground killing leads to murder charge

MT BOZEMAN — A 41-year-old Montana man was charged with murder Friday in a brutal slaying at a remote campsite that had been initially reported as a possible bear mauling by peo-

ple who found the victim's body.

The suspect allegedly told authorities that he arrived at the campsite northeast of Big Sky, Mont., on Oct. 10 intending to stay the night but found it occupied by 35-year-old Dustin Kjersem.

Kjersem, who didn't know the suspect, welcomed him to the campsite and offered him a beer, according to Gallatin County Sheriff Dan Springer. But sometime later, the suspect, driven by an unknown motive, hit Kjersem with a piece of wood, stabbed him in the neck with a screwdriver and hit him with an ax, Springer said.

After DNA found on a beer can from the camp site was matched with the suspect's DNA, he was tracked down and arrested in Butte, Mont., Springer said.

Aggravated assault charge for sergeant in shooting

VT RUTLAND — A Vermont police sergeant was charged Friday with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and reckless endangerment in connection with a shooting last year that injured two men during a vehicle investigation.

Rutland City Police Sgt. Andrew Plemmons fired into a vehicle as the occupants tried to get away. A state police investigation found that Plemmons was not in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death when he used deadly force against one of the men.

Plemmons pleaded not guilty and

was released.

The driver, Randy Perez-Coiscou, pleaded not guilty to two charges of felony aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer and Andy Perez-Coiscou was cited on a charge of possession of fentanyl. The brothers have since recovered from the injuries, police said.

Officials take first steps to building 2 new prisons

IL SPRINGFIELD — Illinois officials Friday announced their impending search for a firm to manage the planning and construction of two prisons with a combined budget of \$900 million.

The Illinois Capital Development Board announced it will issue a bulletin as early as Nov. 19 seeking proposals from a construction management and owner's representative team to oversee the project. The team will start the ball rolling on replacing the century-old Stateville Correctional Center in suburban Chicago and the Logan Correctional Center for women in Lincoln.

It is the first concrete move the Illinois Department of Corrections has taken to begin the project since Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced last spring that he was setting aside capital construction money for the purpose.

Lawmakers have been wary of the Corrections Department, questioning its unwillingness to divulge detailed plans or timetables.

WORLD

N. Korean troops in Russia come under fire

Official says shelling by Ukrainian forces occurred in Kursk; Zaporizhzhia attack kills 6

By ILLIA NOVIKOV
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian troops have for the first time engaged with North Korean units that were recently deployed to help Russia in the war with its neighbor, Ukraine's defense minister said Tuesday.

Another Kyiv official said Ukraine's army fired artillery at North Korean soldiers in Russia's Kursk border region.

The comments were the first official reports that Ukrainian and North Korean forces have engaged in combat, following a deployment that has given the war a

new complexion as it approaches its 1,000-day milestone.

Neither claim could be independently confirmed.

The Ukrainian and North Korean troops engaged in "small-scale" fighting that amounted to the start of Pyongyang's direct involvement in Europe's biggest conflict since World War II, Ukraine's Defense Minister Rustem Umerov told South Korea's public broadcaster KBS in an interview.

North Korean soldiers are mixed with Russian troops and are misidentified on their uniforms, Umerov was quoted as saying by KBS. That makes it

hard to say whether there were any North Korean casualties, he said.

Umerov reportedly said he expects that five North Korean units, each consisting of about 3,000 soldiers, will be deployed to the Kursk area.

Meanwhile, Andrii Kovalenko, the head of the counter-disinformation branch of Ukraine's Security Council, said "the first North Korean troops have already been shelled, in the Kursk region."

He provided no further details.

Western governments had expected that the North Korean sol-

diers would be sent to Russia's Kursk border region, where a 3-month-old incursion by the Ukrainian army is the first occupation of Russian territory since World War II and has embarrassed the Kremlin.

U.S., South Korean and Ukrainian intelligence assessments say up to 12,000 North Korean combat troops are being sent by Pyongyang to the war under a pact with Moscow.

The Pentagon said Monday that at least 10,000 North Korean soldiers were in Russia near Ukraine's border.

More troops from North Ko-

rea's 1.3-million-strong army may be slated for deployment in Russia, according to an analysis published Tuesday by the European Council on Foreign Relations, an international think tank.

The ramifications extend far beyond Europe, it said.

The North Korean troops, whose fighting quality and battle experience is unknown, are adding to Ukraine's worsening situation on the battlefield.

A Tuesday morning attack by Russian forces on the southern city of Zaporizhzhia killed six people and injured 23 others, regional Gov. Ivan Fedorov said.

In Cyprus, nations train to keep WMD from crossing borders

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS
Associated Press

LARNACA, Cyprus — From as far as Algeria, Iraq and Georgia, an assortment of senior government officials converge on this small facility for training by top U.S. experts to prevent the kinds of materials used to build weapons of mass destruction from crossing their borders.

In just its third year of operation, the U.S.-funded Cyprus Centre for Land, Open Seas and Port Security (CYCLOPS) has far exceeded expectations. From the dozen courses that officials were initially hoping to hold annually, demand has skyrocketed, with scheduled training sessions for next year expected to surpass 50, says the center's director Chrysiliou Chrysiliou.

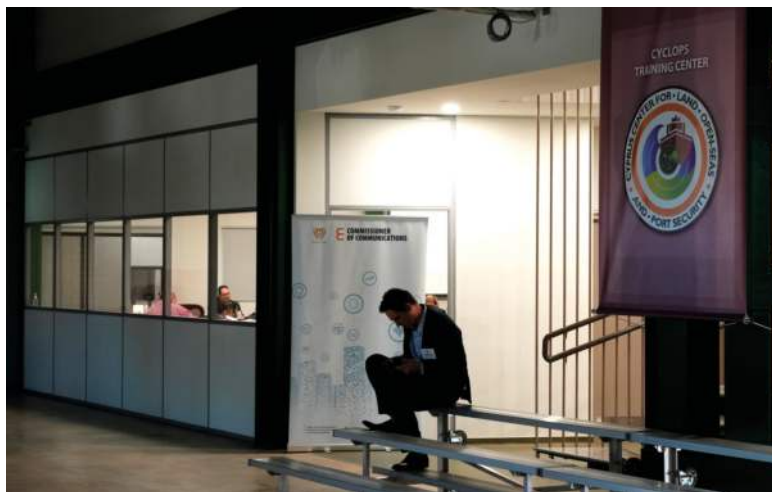
So far, over 2,000 officials from 20 countries including Yemen, Libya, Armenia and Ukraine have received training on radiological and nuclear detection for customs officers, methods of smuggling weapons of mass destruction, and chemical terrorism investigations among a host of other topics.

On Monday, a group of Cypriot and Egyptian officials started a two-day seminar on maritime cybersecurity led by the U.S.-based Sandia National Laboratories.

"This uniqueness has actually brought ... a lot of success which could not had been foreseen when CYCLOPS was initially being created," Chrysiliou told the Associated Press.

According to Chrysiliou, key to the center's success has been the top-notch level of instruction participants receive from U.S.-based experts, including from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, that specialize in counter-proliferation programs.

The center also boasts an array of



PETROS KARADIAS/AP

A man sits outside the U.S.-funded Cyprus Center for Land, Open Seas and Port Security (CYCLOPS) in Larnaca, Cyprus, on Monday. The center boasts an array of the latest in cutting-edge detectors able to sniff out radiological, chemical and biological agents and explosives that countries in the wider region don't possess or have access to.

the latest in cutting-edge detectors able to sniff out radiological, chemical and biological agents and explosives that countries in the wider region don't possess or have access to.

"Here, the participants have the opportunity to see the latest technology in detecting all of the range of the threats," said Chrysiliou. "It's like a showcase of what exists out in the market."

For instance, trainees are taught how to detect and properly dispose of the radiological elements of discarded medical equipment that militants could use to fashion a weapon. Another emerging threat is the possible use of off-the-shelf drones to disperse chemical or biological agents over populated centers.

CYCLOPS has been the product of ever-closer Cypriot-U.S. defense and security ties, earning plaudits from U.S. officials all the way up to the White House. The center was built on a \$7 million U.S. government grant, \$2 million of which was

for the purchase of border security equipment. The island nation's proximity to the Middle East was seen as an asset to helping train officials from the region, whose options for such training would otherwise be very limited. The Cypriot government has secured another \$5.6 million in European Union funding to expand the center and purchase additional high-tech equipment.

It's still early days for the center to count on headline-grabbing cases where WMD materials have been seized at any given border. Chrysiliou said what's equally important in acting as a potent deterrent is to send out the message that trained professionals "have the means and the ways to check and stop you."

"So if we teach Iraqis or Yemenis or Libyans or from other countries to do a better job in controlling their borders, in controlling the dispersion of weapons of mass destruction ... it makes their citizens much safer and more secure," said Chrysiliou.

Israeli airstrike kills 20 in northern Gaza; Cabinet member fired

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — An Israeli airstrike in northern Gaza has killed at least 20 people, mostly women and children, Palestinian officials said Tuesday, as Israel wages a nearly monthlong air and ground operation in what was already the most isolated and heavily destroyed part of the territory.

The strike late Monday hit a home where several displaced families were sheltering in the town of Beit Lahiya, near the border with Israel, according to Hosam Abu Safiya, the director of the recently raided and barely functioning Kamal Adwan Hospital, which received the casualties.

The Israeli military said it targeted a weapons storage facility from which a militant had operated, and that "numerous steps were taken to mitigate the risk of harming civilians."

The dead included eight women and six children, according to a list provided by the Gaza Health Ministry's emergency service. Separate strikes elsewhere in Gaza early Tuesday killed another 10 people, according to health officials.

Also on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed his popular defense minister, Yoav Gallant.

Netanyahu and Gallant have repeatedly been at odds over the war in Gaza. But Netanyahu had avoided firing his rival. Netanyahu cited "significant gaps" and a "crisis of trust" between the men in his Tuesday evening announcement.

Israel launched the offensive in the north after saying Hamas mil-

itants had regrouped there. The army has returned to several areas of Gaza multiple times after previous operations, as Hamas continues to carry out hit-and-run attacks on troops and fire occasional rockets into Israel.

The military has ordered the complete evacuation of Beit Lahiya, the nearby town of Beit Hanoun and the urban Jabaliya refugee camp, and has allowed almost no humanitarian aid into the area for over a month. That has drawn rebukes from the Biden administration, which has warned that U.S. laws might force it to curb military aid to Israel if more humanitarian aid is not allowed in.

Tens of thousands of people have fled to nearby Gaza City in the latest wave of displacement within the besieged territory. Around 90% of the population of 2.3 million have fled during the war, often multiple times.

The three hospitals serving the area have been largely inaccessible because of the fighting, and ambulances have stopped operating.

The offensive has raised fears among Palestinians that Israel is implementing a surrender-or-starve plan for northern Gaza proposed by former generals, in which civilians would be ordered out, aid would be cut off and anyone remaining would be considered a fighter.

The Israeli military has denied receiving such orders, but the government has not said whether it is adopting part or all of the plan.

Palestinian officials said a separate wave of Israeli strikes early Tuesday killed 10 people, including four children and two women.

WORLD

German police arrest 8 likely tied to far-right group

Associated Press

BERLIN — Police in Germany on Tuesday arrested eight suspected members of a far-right militant organization, Germany’s public prosecutor said.

The suspects, some of them minors and adolescents, were allegedly part of a group of around 15-20 individuals called Sächsische Separatisten, or Saxonian Separatists, that is characterized by racist, anti-semitic and partially apocalyptic ideas, the prosecutor’s office said in a statement.

“Its members are united in a profound rejection of the liberal democratic order and believe that Germany is nearing ‘collapse,’” the statement said.

It said the group plotted to seize power in Saxony and potentially other eastern German states “to establish governmental and societal structures inspired by National Socialism.”

“Even ethnic cleansing was part of their inhuman plans,” Justice Minister Marco Buschmann said in a statement.

He said that the arrests were a reminder that the German constitutional state and the free and democratic order “are under threat from many sides.”

“We must do everything we can to defend our liberal democracy against its enemies,” he said.

The eight men were arrested in different locations across Saxony and their alleged ringleader was apprehended in Poland. More than 450 police officers



SEBASTIAN KAHNERT, DPA/AP

Officers stand in a building entrance during a raid against suspected members of a far-right militant organization in Dresden, Germany, on Tuesday.

and special forces searched 20 premises in connection with the arrests.

The prosecutor’s office said that since its founding in 2020, the militant group made continuous preparations for the perceived inevitable and violent change of government.

It said its members, including the arrested suspects, repeatedly completed paramilitary training in combat gear, practiced specifically urban warfare, firearms handling and other skills. The group also procured military hardware, such as camouflage fatigues, combat helmets, gas masks and bullet-proof vests, the statement said.

Mexican military kills 2 Colombians, hurts 4 on smuggling route

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexico’s National Guard fatally shot two Colombians and wounded four others in what the Defense Department claimed was a confrontation near the U.S. border.

Colombia’s foreign ministry said in a statement Sunday that all of the victims were migrants who had been “caught in the cross-fire.” It identified the dead as a 20-year-old man and a 37-year-old woman, and gave the number of Colombians wounded as five, not four. There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy.

Mexico’s Defense Department, which controls the National Guard, did not respond to requests for comment Monday on whether the victims were migrants, but it said one Colombian who was not injured in the shootings was

turned over to immigration officials, suggesting they were.

If they were migrants, it would mark the second time in just over a month that military forces in Mexico have opened fire on and killed migrants.

On Oct. 1, the day President Claudia Sheinbaum took office, soldiers opened fire on a truck, killing six migrants in the southern state of Chiapas. An 11-year-old girl from Egypt, her 18-year-old sister and a 17-year-old boy from El Salvador died in that shooting, along with people from Peru and Honduras.

The most recent shootings happened Saturday on a dirt road near Tecate, east of Otay Mesa on the California border, that is frequently used by Mexican migrant smugglers, the department said in a statement late Sunday.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market

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FACES

Q&A: Cillian Murphy on following 'Oppenheimer' with small Irish drama

BY LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Cillian Murphy didn't read "Small Things Like These" looking for a film to do. He was simply a fan of the author, Claire Keegan.

Her story, nominated for the Booker Prize, was a work of historical fiction about the Magdalene Laundries in Ireland and an ordinary man with repressed trauma who can't force himself to look away over Christmas in 1985. The beauty of the prose and complexities of the themes lingered in Murphy's mind. The Irish actor had also been thinking about starting his own production company. Miraculously, the rights were available.

As a nod to the film, opening in North American theaters on Friday, Murphy and his producing partner Alan Moloney named their company Big Things Films.

"We were like, if you call it Small Things Films, it would show a real lack of ambition," Murphy said with a little laugh. "We thought better call it Big Things Films."

"Small Things Like These" was made after "Oppenheimer" but before Murphy won the Oscar for best actor, which he is still processing. Work is keeping him busy, though. His company already has another film in postproduction, "Steve," based on Max Porter's novel "Shy." And in September, he started filming the "Peaky Blinders" movie.

Murphy spoke to The Associated Press, before heading off to "Peaky Blinders," about being a "serial recollaborator," the humbling and passive experience of winning the Oscar and pitching Matt Damon the film during a night shoot on "Oppenheimer." Remarks have been edited for

clarity and brevity.

AP: What made you want to see Claire's book as a film?

Murphy: It's a seemingly simple story, but it's actually incredibly complex the way it talks about society and complicity and shame and guilt and secrecy and fear and all those things. I felt like it had a lot to offer audiences.

And as an actor, what opportunities did you see with your character?

It's a male protagonist written by a woman, but it's a story about women. That was quite interesting and unconventional. And the story really begins when the film ends. The real drama happens after-

wards. And I think that's just so unconventional and quite radical. The reason Bill is the man that he is, is because of what happened to him as a child and this act of charity that his mother experienced. And then these awful acts of cruelty that these other girls are experiencing — that's what's bringing him to this place in his life.

Claire had actually said in a podcast, someone said "oh it's such a heroic act" and she said "no, he's not a hero, he's just someone who's having a nervous breakdown." I thought that was really smart. And that's kind of how I tried to play it.

It all comes back, as it tends to with men, in middle age. They begin to really sense their mortality and they have kids of their own. That's when it all seems to come crashing down on them. And it's so beautifully observed by Claire and Enda (Walsh).

There are a lot of people involved in this film that you've worked with before, from the director, Tim Mielants ("Peaky Blinders") to your "Disco Pigs" friends (playwright Walsh and actor Eileen Walsh,



Murphy



LIONSGATE/AP

Cillian Murphy, left, and Zara Devin in "Small Things Like These." The film is based on Claire Keegan's historical fiction novel, which was nominated for the Booker Prize.

who plays Bill's wife). Why did you call on them?

I'm a kind of a serial recollaborator. I just love working with people again. And I really firmly believe you got the best work from trust and from friendship. Enda I've worked with in a theater like four or five times and, and he's just generally brilliant. I knew that he loved Claire's book and that he would understand that world. And Eileen, it's very hard to act 20 years of history, but when you have 28 years of history, you get it for free. She's just a phenomenally powerful actor. She can kind of do anything.

Matt Damon also is a producer though Artists Equity. How did that come about?

My producing partner was working with Matt on the U2 documentary about Sarajevo, and I was working with Matt on "Oppenheimer." It was a pincer movement. I remember it was like a night shoot in the desert somewhere, and we were waiting for the

rain to pass or the lights to be fixed. And he was telling me about Artists Equity. I said well, I happen to have this script, and I gave it to him. He's got such great taste. He's such a great filmmaker and actor, just a legend and just a lovely human being. He just really understands these sorts of stories. And immediately he said, yeah, we're on.

Do you feel like the Oscar win and success of "Oppenheimer" somehow helped this film get more interest from U.S. distributors?

I'm not aware of it, really, because it feels so brand-new and so fresh. You know, it's very hard to kind of speak about it because it was a hugely humbling and almost passive experience, because you don't really have any control over other people voting on the work that you did. But if it allows us to tell the sorts of stories that I'd like to tell, which have a point of view, which have something to say, then I'll take it.

New this week: 'Yellowstone' starts its end; Redmayne's 'Jackal'

Associated Press

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

Television

■ Eddie Redmayne hasn't starred in a TV series since the 2012 two-part World War I saga, "Birdsong." He marks his return to TV as a sniper for hire in the Peacock limited series "The Day of the Jackal." It's an updated version of a Frederick Forsyth novel published in 1971. Lashana Lynch plays an intelligence officer, intent on catching Redmayne's mysterious killer who goes by the moniker The Jackal. "The Day of the Jackal" debuts Thursday.

■ Prime Video's spy franchise "Citadel" now includes "Citadel: Honey Bunny." This version is set in India and is a prequel to the 2023 original that starred Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Richard Madden. It takes place

in the 1990s and introduces viewers to the parents of Chopra Jonas' character, Nadia. Samantha Ruth Prabhu plays Nadia's mother, Honey, with Varun Dhawan portraying her father, Bunny. The series debuts Thursday.

■ "Yellowstone," the modern Western about a family whose ownership of the largest cattle ranch in the U.S. goes back generations, returns for the second half of its final season Sunday. Fans will want to tune in to learn how Kevin Costner is written off the show and what happens to couple Rip and Beth, played by Cole Hauser and Kelly Reilly. "Yellowstone" Season 5B debuts on Paramount Network.

— Alicia Rancilio

Movies

■ Is there a better way to spend election week than with a psychedelic mushroom-induced Aubrey Plaza? Well, yes, there probably is. But, still, Megan Park's "My

Old Ass" (streaming Thursday on Prime Video) is a uniquely charming and oddly moving coming-of-age drama. The film stars Maisy Stella as Elliott, an 18-year-old whose birthday mushroom trip, while camping in Ontario's Muskoka region, conjures a surreal visitor: her 39-year-old self (played by Plaza). In his review, AP's Mark Kennedy called the results "uneven but (Park) sticks the landing."

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

Music

■ On Friday, the Whitney Houston estate and Legacy Recording will release "The Concert for a New South Africa (Durban)," the recording of her epic concert in postapartheid South Africa, staged after President Nelson Mandela's landmark election. It follows the fully remastered theatrical release of a concert film of the same name. In 1994, Houston took the stage for three concerts in South Africa including in

Durban at Kings Park Stadium, Johannesburg and Cape Town. More than 200,000 people attended. The album is Houston's first ever concert album (but not her first ever live album — give credit where credit is due, to 2014's "Whitney Houston Live: Her Greatest Performances" and "VH1 Divas 1999.") She's never sounded better.

■ Another look back at the '90s: Tsunami, the ferocious indie rock band lead by frontwomen Jenny Toomey and Kristin Thomson, co-owners of the Simple Machines record label, is receiving a long overdue, career-spanning collection from the prolific Numero Group: a five LP, vinyl box set that features demos, singles, 1993's "Deep End," 1994's "The Heart's Tremolo," and for the first time pressed to wax, 1997's "A Brilliant Mistake." If that's too much physical media, don't fret — listeners will be able to get an education on streaming platforms as well.

— AP Music Writer Maria Sherman

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OPINION

America's specialness shines at this ceremony

By CHARLES LANE

The Washington Post

Sixty-three percent of U.S. adults in September said “things in this country” are “off on the wrong track,” according to Reuters-Ipsos poll.

It would be interesting to redo the survey, with a sample limited to people like the group I met in a conference room in Baltimore around that time.

Twenty-four legal immigrants from 16 countries on six continents assembled to take the oath as naturalized U.S. citizens, administered by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officer Phyllis Domneys-Wilson.

Former residents of countries that range from orderly and prosperous (South Korea) to poor and war-torn (Eritrea) to cruelly repressive (Belarus), they would understand that the right response to a question about this nation's direction is: Compared to what?

Don't pass judgment on this troubled country unless you first witness a ceremony in which grown men and women, dressed in “proper attire to respect the dignity” of the event, as USCIS recommends, throw in their respective lots with the United States of America.

As family members beamed or fought back tears, the new Americans sang “The Star-Spangled Banner.” They recited the Pledge of Allegiance. They raised their right hands and swore, among other things, that they “entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty ... freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion.”

It was old-fashioned, bordering on kitschy, and it was awesome.

One of the newbies was my very own wife,

whom I met while on assignment in Europe more than 30 years ago and whom I wed not long after that.

Admittedly, to say that someone married me is to raise doubts about her ability to make smart life decisions. Perhaps for that reason, friends' congratulations on social media came mixed with grim jests about her timing — in the tense run-up to this dicey election.

“Is she really sure this is a good choice?” one skeptic wrote. Another advised holding on to her previous citizenship “just in case things get sketchy around here.”

To be sure, her decision to become a U.S. citizen was eased by a new law in her home country making it possible to retain dual citizenship. In practical terms, there's very little you can't do as a legal permanent U.S. resident, which is why my better half has been such a strong net contributor to the United States, despite lacking its passport: starting a small business, volunteering as an emergency medical technician, paying into Social Security, and even bringing on three more members of the labor force (our kids) to help grow the economy and stabilize the trust funds.

Yet the well-meaning doubters on social media would not have asked if they had seen my wife scurrying about these past few months, gathering required documents, studying the possible questions for the citizenship test — can you name the two longest rivers in the United States? — and sweating our arrival time for the ceremony. Decidedly not a morning person, she was up before dawn on the big day to make sure we beat the traffic; we got there 45 minutes early.

As it happens, her country of origin is one of several that used to exist in Eastern Europe when she was born but have since gone de-

funct amid post-Cold War upheavals. Of the 24 new citizens at her swearing-in ceremony, five came from independent countries that were carved out of erstwhile federations or empires within her lifetime.

Nothing lasts forever — not even the lines on the map to which we attach fateful political and legal importance and which determine our rights, obligations and opportunities. The most ironclad oath of allegiance is, in that sense, a bit of a gamble. And as gambles on countries go, betting on the United States has paid off pretty well over the years, for millions and millions of people.

There's just something special about being an American, which is why even my spouse, an urbane former denizen of an Old World metropolis, got perfectly giddy about becoming one, irreversibly, after so many years of casting the equivalent of a provisional ballot regarding her nationality.

Speaking of ballots, one of the 100 possible questions on the citizenship test asks: “Name one right only for United States citizens.” Correct response: to vote in a federal election. The naturalization ceremony included advice to register in time for Nov. 5, which my wife followed to the letter.

Since then, she has been getting ready for her first U.S. vote as zealously as she prepared for the naturalization process: reading sample ballots, studying the résumés of obscure candidates for minor offices, channel-surfing live coverage of Donald Trump and Kamala Harris rallies, doomscrolling poll trackers. It's charming, even inspiring. On the whole, though, I'm glad it's almost over.

Charles Lane is a deputy opinion editor and columnist for The Washington Post.

Disaster fatigue is a real thing. We need a cure.

By KEVIN FRAZIER

The Fulcrum

Before I left for the airport to attend a conference in Washington, D.C., I double checked with my wife that she was OK with me leaving while a hurricane was brewing in the Gulf of Mexico. We had been in Miami for a little more than a year at that point, and it doesn't take long to become acutely attentive to storms when you live in Florida. Storms nowadays form faster, hit harder and stay longer.

Ignorance of the weather is not an option. It's tiring.

I arrived in Washington and incessantly checked the weather. Each hour introduced a new wrinkle in the forecast. And, as a result, another text to my wife — asking how hurricane prep was going, pledging I'd make my way home and nudging her to cross her fingers for a little longer. I carried on in hopes that it would be another instance of a storm shifting direction — subjecting some other community to its wrath (a horrible thought that you just can't think too long about).

The storm didn't shift. My schedule had to change. Twelve hours after landing in D.C., I found myself again going through TSA, finding a quick meal and praying my flight would take off (and land) smoothly. I arrived home around 12:30 a.m. and slept on the couch to avoid waking up the dog (and, by extension, my wife). We woke up and continued the storm prep. Our friends and family called to check in. Our coworkers asked if we'd be on time to various meetings. The storm protocol

carried on.

The storm shifted. Well, at least a little. Miami didn't experience nearly as much devastation, flooding and harm as its neighbors to the north. We breathed an odd and awkward sigh of relief. What a terrible feeling. The two of us were exhausted. But home. Safe. Warm. Many couldn't say the same.

Our policies should reflect the reality that preparedness must become our new normal.

It's going to be hard to keep this up when more storms head our way. The local weatherman who cried “Category 5!” becomes a little less reputable after even one storm dives in a new direction. The email from the landlord encouraging you to stockpile supplies seems a little over the top. It's all emotionally, physically and, in some cases, monetarily expensive.

For all those reasons it's not surprising why some people become numb to emergency warnings.

Disaster fatigue is a real thing. We need a cure.

Our interconnected, chaotic and turbulent world is going to continue to test us. Storms will keep coming. Political turmoil won't just disappear. Economic swings will continue.

Tranquility is officially a scarce commodity. Individually, we must remain vigilant and resist the temptation to hope that the latest storm, stock market drop or otherwise crisis isn't going to take us out. Societally, we need to make it easier to transition from the status quo to prepped for the worst-case scenario.

The solution is raising our collective level of preparedness across every dimension. With respect to natural disasters, periods of smooth seas and clear skies should be used to spread emergency kits. Storms like Helene show that even so-called climate havens like Asheville, N.C., need to be ready for the worst.

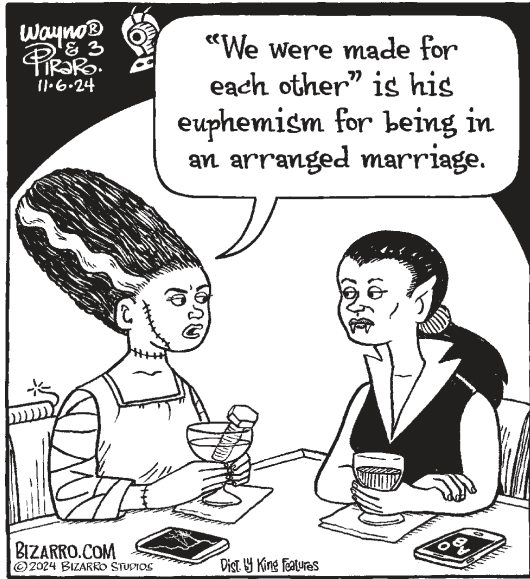
When it comes to political stability, we ought to continue to explore ways to decrease the partisan temperature. This may include greater investment in local news outlets that can make sure folks have alternatives to social media for essential information.

And, in light of financial uncertainty, we should develop and encourage novel means to bolster the size of the average savings account. This may take the form of traditional tax incentives to reward wise financial decisions to more creative approaches like savings lotteries in which each dollar saved increases the odds of earning a jackpot of sorts.

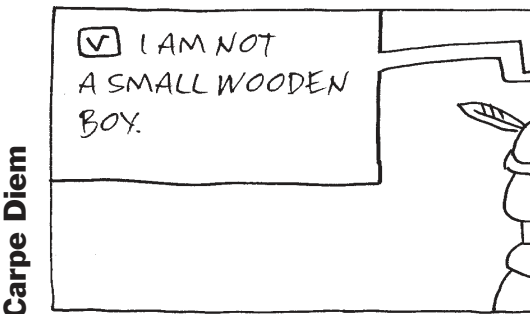
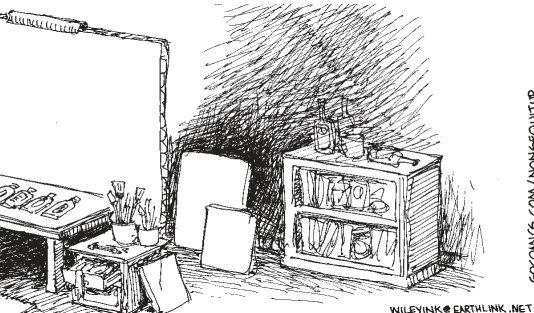
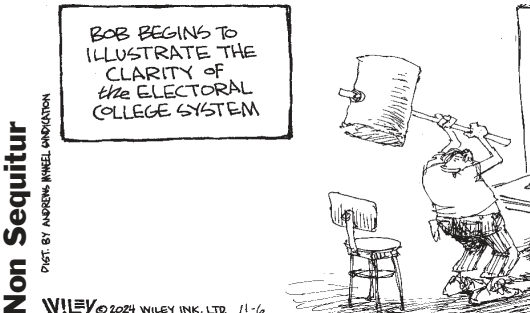
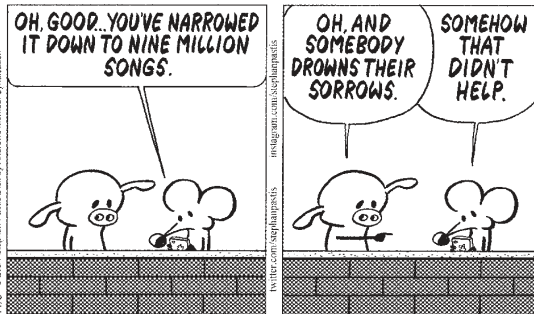
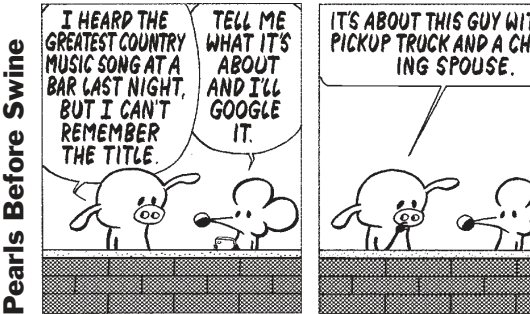
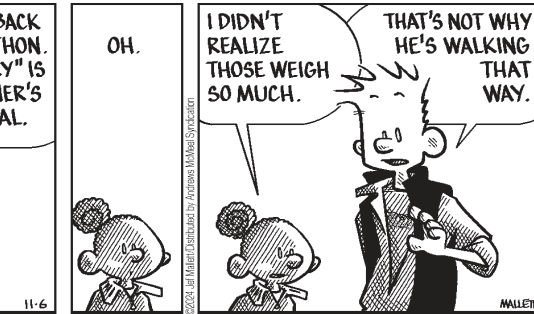
Disasters aren't going away. Our policies should reflect the reality that preparedness must become our new normal. It's not fun. It won't be easy. But it's necessary.

Kevin Frazier is an assistant professor at the Crump College of Law at St. Thomas University and a Tarbell fellow.

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 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | 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 | | |
| 56 | | | | | 57 | | | | | 58 | | |
| 59 | | | | | 60 | | | | | 61 | | |

ACROSS

- 1 Periodical, for short
- 4 Grant of "Notorious"
- 8 Historic times
- 12 Tempe sch.
- 13 Region
- 14 Use scissors
- 15 — glance
- 16 Soft luxury accessory
- 18 Old Testament book
- 20 "Quiet!"
- 21 C&W artist McEntire
- 24 "The Tower" poet
- 28 Productive caterpillar
- 32 Legal document
- 33 Inventor Whitney
- 34 Houston ball club, briefly
- 36 Bearded beast
- 37 Mountain ht.
- 39 Streep film of 1983
- 41 Early PC software
- 43 Woodland grazer
- 44 Carried out
- 46 Printing errors
- 50 "Leave the Door Open" duo
- 55 Shock partner
- 56 "Frozen" snow queen
- 57 Screen legend Lillian

- 58 Bubble —
- 59 Saturates
- 60 Actor Sinise
- 61 Nine-digit ID

DOWN

- 1 Sir's partner
- 2 Wine region
- 3 Avocado dip, for short
- 4 They're nuts
- 5 Onassis nickname
- 6 Seminary subj.
- 7 Talks nonstop
- 8 Shun
- 9 Genetic letters
- 10 Melody
- 11 Suntan lotion letters
- 17 Bashful
- 19 Noah's craft
- 22 Automaton, for short
- 23 Extra Dry deodorant
- 25 Jason's ship
- 26 Baseball's Martinez
- 27 Poker type
- 28 Appear
- 29 Misfortunes
- 30 Fibbed
- 31 Burrowing critter
- 35 Lacking detail
- 38 Screwdriver spirits
- 40 Like some humor
- 42 Serena, to Venus
- 45 Rapper Snoop —
- 47 Bits of butter
- 48 Has bills
- 49 Writer O'Casey
- 50 Stitch
- 51 — -de-France
- 52 U.S. Army vessel
- 53 Actress Vardalos
- 54 Medit. nation

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | I | G | S | | D | A | Y | S | | H | A | H | | |
| A | N | E | W | | I | M | S | O | | A | L | E | | |
| W | A | T | E | R | M | I | L | L | | N | O | R | | |
| | | | | | A | Y | E | S | | U | D | D | E | R |
| C | A | S | T | E | | | A | B | E | T | | | | |
| L | E | T | S | | M | I | L | L | W | O | R | K | | |
| A | R | I | | R | O | S | I | E | | W | O | N | | |
| W | O | R | K | H | A | R | D | | F | E | T | E | | |
| | | | | F | O | Y | T | | M | E | L | E | | |
| M | E | R | I | T | | T | E | A | M | | | | | |
| E | L | I | | H | A | R | D | W | A | T | E | R | | |
| T | S | E | | M | I | I | I | | L | I | N | T | | |
| S | A | D | | S | L | O | T | | E | P | E | E | | |

11-6

CRYPTOQUIP

GRAAEHSEIP HZEKY CUBVG
 DFEAEGD BH TRCT KXEKYRID
 GXCG EIXCUEG C XCVIGRT
 XBVDR: "FBVZGASPREDG."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A HIGH-FAT, PEAR-SHAPED FRUIT DID SOME VIGOROUS AEROBICS, MIGHT THAT BE TERMED "AVOCARDIO"?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals T

SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Monday's men's scores

EAST

Army 67, Albany (NY) 59
 Boston College 69, The Citadel 60
 Bryant 105, Dean 63
 Bucknell 85, Delaware 73
 Columbia 81, Loyola (Md.) 78
 Cornell 93, Maryland 52
 Dartmouth 129, Northern Vermont-Lyn-
 don 47
 Drexel 95, Georgian Court 43
 George Washington 76, Mercyhurst 59
 Harvard 79, Marist 66
 Hofstra 89, Old Westbury 62
 La Salle 65, American 52
 Lipscomb 77, Duquesne 72
 Marshall 90, Davis & Elkins 57
 Maryland 79, Manhattan 49
 Mass.-Lowell 115, Rivier 59
 Morgan St. 89, Frostburg St. 76
 Mount St. Mary's 98, Gators 62
 Niagara 100, Houghton 65
 Northeastern 80, Boston U. 72
 Penn 58, NJIT 57
 Penn St. 108, Binghamton 66
 Pittsburgh 96, Radford 56
 Princeton 81, Iona 80
 Providence 59, CCSU 55
 Rhode Island 96, Fairfield 58
 Saint Joseph's 70, Navy 63
 Seton Hall 57, St. Peter's 53
 Siena 72, Brown 71, OT
 St. Bonaventure 70, CS Northridge 56
 St. John's 92, Fordham 60
 Stonehill 81, Framingham St. 62
 Syracuse 86, Le Moyne 82
 Temple 81, Sacred Heart 70
 UMBC 95, Penn St.-York 66
 UMass 103, New Hampshire 74
 Villanova 75, Lafayette 63
 West Virginia 87, Robert Morris 59
 Yale 88, Quinnipiac 62

SOUTH

Alabama 110, UNC-Asheville 54
 Austin Peay 95, Union (Tenn.) 75
 Belmont 93, Maryville (Tenn.) 70
 Buffalo 83, Old Dominion 82
 Campbell 96, Pfeiffer 49
 Cent. Michigan 74, South Alabama 70
 Charlotte 88, Presbyterian 79
 Clemson 91, Charleston Southern 64
 Coastal Carolina 60, W. Michigan 56
 Davidson 88, William Peace 47
 Duke 96, Maine 62
 E. Kentucky 98, Alice Lloyd 69
 ETSU 72, Newberry 51
 East Carolina 97, NC Wesleyan 70
 Florida 98, South Florida 83
 Florida St. 74, N. Kentucky 62
 Furman 104, Columbia (SC) 46
 George Mason 75, NC Central 58
 Georgia 83, Tennessee Tech 78
 Georgia Southern 80, N. Illinois 65
 Georgia St. 71, Ball St. 66
 Grambling St. 92, Southern (NO) 42
 Hampton 110, Mid-Atlantic Christian 53
 Jacksonville 78, Trinity Baptist 65
 Jacksonville St. 112, LaGrange 48
 James Madison 88, Ohio 78
 Kent St. 70, Louisiana-Lafayette 66
 Kentucky 103, Wright St. 62
 Longwood 79, Randolph 68
 Louisiana Tech 77, LSU-Alexandria 50
 Louisiana-Monroe 111, Champion Chris-
 tian 61

Louisville 93, Morehead St. 45
 Memphis 83, Missouri 75
 Miami (Ohio) 77, Appalachian St. 63
 Miami 113, Fairleigh Dickinson 72
 Middle Tennessee 97, Oglethorpe 51
 Mississippi 90, LIU 60
 Mississippi St. 95, West Georgia 60
 Murray St. 113, Bethel (TN) 37
 NC A&T 107, Wolves 55
 NC State 97, SC-Upstate 66
 Norfolk St. 96, Penn St.-Wilkes-Barre 41
 North Carolina 90, Elon 76
 North Florida 74, South Carolina 71
 Northwestern St. 96, Dallas Christian 55
 Queens (NC) 90, Lynchburg 39
 SC State 137, Morris 55
 SE Louisiana 91, William Carey 53
 Samford 100, Mississippi College 58
 Southern Miss. 77, Bowling Green 68
 Stetson 94, Mighty Banyans 75
 Tennessee 80, Gardner-Webb 64
 Tennessee St. 96, Fisk 66
 Troy 84, Toledo 74
 Tulane 76, Louisiana College 42
 UCF 64, Texas A&M 61
 UNC-Greensboro 73, Florida Gulf Coast

64
 UNC-Wilmington 143, Mount Olive 91
 VCU 84, Bellarmine 65
 VMI 103, Washington College (Md.) 54
 Vanderbilt 102, Md.-Eastern Shore 63
 Vermont 67, UAB 62
 Virginia Tech 83, Delaware St. 60
 W. Carolina 100, Bob Jones 61
 Wake Forest 64, Coppin St. 49
 Wichita St. 91, W. Kentucky 84
 William & Mary 84, Dickinson 36
 Winthrop 125, Piedmont 65
 Wofford 112, Erskine 58

MIDWEST

Bradley 88, SE Missouri 60
 Butler 72, Missouri St. 65
 Cincinnati 109, Ark.-Pine Bluff 54
 Coll. of Charleston 90, S. Illinois 80
 Dayton 87, St. Francis (Pa.) 57
 DePaul 80, S. Indiana 78, OT
 Detroit 91, Cougars 52
 Drake 93, York (Neb.) 41
 FAU 97, Indiana St. 64
 Fort Wayne 99, Bluffton 47
 IUPUI 100, Crimson Pride 44
 Ill.-Chicago 91, St. Francis (Ill.) 43
 Illinois 112, E. Illinois 67
 Iowa 89, Texas A&M Commerce 67
 Iowa St. 83, MVSU 44
 Kansas 87, Howard 57
 Liberty 83, Valparaiso 63
 Loyola Chicago 79, Chicago St. 72
 Marquette 102, Stony Brook 62
 Michigan 101, Cleveland St. 53
 Michigan St. 81, Monmouth (NJ) 57
 Milwaukee 118, Lakeland 62
 N. Dakota St. 96, Jamestown 59

N. Iowa 96, Dubuque 54
 Nebraska 87, Texas Rio Grande Valley 67
 Northwestern 90, Lehigh 46
 Oakland 75, Defiance 52
 Omaha 85, Mid-America Christian 69
 Purdue 90, Texas A&M-CC 73
 S. Dakota St. 80, McNeese St. 73
 SIU-Edwardsville 95, Westminster (Mo.)

42
 South Dakota 93, Southern U. 79
 St. Thomas (MN) 96, North Central 71
 UT Martin 67, Illinois St. 65
 Wisconsin 85, Holy Cross 61
 Xavier 78, Texas Southern 69

SOUTHWEST

Abilene Christian 107, Howard Payne 74
 Arkansas St. 80, Akron 75, OT
 Houston 97, Jackson St. 40
 Houston Christian 86, Avila 59
 Lamar 113, Paul Quinn 42
 Ohio St. 80, Texas 72
 Oklahoma 93, Lindenwood (Mo.) 60
 Oklahoma St. 89, Green Bay 76
 Prairie View 111, Ambassadors 90
 SMU 96, Tarleton St. 62
 Stephen F. Austin 85, Dallas 51
 TCU 105, Florida A&M 59
 Texas St. 64, E. Michigan 44
 Texas-Arlington 90, North Texas at Dal-
 las 55
 Tulsa 82, Northeastern St. 68
 UALR 84, Arkansas Baptist 64
 UTEP 102, Sul Ross St. 55
 UTSA 103, Trinity (Texas) 77

FAR WEST

Arizona 93, Canisius 64
 Cal Baptist 83, Incarnate Word 73
 California 86, CS Bakersfield 78
 Colorado 76, E. Washington 56
 Colorado St. 82, North Dakota 56
 Gonzaga 101, Baylor 93
 Grand Canyon 89, Cal St.-Fullerton 79
 Idaho 94, Northwest U. 60
 Long Beach St. 93, La Verne 48
 Loyola Marymount 99, Life Pacific 56
 Montana 92, Hawaii Hilo 61
 N. Arizona 100, Park University Gilbert 49
 N. Colorado 75, Colorado College 55
 Nevada 91, Sam Houston St. 75
 New Mexico 91, Nicholls 84
 New Mexico St. 93, N.M. Highlands 57
 North Alabama 73, Air Force 57
 Oregon 91, UC Riverside 76
 Oregon St. 80, Utah Tech 57
 Pacific 92, William Jessup 65
 S. Utah 96, W. New Mexico 68
 Saint Mary's (Cal.) 76, Towson 69
 Santa Clara 85, Saint Louis 78
 Southern Cal 77, Chattanooga 51
 Stanford 85, Denver 62
 UC Irvine 82, Chapman 52
 UC Santa Barbara 96, San Francisco St.

47
 UCLA 85, Rider 50
 UMKC 91, Hannibal-LaGrange 68
 UNLV 93, Alabama St. 79
 Utah 100, Alcorn St. 59
 Utah Valley St. 92, W. Colorado 57
 W. Illinois 59, San Jose St. 55
 Washington St. 100, Portland St. 92
 Weber St. 118, Northwest Indian 35
 Wyoming 108, Concordia (St.P.) 85

Men's AP Top 25 schedule

Wednesday's games

No. 3 UConn (0-0) vs. Sacred Heart (0-0)
 No. 11 Auburn (0-0) vs. Vermont (0-0)
 No. 15 Creighton (0-0) vs. Texas Rio
 Grande Valley (0-0)
 No. 16 Arkansas (0-0) vs. Lipscomb (0-0)
 No. 17 Indiana (0-0) vs. SIU-Edwardsville
 (0-0)
 No. 25 Rutgers (0-0) vs. Wagner (0-0)

Thursday's games

No. 21 Florida (0-0) vs. Jacksonville (0-0)

Friday's games

No. 1 Kansas (0-0) vs. No. 9 North Caroli-
 na (0-0)
 No. 2 Alabama (0-0) vs. Arkansas St. (0-0)
 No. 7 Duke (0-0) vs. Army (0-0)
 No. 13 Texas A&M (0-0) vs. Texas A&M
 Commerce (0-0)
 No. 14 Purdue (0-0) vs. N. Kentucky (0-0)
 No. 18 Marquette (0-0) vs. George Mason
 (0-0)
 No. 19 Texas (0-0) vs. Houston Christian
 (0-0)
 No. 20 Cincinnati (0-0) vs. Morehead St.
 (0-0)
 No. 22 UCLA (0-0) vs. New Mexico (0-0) at
 Henderson, Nev.,
 No. 24 Mississippi (0-0) vs. Grambling St.
 (0-0)

Monday's women's scores

EAST

Adelphi 58, Fordham 50
 Binghamton 79, Pitt.-Johnstown 34
 Boston College 85, Lafayette 55
 Boston U. 60, Northeastern 48
 Bryant 65, Merrimack 50
 Buffalo 80, Troy 78
 Colgate 74, Mass.-Lowell 62
 Columbia 87, Stony Brook 47
 Cornell 60, Army 54
 Delaware St. 71, Georgian Court 44
 Duquesne 76, Princeton 66
 Fairleigh Dickinson 79, Dominican (NY)

57
 George Washington 78, Delaware 66
 Harvard 71, UMass 58
 Lehigh 83, LIU Brooklynn 59
 Maine 65, La Salle 51
 Maryland 74, UMBC 32
 NJIT 80, St. Francis (Pa.) 60
 Navy 74, Rider 52
 New Hampshire 83, Worcester St. 34
 Penn St. 90, Bucknell 68
 Providence 64, Mercy 32
 Quinnipiac 78, Holy Cross 74
 Rhode Island 68, Stonehill 45
 Richmond 79, Temple 72
 Rutgers 85, Manhattan 79
 Sacred Heart 63, Hofstra 58
 St. John's 80, St. Peter's 39
 Vermont 62, Missouri 46

Wagner 83, Saint Elizabeth 39
 Yale 64, Monmouth (NJ) 61

SOUTH

Alabama 115, New Orleans 53
 Alabama St. 70, Faulkner 58
 Auburn 65, S. Illinois 31
 Bethel (Tenn.) 64, Austin Peay 52
 Campbell 72, Mount Olive 29
 Charlotte 77, Presbyterian 63
 Chattanooga 66, Shorter 49
 Clemson 78, Jackson St. 44
 Coll. of Charleston 124, Meredith College

26
 Coppin St. 72, Frostburg St. 70
 Duke 89, Radford 36
 Elon 66, High Point 65
 FIU 132, Florida National 25
 Florida 82, FAU 54
 Florida St. 119, North Florida 49
 Furman 60, SC State 54
 Gardner-Webb 67, West Georgia 63
 George Mason 106, Johnson C. Smith 51
 Georgia 96, NC Central 52
 Georgia Tech 85, Winthrop 39
 Grambling St. 131, Centenary 30
 Hampton 65, Bowie St. 55
 Howard 78, Florida A&M 66
 Kennesaw St. 72, Life University 53
 Kentucky 98, SC-Upstate 43
 LSU 95, E. Kentucky 44
 Liberty 77, Valparaiso 58
 Longwood 81, Lincoln (Pa.) 70
 Louisiana Tech 53, Nicholls 51
 Louisiana-Monroe 117, Central Baptist

60
 McNeese St. 99, Chargers 19
 Memphis 89, MVSU 78
 Mercer 75, UNC-Asheville 52
 Miami 78, Stetson 53
 Middle Tennessee 79, N. Kentucky 58
 Morehead St. 92, Asbury 80
 Morgan St. 77, Shepherd 64
 Norfolk St. 70, William & Mary 49
 North Alabama 66, UT Martin 63
 North Carolina 83, Charleston Southern

53
 SE Louisiana 79, Millsaps 45
 South Alabama 63, Delta St. 56
 South Carolina 68, Michigan 62
 South Florida 87, Bethune-Cookman 44
 Tennessee St. 72, Cumberland (Tenn.) 62
 Tennessee Tech 82, Emory & Henry 54
 UAB 78, West Alabama 47
 UCLA 66, Louisville 59
 UNC-Greensboro 91, North Greenville 31
 Vanderbilt 102, Lipscomb 50
 Virginia 104, American 68
 Virginia Tech 99, UNC-Wilmington 57
 W. Carolina 119, Warren Wilson 36
 Wake Forest 102, Queens (NC) 40
 Wofford 76, Newberry 27

MIDWEST

Akron 81, Georgia St. 73
 Ball St. 60, Old Dominion 46
 Bellarmine 88, Indiana-Southeast 56
 Bowling Green 71, Southern Miss. 67
 Coastal Carolina 65, Cent. Michigan 62
 Drake 84, N. Dakota St. 78
 Georgia Southern 82, Ohio 70
 Indiana 82, Brown 60
 Iowa St. 96, Chicago St. 56
 James Madison 67, Kent St. 56
 Kansas St. 92, Green Bay 45
 Loyola Chicago 91, Kentucky St. 56
 Miami (Ohio) 75, Appalachian St. 48
 Minnesota 89, CCSU 48
 Missouri-St. Louis 60, SIU-Edwardsville

54
 N. Illinois 57, Louisiana-Lafayette 55
 Nebraska 88, Omaha 48
 Notre Dame 105, Mercyhurst 61
 S. Indiana 100, Brescia 49
 Saint Louis 85, South Dakota 83, OT
 St. Thomas (MN) 84, Milwaukee 81, OT
 Texas St. 75, E. Michigan 71
 Toledo 71, Marshall 68
 W. Kentucky 71, Indiana St. 59
 W. Michigan 61, Arkansas St. 52
 Wichita St. 66, Oklahoma Christian 52

SOUTHWEST

Abilene Christian 95, Southwest 38
 Cent. Arkansas 104, Hendrix 30
 Fairfield 81, Arkansas 67
 Lamar 98, Jaguars 62
 North Texas 84, Alcorn St. 65
 Oklahoma 76, Southern U. 44
 Oklahoma St. 96, Ark.-Pine Bluff 43
 Oral Roberts 99, Northeastern St. 74
 S. Dakota St. 65, Rice 63
 SMU 77, NC A&T 64
 Stephen F. Austin 86, Texas Southern 45
 Texas A&M Commerce 75, North Texas
 at Dallas 50
 Texas A&M-CC 62, Texas A&M 56
 Texas Tech 78, Incarnate Word 48
 UTEP 52, Tarleton St. 49

FAR WEST

Air Force 94, Regis 64
 Arizona 73, Texas-Arlington 54
 Arizona St. 74, Jacksonville St. 66
 Boise St. 87, E. Oregon 57
 CS Northridge 70, La Sierra 56
 California 90, Saint Mary's (Cal) 58
 Colorado 56, Wyoming 50
 Colorado Christian 73, Denver 66
 Colorado St. 52, San Francisco 47
 Fresno St. 72, Fresno Pacific 46
 Grand Canyon 93, CS Bakersfield 52
 Idaho St. 91, Arizona Christian 52
 Montana St. 92, Chadron St. 28
 N. Arizona 80, New Mexico 78
 N. Colorado 66, Bulldogs 64
 New Mexico St. 57, UC Irvine 49
 Oregon 93, Cal Baptist 63
 Pacific 87, CS Stanislaus 47
 Pepperdine 59, Cal St.-Fullerton 57
 Sacramento St. 78, William Jessup 51
 San Diego St. 76, CS San Marcos 48
 Santa Clara 73, UC Riverside 60
 Southern Cal 68, Mississippi 66
 Stanford 107, Le Moyne 43
 UC Davis 93, Simpson (Cal.) 36
 UC San Diego 86, Occidental 51
 UMKC 80, Utah St. 77
 UNLV 73, Loyola Marymount 57
 Utah 105, S. Utah 57
 Utah Tech 87, Northern New Mexico 66
 Washington 95, Seattle 53
 Washington St. 83, E. Washington 82, OT
 Weber St. 94, Park University-Gilbert 41

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

AP Top 25 schedule

Saturday's games

No. 1 Oregon (9-0) vs. Maryland (4-4)
 No. 2 Georgia (7-1) at No. 16 Mississippi
 (7-2)
 No. 3 Ohio St. (7-1) vs. Purdue (1-7)
 No. 4 Miami (9-0) at Georgia Tech (5-4)
 No. 5 Texas (7-1) vs. Florida (4-4)
 No. 6 Penn St. (7-1) vs. Washington (5-4)
 No. 7 Tennessee (7-1) vs. Mississippi St.
 (2-7)
 No. 8 Indiana (9-0) vs. Michigan (5-4)
 No. 9 BYU (8-0) at Utah (4-4)
 No. 10 Notre Dame (7-1) vs. Florida St.
 (1-8)
 No. 11 Alabama (6-2) at No. 14 LSU (6-2)
 No. 12 Boise St. (7-1) vs. Nevada (3-7)
 No. 17 Iowa St. (7-1) at Kansas (2-6)
 No. 18 Army (8-0) at North Texas (5-3)
 No. 19 Clemson (6-2) at Virginia Tech
 (5-4)
 No. 20 Washington St. (7-1) vs. Utah St.
 (2-6)
 No. 21 Colorado (6-2) at Texas Tech (6-3)
 No. 23 Pittsburgh (7-1) vs. Virginia (4-4)

No. 24 Vanderbilt (6-3) vs. South Carolina
 (5-3)

Schedule

Wednesday's games MIDWEST

N. Illinois (4-4) at W. Michigan (5-3)
 Ohio (5-3) at Kent St. (0-8)

Thursday's games SOUTH

Appalachian St. (4-4) at Coastal Carolina
 (4-4)
 FAU (2-6) at East Carolina (4-4)

Friday's games EAST

Dartmouth (6-1) at Princeton (2-5)

SOUTH

California (4-4) at Wake Forest (4-4)
 Rice (3-6) at Memphis (7-2)

FAR WEST

Iowa (6-3) at UCLA (3-5)
 New Mexico (3-6) at San Diego St. (3-5)

PRO SOCCER

MLS playoffs

First Round

Best-of-three x-if necessary Eastern Conference Cincinnati 1, New York City 1

Cincinnati 1, New York City 0
 New York City 3, Cincinnati 1
Sunday, Nov. 9: at Cincinnati

Orlando 1, Charlotte FC 1

Orlando 2, Charlotte FC 0
 Charlotte FC 0, Orlando 0, Charlotte wins
 3-1 on penalty kicks
Saturday: at Orlando

New York 2, Columbus 0

New York 1, Columbus 0
 New York 2, Columbus 2, New York wins
 5-4 on penalty kicks

Miami 1, Atlanta 1

Miami 2, Atlanta 1
 Atlanta 2, Miami 1
Saturday: at Miami

Western Conference Seattle 2, Houston 0

Houston 0, Seattle 0, Seattle wins 5-4 on

penalty kicks
 Seattle 1, Houston 1, Seattle wins 7-6 on
 penalty kicks

Los Angeles FC 1, Vancouver 1

Los Angeles FC 2, Vancouver 1
Sunday: Vancouver 3, Los Angeles FC 0
Friday: at Los Angeles FC

Minnesota 2, Real Salt Lake 0

Minnesota 0, Real Salt Lake 0, Minnesota
 wins 5-4 on penalty kicks
 Minnesota 1, Real Salt Lake 1, Minnesota
 wins 3-1 o penalty kicks

LA Galaxy 2, Colorado 0

LA Galaxy 5, Colorado 0
 LA Galaxy 4, Colorado 1

NWSL playoffs

Quarterfinals Friday's game

Orlando vs. Chicago

Saturday's game

Kansas City vs. North Carolina

Sunday's games

Washington vs. Bay FC
 Gotham FC vs. Portland

DEALS

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Claimed RHP
 Thaddeus Ward off waivers from Wash-
 ington and C Rene Pinto from Tampa Bay.
 Exercised club options on RHP Seranthony
 Dominguez, INF/OF Ryan O'Hearn, and
 LHP Cionel Perez. Reinstated RHPs Felix
 Bautista, Kyle Bradish and Tyler Wells and
 INF/OF Jorge Mateo from the 60-day IL.
BOSTON RED SOX — Exercised club op-
 tion on OF Rob Refsnyder's. Reinstated
 RHPs Isaiah Campbell, Lucas Giolito, Liam
 Hendriks, Bryan Mata and Garrett Whit-
 lock and LHP Chris Murphy from the 60-
 day IL.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Sent RHP Matt
 Foster outright to Charlotte (IL).

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Reinstated
 RHPs Trevor Stephan and James Karinch-
 chak and LHP Sam Hentges from the 60-
 day IL. Sent CF Myles Straw outright to Co-
 lumbus (IL).

DETROIT TIGERS — Reinstated RHP Alex
 Faedo and SS Javier Baez from the 60-day
 IL.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Acquired OF Taylor
 Trammell from the New York Yankees in
 exchange for cash considerations.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Declined player
 options on OF Hunter Renfroe and RHP
 Chris Stratton.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Reinstated 3B
 Luis Rengifo, LHP Patrick Sandoval and
 RHP Kevin Caceres from the 60-day IL. Re-
 leased LHP Kenny Rosenberg.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Claimed RHPs
 Justin Sterner off waivers from Tampa Bay
 and Anthony Maldonado from Miami.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Selected RHP
 Blas Castano from Tacoma (PCL). Reins-
 tated RHPs Matt Brash and Jackson Ko-
 war and INF/OF Sam Haggerty from the 60-
 day IL.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Reinstated RHP Ja-
 cob Waguespack and LHP Shane McClan-
 anahan from the 60-day IL.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Reinstated RHPs
 Alek Manoah and Jordan Romano, OF
 Daulton Varsho and INF Will Wagner from
 the 60-day IL. Waived INF Luis De Los San-
 tos.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Claimed
 RHP Seth Martinez off waivers from Hous-
 ton.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Exercised club op-
 tion for DH Marcell Ozuna and declined op-
 tions on RHP Luke Jackson and C Travis
 d'Arnaud. Reinstated OF Ronald Acuna Jr.,
 LHPs Ray Kerr and Angel Perdomo and
 RHPs Spencer Strider and Huascar Ynoa

MLB

Options: Soto 'available for all 30 teams' in free agency

FROM PAGE 24
opens this week:

No Yankee discount

This class may be deep, but there's no doubt the No. 1 prize is Soto. The four-time All-Star already has 201 career homers, a career .421 on-base percentage and helped lead the New York Yankees to the World Series before losing in five games to the Dodgers.

He's also just 26 years old.

The Yankees would love to keep Soto, who teamed with Aaron Judge to become a formidable pair for the Bronx Bombers. But it's unclear how much owner Hal Steinbrenner is willing to spend on a player who could command a contract in the range of \$500 million.

Soto didn't tip his hand after New York's disappointing exit in the Fall Classic, but it doesn't sound like he's willing to sign for a discount.

"I'm going to be available for all 30 teams," Soto said. "I don't want to say anybody has any advantage because at the end of the day, we're going to look at what they have and how much they want me."

Tough calls for Mets

One of the more intriguing teams to watch over the coming months is the New York Mets, who overcame a slow start to advance all the way to the NL Championship Series before losing to the Dodgers.

Alonso has been a big part of the Mets' lineup for the past six seasons, mashing 226 homers. Maanaea, Luis Severino and José Quintana are also on the market after all were important pieces of the pitching rotation.

Now the franchise must decide whether to keep them, build anew,

or do a mixture of both. There's a lot of pressure on the team to improve, especially because it doesn't seem like the crosstown Yankees are going to stop winning anytime soon.

Vets seek resurgence

It'll be fascinating to see what happens with veterans like Paul Goldschmidt, Walker Buehler, Shane Bieber and Carlos Santana. These are guys who have some miles (and surgeries) on their bodies, but have been great big leaguers for a long time.

Goldschmidt was the 2022 NL MVP for the St. Louis Cardinals, but his offensive production took a dive over the past few years. Still, he's a first baseman that's good in the clubhouse and keeps his body in excellent shape.

Buehler came back from his second Tommy John surgery this season. There were several ups and downs, though his sterling performance in the World Series is reason to believe he has plenty left. He threw six scoreless innings against the Yankees, including a scoreless ninth to clinch the series in Game 5.

Boras is back

Baseball superagent Scott Boras has long been considered one of the best in the business, although last year's offseason wasn't among his finest.

Several of his clients — including Snell, Matt Chapman, Jordan Montgomery and Cody Bellinger — didn't sign until spring training, yet didn't command the high-dollar, long-term deals they were seeking. Instead, most ended up signing short-term deals.

Boras will be a major factor again this offseason, representing many of the major free agents, including Soto, Burnes, Alonso, Snell and Bregman.



NOAH K. MURRAY/AP

Despite an injury-filled 2024, Gerrit Cole is still a valuable commodity for the New York Yankees, having won the 2023 Cy Young Award and posting a 2.17 ERA in five playoff starts this October.

Cole to stay with Yankees under his existing contract

BY RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Gerrit Cole gave up his opt-out right Monday and will remain with the New York Yankees under a contract that runs through 2028 rather than become a free agent.

New York's ace initially exercised his right to terminate the \$324 million, nine-year deal, which has \$144 million and four years remaining. That decision triggered a two-day window for the Yankees to add a \$36 million salary for 2029, which would void the opt out.

Given the short time frame after the team's World Series-ending loss Wednesday night, both sides extended the bargaining period until 5 p.m. EST Monday, the deadline for option decisions in the collective bargaining agreement. As the deadline approached, both sides agreed to rescind their rights and worked out the language with Major League Baseball and the players' association.

"Maybe the grass isn't always greener," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "I think he's happy where he's at. I think he likes our setup. I think he likes playing for who he's playing for

and working for. And I think he likes his teammates. And I think he thinks we have a legitimate chance to win."

Cashman said the talks included himself, Cole, agent Scott Boras, Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner and team president Randy Levine.

"Gerrit and Hal have built a close relationship, and remaining a Yankee was important to both," Boras said in an email to The Associated Press. "All understood further time was needed to advance discussions."

Cashman said Cole's "career hopefully will finish with the Yankees. Whether that's at the end of this contract or anything in the future, we can still talk through that. But the most important thing is, the biggest first step is we have our ace back and we're excited about that."

A 34-year-old right-hander, Cole won the 2023 AL Cy Young Award. His 2024 season didn't start until June 19 because of nerve irritation and edema in his right elbow. The six-time All-Star went 8-5 with a 3.41 ERA in 17 starts, and then was 1-0 with a 2.17 ERA in five postseason starts.

Cashman said Cole didn't need any medical procedures and New York hopes he is healthy.

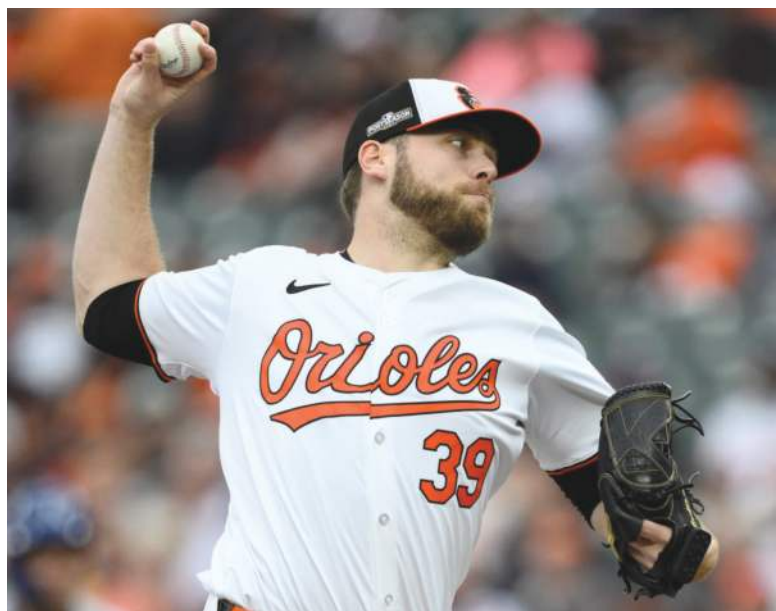
"But how many pitchers are, right?" Cashman said. "I'll go through the free-agent meetings and I'll go through all the players in the marketplace that are over a certain age and they're all going to have their warts and some pitch with them and some can't pitch with them. But he's obviously made us feel really good about how he came back."

Cole's decision gives the Yankees six potential rotation returnees, a group that includes Carlos Rodón, Clarke Schmidt, Luis Gil, Nestor Cortes and Marcus Stroman.

In addition, the Yankees made a \$21.05 million qualifying offer to outfielder Juan Soto, who is certain to reject it, but did not make one to second baseman Gleyber Torres. New York would not get draft-pick compensation if Torres signs elsewhere.

Cashman said the club is not averse to including deferred compensation in contracts. Yankees deals have generally not included that.

"We're open to deferrals," he said. "A lot of times players are less open to doing deferrals for us than they are for maybe other markets. But if we can do stuff that benefits us, of course we will."



NICK WASS/AP

Corbin Burnes will likely be the most coveted starting pitcher on the free-agent market this offseason after going 15-9 with a 2.92 ERA in 32 starts for the Baltimore Orioles in 2024.

NBA

Scoreboard

| Eastern Conference | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|----|-------|-----|------|
| Atlantic Division | | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Boston | 7 | 1 | .875 | — | |
| New York | 3 | 3 | .500 | 3 | |
| Brooklyn | 4 | 4 | .500 | 3 | |
| Toronto | 2 | 6 | .250 | 5 | |
| Philadelphia | 1 | 5 | .167 | 5 | |
| Southeast Division | | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Miami | 3 | 3 | .500 | — | |
| Orlando | 3 | 5 | .375 | 1 | |
| Atlanta | 3 | 5 | .375 | 1 | |
| Washington | 2 | 4 | .333 | 1 | |
| Charlotte | 2 | 5 | .286 | 1½ | |
| Central Division | | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Cleveland | 8 | 0 | 1.000 | — | |
| Chicago | 3 | 4 | .429 | 4½ | |
| Indiana | 3 | 4 | .429 | 4½ | |
| Detroit | 3 | 5 | .375 | 5 | |
| Milwaukee | 1 | 6 | .143 | 6½ | |
| Western Conference | | | | | |
| Southwest Division | | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Houston | 4 | 3 | .571 | — | |
| Dallas | 4 | 3 | .571 | — | |
| Memphis | 4 | 4 | .500 | ½ | |
| San Antonio | 3 | 4 | .429 | 1 | |
| New Orleans | 3 | 5 | .375 | 1½ | |
| Northwest Division | | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Oklahoma City | 7 | 0 | 1.000 | — | |
| Minnesota | 4 | 3 | .571 | 3 | |
| Denver | 4 | 3 | .571 | 3 | |
| Portland | 3 | 5 | .375 | 4½ | |
| Utah | 1 | 6 | .143 | 6 | |
| Pacific Division | | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Phoenix | 6 | 1 | .857 | — | |
| Golden State | 6 | 1 | .857 | — | |
| L.A. Lakers | 4 | 3 | .571 | 2 | |
| Sacramento | 4 | 3 | .571 | 2 | |
| L.A. Clippers | 3 | 4 | .429 | 3 | |
| Sunday's games | | | | | |
| Detroit 106, Brooklyn 92 | | | | | |
| Atlanta 126, New Orleans 111 | | | | | |
| Dallas 108, Orlando 85 | | | | | |
| Monday's games | | | | | |
| Cleveland 116, Milwaukee 114 | | | | | |
| Denver 121, Toronto 119 | | | | | |
| Boston 123, Atlanta 93 | | | | | |
| Golden State 125, Washington 112 | | | | | |
| Detroit 115, L.A. Lakers 103 | | | | | |
| Sacramento 111, Miami 110 | | | | | |
| Brooklyn 106, Memphis 104 | | | | | |
| Houston 109, New York 97 | | | | | |
| Utah 135, Chicago 126 | | | | | |
| Minnesota 114, Charlotte 93 | | | | | |
| Oklahoma City 102, Orlando 86 | | | | | |
| Indiana 134, Dallas 127 | | | | | |
| Phoenix 118, Philadelphia 116 | | | | | |
| L.A. Clippers 113, San Antonio 104 | | | | | |
| Tuesday's games | | | | | |
| No games scheduled. | | | | | |
| Wednesday's games | | | | | |
| Detroit at Charlotte | | | | | |
| Orlando at Indiana | | | | | |
| Golden State at Boston | | | | | |
| New York at Atlanta | | | | | |
| Cleveland at New Orleans | | | | | |
| L.A. Lakers at Memphis | | | | | |
| San Antonio at Houston | | | | | |
| Chicago at Dallas | | | | | |
| Miami at Phoenix | | | | | |
| Oklahoma City at Denver | | | | | |
| Philadelphia at L.A. Clippers | | | | | |
| Toronto at Sacramento | | | | | |
| Thursday's games | | | | | |
| Minnesota at Chicago | | | | | |
| Portland at San Antonio | | | | | |
| Utah at Milwaukee | | | | | |
| Scoring leaders | | | | | |
| Through Monday | | | | | |
| | G | FG | FT | PTS | AVG |
| Davis, LAL | 7 | 80 | 66 | 228 | 32.6 |
| Antetokounmpo, MIL | 6 | 76 | 34 | 186 | 31.0 |
| Maxey, PHI | 6 | 62 | 36 | 181 | 30.2 |
| Tatum, BOS | 8 | 77 | 53 | 240 | 30.0 |
| Jokic, DEN | 7 | 75 | 40 | 207 | 29.6 |
| Doncic, DAL | 7 | 68 | 43 | 202 | 28.9 |
| Ball, CHA | 7 | 69 | 30 | 200 | 28.6 |
| Lillard, MIL | 7 | 57 | 52 | 193 | 27.6 |
| Edwards, MIN | 7 | 66 | 23 | 191 | 27.3 |
| Durant, PHO | 7 | 68 | 37 | 190 | 27.1 |
| Brunson, NY | 6 | 56 | 29 | 156 | 26.0 |
| Gil.-Alexander, OKC | 7 | 65 | 37 | 180 | 25.7 |
| Brown, BOS | 6 | 52 | 38 | 154 | 25.7 |
| DeRozan, SAC | 7 | 63 | 46 | 178 | 25.4 |

ROUNDUP

Cavs edge Bucks to improve to 8-0

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The win total is growing quickly, and so is the Cavaliers' confidence.

At 8-0 so far, they're the only unbeaten team left in the Eastern Conference and at this point they might as well win them all.

"That's the plan," center Jarrett Allen said with a wide smile.

The Cavs kept their unblemished record intact on Monday night with a 116-114 win over the Milwaukee Bucks, who pushed Cleveland to the absolute limit despite playing without injured two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo.

Darius Garland scored 39 points to pace the Cavs, outdueling Bucks star Damian Lillard in the final minutes as the point guards put on a dazzling display of shot-making to the delight of another rocking crowd inside Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse.

"It was amazing," said Garland, who made 7 of 11 3-pointers, including a go-ahead one with 45 seconds left that put the Cavs up 113-111. "I grew up watching Dame. It was super cool playing some 1-on-1 basketball."

It's been team ball that has gotten Cleveland off to its pristine start.

With the win, the Cavs matched the best start in franchise history, equaling the 1976-77 Cavs, who went 8-0 before finishing 43-39 under coach Bill Fitch.

"We're not doing that," All-Star Donovan Mitchell said, cutting off a reporter who mentioned the franchise record for fear of jinxing the team's early run. "I did know that. It's great. Obviously, you want to enjoy the little things on the road and it's great to have that, but at the end of the day it's been eight games."

Lillard scored 36 for the Bucks, but committed a costly turnover when he was called for an over-and-back violation with 56 seconds left.

Nuggets 121, Raptors 119: Russell Westbrook scored 21 points and played smothering defense on the final play of the game, and host Denver beat Toronto.

Nikola Jokic had 28 points, 14 rebounds and 14 assists for his third triple-double in four games for Denver, which played without Jamal Murray (concussion protocol) and lost Aaron Gordon to a right calf strain in the first quarter.

The Nuggets trailed 109-98 with 5:45 left but rallied to take a 118-117 lead on Peyton Watson's 3-pointer. The teams traded baskets and Julian Strawther split a pair of free throws with 12 seconds left.

On the final play Westbrook blanketed RJ Barrett, whose 26-footer to win it was short.

Celtics 123, Hawks 93: Jayson Tatum scored 26 of his 28 points in the first half as visiting Boston rout-



SUE OGRICK/AP

Cavaliers guard Darius Garland celebrates after a basket late in the second half against the Milwaukee Bucks on Monday in Cleveland.

ed Atlanta for its third straight win.

Tatum also had nine assists and six rebounds and did not play in the fourth quarter with the Celtics comfortably in front.

Hawks guard Trae Young left the game in the third quarter with a right rib strain. He was 1-for-10 from the floor and finished with two points and six assists.

Warriors 125, Wizards 112: Stephen Curry scored 16 of his 24 points in the second half in his return from an ankle injury and visiting Golden State won its fourth straight game by beating Washington.

Buddy Hield scored 20 points, part of another strong contribution from the Golden State bench. The Warriors' reserves outscored Washington's 60-33. Golden State has averaged an edge of 24 points per game in bench points so far this season.

Jordan Poole led Washington with 24 points.

Pistons 115, Lakers 103: Cade Cunningham had 17 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his third career triple-double and host Detroit beat Los Angeles.

Jaden Ivey matched a season high with 26 points. Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 19 points, Tobias Harris had 15 points and Jalen Duren had 11 points and 14 rebounds.

Anthony Davis scored 37 points for Los Angeles, and LeBron James had 20 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds.

Kings 111, Heat 110: Domantas Sabonis scored off an offensive rebound with 0.7 seconds left, and visiting Sacramento rallied from 15 points down to beat Miami.

DeAaron Fox scored 28 for Sacramento, while DeMar DeRozan finished with 26. Sabonis finished with 16 points, 16 rebounds and seven assists.

Jimmy Butler scored 15 of his 27

points, while Donte DiVincenzo added 14 and Julius Randle had 13 for Minnesota, which hit 18 of 38 3-pointers (47.4%).

LaMelo Ball scored 19 points for Charlotte.

Trail Blazers 118, Pelicans 100: Anfernee Simons scored 24 points, Deandre Ayton had 19 points and 13 rebounds and visiting Portland beat injury-depleted New Orleans.

The Trail Blazers surged ahead in the fourth, when Dalano Banton entered the game and scored 20 points in a single period.

Brandon Ingram was the Pelicans' only usual starter in uniform for a second straight game and scored 27 points.

Thunder 102, Magic 86: Jalen Williams scored 23 points, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 21 points and nine assists and host Oklahoma City defeated Orlando to remain the only unbeaten team in the Western Conference.

Chet Holmgren added 14 points and nine rebounds for the Thunder, who have won all seven of their games by at least 12 points.

Jalen Suggs had 19 points, six assists and six rebounds for the Magic, who played without injured starters Paolo Banchero and Wendell Carter Jr.

Pacers 134, Mavericks 127: Myles Turner had season highs with 30 points and 11 rebounds while going over 8,000 career points, Tyrese Haliburton had a season-best 25 points and 12 assists and visiting Indiana beat Dallas.

Dallas cut a 10-point deficit to five with 1:47 left before Haliburton hit a pull-up 17-footer with 50 seconds left. Pascal Siakam added 23 points for Indiana.

Luka Doncic had 34 points and 15 assists for the Mavericks.

Suns 118, 76ers 116: Kevin Durant broke a tie on a driving layup with 24 seconds left and host Phoenix beat Philadelphia, spoiling Paul George's debut.

After missing the first five games of the season because of a bone bruise in his left knee, George had 15 points, five rebounds and four assists in 32 minutes.

Durant scored 35 points to lead Phoenix to its fifth straight win.

Clippers 113, Spurs 104: Norman Powell scored 23 points, Amir Coffey added 21 and host Los Angeles rallied from an early 26-point deficit to beat San Antonio for its first win at Intuit Dome.

James Harden scored 17 points and Ivica Zubac had 17 points and 13 rebounds. It was the Clippers' largest comeback when trailing at the end of the first quarter and tied for the third largest when trailing by any deficit since 1996, according to Sportradar.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Top-ranked Gamecocks avoid upset by Michigan

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Chloe Kitts had 19 points and 14 rebounds and Tessa Johnson scored 15 points as top-ranked South Carolina defeated scrappy Michigan 68-62 on Monday night in the Hall of Fame Series.

Joyce Edwards added 10 points for South Carolina, which won the national championship last season.

Syla Swords led Michigan with 27 points and 12 rebounds and Jordan Hobbs had 19 points.

South Carolina, which was favored by 21½ points at BetMGM Sportsbook, was pushed in the season opener for both teams. Michigan tried to become the first team since Big Ten Conference rival Iowa in the 2023 national semifinals to beat the Gamecocks.

Michigan got to within 64-62 with 22 seconds left, but South Carolina held on from there.

No. 3 Southern California 68, No. 20 Mississippi 66: At Paris, Kiki Iriafen made a pair of free throws with seconds remaining to lift the Trojans over the Rebels in a doubleheader in France.

The score was tied 66-66 with 10 seconds left when Iriafen — an Associated Press preseason All-America selection — hit her two free throws.

Iriafen finished with 22 points while teammate JuJu Watkins led the way for USC with 27 points.

K.K. Deans scored 19 points for No. 20 Ole Miss. Madison Scott added 14.

With a little under two minutes left, Deans made a jump shot from near half-court to put Ole Miss ahead 66-64.

No. 5 UCLA 66, No. 17 Louisville 59: At Paris, Lauren Betts had 18 points and four blocks as the Bruins beat the Cardinals in the second match of a doubleheader in France.

Timea Gardiner had 15 points and Londynn Jones contributed 13 for UCLA.

Tajianna Roberts had a game-high 21 points for Louisville, which opened up an 18-13 lead at the end of the first quarter but then proved wasteful on offense.

Louisville was 6-for-29 from 3-point range compared to 8-for-23 for UCLA. Gardiner made five of them and Jones was a perfect 4-for-4 from the free-throw line.

No. 6 Notre Dame 105, Mercyhurst 61: Liatu King scored 24 points and Olivia Miles had a triple-double as the host Fighting Irish sprinted past the Lakers.

Miles, a 5-10 senior guard, missed last season rehabbing a knee injury. She had 20 points, 10

rebounds and 10 assists. She scored three and-one baskets.

All-American Hannah Hidalgo scored 19 points and had nine rebounds, six steals and two assists. Kate Koval scored 18 points and Cassandre Prosper had 17.

Bailey Kuhns led Mercyhurst with 20 points.

No. 7 LSU 95, Eastern Kentucky 44: Flau'jae Johnson scored 25 points, and the host Tigers pounded the Colonels.

Aneesah Morrow had 20 points and nine rebounds for LSU (1-0), which led 48-24 at halftime. Mikaylah Williams scored 18 points after missing a couple of preseason games with a sprained ankle.

Tigers forward Sa'Myah Smith, who missed most of last year with a knee injury, had 15 points, 11 rebounds and three blocked shots in her return.

Liz Freihofer, Alice Recanati and Kaitly Costner led Eastern Kentucky (0-1) with nine points apiece.

No. 8 Iowa State 96, Chicago State 56: Addy Brown scored 20 points and Audi Crooks added 16 as the host Cyclones routed the Cougars for their 30th straight win in a season opener, the longest active streak in Division I.

Brown also had nine rebounds, five assists, three blocks and a steal. Crooks scored in double figures for a 33rd straight game.

Asha Walker led Chicago State with 18 points and Aiyanna Culver added 14.

No. 10 Oklahoma 76, Southern 44: Transfer center Raegan Beers had 21 points and 14 rebounds and Sahara Williams added 19 points to help the host Sooners rout the Lady Jaguars.

Beers, a third-team Associated Press All-American for Oregon State last season, made 8 of 11 field goals for Oklahoma. Skyler Vann added 12 points and seven rebounds for the Sooners in their first game as a member of the Southeastern Conference.

Aniya Gourdine was the only Southern player in double figures with 11 points.

No. 11 Duke 89, Radford 36: Reigan Richardson scored seven of her 11 points in the first quarter when her team forged a big lead, Jordan Wood finished with 13 points and eight rebounds, and the host Blue Devils cruised to a win over the Highlanders

Richardson, on the Naismith Trophy watch list, scored nine points to lead Duke in the first half, playing 15 minutes before sitting out most of the second.

Delaney Thomas added 12 points, Jadyn Donovan had 10

points and nine rebounds and Oluchi Okananwa and Toby Fournier scored 10 points each for Duke.

No. 13 Kansas State 92, Green Bay 45: Kennedy Taylor had 16 points and 11 rebounds, Jaelyn Glenn added 17 points and nine rebounds and the host Wildcats downed the Phoenix.

Taylor, a Missouri State transfer, was 5-for-8 from the floor and made all six free throws. Glenn hit four of the Wildcats' 11 3-pointers. Tulsa transfer Temira Poindexter added 15 points and Serena Sundell 12. Six-foot-6 Ayoke Lee, Kansas State's leading scorer last season, had seven points and four rebounds in 10 minutes.

Natalie McNeal scored 14 points with seven rebounds for the Phoenix, which played their first game under new head coach Kayla Karius.

No. 15 North Carolina 83, Charleston Southern 53: Alyssa Ustby had 18 points, eight rebounds and four assists, Lexi Donarski added 14 points, and the host Tar Heels beat the Buccaneers.

UNC has won 12 straight games against Charleston Southern and seven consecutive season openers. The Tar Heels open the season ranked for the third consecutive year.

Trayanna Crisp, a transfer from Arizona State, added 11 points off the bench for UNC. Maria Gakdeng grabbed seven of the Tar Heels' 46 rebounds, while Charleston Southern had just 34.

No. 18 Maryland 74, UMBC 32: Christina Dalce scored 13 points and grabbed 10 rebounds and the visiting Terrapins clamped down on defense in the second half to defeat Retrievers.

Maryland held UMBC to 10 points in the second half on 3-for-20 shooting after leading by 11 at halftime.

Shyanne Sellers added 12 points and Allie Kubek had 11 for the Terrapins, who have a rebuilt roster with 10 new players, including seven transfers.

Jordan Lewis scored 10 points for UMBC, which finished 10-for-43 from the field — 5-for-24 inside the arc and 5-for-19 on 3-pointers.

No. 19 Florida State 119, North Florida 49: Ta'Niya Latson scored 27 points, Makayla Timpson had 17 points and 22 rebounds for her 32nd career double-double and the host Seminoles set a single-game program record for points scored in a victory over the Ospreys.

Timpson is tied with Sue Galakantas (1981-84) for career dou-



IAN MAULE/AP

South Carolina's Chloe Kitts moves toward the basket as Michigan's Greta Kampschroeder guards her Monday in Las Vegas.

ble-doubles in FSU history, trailing Natasha Howard's 41 from 2011-14. Timpson secured her double-double with 11 points and 21 rebounds midway through the third quarter. The program record for rebounds in a game is 24.

Florida State brought back 75% of its scoring from a year ago as well as 82% of rebounding, led by Latson, Timpson and O'Mariah Gordon.

No. 22 Kentucky 98, South Carolina Upstate 43: Clara Strack scored 22 points, Georgia Amooore added 11, and the host Wildcats started with a win over the Spartans in their first game under Kenyon Brooks.

Brooks built Virginia Tech into an NCAA Tournament regular and brought Strack, a 6-foot-5 sophomore, and Amooore, a graduate senior and All-American candidate, with him as his Kentucky roster has 11 new players.

Amooore had nine points in the first quarter, and Kentucky used runs of 11 and nine points to lead 26-11 after one quarter. A 15-point run helped boost the Wildcats' lead to 47-18 at the half.

No. 23 Nebraska 88, Omaha 48: Alexis Markowski had 14 points and 11 rebounds to lead the host Cornhuskers to a win over the Mavericks.

Markowski, a senior 6-foot-3 center who led the team in scoring and rebounding last year and is on the Naismith Trophy watch list for

a third straight season, shot 7-for-8 from the field.

Last season's Big Ten freshman of year, Natalie Potts, also scored 14 points for Nebraska. Logan Nissley, who was a conference All-Freshman team choice along with Potts last season, added 12 points.

No. 24 Alabama 115, New Orleans 53: Aaliyah Nye scored 25 points, Sarah Ashlee Barker added 23 and the host Crimson Tide rolled to a win over the Privateers.

Freshman Eris Lester scored 16 points and Zaay Green had 12 for Alabama, which shot 52% (45-for-86), including 14-for-31 from 3-point range. Nye was 7-for-12 behind the arc and Barker hit three from distance in the sixth-highest scoring game in school history.

Jayla Kimbrough led New Orleans with 13 points. Nora Francois and Jasmine Jones both added 10.

No. 25 Indiana 82, Brown 60: Sydney Parrish scored 20 points and grabbed 10 rebounds and the host Hoosiers rolled past the Bears.

Tennessee transfer Karoline Striplin added 17 points, Yarden Garzon had four 3-pointers and 16 points and Lilly Meister had 12 points for Indiana, which shot 50% (30-for-60) from the field and went 17-for-20 from the foul line.

Isabella Mauricio led Brown with 15 points and Olivia Young had 13. The Bears hit 11 of 36 3-pointers (31%) and were 23-for-60 overall (38%).

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Flagg, No. 7 Duke whip Maine in opener

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Star freshman Cooper Flagg had 18 points, seven rebounds and five assists in his college debut, and No. 7 Duke beat Maine 96-62 on Monday night in the season opener for both teams.

The 6-foot-9, 205-pound Flagg — the nation's top-ranked recruit and a preseason Associated Press All-American — made 6 of 15 shots and all six of his free throws. Fellow rookie Kon Knueppel powered the offense with 22 points and three 3-pointers for the Blue Devils (1-0), who shot 55.6% for the game.

Quion Burns scored 15 points for the Black Bears (0-1), who shot just 6-for-24 (25%) after halftime as Duke pulled away.

No. 1 Kansas 87, Howard 57: Zeke Mayo, a grad transfer from South Dakota State, had 19 points in his debut with his new team and the top-ranked Jayhawks beat the visiting Bison.

Kansas (1-0) led 46-19 at halftime and its biggest lead was 38 points.

The Jayhawks used the game as a tune-up before a top-10 showdown with North Carolina on Friday night. Kansas had 10 players score, with three in double-figures.

Blake Harper had 16 points to lead Howard.

No. 2 Alabama 110, UNC Asheville 54: Mark Sears scored 20 points, and the Crimson Tide beat the visiting Bulldogs.

Sears led Alabama in scoring on 6-for-8 shooting and was 3-for-4 from 3-point range. Clifford Omoruyi did not miss a shot in his Crimson Tide debut, and the Rutgers transfer scored 16 points on six shots to go along with eight rebounds and two blocks.

Five other players scored in double figures for Alabama: Latrell Wrightsell Jr. (13), Mouhamed Dioubate (11), Aden Holloway (11), Jarin Stevenson (10) and Labaron Philon (10).

Jordan Marsh led UNC Asheville with 13 points.

No. 4 Houston 97, Jackson State 40: L.J. Cryer scored 16 points, Mylik Wilson added 15 points off the bench, and the Cougars opened their season with a win over the visiting Tigers.

J'Wan Roberts had 14 points and six rebounds, Ramon Walker Jr. chipped in 10 points and Milos Uzan, a transfer from Oklahoma, had eight points, seven rebounds and 10 assists for Houston. The Cougars shot 58%, including 12-for-20 on 3-pointers.

Jalen Tatum scored 14 points to lead Jackson State, which shot 28%.

No. 5 Iowa State 83, Mississippi Valley State 44: Keshon Gilbert scored 17 points and Tamin



BEN MCKEOWN/AP

Maine's Quion Burns attempts to shoot around Duke's Cooper Flagg during the first half Monday in Durham, N.C. Flagg, a highly touted freshman, had 18 points, seven rebounds and five assists.

Lipsey added 16 as the Cyclones routed the visiting Delta Devils for their 28th straight home win.

Saint Mary's transfer Joshua Jefferson added 10 points, six rebounds and four steals in his first game with Iowa State.

Donovan Sanders had 12 points and Greg Moore added 10 for Mississippi Valley State, which won just one game last season and is picked to finish last in the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

No. 6 Gonzaga 101, No. 8 Baylor 63: Nolan Hickman scored 17 points, Graham Ike had 15 points and eight rebounds, and the Bulldogs beat the visiting Bears.

Braden Huff added 14 points for Gonzaga, which got its 19th consecutive season-opening victory. The Bulldogs beat an opponent they lost to in the 2021 National Championship game in Indianapolis and the 2022 Peacock Classic in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Norchad Omier had 15 points and nine rebounds to lead Baylor. Robert Wright added 12 points and Josh Ojianwuna had 10.

Gonzaga went on a 24-4 run in the second half to run away with a top-10 win, while also handing the Bears their only 30-point loss in the last 10 years.

No. 9 North Carolina 90, Elon 76: RJ Davis scored 24 points and keyed the host Tar Heels' 11-0 run after falling behind in the second half in a victory over the Phoenix.

Elliot Cadeau added 15 points and Seth Trimble had 12 points for North Carolina, which shot only 41.2% from the field. Jae'Lyn Withers had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

TJ Simpkins scored 18 points and Nick Dorn had 17 to lead Elon.

Sam Sherry added 15 points and TK Simpkins had 14.

No. 10 Arizona 93, Canisius 64: Caleb Love had 17 points and six assists, Jaden Bradley added 15 points and the host Wildcats opened coach Tommy Lloyd's fourth season with a win over the Golden Griffins.

Arizona dominated inside, outscoring Canisius 48-12 in the paint while grabbing 18 more rebounds. KJ Lewis added 14 points for the Wildcats, who had 20 assists and nine turnovers — five before the starters came out.

Paul McMillan IV led the Golden Griffins with 20 points.

No. 12 Tennessee 80, Gardner-Webb 64: Chaz Lanier scored 18 points and Jordan Gainey had 16 as the host Volunteers beat the Runnin' Bulldogs.

Zakai Zeigler added 13 points and nine assists for Tennessee, while Jahmai Mashack scored 10. Felix Okpara led the Vols' rebounding with nine.

Darryl Simmons scored 22 points to lead Gardner-Webb, and Anthony Selden and Jamaine Mann each had 13. The Runnin' Bulldogs outrebounded Tennessee 32-29, with Isaiah Richards leading the way with eight.

UCF 64, No. 13 Texas A&M 61: Darius Johnson scored 24 points and assisted on a go-ahead slam dunk with less than a minute remaining to lead the host Knights to a win over the Aggies.

Johnson had five assists, including the pass to Benny Williams that helped put UCF ahead 62-61 with 45.5 seconds left. Texas A&M didn't score in the final 2:13.

Jordan Ivy-Curry added 16 points for the Knights. Keyshawn

Hall scored 10.

Pharrel Payne led the Aggies with 15 points and had six rebounds. Wade Taylor IV had 13 points and seven assists, but made only 4 of his 15 shots.

No. 14 Purdue 90, Texas A&M Corpus-Christi 73: Fletcher Loyer scored 21 points to lead five players in double figures as the host Boilermakers beat the Islanders.

Also scoring in double figures were Trey Kaufman-Renn with 15 points, Myles Colvin with 14, Daniel Jacobsen with 13 and Braden Smith with 12. Kaufman-Renn had nine rebounds and Smith had 15 assists.

Owen Dease scored 20 for Texas A&M Corpus-Christi. Garry Clark added 14 points.

No. 18 Marquette 102, Stony Brook 62: Kam Jones scored 32 points while shooting 14-for-16 from the floor as the host Golden Eagles breezed to a victory over the Seawolves.

Chase Ross added a career-best 23 points and David Joplin scored 13.

Joe Octave scored 12 points and Ben Wight had 10 points and eight rebounds for Stony Brook.

Ohio State 80, No. 19 Texas 72: At Las Vegas, Bruce Thornton scored 20 points, and the Buckeyes defeated the Longhorns.

Micah Parrish added 17 points and six rebounds for Ohio State, which led wire-to-wire and shot 55.6% in the second half.

Freshman Tre Johnson led all scorers with 29 points and five rebounds for Texas, and Arthur Kaluma and Kadin Shedrick each had 10. The rest of the Longhorns shot a combined 7-for-29

(24.1%) from the floor.

No. 20 Cincinnati 109, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 54: Simas Lukosius scored 20 points, Dan Skillings Jr. added 17 and the host Bearcats beat the Golden Lions.

Connor Hickman had 13 points and Jizzle James had 12 for Cincinnati, which had six players score in double figures.

Dante Sawyer led Arkansas-Pine Bluff with 11 points.

The Bearcats are ranked in the AP poll for the first time since 2018-19, the last time they reached the NCAA Tournament.

No. 21 Florida 98, South Florida 83: At Jacksonville, Fla., Walter Clayton Jr. scored 29 points, Will Richard added 25 and the Gators overcame a 13-point deficit to beat the Bulls.

Still coping with the death of coach Amir Abdur-Rahim, South Florida looked inspired while building a double-digit lead. The Bulls hit six of their first 15 shots from 3-point range and led 36-23 early.

Jamille Reynolds led South Florida with 17 points and six boards.

No. 22 UCLA 85, Rider 50: Tyler Bilodeau scored 18 points in his debut after transferring from Oregon State, and the host Bruins routed the Broncos.

Dylan Andrews added 14 points and six assists. Kobe Johnson, who transferred from crosstown-rival USC, had 12 points and eight rebounds.

T.J. Weeks Jr. led Rider with 15 points, hitting a game-high four 3-pointers.

UCLA got six 3-pointers from five different players in the second half. Andrews' 3 pushed the lead to 78-46.

No. 23 Kentucky 103, Wright State 62: Otega Oweh scored 21 points, Koby Brea added 18 off the bench and the host Wildcats shot 60% to blow out the Raiders in Mark Pope's debut.

Pope replaced John Calipari in April after the Hall of Famer left for Arkansas and revamped the roster with nine transfers. Oweh, an Oklahoma transfer, went 8-for-9 from the floor and made all three shots from deep.

Brandon Noel had 20 points, Alex Huibregtse scored 16 and Solomon Callaghan added 15 for Wright State, which shot just 35% from the field.

No. 24 Mississippi 90, Long Island 60: Jaylen Murray scored 18 of his 24 points in the first half, and the host Rebels beat the Sharks.

Jaemyn Brakefield had 12 points and seven rebounds while Matthew Murrell and Dre Davis each scored 11 points for Mississippi.

Brent Davis and Malachi Davis each scored 19 points to lead Long Island.

NHL/NFL



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Los Angeles Kings center Anze Kopitar, right, celebrates with Alex Turcotte after scoring against the Nashville Predators on Monday.

ROUNDUP

Kuemper shuts out Predators

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Darcy Kuemper made 16 saves for his first shutout of the season and 32nd overall, helping the Los Angeles Kings beat the Nashville Predators 3-0 on Monday night.

Adrian Kempe had a goal and an assist and Anze Kopitar and Kevin Fiala also scored. The Kings have won two of their last three.

Juuse Saros made 24 saves for the Predators. They are 1-2-1 in their last four.

Kopitar opened the scoring with 6:36 remaining in the opening period. Saros denied the Kings captain's first shot, but Kopitar collected the rebound below the goal line and banked it off the netminder's skate.

Just 1:11 into the second period, Kuemper denied Colton Sissons' backhand shot from the low slot to preserve a one-goal lead.

Fiala, a former Predator, made it 2-0 35 seconds into the third.

The Kings held Nashville to just three third-period shots on goal, the first coming with 3:55 remaining and Saros pulled for an extra attacker.

Nashville's opponents have scored first in nine of 12 games this season.

Devils 3, Oilers 0: Jake Allen made 31 saves for his second shutout of the season and 26th of his NHL career, helping New Jersey close its Western Canadian trip with a victory over Edmonton.

Jesper Bratt had a goal and an assist and Stefan Noesen and Timo Meier also scored. The Devils improved to 8-5-2. They have won three of last four after a four-game skid.

Calvin Pickard made 13 saves for Edmonton. The Oilers had won two straight.

Leon Draisaitl was held pointless after having six points in his previous two games.

NHL scoreboard

| Eastern Conference | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|----|----|--|--|--|
| Atlantic Division | | | | | | | | | | |
| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA | | | |
| Florida | 13 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 19 | 48 | 41 | | | |
| Tampa Bay | 12 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 14 | 46 | 40 | | | |
| Toronto | 13 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 14 | 39 | 39 | | | |
| Boston | 13 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 34 | 42 | | | |
| Ottawa | 11 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 12 | 42 | 33 | | | |
| Detroit | 11 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 11 | 29 | 35 | | | |
| Buffalo | 12 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 36 | 42 | | | |
| Montreal | 12 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 33 | 50 | | | |
| Metropolitan Division | | | | | | | | | | |
| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA | | | |
| New Jersey | 15 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 18 | 53 | 42 | | | |
| N.Y. Rangers | 11 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 17 | 44 | 24 | | | |
| Carolina | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 16 | 39 | 23 | | | |
| Washington | 11 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 16 | 46 | 33 | | | |
| Columbus | 11 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 11 | 39 | 38 | | | |
| Pittsburgh | 13 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 11 | 38 | 50 | | | |
| N.Y. Islanders | 12 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 28 | 37 | | | |
| Philadelphia | 12 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 31 | 44 | | | |
| Western Conference | | | | | | | | | | |
| Central Division | | | | | | | | | | |
| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA | | | |
| Winnipeg | 12 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 22 | 59 | 30 | | | |
| Minnesota | 11 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 18 | 41 | 28 | | | |
| Dallas | 11 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 14 | 35 | 27 | | | |
| Utah | 12 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 37 | 42 | | | |
| St. Louis | 12 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 12 | 32 | 38 | | | |
| Chicago | 13 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 11 | 37 | 41 | | | |
| Colorado | 12 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 10 | 40 | 51 | | | |
| Nashville | 12 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 29 | 41 | | | |
| Pacific Division | | | | | | | | | | |
| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA | | | |
| Vegas | 12 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 17 | 54 | 37 | | | |
| Los Angeles | 13 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 17 | 42 | 40 | | | |
| Vancouver | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 30 | 33 | | | |
| Calgary | 12 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 13 | 35 | 38 | | | |
| Edmonton | 13 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 31 | 41 | | | |
| Seattle | 13 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 11 | 37 | 39 | | | |
| Anaheim | 11 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 10 | 24 | 31 | | | |
| San Jose | 13 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 32 | 50 | | | |

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

Los Angeles 3, Nashville 0
New Jersey 3, Edmonton 0

Tuesday's games

Boston at Toronto
Calgary at Montreal
Ottawa at Buffalo
Philadelphia at Carolina
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders
Los Angeles at Minnesota
Tampa Bay at St. Louis
Utah at Winnipeg
Seattle at Colorado
Vancouver at Anaheim
Columbus at San Jose

Wednesday's games

Nashville at Washington
Detroit at Chicago
Vegas at Edmonton

Thursday's games

Buffalo at N.Y. Rangers
Calgary at Boston
Montreal at New Jersey
N.Y. Islanders at Ottawa
Nashville at Florida
Pittsburgh at Carolina
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay
Chicago at Dallas
Colorado at Winnipeg
Utah at St. Louis
Minnesota at San Jose
Vancouver at Los Angeles

Commanders, Lions make deals to bolster defense

By ROB MAADDI
Associated Press

The NFC East-leading Washington Commanders made a move to help them stay in first place. The Detroit Lions got their edge rusher. The injury-plagued Dallas Cowboys added a receiver.

Hours before the NFL's trade deadline at 4 p.m. EST on Tuesday, the Commanders (7-2) got four-time Pro Bowl cornerback Marshon Lattimore from the struggling Saints (2-7), three people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because the teams have not announced the deal.

Lattimore bolsters a defense that's already No. 5 against the pass. The Saints are getting a third-round pick, a fourth-round and their own sixth that they previously sent to Washington. The Commanders also receive a fifth along with Lattimore.

The NFC North-leading Lions (7-1) kicked off deadline day by acquiring defensive end Za'Darius Smith from the Cleveland Browns. The three-time Pro Bowl edge rusher helps fill the void created by the loss of star Aidan Hutchinson, who suffered a leg injury.

The 2-7 Browns, already looking to rebuild in a disappointing season, are sending Smith and a seventh-round pick in 2026 to Detroit for a fifth-round pick in 2025 and a sixth-round pick in 2026, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the teams have not announced the deal.

The Cowboys (3-5) agreed on a deal with Carolina (2-7) to acquire wide receiver Jonathan Mingo and a seventh-round pick in 2025 for a fourth-round pick next year,



DAVID RICHARD/AP

Cleveland Browns defensive end Za'Darius Smith sacks Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson on Oct. 27. The Detroit Lions acquired Smith, a three-time Pro Bowler, to replace the injured Aidan Hutchinson.

two people with knowledge of the trade told the AP. Both people spoke on condition of anonymity because the teams haven't announced the deal.

Mingo, a second-round pick last year, only has 12 receptions for 121 yards in nine games. He won't be catching passes from Dak Prescott for a while. Prescott is expected to miss several games with a hamstring injury.

The Cincinnati Bengals (4-5) added depth at running back, getting Khalil Herbert from Chicago (4-4) for a 2025 seventh-round draft pick. Herbert had just eight carries for 16 yards and one touchdown for the Bears.

The Chiefs (8-0), Bills (7-2), Ravens (6-3) and Jets (3-6) have already added playmakers, acquiring wide receivers over the past month. The Vikings (6-2) filled a big need on the offensive

line last week and the Cardinals (5-4) got defensive help on Monday.

Several teams who could use an edge rusher include the Falcons (6-3), Broncos (5-4) and Vikings. The Texans (6-3), Packers (6-3), Rams (4-4) and Seahawks (4-5) have to be looking for offensive line depth.

A whopping nine teams have just two wins through Week 9, increasing their chances of being sellers.

Two-time defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City has been a top buyer and could still be shopping. The Chiefs already added three-time All-Pro receiver D'Andre Hopkins and edge rusher Josh Esche.

Hopkins made his presence felt in Monday night's 30-24 overtime victory over Tampa Bay. He caught eight passes for 86 yards and two touchdowns in his second game with Patrick Mahomes.

The Jets acquired three-time All-Pro Davante Adams three weeks ago. He caught seven passes for 91 yards and one TD in New York's 21-13 win over Houston last Thursday.

Amari Cooper had a TD reception in his first game with Buffalo two weeks ago. Diontae Johnson played 17 snaps in his debut with Baltimore, a 41-10 win over Denver.

Left tackle Cam Robinson had a solid first start in Minnesota's 21-13 victory against Indianapolis. Arizona picked up outside linebacker Baron Browning from Denver for a sixth-round pick, a day after taking over first place in the NFC West.

The NFL pushed the trade deadline back an extra week this year, giving teams more time to improve their rosters.



ERIC GAY/AP

The Bengals traded for Chicago Bears running back Khalil Herbert on Tuesday, as Cincinnati needed depth after Zach Moss was injured.

NFL

Scoreboard

| American Conference | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|-------|-----|-----|
| East | | | | | | |
| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
| Buffalo | 7 | 2 | 0 | .778 | 260 | 173 |
| N.Y. Jets | 3 | 6 | 0 | .333 | 171 | 183 |
| Miami | 2 | 6 | 0 | .250 | 124 | 187 |
| New England | 2 | 7 | 0 | .222 | 141 | 217 |
| South | | | | | | |
| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
| Houston | 6 | 3 | 0 | .667 | 201 | 200 |
| Indianapolis | 4 | 5 | 0 | .444 | 188 | 193 |
| Tennessee | 2 | 6 | 0 | .250 | 140 | 213 |
| Jacksonville | 2 | 7 | 0 | .222 | 195 | 252 |
| North | | | | | | |
| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
| Pittsburgh | 6 | 2 | 0 | .750 | 187 | 119 |
| Baltimore | 6 | 3 | 0 | .667 | 283 | 219 |
| Cincinnati | 4 | 5 | 0 | .444 | 236 | 227 |
| Cleveland | 2 | 7 | 0 | .222 | 148 | 213 |
| West | | | | | | |
| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
| Kansas City | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 203 | 147 |
| L.A. Chargers | 5 | 3 | 0 | .625 | 159 | 101 |
| Denver | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556 | 183 | 161 |
| Las Vegas | 2 | 7 | 0 | .222 | 168 | 251 |
| National Conference | | | | | | |
| East | | | | | | |
| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
| Washington | 7 | 2 | 0 | .778 | 263 | 189 |
| Philadelphia | 6 | 2 | 0 | .750 | 199 | 155 |
| Dallas | 3 | 5 | 0 | .375 | 171 | 225 |
| N.Y. Giants | 2 | 7 | 0 | .222 | 139 | 202 |
| South | | | | | | |
| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
| Atlanta | 6 | 3 | 0 | .667 | 221 | 216 |
| Tampa Bay | 4 | 5 | 0 | .444 | 259 | 243 |
| Carolina | 2 | 7 | 0 | .222 | 147 | 293 |
| New Orleans | 2 | 7 | 0 | .222 | 207 | 229 |
| North | | | | | | |
| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
| Detroit | 7 | 1 | 0 | .875 | 258 | 148 |
| Minnesota | 6 | 2 | 0 | .750 | 209 | 150 |
| Green Bay | 6 | 3 | 0 | .667 | 230 | 194 |
| Chicago | 4 | 4 | 0 | .500 | 172 | 148 |
| West | | | | | | |
| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
| Arizona | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556 | 207 | 214 |
| L.A. Rams | 4 | 4 | 0 | .500 | 170 | 194 |
| San Francisco | 4 | 4 | 0 | .500 | 210 | 182 |
| Seattle | 4 | 5 | 0 | .444 | 210 | 221 |
| Thursday's game | | | | | | |
| N.Y. Jets 21, Houston 13 | | | | | | |
| Sunday's games | | | | | | |
| Atlanta 27, Dallas 21 | | | | | | |
| Baltimore 41, Denver 10 | | | | | | |
| Buffalo 30, Miami 27 | | | | | | |
| Carolina 23, New Orleans 22 | | | | | | |
| Cincinnati 41, Las Vegas 24 | | | | | | |
| L.A. Chargers 27, Cleveland 10 | | | | | | |
| Tennessee 20, New England 17, OT | | | | | | |
| Washington 27, N.Y. Giants 22 | | | | | | |
| Arizona 29, Chicago 9 | | | | | | |
| Philadelphia 28, Jacksonville 23 | | | | | | |
| Detroit 24, Green Bay 14 | | | | | | |
| L.A. Rams 26, Seattle 20, OT | | | | | | |
| Minnesota 21, Indianapolis 13 | | | | | | |
| Open: Pittsburgh, San Francisco | | | | | | |
| Monday's game | | | | | | |
| Kansas City 30, Tampa Bay 24, OT | | | | | | |
| Thursday, Nov. 7 | | | | | | |
| Cincinnati at Baltimore | | | | | | |
| Sunday, Nov. 10 | | | | | | |
| N.Y. Giants vs. Carolina at Munich | | | | | | |
| Atlanta at New Orleans | | | | | | |
| Buffalo at Indianapolis | | | | | | |
| Denver at Kansas City | | | | | | |
| Minnesota at Jacksonville | | | | | | |
| New England at Chicago | | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh at Washington | | | | | | |
| San Francisco at Tampa Bay | | | | | | |
| Tennessee at L.A. Chargers | | | | | | |
| N.Y. Jets at Arizona | | | | | | |
| Philadelphia at Dallas | | | | | | |
| Detroit at Houston | | | | | | |
| Open: Cleveland, Las Vegas, Green Bay, Seattle | | | | | | |
| Monday, Nov. 11 | | | | | | |
| Miami at L.A. Rams | | | | | | |
| Thursday, Nov. 14 | | | | | | |
| Washington at Philadelphia | | | | | | |
| Sunday, Nov. 17 | | | | | | |
| Green Bay at Chicago | | | | | | |
| Jacksonville at Detroit | | | | | | |
| Las Vegas at Miami | | | | | | |
| L.A. Rams at New England | | | | | | |
| Cleveland at New Orleans | | | | | | |
| Baltimore at Pittsburgh | | | | | | |
| Minnesota at Tennessee | | | | | | |
| Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets | | | | | | |
| Atlanta at Denver | | | | | | |
| Seattle at San Francisco | | | | | | |
| Kansas City at Buffalo | | | | | | |
| Cincinnati at L.A. Chargers | | | | | | |
| Open: Arizona, Carolina, N.Y. Giants, Tampa Bay | | | | | | |

Chiefs top Bucs in OT, move to 8-0

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Chiefs coach Andy Reid watched as the Buccaneers drove down the field in the final minute of regulation, and Baker Mayfield threw a touchdown pass that put Tampa Bay within a 2-point conversion of ending Kansas City's perfect start to the season.

Bucs coach Todd Bowles admitted to giving "very minor" thought to going for 2 before kicking the extra point that sent the game to overtime.

"I'm glad he didn't," Reid said with a smile.

That's because the Chiefs won the ensuing coin toss, and Patrick Mahomes capped a big day — 291 yards passing and three touchdowns on a gimpy ankle — by going 5-for-5 on the only drive of overtime. Kareem Hunt finished it off, along with his 106-yard rushing performance, by plunging into the end zone from 2 yards out to give Kansas City a 30-24 victory on Monday night.

"Everybody had a piece of this," Reid said.

DeAndre Hopkins had eight catches for 86 yards and two TDs. Travis Kelce had 14 catches for 100 yards with Taylor Swift watching from a suite. And a defense missing a couple of key players to injuries held Mayfield to 200 yards passing and two touchdowns, and shut down a Tampa Bay running game that managed just 95 yards.

The result was familiar: The Chiefs won their 14th straight dating to last season, the longest streak since Carolina started 14-0 in 2014, and they became just the sixth Super Bowl champ to start 8-0 the following season. They have also won their last eight games when trailing in the second half, including the postseason.

The Buccaneers had their chance when Mayfield hit Ryan Miller in the end zone with 27 seconds to go. But rather than go for the win, Bowles decided to kick the extra point — and the Bucs ended up losing for the fourth time in five games.

"We've got guys who are not going to quit fighting to the end," Tampa



Ed Zurga/AP

Chiefs running back Kareem Hunt celebrates a win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Monday in Kansas City, Mo. Hunt scored the game-winning touchdown in overtime, leading the Chiefs to a 30-24 victory.

Bay wide receiver Sterling Shepard said. "I'm really proud of the group and the way everybody fought. We've just got to clean up some little stuff. And that's what this league is all about."

It was a memorable first half for two players who'd been waiting to play in Arrowhead Stadium.

The Bucs' Rachaad White grew up about 10 minutes away in a tough part of Kansas City, but his family could never afford a ticket for him to see a game. He wound up taking a circuitous path through Division II Nebraska-Kearney and a California junior college to Arizona State, where he eventually became a third-round pick of Tampa Bay in the 2022 draft.

Two years later, White finally got into Arrowhead — and the end zone. He punctuated his 7-yard scoring run in the second quarter, which gave the Bucs a 7-3 lead, by nearly tossing the football all the way into the second deck.

"I can't even count right now," White said, when asked how many friends and family were watching from those stands.

Then it was Hopkins' turn in his first home game since arriving in Kansas City from a trade with the Titans.

The three-time All-Pro, who already had caught four passes at that point, reeled in a third-down heave from Mahomes amid triple coverage for a 35-yard gain that put the Chiefs inside the Tampa Bay 5. Three plays later, Mahomes found him in the back of the end zone, and Hopkins celebrated his first TD with the Chiefs with a dance from "Remember the Titans."

"That's one of my favorite movies," he said. "I knew if I got in the end zone I was going to remember the Titans."

Tampa Bay tried to seize control with consecutive scoring drives to start the second half. The first ended with a TD pass to Cade Otton, the lat-

est tight end to shred the Chiefs, and Chase McLaughlin's 47-yard field goal gave the Bucs a 17-10 lead.

The Chiefs answered in the fourth quarter, though. Mahomes marched them through the driving rain 70 yards for the tying touchdown pass, which he delivered to Samaje Perine while landing awkwardly and tweaking his left ankle, and then threw a laser to Hopkins on third-and-goal from the Buccaneers 5 to give Kansas City the lead.

Mahomes said later the ankle injury scared him more than hurt him. He was checked in the sideline tent but was quickly back to throwing balls in an effort to stay loose, and he never gave Reid an opportunity to pull him from the game.

"You feel the pain and that scares you," Mahomes said, "because I've dealt with ankles before. But I just kind of laid there and as time went on the pain subsided. I just kind of got to it, and got moving again and felt comfortable going out there."

Cowboys' Prescott likely out at least 4 games

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

FRISCO, Texas — Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott is likely to miss at least four games with a move to injured reserve because of his strained hamstring, owner Jerry Jones said Tuesday.

Prescott sustained the injury in the second half of a 27-21 loss to Atlanta. The Cowboys (3-5) play NFC East rival Philadelphia (6-2) on Sunday, the second of four consecutive games against winning teams.

"It's an extended period of time here," Jones said on his radio show. "I wouldn't dare make a prediction when it could be. We'll see kind of how his rehab goes."

Cooper Rush will replace Prescott, just as he did when Dallas went 4-1 in 2022 with Prescott



Prescott

out after breaking a thumb in a loss in the season opener. Rush also won a game in 2021 filling in for the 2016 AP Offensive Rookie of the Year.

Prescott's extended absence is another setback in a season full of them for the Cowboys, who are on their first three-game losing streak since 2020. Dallas played the last 11 games of that 6-10 season without Prescott after he broke an ankle.

"There's no question that Dak's injury is a setback," Jones said. "But we've seen Cooper do it. We know what we need to do, the strategies on the offense. We just need to come together game by game, use all of our players to the extent that it helps us."

Jones said he expected two-time All-Pro pass rusher Micah Parsons to return against the Eagles after missing four games with a high ankle sprain. Coach Mike McCarthy has said Parsons would likely practice Wednesday for the first time since the injury.

Asked if the Cowboys would be buyers or sellers at the trade deadline, Jones said, "We're buying and not selling." He added that a receiver was coming in a trade.

A person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press that Dallas was acquiring receiver Jonathan Mingo from Carolina.

The Cowboys will get a seventh-round pick, and the Panthers get a fourth-rounder in next year's draft.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the move hasn't been announced.

SPORTS



Staying perfect
Chiefs outlast Bucs in OT to remain undefeated at 8-0 » **NFL, Page 23**



MLB

Multitude of options

2025 free-agent class could be even deeper than last time

By DAVID BRANDT
Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Los Angeles Dodgers spent big last offseason before winning big this postseason, taking home a World Series title after committing more than \$1 billion on players like Shohei Ohtani, Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Teoscar Hernández.

Now it's time to see which teams are in the mood to open their wallets for free agents in preparation for the 2025 season.

The Ohtani sweepstakes dominated last year's offseason conversations until the Japanese superstar inked an eye-popping \$700 million, 10-year deal last December. With apologies to Juan Soto, there might not be anyone that commands that kind of salary in the coming months, even if this year's class is arguably deeper.

Soto, Willy Adames, Corbin Burnes, Max Fried, Blake Snell, Alex Bregman and Jack Flaherty are among the high-level players who are looking for new teams. After that, there's another enticing tier of players like the previously mentioned Hernández, Anthony Santander, Jurickson Profar, Ha-Seong Kim, Pete Alonso, Christian Walker and Sean Manaea who could provide a big lift for championship-contending teams.

MLB's general managers will meet this week in San Antonio, Texas, in the unofficial opener to the offseason. There usually aren't a lot of moves during these early November conversations, but the groundwork is often laid for future deals.

Here are some things to watch as MLB free agency

SEE OPTIONS ON PAGE 18

At just 26 years old, superstar Juan Soto is set to be the biggest free-agent prize this offseason and will likely command another historic contract, this one potentially in the range of \$500 million.

GODOFREDO A. VÁSQUEZ/AP

Kings shut down Predators behind Kuemper » **NHL, Page 22**



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