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STARS AND STRIPES

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LAUREN COBIN/U.S. Air Force

An airman fills sandbags with family members in preparation for landfall of Hurricane Milton at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., on Monday.

Military preps for Milton

Air Force, Navy in Florida move aircraft, ships out of the path of approaching hurricane

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force and Navy moved aircraft and ships out of the path of Hurricane Milton on Tuesday as the storm churned toward Florida's west coast.

State officials also activated Florida's entire National Guard force in preparation for Milton's expected landfall as early as late Wednesday in the Tampa area.

MacDill Air Force Base officials closed the major military hub near Tampa to all non-essential personnel on Tuesday after moving its aircraft out of the way of a major storm for the second time in less than two weeks. Navy and Space Force officials said they too were preparing to close bases across Florida and in



MIKE CARLSON/AP

Contractors with the City of New Port Richey help clean debris left by Hurricane Helene in preparation for Hurricane Milton on Monday in New Port Richey, Fla.

southeast Georgia in the coming days ahead of Milton's arrival.

MacDill officials are poised for a direct hit from Milton after avoiding the worst of Hurricane Helene, which made landfall northwest of the Tampa area as a Category 4 storm near Florida's Big Bend region on Sept. 26. The National Hurricane Center warned Tuesday that Milton could bring up to 12 inches of rainfall and produce a deadly storm surge of 10 to 15 feet in the Tampa area.

Milton, which reached Category 5 on Monday with windspeeds beyond 180 mph, weakened slightly on Tuesday. But hurricane center forecasters expected it to strike Florida as

SEE MILTON ON PAGE 8

DOD civilians in Japan to get help with cost of health care

BY ALEX WILSON
AND KELLY AGEE
Stars and Stripes

The Department of Defense announced a one-year pilot program this week in a bid to help 11,000 civilian employees in Japan navigate and defray the cost of medical care in the country.

The free program — the Pilot Health Insurance Enhancement for DOD Civilian Employees in Japan — begins Jan. 1 and runs through Sept. 29, the DOD said in a news release Monday. Civilian employee dependents will not be eligible during the trial period.

It offers access to a call center staffed 24/7 with bilingual representatives who will assist callers with "identifying their needs," making appointments and issuing payment guarantees upfront, according to the news release.

Spokespeople for DOD and the Defense Health Agency did not immediately respond to email requests for comment and additional details on services on Tuesday in Japan.

Plan participants eligible

Eligible employees may sign up for the program during the Federal Benefits Open Season from Nov. 11 through Dec. 9. The employee must already be enrolled in a participating health plan through the Federal Employees Health Benefits program.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs will oversee the pilot, which awarded a \$4.2 million contract to International SOS Government Services Inc. — the primary contractor for the Tricare Overseas Program — to begin the program, according to the release.

SEE HELP ON PAGE 6

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Judge to Google: Open app store to competition

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal judge on Monday ordered Google to tear down the digital walls shielding its Android app store from competition as punishment for maintaining an illegal monopoly that helped expand the company's internet empire.

The injunction issued by U.S. District Judge James Donato will require Google to make several changes that the Mountain View, Calif., company had been resisting. Those include a provision that

will require its Play Store for Android apps to distribute rival third-party app stores so consumers can download them to their phones, if they so desire.

The judge's order will also make the millions of Android apps in the Play Store library accessible to rivals, allowing them to offer up a competitive selection.

Donato is giving Google until November to make the revisions dictated in his order. The company had insisted it would take 12 to 16 months to design the safe-

guards needed to reduce the chances of potentially malicious software making its way into rival Android app stores and infecting millions of Samsung phones and other mobile devices running on its free Android software.

The court-mandated overhaul is meant to prevent Google from walling off competition in the Android app market.

Google said in a blog post that it will ask the court to pause the pending changes, and will appeal the court's decision.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates			
Euro costs (Oct. 9)	\$1.07	Switzerland (Franc)	0.8567
British pound (Oct. 9)	\$1.28	Thailand (Baht)	33.50
Japanese yen (Oct. 9)	144.00	Turkey (NewLira)	34.2759
South Korean won (Oct. 9)	1313.00		
Commercial rates			
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769		
Britain (Pound)	1.3105		
Canada (Dollar)	1.3652		
China (Yuan)	7.0544		
Denmark (Krone)	6.7934		
Egypt (Pound)	48.5508		
Euro	1.0979		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7739		
Hungary (Forint)	363.83		
Israel (Shekel)	3.7743		
Japan (Yen)	148.27		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3066		
Norway (Krone)	10.6856		
Philippines (Peso)	56.87		
Poland (Zloty)	3.92		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7546		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3036		
South Korea (Won)	1347.71		

(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.)

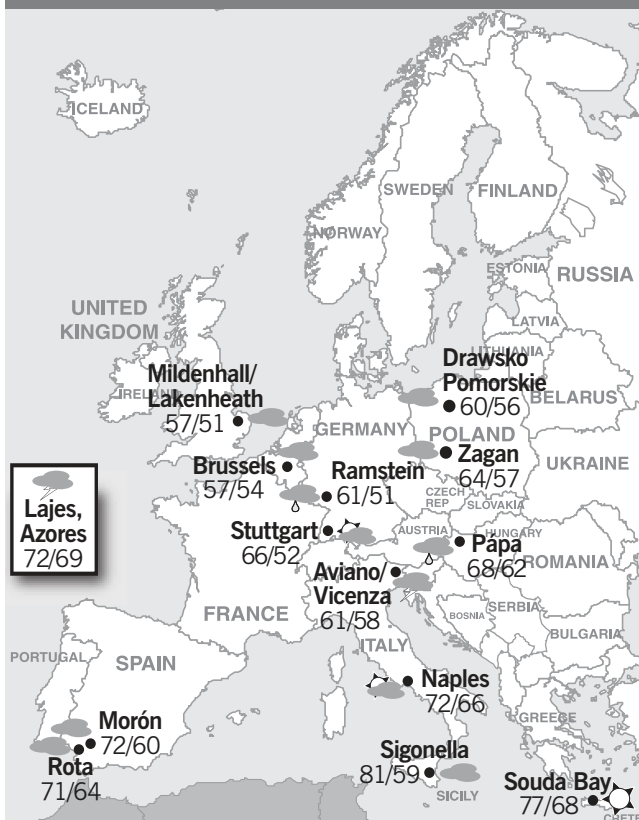
INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	8.00
Interest Rates Discount rate	5.00
Federal funds market rate	4.83
3-month bill	4.67
30-year bond	4.30

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

Fighter pilot takes command of US Forces Japan

By **SETH ROBSON**

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A fighter pilot with experience in Asia and the Middle East took command of U.S. Forces Japan on Tuesday as it moves toward a joint force headquarters in a tightening alliance with its host nation.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Stephen Jost took over for Lt. Gen. Ricky Rupp in a ceremony presided over by U.S. Indo-Pacific Command chief Adm. Samuel Paparo in a hangar on Yokota's flight line. Dignitaries, including U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel, and troops from both nations were also in attendance. The command change comes as USFJ, which oversees about 115,000 troops, civilians and family members in Japan, prepares to "reconstitute" as a joint force headquarters, Paparo told those gathered for the ceremony.

The change announced by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in July will modernize USFJ's structure to serve as a counterpart to Japan's Self-Defense Forces Joint Operations Command.

"The decision to reconstitute USFJ, to expand its mission and operational responsibility will be the most significant change to USFJ since its creation and one of the strongest improvements to the alliance's military cooperation in the Indo-Pacific in 70 years," Paparo said at the ceremony.

The reorganization comes amid concern about China's rapid military buildup and aggression toward Taiwan and neighboring countries such as the Philippines over disputed territory in the South and East China seas.

USFJ is a liaison with Japan for the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps and helps manage the nations' military alliance. It has authority over basing issues

and the status of forces agreement, which governs the legal rights and responsibilities of U.S. military personnel in the country.

The USFJ commander also leads the 15,000 airmen under 5th Air Force at three bases: Yokota, Misawa and Kadena. Fifth Air Force provides a fighter deterrent to would-be adversaries as well as airlift, combat and other aviation capabilities for the U.S. and Japanese militaries.

The Air Force in July announced plans to beef up 5th Air Force by replacing aging F-15 Eagle fighters at Kadena with advanced F-15EX fighters and its F-16 Fighting Falcons at Misawa with advanced F-35C stealth multirole fighters.

Jost is a 1994 graduate of the Air Force Academy with more than 2,700 flight hours, including in the F-16 and F-35A, according to his official biography.

During the change of command ceremony inside a hangar at this airlift hub, Jost's name was unveiled on the side of his new Fighting Falcon parked nearby.

In remarks to reporters at the Yokota Officers' Club afterward, Jost said the U.S.-Japan alliance is built on the foundation of a shared mission and common values.

The nations stand side by side in upholding a free and open Indo-Pacific and the rule of law, he said.

"The future is uncertain, and it's not predestined," he said. "Therefore, we are working nonstop with our [Japan Self-Defense Forces] colleagues to deepen our partnership and sharpen our collective readiness."

In addition to service in Iraq and at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, Jost was stationed at Misawa from July 2011 to June 2012 as deputy commander of the 35th Operations Group and again from July



PHOTOS BY AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

Air Force Lt. Gen. Stephen Jost accepts the U.S. Forces Japan guidon from the head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Adm. Samuel Paparo, at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Tuesday.

2012 to December 2012 as director of staff for the 35th Fighter Wing.

Previously, he led Joint Enabling Capabilities Command of U.S. Transportation Command in Norfolk, Va.

Rupp, a former C-130E Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III airlift pilot who led USFJ through the coronavirus pandemic, was awarded his second Distinguished Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious service in a duty of great responsibility, at the ceremony.

The recent inductee into the Pacific Air Forces Order of the Sword — enlisted airmen's highest form of recognition to an officer — is retiring and will return to his native Texas after 35 years in uniform.



Lt. Gen. Laura Lenderman, deputy commander of Pacific Air Forces, presents a medal to Lt. Gen. Ricky Rupp, outgoing commander for U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force, during a change-of-command ceremony at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Tuesday.

Navy base in Japan breaks ground on training simulator

By **ALEX WILSON**

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The U.S. Navy's largest overseas base broke ground this week on a new building that will eventually house a state-of-the-art virtual training simulator.

The P-39 Ship Handling and Combat Training Facility will feature at least five simulators and training spaces where sailors may improve a variety of skills, according to a March 2023 contract notice on SAM.gov.

Training will include navigation and ship handling, air and missile defense, radar navigation, anti-submarine warfare and a multi-purpose reconfigurable training system, according to the notice.

Construction on the two-story, 32,800-square-foot building about



ALEX WILSON/Stars and Stripes

Aki Minoru, a general manager for Tokyu Construction, uses a ceremonial tool to break ground on the P-39 Ship Handling and Combat Training Facility at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Monday.

400 yards from Yokosuka's main gate is scheduled to conclude Aug. 12, 2027, according to information provided by Army Corps of Engi-

neers spokesman Charles Maib.

Tokyu Construction Inc. secured a \$63.5 million contract for the project on May 21, according

to SAM.gov.

Additional information, including specifics on the simulators and who will be using them, was not immediately available, according to Maib and base spokesman Justin Keller.

The simulator would be at least the second high-tech addition in recent years at the homeport of 7th Fleet.

In 2022, the Center for Surface Combat Systems Detachment Yokosuka unveiled its own anti-submarine warfare trainer.

That facility allows sailors to practice tracking enemy vessels through interactive 3D models, simulated "gaming" courses, instructor-led exercises or a virtual simulator.

Around 40 people gathered at Yokosuka on Monday for an offi-

cial groundbreaking ceremony officiated by the Navy, the Army Corps of Engineers and Tokyu.

"We at Tokyu Construction are honored to contribute to the security of the Indo-Pacific region with the United States of America and Japan," Aki Minoru, general manager for Tokyu's construction division, said during the ceremony.

The ceremony included traditional Shinto purification and blessing rituals administered by a Shinto priest from Suwa Daijinja, a shrine about 2½ miles south of the base.

"In closing, I'd like to express my sincere prayers for continuous prosperity and deepening of friendship between the United States of America and Japan, as well as the welfare of all who are present here today," Minoru said.

MILITARY

Bavaria drill readies soldiers for Kosovo

By LYDIA GORDON
Stars and Stripes

The Oregon National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment prepared for its upcoming mission to help keep peace in Kosovo with a dress rehearsal this week at the Joint Multinational Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany.

Role players simulated scenarios they may face in a mock town set up to mimic a rural Kosovo setting. Small teams of soldiers interacted with the pretend residents, who included people playing the roles of local police chief and medical director.

Leading up to the exercise Monday, the Oregon soldiers trained alongside other NATO forces to handle tasks like riot control. In Monday's drill, their conversations were aimed at maintaining peace and preventing violent escalation.

American rotational forces have long taken part in the NATO peacekeeping missions in Kosovo, which date to 1999 and followed an alliance campaign to end the bloodshed that marked the break-up of Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

But over the past two years, northern Kosovo has seen violent protests as a result of increased tension between ethnic Albanians and Serbs. There were 4,600 NATO troops in Kosovo at the start of this year, about 600 of whom were Americans.



PHOTOS BY LYDIA GORDON/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from the Oregon National Guard talk to a man portraying a small-town medical director during a mock peacekeeping mission Monday, at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany.



Oregon National Guard soldiers practice connecting with townspeople during the simulation at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center.



U.S. soldiers simulate a walk through a town representing rural Kosovo as part of training at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center.

US deal on F-35s allows Lockheed to win back withheld payments

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg News

The Pentagon has agreed with Lockheed Martin Corp. on milestones the company can reach by the end of the year to earn some of a potential \$500 million payment withheld for F-35 jets lacking necessary hardware and software upgrades, according to the U.S. program manager.

That agreement also includes a \$350 million investment by Lockheed

into the Pentagon's F-35 software development labs and testing facilities, the program manager, Lt. Gen. Michael Schmidt said.

Lockheed expects it will deliver by Dec. 31 between 75 and 110 of the upgraded F-35s, including both new aircraft and backlogged jets, the company has said. Lockheed delivered 46 jets as of Sept. 30, according to the Defense Contract Management Agency.

The Pentagon in August said it

was withholding about \$5 million for each F-35 that didn't yet have the advanced upgrade, known as TR3.

"We have set up various milestones for the release of that money and it is possible they can hit some of them" by year-end, Schmidt said. "It will be incremental," and it's unlikely his office will announce when Lockheed has met any interim goals, he added.

The \$350 million Lockheed in-

vestment to improve the Pentagon's software development infrastructure "was a criteria I insisted on because we have not invested enough in that aspect," Schmidt said. "We have an itemized, detailed plan" and Lockheed's payment "helps us kick start" that effort.

Lockheed said the \$350 million will be invested over the next five years.

The Defense Department de-

clined in July that jet deliveries could resume, following a year-long halt, even though the full hardware and software upgrades weren't complete.

Schmidt declined to provide a forecast when the full upgrades will be done. "We are trying to provide a combat capability by next year," he said, adding there are "a couple of capabilities that need to be fully matured but the progress has been incredible."

MILITARY



W. CHRIS CLYNE/Oregon National Guard

Maj. Tommy Vu smiles as he nears his goal of 1,027 chest-to-ground burpees in one hour Saturday in Salem, Ore. Vu set a Guinness World Records mark, according to the Oregon Army National Guard.

Oregon National Guard soldier reclaims burpee world record

BY BRADLEY LATHAM
Stars and Stripes

An Army National Guard officer has reclaimed a Guinness World Records fitness title by completing over 1,000 burpees in one hour, service officials said.

Maj. Tommy Vu, a medical officer with the Oregon National Guard's Medical Command, recorded 1,027 chest-to-ground burpees Saturday in Salem to set the world record for the second time since March 2023.

In his first record-breaking feat, Vu completed 1,003 repetitions of the dynamic exercise. Vu's record held until Nov. 12, 2023, when Habtamu Franke of the Netherlands racked up seven more reps to bring the record to 1,010.

Vu's latest attempt is pending

validation from Guinness World Records. If Saturday's demonstration is confirmed, he will hold five fitness records with the organization.

A standard burpee involves placing hands on the ground in a squat position followed by a move into a pushup stance, a return to the squat position and a jump to stand. Chest-to-ground burpees are considered to be a more challenging version of the exercise.

Vu is also the male record holder for most chest-to-ground pushups in one hour (1,494), fastest time to complete 25 burpees (33.34 seconds), and most burpee pullups in one minute (26) and one hour (611), according to the Guinness World Records website.

"His dedication to both his mil-

itary duties and personal goals showcases the work-life balance and drive for excellence we foster in our organization," Brig. Gen. Alan Gronewold, the adjutant general of Oregon, said in a statement.

Vu used his previous record attempts to raise awareness and money for charitable veteran organizations like Team Red, White & Blue. For Saturday's attempt, he plans to donate \$1,027 to a fundraiser supporting a friend battling amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease.

Vu doesn't look like he'll stop his record-breaking pursuits anytime soon. The 36-year-old already has his sights set on the eight-hour, 12-hour and 24-hour burpee records.

NSA investigating Chinese hack of US telecom firms

BY KATRINA MANSON
Bloomberg News

The United States is in the early stages of an investigation into potential Chinese hacking of American telecommunications companies, according to a top intelligence official.

National Security Agency Director General Timothy Haugh said the NSA, along with other government agencies and some companies, "will be doing deep looks" into the cases but that it is premature to speak about specific firms.

U.S. intelligence officials think a Chinese hacking group that Microsoft Corp. dubbed Salt Typhoon may have been inside U.S. telecoms for months and found a route into an access point for court-authorized wiretapping, according to a different person familiar with their views. Such hacks would represent a serious security breach, according to the second person.

The Wall Street Journal previously reported that AT&T, Verizon and Lumen Technologies are among those targeted in the campaign, and that Chinese hackers may have accessed information from systems used by the federal government for lawful wiretapping.

AT&T and Lumen declined to comment. Neither Verizon nor the Chinese Embassy in Washington immediately responded to requests for comment.

The NSA has warned since 2022 that telecommunications infrastructure was vulnerable to Chinese hacking, Haugh told reporters at the Cipher Threat Conference in Sea Island, Ga.

One such NSA advisory, dated June 2022, warned that Chinese hackers were seeking to gain "an initial foothold" into telecommunications organizations and network service providers via bugs in devices such as some Cisco Systems Inc. routers, before searching out critical users and systems.

Haugh, a four-star Air Force general who also took up leadership of U.S. Cyber Command in February, has described China as "the most daunting" of threats to the U.S. in cyberspace. U.S. cyber officials have warned since last year that Chinese hackers are burrowing into critical infrastructure across the country. The aim, officials have concluded, is to lie in wait to disrupt large swaths of crucial services such as electricity and water supply during a future crisis, hobbling any U.S. military response.

Although the U.S. has appealed to a range of companies to help unearth cases of such intrusions, government officials said earlier this year that they have so far discovered only the tip of the iceberg.

"Critical infrastructure is under steady attack," Harry Coker, U.S. national cyber director, told attendees at the Sea Island conference, in an earlier discussion.

Soldier who rescued drowning woman from Danube River up for award

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — A U.S. soldier who braved frigid Danube River waters to rescue a woman in danger of drowning has been nominated by his command for the Army's highest award for noncombat heroism.

Sgt. Daniel Beltran, 31, a bridge crew chief with Grafenwoehr's 809th Multi-Role Bridge Company, earned the Soldier's Medal nomination last month with his rescue in Ingolstadt, about 70 miles south of Tower Barracks, company commander Capt. Michael MacGovern said Friday.

A Marine veteran and a lifeguard with scuba and CPR certifications, Beltran and his fellow soldiers were at the Ingolstadt Pioneer School at 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 12 to build a pontoon bridge across the river, MacGovern said.

The company was at the training facility for German army engineers to test new

equipment. While Beltran was staging their trucks, a soldier called his name and the Houston native raced to the water's edge.

"I noticed there was a person floating in the water," Beltran said. "They were already face-down."

He asked MacGovern if he could go in and the officer agreed. The water temperature was 55 degrees and moving about 5 feet per second, MacGovern said.

Beltran swam out about 20 feet in his uniform and boots until he reached the 79-year-old woman, according to police in Ingolstadt.

"I just used what I learned in lifeguarding," he said. "I grabbed the individual and then performed a rescue swim back to shore, trying to keep their head above water."

Once on shore, a now-shivering Beltran passed the woman to Staff Sgt. Chad Kuderer, who began chest compressions. The woman had signs of hypothermia and a weak pulse and wasn't breathing.

Beltran knelt down and began overseeing



BRIAN LAMAR/U.S. Army

Sgt. Daniel Beltran gives directions during a field exercise on the Danube River in Ingolstadt, Germany, on Sept. 25.

resuscitation efforts while Sgt. Kenneth Mcgray took over with the chest compressions.

After about a minute, the woman spit up water, Beltran said. They continued the compressions. About 30 seconds later, she spit up

more water and gasped for air, and the soldiers placed her in the recovery position.

The woman was eventually transferred to the care of German emergency medical personnel. She survived the incident, but German police declined to provide more information about her condition, citing privacy laws.

After what MacGovern called the soldier's "extraordinary actions," Beltran changed clothes and went back to finish the bridge.

The Soldier's Medal is awarded to service members from the United States or friendly foreign nations who distinguish themselves through noncombat heroism, which must include "clearly recognizable personal hazard" and "voluntary risk of life," according to the Army website.

"I can't really put into words how proud we are," MacGovern said.

MILITARY

Navy looking to avoid sidelining further vessels

Several fixes being implemented to address civilian mariner shortage

BY ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — The Navy is considering improved pay and working conditions for civilian mariners among the fixes it hopes will address the manpower shortage crippling its logistics fleet.

The more holistic approach would use Navy-wide resources to address the lack of qualified civilian mariners working for the Military Sealift Command instead of sidelining ships to ease crewing demands.

“We’re looking at (the issue) comprehensively, considering the full scope of challenges and thus looking at all the tools that can be employed to address it,” a Navy official told Stars and Stripes on Monday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren’t authorized to discuss the issue publicly by name.

Besides potentially offering wages and benefits more competitive with those in the private sector, and ensuring mariners at sea accrue adequate time off, the Navy also wants to step up recruitment efforts, the official said.

That could include working directly with the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and six maritime academies nationwide to recruit

mariners for Military Sealift. Officials are also evaluating ways to add more civilians nationwide and military members who are leaving the services, the official said.

Military Sealift operates about 125 civilian-crewed ships responsible for a range of tasks, such as replenishing Navy ships, pre-positioning combat cargo at sea and conducting specialized missions. But the command is having trouble attracting and keeping workers.

About 5,500 civilians fill about 4,500 billets across Military Sealift. But about 10,000 mariners are needed, experts have said.

The grueling schedule has taken a toll on civilian mariners, many of whom have opted to leave the service, Sal Mercogliano, an adjunct professor at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy who has served ashore and at sea for Military Sealift Command, said in an August post to his X account.

“This has resulted in @MSCSealift churning through personnel,” Mercogliano said.

Experts have likened the shortage of merchant mariners to a national disaster threatening America’s ability to maintain sea power. The issue affects both the military and commercial shipping.



HENDRICK DICKSON/USN Military Sealift Command

A mariner aboard the fast combat support ship USNS Supply raises the national ensign as the ship moors in Naval Station Norfolk, Va., on July 27 after an eight-month deployment.

To help correct the problem, Military Sealift recently proposed putting 17 ships — two replenishment vessels, an oiler, two expeditionary sea bases and 12 expeditionary fast transports — into an extended maintenance period for a yet-to-be defined amount of time.

The move would free up 700 people to work on other ships, fill-

ing gaps and allowing fellow mariners to take more leave.

Several Navy departments and the service’s top officer, Adm. Lisa Franchetti, have reviewed the Military Sealift proposal, now under consideration by Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro.

It isn’t clear precisely what would be included in the evolving plan or if some Navy ships still

would face an indefinite hiatus. It’s also unknown when the final plan would be ready.

“The Navy’s review of its options (has been) very deliberate,” the official said. “We understand that the health of the Military Sealift Command ... is critical to enabling U.S. naval forces to be where it matters, when it matters.”

Help: Some feel new measures still don’t go far enough

FROM PAGE 1

The contract is funded through the military departments, defense agencies and DOD field activities that have civilian employees in Japan, according to the release.

The pilot follows “a yearlong effort to identify and address concerns regarding access to medical care,” the Pentagon said in its release, apparently referencing complaints raised by angry DOD civilians who turned out in droves in early 2023 to public meetings at U.S. bases in Japan.

At those hearings, visiting Pentagon officials gauged discontent over the Defense Health Agency forcing employees to Japanese providers and limiting civilian access to base hospitals and clinics to a space-available basis only.

In response, civilian employees cited the practice in Japan of paying for health care upfront, a matter sometimes costing tens of thousands of dollars; of sometimes being refused care at Japanese medical facilities; the language and cultural barrier and differing health care practices in Japan.

They also cited deaths that resulted from a lack of or delay in services from military and Japanese providers.

Japanese hospitals are not required by law to accept patients and routinely deny patients at their discretion. Reasons can vary, but often pertain to a preference for Japan’s national insurance plan or the belief they lack adequate resources to treat someone.

Military hospitals will continue

to provide space available health care for civilian employees, according to the DOD release.

‘Too little, too late’

The loss of steady access to on-base health care meant some employees relocated from Japan and others decided against taking jobs in the country, according to groups like Japan Civilian Medical Advocacy, a grassroots organization with an online forum for DOD employees to share tips on accessing health care.

While the group views the pilot as a step in the right direction, some members were also quick to note its flaws.

“I think we’re excited to see the Pentagon do something and to acknowledge this as an issue, saying

that we are vital and saying we need a program is a good thing,” advocacy group member Alexandra Cummings said by phone Tuesday. “It has a little bit of a ‘too little, maybe too late’ thing for a lot of us, and it’s such a blow that they are not protecting dependents.”

Cummings also felt civilians haven’t had significant input in the development process of the program.

“I think they would be able to create a much better program in partnership with civilians who are impacted and concerned,” she said.

Cummings said the pilot program will likely help civilian employees secure appointments and avoid the burden of coming up with huge amounts of cash in emergency situations, but it doesn’t address

concerns over a lack of specialized medicine or some surgeries.

In a personal example, Cummings said she’s sought follow-up care after receiving an emergency embolization following a postpartum hemorrhage to determine if she can have more children or if further pregnancy would pose a risk.

“No Japanese doctor has been willing to see me, and I’ve talked with five different hospitals, because their concern is, even with me providing the American medical records, I’ve been told that the technology that was used on me is not something that’s used frequently in Japan,” she said. “So I can’t even get an appointment that’s come out through translators.”

NATION

Biden sets deadline to replace lead pipes

Cities will have 10 years to ensure water is safer

By **MATTHEW DALY**
and **MICHAEL PHILLIS**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A decade after the Flint, Mich., water crisis raised alarms about the continuing dangers of lead in tap water, President Joe Biden is setting a 10-year deadline for cities across the nation to replace their lead pipes, finalizing an aggressive approach aimed at ensuring that drinking water is safe for all Americans.

Biden was expected to announce the final Environmental Protection Agency rule Tuesday in the swing state of Wisconsin during the final month of a tight presidential campaign. The announcement highlights an issue — safe drinking water — that Kamala Harris has prioritized as vice president and during her presidential campaign. The new rule supplants a looser standard set by former President Donald Trump's administration that did not include a universal requirement to replace lead pipes.

Biden and Harris believe it's "a

moral imperative" to ensure that everyone has access to clean drinking water, EPA Administrator Michael Regan told reporters Monday. "We know that over 9 million legacy lead pipes continue to deliver water to homes across our country. But the science has been clear for decades: There is no safe level of lead in our drinking water."

The rule is the strongest overhaul of lead-in-water standards in roughly three decades. Lead, a heavy metal used in pipes, paints, ammunition and many other products, is a neurotoxin that can cause a range of disorders from behavioral problems to brain damage. Lead lowers IQ scores in children, stunts their development and increases blood pressure in adults.

The EPA estimates the stricter standard will prevent up to 900,000 infants from having low birthweight and avoid up to 1,500 premature deaths a year from heart disease.

The new regulation is stricter

than one proposed last fall and requires water systems to ensure that lead concentrations do not exceed an "action level" of 10 parts per billion, down from 15 parts per billion under the current standard. If high lead levels are found, water systems must inform the public about ways to protect their health, including the use of water filters, and take action to reduce lead exposure while concurrently working to replace all lead pipes.

Lead pipes often impact low-income urban areas the most. They are most commonly found in older, industrial parts of the country, including major cities such as Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Detroit and Milwaukee, where Biden was set to announce the standards on Tuesday.

The new rule also revises the way lead amounts are measured, which could significantly expand the number of cities and water systems that are found to have excessive levels of lead, the EPA said. To help communities comply, the agency is making availa-



JAKE MAY/AP

Virginia Tech professor Marc Edwards shows the difference in water quality between Detroit and Flint after testing in 2015.

ble an additional \$2.6 billion for drinking water infrastructure through the bipartisan infrastructure law. The agency also is awarding \$35 million in competitive grants for programs to reduce lead in drinking water.

The 10-year time frame won't start for three years, giving water utilities time to prepare. A limited number of cities with large volumes of lead pipes may be given a longer time frame to meet the new standard.

Supreme Court seems open to uphold rule on ghost guns

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court seemed likely Tuesday to uphold a Biden administration regulation on ghost guns, the difficult-to-trace weapons found at crime scenes in increasing numbers.

In arguments that ranged to classic cars and Western omelets, key conservative justices seemed open to the government's argument that kits for quickly making nearly untraceable guns at home can be regulated like other firearms.

Two conservative justices, Chief John Roberts and Amy Coney Barrett, previously joined with the three liberals to allow the rule to go into effect and seemed skeptical of the arguments that the Biden administration overstepped by trying to regulate gun parts.

Justice Samuel Alito compared the components to food, suggesting eggs, peppers and ham aren't necessarily a Western omelet so shouldn't be treated like one. Barrett, though, proposed gun kits are more like meal kits ordered online that contain everything needed to make a specific dinner, like turkey chili.

Roberts, for his part, closely questioned the challengers' position that the kits are mostly popular with hobbyists who enjoy making their own weapons, like

auto enthusiasts might rebuild a car on the weekend.

Many ghost gun kits require only the drilling of a few holes and removal of plastic tabs.

"Drilling a hole or two, I would think, doesn't give the same sort of reward that you get from working on your car on the weekend," Roberts said. "My understanding is that it's not terribly difficult for someone to do this."

A ruling is expected in the coming months.

The regulation came after the number of ghost guns seized by police around the country soared, going from fewer than 4,000 recovered by law enforcement in 2018 to nearly 20,000 in 2021, according to Justice Department data. Nearly 700 were linked to murder or attempted homicide investigations during that time.

Finalized after an executive action from President Joe Biden, the rule requires companies to treat the kits like other firearms by adding serial numbers, running background checks and verifying that buyers are 21 or older.

The number of ghost guns has since flattened out or declined in several major cities, including New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Baltimore, according to court documents.

But manufacturers and gun-rights groups challenged the rule in court, arguing it's long been legal to sell gun parts to hobbyists

and that most people who commit crimes use traditional guns.

They say the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives overstepped its authority. "Congress is the body that gets to decide how to address any risks that might arise from a particular product," a group of more than two dozen GOP-leaning states supporting the challengers wrote in court documents.

In other moves, the Supreme Court on Monday rejected an appeal from Martin Shkreli, who was once dubbed "Pharma Bro" after jacking up the price of a lifesaving drug.

Shkreli appealed an order to return \$64.6 million in profits he and his former company reaped after monopolizing the market for the medication and drastically increasing its price. His lawyers argued that the money went to his company rather than him personally.

Also Monday, the court turned away a challenge from Republican state lawmakers in Pennsylvania to a Biden administration executive order that is intended to boost voter registration.

The justices did not comment in rejecting an appeal from the Republicans, who claimed the order is an unconstitutional attempt to interfere in the November election. Lower courts had dismissed the lawsuit.

Justices declined to review an

Alabama ruling that triggered concerns for in vitro fertilization availability by allowing couples to pursue wrongful death lawsuits over the accidental destruction of frozen embryos.

A fertility clinic and hospital had asked the court to review the

Alabama Supreme Court decision that a couple, who had a frozen embryo destroyed in an accident, could pursue a lawsuit against them for the wrongful death of their "minor child." Justices turned down the petition without comment.

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NATION

What to know about Hurricane Milton

Associated Press

Hurricane Milton churned through the Gulf of Mexico toward Florida on Tuesday as an “extremely dangerous” storm that could wallop one of the state’s major population centers just two weeks after deadly Hurricane Helene swamped the coastline.

The system is threatening the Tampa Bay area, which is home to more than 3.3 million people and has managed to evade a direct hit from a major hurricane for more than 100 years. Milton is also menacing other stretches of Florida’s west coast that were battered when Helene came ashore on Sept. 26.

Traffic was thick Tuesday heading north out of Tampa on Interstate 75 as people fled the area ahead of Milton. As they evacuated, crews along the coast hurried to clear Helene’s debris so that Milton doesn’t turn it into dangerous projectiles.

Milton strengthened to a Category 5 storm on Monday before

weakening Tuesday to a Category 4. National Hurricane Center forecasters warned that the storm will likely remain a major hurricane and could even expand as it approaches Florida.

When will Milton make landfall and how strong will it be?

Milton is expected to make landfall on Florida’s west coast late Wednesday. Forecasters said Tuesday that although it will likely fluctuate in intensity, Milton will remain “an extremely dangerous hurricane” through landfall.

“We must be prepared for a major, major impact to the west coast of Florida,” Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Tuesday.

As of Tuesday morning, Milton had winds of 150 mph and was centered about 520 miles southwest of Tampa.

Why are scientists saying this is a weird storm season?

Hurricane Milton is the latest system to come out of what scientists say is the weirdest storm season they’ve ever seen.

Even before the Atlantic hurricane season started, forecasters were predicting a busy year, and it began that way when Beryl was the earliest storm to reach Category 5 on record. But from Aug. 20 — the traditional start of peak hurricane season — to Sept. 23 it was record quiet, said Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach.

Then five hurricanes popped up between Sept. 26 and Oct. 6, more than double the old record of two. On Sunday and Monday, there were three hurricanes in October at the same time — something that never happened before — Klotzbach said. In just 46.5 hours, Hurricane Milton went from just forming as a tropical storm with 40 mph winds to a top-of-the-charts Category 5 hurricane.

How bad is damage expected to be?

Florida’s entire Gulf Coast is especially vulnerable to storm surge.

Helene came ashore about 150

miles away from Tampa in the Florida Panhandle and still managed to cause drowning deaths in the Tampa area due to surges of around 5 to 8 feet above normal tide levels.

Forecasters warned of a possible 10- to 15-foot storm surge in Tampa Bay. It is the highest surge ever predicted for that location and has led to evacuation orders for communities all along the coast.

The storm could also bring widespread flooding, with 5 inches to a foot of rain forecast for the Florida Peninsula, and even up to 18 inches in some places.

What if I have travel plans to that part of Florida?

Tampa International Airport said it halted flights at 9 a.m. Tuesday. The airport posted on X that it is not a shelter for people or their cars.

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport said it is in a mandatory evacuation zone and would close after the last flight leaves

Tuesday.

What’s happening in Mexico?

Mexican officials were organizing buses to evacuate people from the low-lying coastal city of Progreso on the Yucatan Peninsula after Mexico’s National Meteorological Service said Hurricane Milton “may hit between Celestun and Progreso.”

Celestun, on the western corner of the peninsula, is a low-lying nature reserve home to tens of thousands of flamingos. Progreso, to the east, is a shipping and cruise ship port with a population of about 40,000.

Dozens of residents and tourists lined up with suitcases and other belongings on Monday to catch an evacuation ferry off Holbox Island, near the eastern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula.

Holbox, which is popular for its seascapes and tends to flood even in light rain, may be one of the closest Mexican points that Milton brushes before moving northeastward toward Florida.

Milton: Fla. National Guard readies for second response to hurricanes in two weeks

FROM PAGE 1

at least an “extremely dangerous” Category 3 storm, and warned Tuesday was the last day Floridians had to prepare for the storm and evacuate. Milton was expected to continue eastward after striking the Tampa area and could remain a Category 1 hurricane Thursday when it arrives in the Jacksonville, Fla., area, forecasters warned.

MacDill’s 6,600 military and civilian personnel have been forced to evacuate several times in recent years, including ahead of Helene last month, Col. Edward Szczepanik, commander of MacDill’s 6th Air Refueling Wing, said Tuesday in a social media post. He instructed the installation’s personnel to take the storm seriously once again, after recent storms — including Helene — left only minor damage on the base.

“Let’s all remember MacDill Air Force Base is not the buildings on the installation,” he said. “The 6th Refueling Wing is our people, our partners and our air power. No matter what happens the next few days, we promise you that we will preserve those three things.”

In addition to the refueling wing, which moved its 12 KC-135 Stratotankers to McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas until the storm’s passing, the 5,700-acre

coastal base is home to the headquarters of U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command.

The Navy also acted Monday in preparation of Milton’s arrival, moving dozens of aircraft and at least three ships from its bases near Jacksonville out of the hurricane’s path, service officials said. Three guided-missile destroyers — the USS Donald Cook, the USS Thomas Hudner and the USS Lassen — were sent to sea to avoid Milton. Other ships based at Jacksonville’s Naval Station Mayport — including the destroyer USS Delbert D. Black — were heavy-weather moored in recent days to help them “withstand strong winds and heavy seas” during the storm.

Rear Adm. John Hewitt, the commander of Navy Region Southeast, on Tuesday ordered all Florida Navy bases to prepare to shutdown to non-essential personnel by Tuesday evening. Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay just north of Florida’s border with Georgia on the Atlantic Ocean was also preparing to close Tuesday for the storm, officials said.

“Our foremost concern is the safety of our personnel and their families,” Hewitt said in a statement. “The Navy is fully prepared to protect our people, facilities, and fleet in the face of this storm. I



MIKE CARLSON/AP

Highway signage announces the impending arrival of Hurricane Milton and the evacuations zones on Tuesday, in Port Richey, Fla.

urge everyone to stay vigilant, heed evacuation warnings, and follow the guidance of both civilian and military officials to ensure everyone remains safe.”

Patrick Space Force Base, near Cape Canaveral, Fla., was set to close to non-essential personnel on Wednesday, officials with base’s Space Launch Delta 45 said.

Meanwhile, the Florida National Guard was bracing for its second response to a major hurricane in two weeks. Gov. Ron DeSantis

ordered the entire Florida National Guard to duty on Tuesday to stage in areas from which they can quickly respond, Guard officials said.

The state already had some 1,300 Guard troops on duty responding to Hurricane Helene, but Florida officials warned Monday that Milton could cause more damage in the state, especially because debris from Helene remains scattered throughout several areas.

The Florida Guard was placing

liaison officers in some 20 counties to coordinate with local and state officials ahead of Milton. Elsewhere, it was posturing thousands of troops to rapidly provide “search and rescue, route clearance, law enforcement support, commodity distribution, flood mitigation, aviation and other support as needed by the state,” said William Manley, a Florida Guard spokesman. Those troops were outfitted with 12 helicopters, 13 boats and about 440 high-wheeled tactical vehicles, he said.

NATION

Officials facing antisemitism on Helene response

BY WILL OREMUS
AND MAXINE JOSELOW
The Washington Post

Top officials in North Carolina and at the Federal Emergency Management Agency responding to Helene are being subjected to a flurry of antisemitic attacks, causing some of them to fear for their safety as they prepare for another hurricane to strike Florida.

The attacks, which include wild claims that Jewish officials are conspiring to orchestrate the disasters, sabotage the recovery or even seize victims' property, are being fomented largely on Elon Musk's X. Antisemitic tropes have commingled on the site with false rumors and conspiracy theories amid the chaos of the recovery effort, according to a report released Tuesday by the nonprofit Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD).

The online vitriol is compounding the challenges facing emergency management officials dealing with the aftermath of Helene and readying a response to Milton, a Category 4 hurricane barreling toward Florida.

The volume and virulence of the X posts have dismayed experts who warn that they risk undermining lifesaving response measures.

"We're seeing an alarming trend of antisemitism being included now in false narratives around pretty much any breaking news event," said Isabelle Frances-Wright, ISD's director of technology and society. "This portends a grim outlook for the information ecosystem, both on X itself but also on other platforms where these narratives trickle into and evolve."

The report focused on 33 recent



JABIN BOTSFORD/The Washington Post

National Guard soldiers look for people in distress near the New River from a Black Hawk helicopter near Ashe County, N.C., on Oct. 2.

viral X posts that spread misinformation about Helene, which made landfall in Florida as a major hurricane last month and caused at least 231 deaths and widespread devastation in six states.

The posts collectively attracted 159 million views, even though their claims were thoroughly debunked by local residents, FEMA, the White House and other government officials.

Ten of the posts contained antisemitic sentiments and collective-

ly drew 17.1 million views.

In comparison, FEMA, which leads the federal response to Helene, drew just short of 2.6 million views for its 10 most popular posts on Saturday and Sunday.

The report noted that antisemitic sentiments were largely directed at three individual officials: FEMA director of public affairs Jaclyn Rothenberg, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and Asheville, N.C., Mayor Esther Man-

heimer.

Many came from accounts that have also trafficked in other forms of misinformation on X, including false claims about Haitians eating pets in Springfield, Ohio, the war in Ukraine, and the 2020 presidential election.

As of Monday evening, X had not removed any of the 33 posts, three of which received "community notes" appending fact-checks or additional context to the original post, according to ISD.

Over 1,500 active-duty deployed to help Helene recovery

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

ATLANTA — More than 1,500 active-duty soldiers on Monday were clearing routes, helping repair damage and delivering food and water to storm survivors in western North Carolina who faced some of Hurricane Helene's worst destruction, military officials said.

Soldiers deployed into the North Carolina mountains in recent days came from the 82nd Airborne Division and the 20th Engineer Brigade at Fort Liberty, N.C., and the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., according to the 18th Airborne Corps, which oversees those units.

The troops include the roughly 1,000 soldiers from Fort Liberty announced last week by the Pentagon who would deploy to help people struggling in North Carolina from Helene's rampage.

Army officials said the soldiers



ALISON STROUT/U.S. Army

Soldiers work together with the Fairview community to assess damage after Hurricane Helene in North Carolina on Saturday.

were using 15 helicopters and 60 infantry squad vehicles to move troops and supplies throughout Asheville, N.C., and its surround-

ing communities. Those areas were left devastated by massive flooding, landslides and wind damage caused by Helene in the days after the hurricane's landfall as a Category 4 storm near Florida's Big Bend region on Sept. 26.

"I am incredibly proud of what our soldiers of the 18th Airborne Corps are doing to assist our fellow citizens of North Carolina in support of the North Carolina National Guard, FEMA, [non-governmental organizations], first responders and other volunteer organizations," Army Lt. Gen. Christopher Donahue, the 18th Airborne Corp's commander, said in a statement.

The active-duty soldiers joined more than 6,000 Army and Air National Guard troops from some 18 states in responding to the deadly hurricane that left a trail of damage across the southeastern United States. Helene's destruction

path crossed parts of Florida, Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina. The storm has been blamed for more than 230 deaths, according to The Associated Press.

Photos and videos posted in recent days on a Pentagon website show active-duty soldiers flying missions to deliver supplies via CH-47 Chinook heavy-lift helicopters in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. Helicopter-flying troops from the 82nd and 101st as well as the elite 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment were supporting airborne recovery operations, defense officials said Monday.

On the ground, the active-duty troops were working largely to provide supplies to affected communities. Soldiers provided 2,800 meals, 4,500 bottles of water and more than 85,000 pounds of cargo to North Carolina storm victims in

Swannanoa, Pleasant Grove, Old Fort, Spruce Pine, Bakersville, Fairview and Emerald City during the weekend, the 18th Airborne Corps said.

National Guard troops were also continuing their response in affected areas in Florida, Georgia, Tennessee and North and South Carolina, a Guard spokesperson said. Guard forces from those states and Alabama, Connecticut, Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia were operating in the region Monday.

Those forces were using 50 helicopters, about 1,100 military vehicles and 16 boats to aid in the widespread response, according to the National Guard Bureau. Guard troops on Monday were engaged in highwater rescues, debris clearance and supply distribution, officials said.

Home insurers argue for 42% average rate hike in North Carolina

BY GARY D. ROBERTSON
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — With many western North Carolina residents still lacking power and running water from Hurricane Helene, a hearing began Monday on the insurance industry's request to raise homeowner premium rates

statewide by more than 42% on average.

A top lieutenant for Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey opened what's expected to be multiple weeks of witnesses, evidence and arguments by attorneys for the state Insurance Department and the North Carolina Rate Bu-

reau, which represents insurance companies seeking the increase.

In over 2,000 pages of data filed last January, the Rate Bureau sought proposed increases varying widely from just over 4% in parts of the mountains to 99% in some beach areas. Proposed increases in and around big cities

like Raleigh, Charlotte and Greensboro are roughly 40%.

Across 11 western counties that were hit hard by Helene, including Asheville's Buncombe County, the requested increase is 20.5%. The percentages are based on insurance payouts of years past and future claims projections.

After taking public comment, Causey rejected the request in February, prompting the hearing.

When the hearing ends, the hearing officer, in consultation with Causey, will decide within 45 days whether the proposed rates are excessive, and if so, issue an order that sets new rates.

NATION

Report: Debt to increase under Trump or Harris

Analysis of candidates' economic plans shows higher deficits

By JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — No one is likely to be happy with the projected higher deficits laid out in a new analysis of Kamala Harris' and Donald Trump's economic plans.

The analysis released Monday by the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget suggests a Harris presidency could increase the national debt over 10 years by \$3.5 trillion. That's even though the vice president's campaign insists her proposed investments in the middle class and housing would be fully offset by higher taxes on corporations and the wealthy. Her campaign policy guide states that Harris is "committed to fiscal responsibility — making investments that will support our economy, while paying for them and reducing the deficit at the same time."

The same analysis says former President Trump's ideas could heap another \$7.5 trillion onto the debt and possibly as much as \$15.2 trillion. That's even though he suggests growth would be so strong under his watch that no one would need to worry about deficits.

The 34-page report released by the fiscal watchdog group puts a spotlight on the issue of government borrowing that will confront the winner of November's election. Total federal debt held by the public now tops \$28 trillion and is expected to keep climbing as reve-

nues can't keep up with the growing costs of Social Security, Medicare and other programs. The analysis noted that the expense of servicing that debt in dollar terms has "eclipsed the cost of defending our nation or providing health care to elderly Americans."

Drawing on the candidates' speeches, campaign documents and social media posts, the analysis warns bluntly: "Debt would continue to grow faster than the economy under either candidates' plans and in most scenarios would grow faster and higher than under current law."

Neither candidate has stressed budget deficit reduction in their pitch to voters. But multiple analyses show a clear difference of Harris being much more fiscally responsible than Trump.

Harvard University professor Jason Furman, who was the top economist in the Obama White House, estimated in an opinion article for The Wall Street Journal that Harris' plans could cut deficits by \$1.5 trillion or raise them by \$1.5 trillion. Meanwhile, his estimates show that Trump's plans would increase deficits by \$5 trillion, though that figure does not include his plans to charge no taxes on overtime pay and scrap the limit on deductions of state and local taxes.

There are other estimates by The Budget Lab at Yale and the Penn Wharton Budget Model that

also show Harris would be better at keeping the deficit in check.

The Harris campaign said it sharply disagreed with the analysis of Harris' policies by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, saying she would reduce the deficit if she became president.

The Trump campaign also criticized the analysis, with Brian Hughes, a senior adviser, saying, "Trump's plan will rein in wasteful spending, defeat inflation, reduce the burden of interest costs, and ignite economic growth that fuels federal revenue, so we can make our economy great again."

The committee analysis estimates that Harris' policy ideas could add \$3.5 trillion to the national debt through 2035. That conclusion depends on its treatment of how much various programs could cost.

It forecasts that Harris would implement \$4.6 trillion in tax reductions, including extensions of some of the expiring 2017 tax cuts that Trump signed into law and tax breaks for parents and no taxes on tipped income for hospitality workers. Roughly \$4 trillion in higher taxes on corporations and the wealthy would be insufficient to cover the total cost of her agenda and the additional interest on the debt that it could generate.

Still, the analysis notes that its numbers depend on various interpretations of what Harris has said.



MARK SCHIEFELBEIN/AP

This combination photo shows Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris at a rally in Flint, Mich., on Oct. 4, and Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Walker, Mich., on Sept. 27.

It's possible that Harris' agenda would add nothing to baseline deficits, but the report also said it might plausibly add as much as \$8.1 trillion in debt in what appears to be a worse-case scenario.

By contrast, Trump's ideas would likely add another \$7.5 trillion to the debt.

His \$2.7 trillion in tariff revenues would be unable to cover \$9.2 trillion in tax cuts and additional expenditures such as \$350 billion to secure the border and deport

unauthorized immigrants.

But the analysis includes other possibilities that show far higher deficits under Trump. If his tariffs raised less money and there were higher costs for his mass deportations and tax breaks, the national debt could jump by \$15.2 trillion.

On the other hand, if the tariffs raised \$4.3 trillion and there were no costs tied to deportations, Trump's plans could only increase the debt by \$1.5 trillion over 10 years.

Intelligence officials: US adversaries target races with disinformation

By DAVID KLEPPER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's not just the presidential election: Foreign governments are targeting House and Senate races around the country in their effort to meddle with American democracy this election year, intelligence officials warned Monday.

Russia and China have launched influence operations designed to help or hurt candidates in specific congressional races. Without giving specifics about the number of affected races, an official from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said Monday that both countries have zeroed in on races where they believe they have a national security interest at stake.

Other smaller nations may be trying their own influence operations, officials said. Cuba is "almost certainly" trying to boost candidates that the Cuban government believes would support their interests in America, according to a report on foreign election threats released Monday, roughly



ERIC GAY/AP

A voter registration table is seen at a political event 2022, in Fredericksburg, Texas.

a month out from the election.

The warning from intelligence officials comes during a particularly tight battle for the House and Senate, where control could be decided by just a handful of races. While much of the attention has focused on attempts by foreign adversaries to influence the presidential race, Monday's warning underscores the threat that online disinformation also poses in state and local contests.

Leaders in Russia and China understand the American politi-

cal system well enough to recognize that this year's close elections create good conditions for the use and spread of disinformation, said the official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity under rules set by the office of the director.

Foreign adversaries have also targeted some races even further down the ballot, including statewide offices and state legislative campaigns, the official said.

Moscow's goal is to erode support for congressional candidates

who favor assisting Ukraine in its war with Russia. Officials wouldn't say which candidates were targeted, but it's likely that the Kremlin's effort is intended to hurt Democrats and centrist Republicans who have supported Ukraine.

China has targeted candidates from both parties based on their stance on issues of key importance to Beijing, including support for Taiwan. Officials said they have observed Chinese disinformation agencies focusing on candidates in "tens" of races.

Officials also said that Cuba has in past elections tried to help candidates that it views as supportive of better relations with the island, such as reduced economic sanctions. They said it was highly likely that leaders in Havana were mounting similar campaigns ahead of an election that could have big consequences for relations with Washington.

Influence operations can include false or exaggerated claims and propaganda designed to mislead voters about specific candi-

dates, issues or races. It can also include social media posts or other digital content that seeks to suppress the vote through intimidation or by giving voters false information about election procedures.

Along with cyberattacks on election systems, influence operations that stoke distrust and divisiveness are a critical threat facing the 2024 election, national security officials have said.

State and local authorities have invested heavily in securing the vote that last week, Jen Easterly, director of the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, told The Associated Press there is no way a foreign adversary could alter the overall results.

Disinformation can be a harder threat to quantify. Foreign adversaries create networks of fake websites and social media accounts mimicking Americans, and then work to amplify divisive and incendiary claims about contentious debates like immigration, the economy or the federal government's response to disasters.

NATION



GABRIELA CAMPOS/AP

Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, the weapons supervisor on the set of the Western film "Rust," center, speaks to Judge T. Glenn Ellington at the First Judicial District Courthouse in Santa Fe, N.M., on Monday.

'Rust' armorer pleads guilty to gun charge in separate case

BY MORGAN LEE
Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — The weapons supervisor in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer by Alec Baldwin on the set of the Western film "Rust" pleaded guilty Monday to a separate criminal charge of carrying a gun into a licensed liquor establishment.

Movie armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed agreed to change her plea to guilty on the charge in exchange for a reduced sentence of 18 months supervised probation.

Judge T. Glenn Ellington approved the agreement that allows Gutierrez-Reed to begin probation while serving out an 18-month prison term at a New Mexico state penitentiary for involuntary manslaughter in the fatal shooting of

cinematographer Halyna Hutchins.

In the "Rust" case, prosecutors blamed Gutierrez-Reed for unwittingly bringing live ammunition onto the movie set and for failing to follow basic gun safety protocols.

Gutierrez-Reed shuffled into the Santa Fe courtroom Monday in a beige jumpsuit, handcuffs and ankle shackles to change her plea to guilty and waive her right to trial.

"I'd just like to apologize to the court and thank you for your judgment today," she said.

The case stems from evidence that a few weeks before "Rust" began filming in October 2021, Gutierrez-Reed carried a gun into a downtown bar in Santa Fe where

firearms are prohibited.

Special prosecutor Kari Morrissey said Gutierrez-Reed filmed herself in the bathroom of the bar with a handgun — explaining how she snuck in the prohibited firearm in a video that was obtained when authorities searched the armorer's phone during the "Rust" investigation.

Gutierrez-Reed was convicted in March at trial of involuntary manslaughter in the fatal shooting of Hutchins. She has an appeal of that conviction pending in a higher court.

Baldwin, the lead actor and coproducer for "Rust," was pointing a gun at Hutchins during a rehearsal for the film when the revolver went off, killing Hutchins and wounding director Joel Souza.

Georgia Supreme Court restores abortion near-ban

BY RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. — The Georgia Supreme Court on Monday halted a ruling striking down the state's near-ban on abortions while it considers the state's appeal.

The high court's order came a week after a judge found that Georgia unconstitutionally prohibits abortions beyond about six weeks of pregnancy, often before women realize they're pregnant. Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney ruled Sept. 30 that privacy rights under Georgia's state constitution include the right to make personal health care decisions.

The state Supreme Court put McBurney's ruling on hold at the request of Republican state Attorney General Chris Carr, whose office is appealing.

In a dissenting opinion, Justice John J. Ellington argued that the case "should not be predetermined in the State's favor before the appeal is even docketed."

"The State should not be in the business of enforcing laws that have been determined to violate fundamental rights guaranteed to millions of individuals under the Georgia Constitution," Ellington wrote. "The 'status quo' that should be maintained is the state of the law before the challenged laws took effect."

Clare Bartlett, executive direc-

tor of the Georgia Life Alliance, called high court's decision "appropriate," fearing that without it, women from other states would begin coming to Georgia for surgical abortions.

"There's no there's no right to privacy in the abortion process because there's another individual involved," Bartlett said. She added: "It goes back to protecting those who are the most vulnerable and can't speak for themselves."

Monica Simpson, executive director of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, said the state Supreme Court had "sided with anti-abortion extremists." Her group is among the plaintiffs challenging the state law.

"Every minute this harmful six-week abortion ban is in place, Georgians suffer," Simpson said in a statement.

Leaders of carafem, an Atlanta abortion provider that had planned to expand its services after McBurney's ruling, expressed dismay at the law's reinstatement.

"Carafem will continue to offer abortion services following the letter of the law," said Melissa Grant, the provider's chief operating officer. "But we remain angry and disappointed and hope that eventually people will come back to a more sensible point of view on this issue that aligns with the people who need care."

Chicago mayor names new school board after panel resigns

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson named members of a new school board on Monday, batting away criticism of the move days after all seven members resigned amid an escalating fight over control of the public schools in the nation's third-largest city.

During a news conference at a South Side church, Johnson introduced six new school board members and said he'd name a seventh at a later date. He said that although the new members are technically nominees who are still being vetted, it's a formality and they could remain after the board triples in size in January and goes to a hybrid model that will include 11 mayoral appointees and 10 elected members.

Johnson has been trying to oust the district's CEO, Pedro Marti-

nez, who was named to the job in 2021 by Johnson's predecessor, then-Mayor Lori Lightfoot. Johnson, a former Chicago Teachers Union organizer, has clashed with Martinez, including over how best to close gaps in the district's nearly \$10 billion budget. Martinez has refused to resign, citing the need for stability in the district.

Rather than step into the fray, all seven board members announced Friday that they would resign come the end of the month — a stunning move during the tenure of a mayor who has touted his experience with schools and education equity in the largely low income district. The outgoing members were handpicked by Johnson in 2023, months after he took office.

They haven't commented about their resignations.

Chicago will hold its first school

board elections next month, installing a 21-member hybrid board until 2027, when a fully elected board will take office.

Johnson's new picks do not require City Council approval, but a majority of aldermen signed a letter over the weekend calling for a hearing on the matter. Johnson's chief of staff, Cristina Pacione-Zayas, told reporters the district was vetting Johnson's appointments for possible conflicts of interest.

The handpicked nominees include a minister, a former Chicago Teachers Union member, and an environmental activist, among others.

Nominee Olga Bautista said she was honored to have been named. She's a leader of the Southeast Environmental Task Force and has advised Johnson's administration on environmental policy.



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

This photo combo shows school board nominees, from top left, Rev. Mitchell L. Ikenna Johnson, Michilla Blaise, Mary Gardner, and from bottom left, Frank Niles Thomas, Deborah Pope and Olga Bautista.

WORLD

Gang attack survivors in Haiti left reeling

By **PIERRE-RICHARD LUXAMA AND DÁNICA COTO**
Associated Press

PONT-SONDÉ, Haiti — Under the cover of night, dozens of gang members crept toward the small town of Pont-Sondé in central Haiti armed with knives and assault rifles as families slept.

The gang had traveled from nearby Savien in vehicles they ditched halfway through the trip, climbing into canoes for the last stretch for a quiet approach.

Gunfire and screams woke the town. Those not shot dead were stabbed. Fires consumed homes.

“They tried to murder everyone,” said Jina Joseph, who survived.

The Gran Grif gang killed babies and young mothers, older people and entire families, angry that a self-defense group had tried



ODELYN JOSEPH/AP

Doctors treat a man shot and wounded during armed gang attacks at Saint Nicolas hospital in Saint-Marc, Haiti, on Sunday.

to limit gang activity in Pont-Sondé and prevent it from making money off a makeshift toll it had

recently established on a nearby road.

The gang escaped by foot

through nearby rice fields after Thursday’s attack, leaving more than 70 bodies strewn through the town.

It was the biggest massacre that Haiti’s once peaceful central region had seen in recent history. Thousands now face an uncertain future, stripped of their jobs, homes and families.

Jameson Fermilus, who had crouched in a corridor next to his house as smoke and gunfire filled the air, later joined more than 6,000 other survivors who walked for hours, seeking safety.

“We don’t know what we are going to do,” said another who joined them, 60-year-old Sonise Morino. “We have nowhere to go.”

Thousands walked west to the coastal city of Saint-Marc. Days after the massacre, a crowd of men, women and children gath-

ered around a Good Samaritan standing atop his car distributing food and drink.

The newly homeless crowded into a church, a school and a public plaza shaded by trees. Those lucky enough to receive food sat on a dusty curb and ate. At night, they curled up on concrete floors and tried to sleep.

“These deaths are unimaginable,” Mayor Myriam Fièvre said as she met with survivors.

A majority of the 6,270 people left homeless have found temporary shelter with relatives who live nearby, according to the U.N.’s International Organization for Migration.

But more than 750 others have nowhere to go, joining the over 700,000 people already left homeless in recent years by gang violence across Haiti.

Pioneers in AI win Nobel Prize in physics

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — Two pioneers of artificial intelligence — John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton — won the Nobel Prize in physics Tuesday for helping create the building blocks of machine learning that is revolutionizing the way we work and live but also creates new threats to humanity, one of the winners said.

Hinton, who is known as the Godfather of artificial intelligence, is a citizen of Canada and Britain who works at the University of Toronto and Hopfield is an American working at Princeton.

“This year’s two Nobel Laureates in physics have used tools from physics to develop methods that are the foundation of today’s powerful machine learning,” the Nobel committee said in a press re-



Hopfield



Hinton

lease. instance in facial recognition and language translation.”

Hinton predicted that AI will end up having a “huge influence” on civilization, bringing improvements in productivity and health care.

“It would be comparable with the Industrial Revolution,” he said in the open call with reporters and the officials from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

“Instead of exceeding people in physical strength, it’s going to exceed people in intellectual ability. We have no experience of what it’s like to have things smarter than us. And it’s going to be wonderful in many respects,” Hinton said. “But we also have to worry about a number of possible bad consequences, particularly the threat of these things getting out of control.”

A mayor in Mexico is killed one week after taking office

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Relatives on Monday buried the mayor of a state capital in southern Mexico who was killed just one week after he took office.

Photos of the crime scene shared on social media showed Mayor Alejandro Arcos’ severed head had been left on the roof of a pickup truck. Authorities did not immediately confirm the authenticity of the images, but at his funeral, there were signs his head had been reattached by forensic examiners or mortuary staff.

Arcos was sworn in last Monday as mayor of Chilpancingo, a city so violent that a drug gang openly staged a demonstration, hijacked a government armored car and

took police hostage in 2023 to win the release of arrested suspects.

Chilpancingo is the capital of Guerrero state, where Acapulco is located.

Arcos had said in an interview with local media shortly before his death that he wanted extra protection, but it was not clear if any formal request for that had been made to state officials.

The state prosecutors’ office issued a statement Sunday confirming Arcos had been killed, but provided no details.

Alejandro Moreno, the national leader of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, lamented Arcos’ killing and said Monday “we will not allow his death to go unpunished.”

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WORLD



Rare rainfall in Sahara

Palm trees are flooded in a lake caused by heavy rainfall in the desert town of Merzouga, near Rachidia, southeastern Morocco, on Oct. 2. The rare deluge of rainfall left blue lagoons of water amid the palm trees and sand dunes of the Sahara desert, nourishing some of its most drought-stricken regions with more water than many had seen in decades. The Moroccan government said two days of rainfall in September had exceeded yearly averages in several areas that get an average of less than 10 inches annually.

AP

Hezbollah says more Israelis to be displaced as they extend fire

BY BASSEM MROUE AND TIA GOLDENBERG
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Hezbollah's acting leader said Tuesday that even more Israelis will be displaced as the militant group extends its rocket fire deeper into Israel, in a defiant televised statement marking the anniversary of fighting that escalated into war last month.

Sheikh Naim Kasseem, the acting leader of Hezbollah, said its military capabilities are still intact and that it has replaced all of its senior commanders after weeks of heavy Israeli airstrikes across large parts of Lebanon, including targeted strikes that killed much of its top command in a matter of days.

He also said Israeli forces have not been able to advance after launching a ground incursion into Lebanon last week. The Israeli military said a fourth division is now taking part in the incursion,

which has expanded to the west, but operations still appear to be confined to a narrow strip along the border.

The Israeli military says it has dismantled militant infrastructure along the border and killed hundreds of Hezbollah fighters. On Tuesday, it said a strike in Beirut had killed Suhail Husseini, who it described as a senior commander responsible overseeing logistics, budget and management of the militant group.

There was no immediate comment from Hezbollah, and no way to confirm battlefield claims made by either side.

In Gaza, meanwhile, heavy fighting was underway Tuesday between Israeli ground forces and Palestinian militants in the isolated north, where Israel has ordered another full-scale evacuation in recent days.

"We are firing hundreds of rockets and dozens of drones. A

large number of settlements and cities are under the fire of the resistance," Kasseem said. "Our capabilities are fine and our fighters are deployed along the front-lines."

He said Hezbollah's top leadership was directing the war and that the commanders killed by Israel have been replaced. "We have no vacant posts," he added.

He said that Hezbollah will name a new leader to succeed Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike in a bunker in Beirut last month, "but the circumstances are difficult because of the war."

The Israeli army said 85 projectiles were launched from Lebanon toward northern Israel on Tuesday.

Israel's aerial defense intercepted most of the rockets, the military said. A 70-year-old woman was moderately wounded by shrapnel.

STARS AND STRIPES SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market

Transportation 944

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Hot air balloons take flight at international fest

NM ALBUQUERQUE — A flotilla of hot air balloons ascended into a clear desert sky on Saturday to kick off a colorful mass ascension at the 52nd annual Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

The nine-day gathering draws hundreds of thousands of spectators and pilots to New Mexico each fall for the rare opportunity to be within arm's reach as the giant balloons are unpacked and inflated.

Balloons took flight to screams of delight after a brief weather delay and were spirited away by a gentle breeze. Propane burners roared and hundreds of balloons — from traditional globes to cartoonish figures — rose to speckle the sky with color.

This year's fiesta includes 106 balloons in special shapes, 16 of which will be making their fiesta debut. That includes Mazu, modeled after the sea goddess of the same name who is deeply rooted in Taiwanese culture and traditions.

Native American told by senator to 'go back'

ID KENDRICK — Tensions rose during a bipartisan forum after an audience question about discrimination reportedly led an Idaho state senator to angrily tell a Native American candidate to "go back where you came from."

Republican Sen. Dan Foreman left the event early after the outburst and later denied making any racist comments in a Facebook post.

Trish Carter-Goodheart, a Democratic candidate for the House District 6 seat and member of the Nez Perce Tribe, said the blowup left her shaken and thinking about security needs for future public events.

About an hour into the event, someone asked a question about a state bill addressing discrimination.

"I pointed out that just because someone hasn't personally experienced discrimination doesn't mean it's not happening," Carter-Goodheart said. "I was making my statement, and then he shot up out of his seat and said, 'I'm so sick of your liberal (expletive). Why don't you go back to where you came from?'"

Bear with 3 cubs breaks into home, attacks man

CO LAKE CITY — A black bear with three cubs attacked a man in his Colorado home after they crashed in through a sliding glass door and he was unable to get them to leave.

State wildlife managers killed all four bears after the attack in Lake City, a southwestern Colorado town of 400 people. The man's injuries were significant, but he



ROBERTO E. ROSALES/AP

Larger than life

Hot air balloons take off during the mass ascension at the 52nd Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, N.M., on Saturday.

didn't need to go to a hospital, Colorado Parks & Wildlife said in a statement.

The 74-year-old man tried to shoo the adult female bear out with a kitchen chair, but it knocked him into a wall and clawed at him, the wildlife agency said.

The bear injured the man's head, neck, arms, shoulder, abdomen and calf before he and his wife escaped to a bedroom.

"It creates a very complex situation to mitigate," Colorado wildlife officer Lucas Martinn said. "Unfortunately cub bears that are taught these behaviors by their mother may result in generations of conflict between bears and people."

Former owner of roaming water buffalo pleads guilty

IA DES MOINES — The owner of a water buffalo that ran loose in a Des Moines, Iowa, suburb for days pleaded guilty for having an animal at large.

The owner was fined \$105 and court costs, the Des Moines Register reported.

The owner was taking the animal to slaughter when it escaped in August.

Police spent days searching for it as it roamed Pleasant Hill, a town of 11,000 residents. Fans named the animal PHill after the city.

Police at one point shot PHill while trying to capture the animal, but it escaped and continued to roam for several days before being tranquilized with help from zoo and animal rescue workers.

Pilot dies in crash of replica WWI-era plane

NY RED HOOK — A replica of a World War I-era fighter plane caught fire and crashed during an airshow in upstate New York, killing the pilot, according to police.

Brian Coughlin, 60, died after the Fokker D.VIII replica went down during an exhibition at the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome, about 80 miles north of Manhattan, according to statement from the Red Hook Police Department.

Police said it appeared the engine caught fire due to unknown mechanical issues, causing the plane to crash.

Coughlin, from Cazenovia in central New York, was the only person in the plane and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Mayor picks ex-sheriff to be city's police chief

CA LOS ANGELES — Former LA County Sheriff Jim McDonnell has been selected to lead the Los Angeles Police Department, taking charge of the force of nearly 9,000 officers as

discontent grows among the city's residents over public safety even as violent crime numbers drop, the mayor announced.

Mayor Karen Bass, who had the final say after a civilian board of Los Angeles police commissioners vetted McDonnell, said her selection of a veteran law enforcement officer was based on a need to reduce crime and make every neighborhood safer. Bass met with hundreds of LAPD officers and community leaders before making her decision.

The Los Angeles City Council still needs to approve the choice.

Voters will decide on having open primaries

AZ PHOENIX — The Arizona Supreme Court has cleared the way for voters to decide on establishing open primaries for future elections in which all candidates compete against each other regardless of their party affiliation.

The citizen-led initiative, labeled as Proposition 140, already had been printed on ballots that county officials recently started mailing to overseas and unformed voters.

But it wasn't clear those votes would be counted until the court's decision that ended two months of legal wrangling.

If the proposition is approved by voters, it would significantly re-

form Arizona's elections by eliminating partisan primaries. The two candidates who receive the most votes in the primary election would advance to the general election.

Wildfires lead to 1 death and large areas burned

ND BISMARCK — One person died and others were evacuated from their homes as wildfires driven by ferocious winds and dry conditions raged through parts of western North Dakota over the weekend.

Six wildfires were reported, and large fires near Grassy Butte and Mandaree were still considered 0% contained, the state Department of Emergency Services said.

Four other fires were 90% to 100% contained as of Sunday.

Johannes Nicolaas Van Eeden, 26, of South Africa, died due to critical injuries from a large fire near Ray in northwest North Dakota, the Williams County Sheriff's Office said Sunday. Another person was critically injured, the sheriff's office said.

The fires burned in scattered areas over a vast swath of North Dakota's oil field, including agricultural land, grassland and rugged Badlands terrain where small, rural towns dot the map.

FACES

Eager to explore

Chavez, who recently premiered TV roles as priest, Lyle Menendez, is hungry for what future might hold

By ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

Nicholas Alexander Chavez has had a “very surreal” few weeks promoting and premiering his first roles in prime time, in two shows debuting within a week of each other.

Chavez plays Lyle Menendez in Netflix’s “Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story” and Father Charlie, a true-crime-obsessed priest in FX’s “Grotesquerie.” Both shows are co-created by Ryan Murphy.

“We were working on the tail end of ‘Monsters’ when Ryan called and said he had a really, really exciting new show called ‘Grotesquerie’ that he was working on,” recalled Chavez, 25. “He was very passionate about the project, and he had a great role in it for me.”

“Grotesquerie” stars Niecy Nash-Betts as an alcoholic detective who has teamed up with a nun (Micaela Diamond) to investigate a serial killer case.

To get into character for “Grotesquerie,” Chavez would listen to music. “Don’t Do Anything Illegal” by Charles Manson was on his Father Charlie playlist. For “Mon-

sters,” Chavez’s prep was different because he was playing a real person and could watch old court videos.

In 1996, Lyle and his younger brother Erik (played by Cooper Koch) were sentenced to life in prison for the 1989 killing of their parents, Jose and Kitty, in their Beverly Hills, Calif., home. The brothers alleged they were sexually abused by both parents for years and feared for their lives. Last week, prosecutors in LA said they were reviewing new information about the case and would decide whether a resentencing is warranted.

Chavez has already achieved success in daytime on ABC’s “General Hospital” as Spencer Casadine, a grandson of Genie Francis’ Laura (of Luke and Laura fame.) He played the role of a spoiled prince with daddy issues from 2021 until January 2024. Chavez won a Daytime Emmy Award for outstanding younger actor in a drama in 2022.

“Soap fans are incredibly loyal, and I’m really, really thankful that they are interested in following my journey, even though I’m not on the show anymore,” said Chavez.

“My life feels whole and complete between the words action and cut.”

Nicholas Alexander Chavez



MATT LICARI, INVISION/AP

Nicholas Alexander Chavez, photographed in September, won a Daytime Emmy for his work on “General Hospital” in 2022.

Now that both “Monsters” and “Grotesquerie” are out, Chavez says he’s “itching” to get back to work.

“My life feels whole and complete between the words action and cut. I live for those moments. I think that is the purpose of my entire existence,” said Chavez. “Nothing brings me more satisfaction and joy as a human being than the craft of acting. I can’t wait to see what the future holds.”

Grammy-winning gospel singer Cissy Houston, Whitney’s mother, dies

Cissy Houston, a two-time Grammy Award-winning soul and gospel artist who sang with Aretha Franklin, Elvis Presley and other stars and knew triumph and heartbreak as the mother of Whitney Houston, has died. She was 91.



Cissy Houston

Cissy Houston died Monday in her New Jersey home while under hospice care for Alzheimer’s disease, her daughter-in-law Pat Houston told The Associated Press.

Houston was part of a family gospel act before breaking through in popular music in the 1960s as a member of the prominent backing group The Sweet Inspirations with Doris Troy and her niece Dee Dee Warwick. The group sang backup for a variety of soul singers including Otis Redding, Lou Rawls and The Drifters. They also sang backup for Dionne Warwick.

Houston’s many credits included Franklin’s “Think” and “(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman,” Van Morrison’s “Brown Eyed Girl” and Dusty Springfield’s “Son of a Preacher Man.”

Other news

■ Donald Glover has canceled the remaining dates of Childish Gambino’s North American and European tour. The musician announced Oct. 4 that he recently discovered an ailment that required surgery.

Associated Press

New this week: Charli XCX remixes, Jelly Roll, ‘Disclaimer’

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.

Music

■ Brat summer came and went, but the hedonistic ideologies behind Charli XCX’s feel-good album endure. On Friday, she will release “Brat and It’s Completely Different but Also Still Brat,” a deluxe, remixed, double-album version of her culture-shifting album “Brat” featuring A-listers like Billie Eilish, Lorde, her tour mate Troye Sivan, her forever-hero Robyn, and more. Just don’t confuse this one with her other Brat re-release, “Brat and It’s the Same but There’s Three More Songs So It’s Not.”

■ He’s the not-so-new name on everyone’s lips: Jelly Roll will release a follow-up to his breakout album, 2023’s “Whittsitt Chapel,” on Friday. Little is known about the 22-track “Beautifully Broken” beyond its previously released tracks “I Am Not Okay,” “Get By,” “Liar” and “Winning Streak” — the latter of which he debuted during the premiere of “Saturday Night Live’s” 50th season, joined by a choir. That one was inspired by an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, and the album will no doubt center on the kind of stories he’s be-



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP

Jelly Roll is set to release a new album, “Beautifully Broken,” on Friday.

come known for: soulful country-rock on adversity, addiction, pain, suffering, and ultimately chasing safety.

■ A decade removed from “Shower,” the viral, bubblegum pop song that launched her career, Mexican American singer Becky G has found her in lane in Spanish-language, hybrid-genre releases, crossing language barriers and cultural borders. “Encuentros,” out Friday, is her latest — a follow-up to 2023’s “Esquinas” — and continuation of her work in regional Mexican styles made all her own, from the single “Mercedes,” which features corrido star Oscar Maydon’s deep tenor, and beyond.

■ On Friday, Duran Duran will release “Danse Macabre — De Luxe,” a deluxe re-issue of their celebrated 2023 LP — a mix of covers and gothic originals. Surprises abound, even for the most dedicated Duran fan: Like their cover of ELO’s “Evil Woman,” or on the song “New Moon (Dark Phase),” a re-imagining of “New Moon On Monday,” featuring former band member Andy Taylor.

— AP Music Writer Maria Sherman

Movies

■ Sue Kim’s documentary “The Last of the Sea Women,” streaming Friday on Apple TV+, captures the lives and livelihood of the Haenyeo, the community of South Korean fisherwoman who for generations have free-dived for seafood off the coast of Korea’s Jeju Island. Threats abound for the Haenyeo, who are mostly in their 60s and 70s. They ply their trade in a warming ocean contaminated by sea garbage and the Fukushima nuclear accident.

■ One of the indie highlights of the summer, Sean Wang’s “Didi,” is now streaming on Peacock. Wang’s semi-autobiographical feature debut, a coming-of-age story set in the Bay Area in 2008, is about a 13-year-old Taiwanese-American boy (Izaak Wang) struggling with where he fits in. That includes with his family (Joan Chen plays his mother) and fellow skater kids whom he begins making videos with. The film, funny and tender, is a breakthrough for the emerging filmmaker Wang, whose short “Nai Nai & Wai Pó,” was Oscar nominated earlier this year.

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

Television

■ Friends and frequent collaborators Diego Luna and Gael Garcia Bernal team up on Hulu’s first Spanish-language series called “La Máquina.” Bernal plays an aging boxer named Esteban Osuna. His longtime manager (Luna) secures him one last fight to go out a champ, but there are major ob-

stacles. The boxer has taken a lot of hits to the head over the years and his mind seems to be slipping, and a criminal organization wants him to throw the fight or else. Eiza González also stars as Osuna’s ex-wife, a reporter investigating fixed boxing matches in Mexico. “La Máquina” debuts Wednesday.

■ The first spinoff of the 2023 Prime Video spy series “Citadel,” which starred Priyanka Chopra and Richard Madden, debuts Thursday on the streamer. “Citadel: Diana” stars Matilda De Angelis and takes place in Italy. An India-based version called “Citadel: Honey Bunny” stars Varun Dhawan and Samantha Ruth Prabhu, and premieres in November.

■ Netflix’s favorite sun-drenched, treasure-hunting teens of North Carolina, known as the Pogues, are back for more adventures in “Outer Banks.” Season 4, premiering Thursday, is divided into two parts. The show stars Chase Stokes and Madelyn Cline.

■ Cate Blanchett and Kevin Kline co-star in “Disclaimer,” a psychological thriller on Apple TV+ from writer/director Alfonso Cuarón that premiered at last month’s Venice Film Festival. Blanchett plays a respected documentarian who recognizes she’s the inspiration for a character in a new novel that threatens to expose her secrets. The limited series also features Kodi Smit-McPhee, Sacha Baron Cohen, Jung Ho-yeon and Lesley Manville and premieres Friday.

— Alicia Rancilio

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OPINION

Hogan choosing to stay in GOP cost him my vote

By MATT BAI

Special to The Washington Post

I'm not going to vote for Larry Hogan to become Maryland's next senator, and I feel sort of badly about that.

Hogan seemed, on the one occasion I met him, like a decent guy — and I thought he was a pretty good governor, all things considered. He's the kind of pragmatic, non-slick politician I generally respect. Plus every time I look at him, I'm struck by how much he resembles Wallace from those "Wallace and Gromit" cartoons, which is also a point in his favor.

I feel badly, too, because I think Hogan has been the target of some very unfair attacks from the left. I watched the New York Yankees and Baltimore Orioles play late last month, and so I was inundated with ads made by Emily's List that kept showing this shadowy clip of Hogan saying he personally opposes abortion — even though Hogan has declared himself pro-choice and has vowed to support legislation that would nationally restore Roe v. Wade.

I don't know Angela Alsobrooks, Hogan's Democratic opponent, and I thought she gave a solid speech at the Chicago convention, but if she's all right with her allies running ads that are that misleading, then I have to wonder whether she's someone who will tell me the whole truth as a senator.

But I won't vote for Hogan again anyway, because he faced a fundamental choice for his country and his career, and I think he made the wrong one.

It's one thing to vote for a governor whose national party seems clearly unhinged. States dominated by Democrats — Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey — often elect moderate Republican governors, and the reverse is true as well. Someone has to rein in all the fringe ideology and shady pa-

tronage that tends to accompany one-party rule. It's like putting a chaperone at the dance.

But running for Senate is another thing entirely. Because in this moment of closely divided government, a senator might end up casting the decisive vote on which party controls the Senate. And given how pathetically servile Senate Republicans have been when it comes to Donald Trump and his nationalist, nativist ideology, I don't know why Hogan or any other thinking person would believe it was a good idea for them to hold a majority.

Hogan had an option here. He could have formally left his party and run as an independent. This isn't crazy. In my native state of Connecticut, the Land of Steady Habits and Mean Drivers, two political giants pulled this off after they were bounced from their parties for being insufficiently doctrinaire: former Republican Lowell Weicker won the governorship in 1990, and former Democrat Joe Lieberman was returned to the Senate in 2006. Right now, in Nebraska, an independent candidate for Senate, Dan Osborn, has effectively drawn even with the Republican incumbent, Deb Fischer.

Hogan, an unwavering critic of his party's Trumpist lurch, could have formalized his independence and promised to caucus with Democrats in the Senate. He could have made a bid, essentially, to become the next Joe Manchin — an indispensable wild card in the Senate, the most powerful lawmaker in town. Very likely, it would have meant having to win an unpredictable, three-way race (unlike in Nebraska, where Democrats didn't even field a candidate), but given the coalition of moderate voters who supported Hogan in his two elections for governor, I think he would have had a decent shot.

But here's the catch: Contrary to what a

lot of mindless pundits would have you believe, it takes pretty much zero courage to criticize your fellow Republicans when you're the governor of a state such as Maryland. That's just rudimentary politics; Hogan actually couldn't have won two statewide elections any other way. What takes real courage is to break with that party entirely, because you just can't be in league with these people and still manage to sleep at night.

Hogan apparently doesn't have that kind of courage. He chose, instead, to stay in a party whose zombielike spokespeople continue to berate him. And if he wins, he's apparently willing to give that party the crucial vote it needs to fill judicial vacancies and pass whatever nonsense Trump demands. Only a fool would think Hogan could remain in the Republican caucus and not capitulate on pivotal votes like those.

I don't think anyone should give Republicans that kind of power right now — not with Trump in striking distance of the presidency, and not while his running mate talks about the biological role of our daughters as if this were some dark, fundamentalist corner of the Middle East. I'm clearly not alone, either, because the very nice Hogan canvasser who knocked on my door last weekend — he had a campaign-issued polo shirt and everything — told me he was hearing the same thing all over the neighborhood.

For all his defiance, when it really mattered most, Larry Hogan chose the path of party tribalism over the harder road of going it alone. Which is why I won't vote to send him to the Senate, and why I'm guessing he'll never get there.

Matt Bai is a journalist, author and screenwriter. During his time at The New York Times, he was chief political writer for the Sunday magazine and a columnist for the newspaper.

China has ramped up shipbuilding on an alarming scale

By MACKENZIE EAGLEN
AND BRADY AFRICK

Special to The Washington Post

China has been investing so much in shipbuilding over the past 18 years that it can now build more ships in a month than the United States can in a year — and Beijing aims to keep widening its advantage. If the U.S. military does not soon catch up to this capacity, it risks finding itself off-guard and ill-equipped in a conflict scenario. China's recent expansions should alarm American military planners and spur investments to bolster naval power.

Satellite imagery reveals the recent major expansions that have made China's shipbuilding infrastructure the most robust in the world. Even the commercial vessels built alongside the warships in these yards are being constructed to military specifications, including the ability to carry troops and vehicles during conflict.

The data shows a stark divide: China's shipbuilding workforce is estimated to be nearly five times that of the U.S. and supports more than 7,000 vessels. Fewer than 200 are serviced by American shipyards — which fulfilled fewer than five orders in 2023; their Chinese counterparts handled more than 1,700.

China's maritime dominance looms sooner than expected. While American naval platforms are still the most advanced — they are nuclear-powered and packed with the latest technology — China is developing modern ca-

pabilities that rival the Navy's. And if China has more warships, it has the capacity to defeat even higher-tech adversaries. As China's new aircraft carrier undergoes sea trials, the United States is experiencing delays in a new carrier's development of more than 18 months. What's more, China's robust dual-use shipbuilding industry is primed to build and repair ships at a wartime tempo, while the U.S. industry is in decline.

In the United States, budgets are moving in the wrong direction: The Biden administration's 2025 defense budget request for shipbuilding is for \$400 million less than last year, and the Navy plans to buy only six battle-force ships next year — the smallest number since 2006. Government investment in the shipbuilding industry, and in military infrastructure, cannot be neglected for much longer.

Beyond building more ships, Beijing's military is practicing destroying American vessels. These desert targets shaped like U.S. carriers reveal the scale of the fight China is anticipating.

The United States has been underestimating China's maritime military power, in part because it takes the Chinese government's figures at face value. China's military budget already approaches U.S. levels of spending; its true military budget is more than three times what Beijing's public statements suggest.

China's shipbuilding expansion should be a wake-up call. The facilities needed to churn out advanced warships can't be built over-

night. If a conflict arises in the Pacific, the United States would be forced to fight with the ships it has.

One way the United States can maintain its fleet at full strength is to keep existing warships operating longer than they do now. At the same time, it is essential to expand Navy shipyards as well as other American capacity to build and repair vessels.

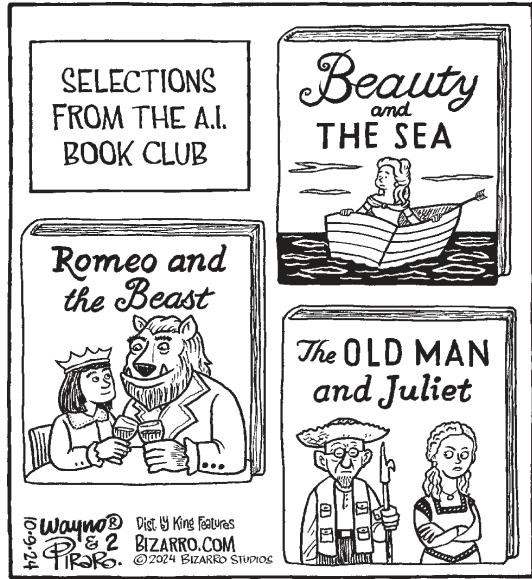
The Navy needs stable budgets that work with its 30-year shipbuilding plan, signaling private companies to expand production facilities and maintain a workforce large enough to urgently boost production.

The United States has had success in co-producing some military weapon systems with allies — but this has not included shipbuilding. As things stand, U.S. allies are not allowed to repair, maintain and manufacture American ships. Congress should amend the restrictive laws so that the Navy can get assistance from stalwart allies such as South Korea and Japan, the world's largest shipbuilders after China. Their support could be crucial to countering China's rapid naval buildup as the United States increases its own capacity.

This challenge will only grow more difficult in the years ahead. To be prepared for any future conflict in the Pacific, military planners must start with shipbuilding.

Mackenzie Eaglen is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. Brady Africk is an open-source analyst and a senior media associate at AEI.

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

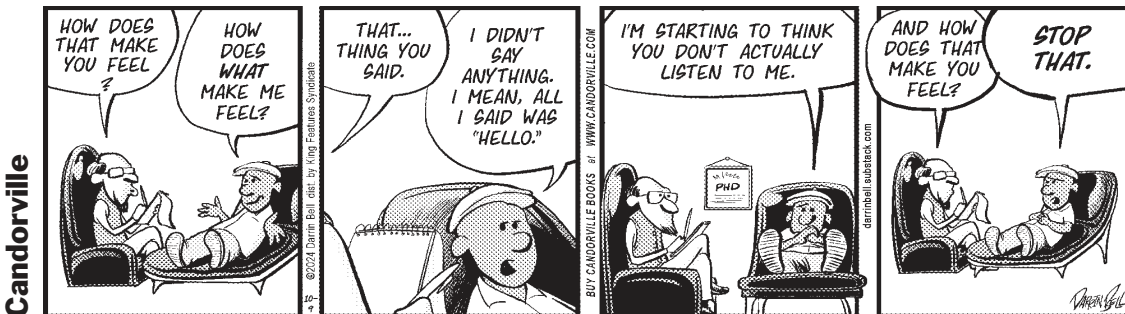
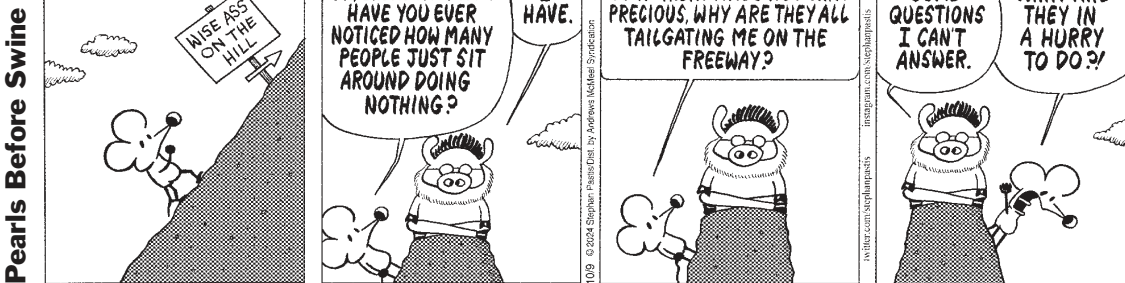
- 1 Bashful
4 Fictional Forrest
8 Wallet stuffers
12 Weed whacker
13 Crunchy cookie
14 — the crack of dawn
15 PC key
16 Feels right
18 Part of Hispaniola
20 Gigi's "yes"
21 Stately trees
24 Sire
28 1994 Schwarzenegger film
32 Stuff like that
33 Still, in verse
34 Juan's farewell
36 "— you sleeping?"
37 "The Kite Runner" boy
39 For real?
41 Choral work by Palestrina
43 Repast
44 Weep
46 Weighing device
50 Direction toward the Earth's top
55 Proof letters
56 Float gently
57 Humorist Barry
58 Italian article
59 Hebrew prophet

- 60 Roe provider
61 \$ dispenser

DOWN

- 1 Persian leader
2 Spanish greeting
3 Bigfoot's kin
4 Great ape
5 Swiss canton
6 Gents
7 Comic strip possum
8 Protruding navels
9 "Fresh Air" ailer
10 — Claire, Wis.
11 Holy Fr. woman
17 Second-stringer
19 Golf prop
22 Calf-length
23 Earthquake
25 — gum (thickener)

Answer to Previous Puzzle



10-9

CRYPTOQUIP

POBAC KZFY OETIB SHLN
OM HFZMHF FZGAK JNZSHMU
PZIK FOLJ LKOGAKJHMU O
FKZJJSO EY: "LOTTV KZOC."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN PEOPLE RESPOND TO SITUATIONS BY BEING CRUEL BEASTS, I WOULD SAY THEY'RE OGRE-REACTING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals G

SCOREBOARD/COLLEGE

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Schedule

Wednesday's game
SOUTH
New Mexico St. (1-4) at Jacksonville St. (2-3)

Thursday's games
SOUTH
Coastal Carolina (4-1) at James Madison (4-1)
UTEP (0-5) at W. Kentucky (3-2)
Middle Tennessee (1-4) at Louisiana Tech (1-3)

Friday's games
EAST
Harvard (2-1) at Cornell (1-2)
Northwestern (2-3) at Maryland (3-2)

SOUTH
Memphis (4-1) at South Florida (2-3)

SOUTHWEST
Prairie View (2-4) at Ark.-Pine Bluff (1-4)

FAR WEST
UNLV (4-1) at Utah St. (1-4)
Utah (4-1) at Arizona St. (4-1)

Saturday's games
EAST
Dartmouth (3-0) at Yale (2-1)
UAB (1-4) at Army (5-0)
Missouri (4-1) at UMass (1-5)
Stonehill (1-3) at LIU Brooklyn (0-6)
Wisconsin (3-2) at Rutgers (4-1)
St. Thomas (Minn.) (2-3) at Marist (0-5)
Mercyhurst (2-4) at CCSU (2-3)
Columbia (2-1) at Wagner (3-3)
Toledo (4-1) at Buffalo (3-2)
Duquesne (3-2) at St. Francis (Pa.) (2-3)
Georgetown (3-2) at Lafayette (3-2)
Bucknell (3-2) at Penn (1-2)
Fordham (0-6) at Holy Cross (2-4)
Brown (2-1) at Rhode Island (4-1)
Maine (3-2) at Delaware (5-0)
Albany (NY) (2-3) at Bryant (2-3)
Sacred Heart (3-3) at Howard (2-3)
Merrimack (1-4) at Morgan St. (3-3)
Delaware St. (1-5) at Robert Morris (2-3)
California (3-2) at Pittsburgh (5-0)
Iowa St. (5-0) at West Virginia (3-2)

SOUTH
Clemson (4-1) at Wake Forest (2-3)
South Carolina (3-2) at Alabama (4-1)
Georgia Tech (4-2) at North Carolina (3-3)
Valparaiso (2-4) at Stetson (2-3)
VMI (0-5) at Wofford (2-3)
Va. Lynchburg (0-5) at NC Central (4-2)
Towson (2-3) at Norfolk St. (2-5)
Chattanooga (2-3) at Furman (2-3)
Presbyterian (2-4) at Morehead St. (3-3)
New Hampshire (3-2) at Elon (1-4)
The Citadel (2-4) at W. Carolina (2-3)
Bethune-Cookman (0-5) at Alabama A&M (2-3)
Texas A&M Commerce (0-5) at Northwestern St. (0-6)
MVSU (0-5) at Alabama St. (2-3)
Alcorn St. (3-3) at Grambling St. (3-2)
Old Dominion (1-4) at Georgia St. (2-2)
Princeton (1-2) at Mercer (5-0)
Louisville (3-2) at Virginia (4-1)
Samford (2-2) at ETSU (3-3)
Cincinnati (3-2) at UCF (3-2)
Mississippi St. (1-4) at Georgia (4-1)
Southern Miss. (1-4) at Louisiana-Monroe (4-1)
E. Illinois (1-5) at Tennessee St. (4-2)
Florida (3-2) at Tennessee (4-1)
North Texas (4-1) at FAU (2-3)
Abilene Christian (4-2) at North Alabama (2-5)
Mississippi (5-1) at LSU (4-1)
Appalachian St. (2-3) at Louisiana-Lafayette (4-1)
Vanderbilt (3-2) at Kentucky (3-2)
Marshall (3-2) at Georgia Southern (3-2)
Syracuse (4-1) at NC State (3-2)

MIDWEST
Washington (4-2) at Iowa (3-2)
Davidson (4-1) at Dayton (3-1)
Ball St. (1-4) at Kent St. (0-5)
Missouri St. (3-2) at Illinois St. (4-2)
Murray St. (1-4) at Indiana St. (1-4)
Butler (5-0) at Drake (3-1)
Miami (Ohio) (1-4) at E. Michigan (4-1)
Charleston Southern (1-4) at Lindenwood (Mo.) (2-4)
Youngstown St. (2-4) at S. Dakota St. (4-1)
N. Dakota St. (5-1) at S. Illinois (2-4)
N. Iowa (2-3) at South Dakota (4-1)
N. Illinois (3-2) at Bowling Green (2-3)
Akron (1-5) at W. Michigan (2-3)
Purdue (1-4) at Illinois (4-1)
Stanford (2-3) at Notre Dame (4-1)
UT Martin (3-3) at W. Illinois (2-3)
Ohio (3-2) at Cent. Michigan (3-2)
Tennessee Tech (2-3) at SE Missouri (5-1)

SOUTHWEST
SE Louisiana (2-4) at Houston Christian (3-3)
Oklahoma (4-1) vs. Texas (5-0) at Dallas
Stephen F. Austin (3-2) at Lamar (3-2)
West Georgia (1-4) at Cent. Arkansas (4-2)
UTSA (2-3) at Rice (1-4)
Arkansas St. (3-2) at Texas State (3-2)
Utah Tech (0-6) at Tarleton St. (5-1)
Southern U. (2-3) at Texas Southern (2-3)
Nicholls (2-3) at Incarnate Word (3-2)

FAR WEST
San Jose St. (4-1) at Colorado St. (2-3)
Penn St. (5-0) at Southern Cal (3-2)
San Diego St. (2-3) at Wyoming (1-4)
E. Kentucky (3-2) at S. Utah (2-4)
N. Arizona (3-3) at Montana (4-2)
Arizona (3-2) at BYU (5-0)
Portland St. (0-5) at Idaho St. (3-3)
Washington St. (4-1) at Fresno St. (3-2)
Cal Poly (2-3) at UC Davis (5-1)
Air Force (1-4) at New Mexico (1-4)
Oregon St. (4-1) at Nevada (2-4)
Ohio St. (5-0) at Oregon (5-0)
N. Colorado (0-6) at Weber St. (3-3)
E. Washington (1-4) at Sacramento St. (2-3)
Minnesota (3-3) at UCLA (1-4)
Kansas St. (4-1) at Colorado (4-1)
Idaho (4-2) at Montana St. (6-0)
Boise St. (4-1) at Hawaii (2-3)

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA playoffs

(x-if necessary)
(Best-of-five)
Semifinals
No. 1 New York 3, No. 4 Las Vegas 1
New York 87, Las Vegas 77
New York 88, Las Vegas 84
Las Vegas 95, New York 81
New York 76, Las Vegas 62
No. 2 Minnesota 2, No. 3 Connecticut 2
Connecticut 73, Minnesota 70
Minnesota 77, Connecticut 70
Minnesota 90, Connecticut 81
Connecticut 92, Minnesota 82
Tuesday: at Minnesota
WNBA Finals
(Best-of-five)
Thursday: at New York
Sunday: at New York
Wednesday, Oct. 16: at Minnesota or Connecticut
x-Friday, Oct. 18: at Minnesota or Connecticut
x-Sunday, Oct. 20: at New York

NBA preseason

Monday's games
New Orleans 106, Orlando 104
Philadelphia 139, New Zealand 84
Oklahoma City 112, San Antonio 107
Memphis 121, Dallas 116
Utah 122, Houston 113

Tuesday's games
Chicago at Cleveland
Miami at Charlotte
Phoenix at Detroit
Indiana at Atlanta
Brooklyn at L.A. Clippers

Wednesday's games
Washington at New York
Houston at Oklahoma City
Orlando at San Antonio
Golden State at Sacramento

Thursday's games
Indiana at Cleveland
Atlanta at Miami
Charlotte at Memphis
L.A. Lakers at Milwaukee
New Zealand Breakers at Oklahoma City
Utah at Dallas

TENNIS

Shanghai Masters

Monday
At Qizhong Forest Sports City Arena
Shanghai
Purse: \$8,995,555
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Men's Singles
Round of 64
Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, def. Jordan Thompson (26), Australia, 6-3, 6-2.
Frances Tiafoe (13), United States, def. Yi Zhou, China, 6-2, 6-4.
Marcos Giron, United States, def. Karen Khachanov (24), Russia, 6-4, 6-3.
David Goffin, Belgium, def. Lorenzo Mussetti (15), Italy, 1-6, 7-6 (6), 6-2.
Holger Rune (12), Denmark, def. Matteo Berrettini, Italy, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.
Flavio Cobolli (28), Italy, def. Stan Wawrinka, Switzerland, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (4), 6-3.

AP SPORTLIGHT

Oct. 9

1943 — Bob Hoernschemeyer throws six touchdown passes, an NCAA record for a freshman, to lead Indiana past Nebraska 54-13.

1965 — The United States wins the Ryder Cup 19½-12½ at the Royal Birkdale Golf Club in Southport, England. Arnold Palmer clinches the title, beating Peter Butler 2 up. It's the 13th victory for the Americans in this event, which began in 1927. Britain, a three-time winner, last won in 1957.

1974 — The Washington Capitals lose their first NHL game, 6-3 to the Rangers at New York's Madison Square Garden.

1983 — Buffalo's Joe Ferguson passes for 419 yards and five touchdowns in a 38-35 overtime win against Miami. Uwe Von Schamann of the Dolphins misses two field goals in overtime and Joe Danelo ends the game with a 36-yard field goal.

2010 — Derek Stepan becomes the fourth player to score three times in his NHL debut to lead the New York Rangers to a season-opening 6-3 win over the Buffalo Sabres.

DEALS

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League
CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Activated OF Angel Martinez. CF Tyler Freeman roster status changed.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
CHICAGO BULLS — Waived F Ben Coupet Jr.
DENVER NUGGETS — Waived Fs Gabe McGlothan and Jaylin Williams, and G Jahmir Young.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Suspension lifted for WR Zay Jones. Designated DL Darius Robinson to return from injured reserve.
ATLANTA FALCONS — Designated LB Nate Landman to return from injured reserve. Signed TE Armani Rogers to the active roster.
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Signed OL Andrew Stueber to the active roster.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Suspension lifted for DL Michael Hall Jr.
DETROIT LIONS — Signed DL Al-Quadin Muhammad and LB Cam Gill to the practice squad. Released K Matthew McCrane and DB Erick Hallett from the practice squad.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Waived DB Robert Rochell.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Placed OL Will Fries on injured reserve. Waived DB Dallis Flowers.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed LB Anthony Pittman to the practice squad. Released DB Andre Chachere from the practice squad.
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Placed OL Shane Lemieux on injured reserve. Signed OL Kyle Hergel to the active roster.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Placed WR Cody Thompson and LB Markees Watts on injured reserve. Signed WR Tanner Kneue to the practice squad.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Designated LB Cedric Gray to return from injured reserve.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ANAHEIM DUCKS — Claimed G James Reimer off waivers. Assigned G Calle Clang to San Diego (AHL). Placed G John Gibson on injured reserve.
BOSTON BRUINS — Placed D Ian Mitchell on the injured non-roster list. Placed D Alec Regula on the injured non-roster list.
BUFFALO SABRES — Placed RW Nicolas Aube-Kubel on injured reserve.
CALGARY FLAMES — Placed C Yegor Sharangovich on injured reserve.
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Placed RW Jesper Fast on the injured non-roster list. Placed D Riley Stillman on the injured non-roster list. Placed D Joakim Ryan on the injured non-roster list. Loaned LW Jackson Blake to Chicago (AHL).
COLORADO AVALANCHE — Assigned RW Nikolai Kovalenko to Colorado (AHL). Assigned C Ondrej Pavel to Colorado. Placed LW Artturi Lehkonen on the injured non-roster list.
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Claimed C Zach Aston-Reese off waivers. Placed C Boone Jenner on injured reserve. Placed RW Jordan Dumais on the injured non-roster list. Placed RW Justin Danforth on the injured non-roster list. Placed C Max McCue on the injured non-roster list. Assigned LW James Malatesta to Cleveland (AHL).

DALLAS STARS — Placed C Mavrik Bourque on the injured non-roster list.
DETROIT RED WINGS — Placed RW Austin Watson on waivers. Signed RW Austin Watson to a one-year contract.
EDMONTON OILERS — Recalled C Matthew Savoie from Bakersfield (AHL).
MINNESOTA WILD — Signed G Jesper Wallstedt to a one-year contract.
MONTREAL CANADIENS — Loaned C Lucas Condotta to Laval (AHL). Loaned C Brandon Gignac to Laval. Reassigned D William Trudeau to Laval. Assigned C Joshua Roy to Laval. Assigned G Jakub Dobes to Laval. Assigned D Logan Mailloux to Laval.
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Placed D Spencer Stastney on the injured non-roster list.
NEW YORK RANGERS — Placed D Ryan Lindgren on injured reserve. Placed LW Jimmy Vesey on injured reserve. Assigned C Adam Edstrom to Hartford (AHL). Assigned RW Matt Rempe to Hartford. Assigned LW Will Cuyllie to Hartford. Assigned D Victor Mancini to Hartford. Assigned LW Brett Berard to Hartford. Recalled C Jake Leschyshyn. Recalled LW Adam Sykora. Recalled D Ben Harpur.
OTTAWA SENATORS — Loaned D Carter Yakemchuk to Calgary (WHL). Placed C Matthew Highmore on injured reserve.
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Placed C Blake Lizotte on injured reserve. Placed RW Bryan Rust on injured reserve. Reassigned D Harrison Brunicke to Kamloops (AHL).
SAN JOSE SHARKS — Assigned RW Collin Graf to San Jose (AHL). Assigned RW Ethan Cardwell to San Jose. Assigned D Jack Thompson to San Jose. Assigned D Luca Cagnoni to San Jose. Placed D Shakir Mukhamadullin on injured reserve.
ST. LOUIS BLUES — Assigned C Zachary Bolduc to Springfield (AHL). Placed D Adam Jiricek on the injured non-roster list. Placed RW Simon Robertsson on the injured non-roster list. Placed LW Brandon Saad on the injured non-roster list. Placed C Oskar Sundqvist on the injured non-roster list. Placed D Torey Krug on the injured non-roster list.
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Assigned D Maxwell Crozier to Syracuse (AHL).
TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS — Signed LW Max Pacioretty to a one-year contract. Signed D Cade Webber to a two-year contract extension. Signed C Steven Lorentz to a one-year contract. Placed C Connor Dewar on injured reserve. Placed C Fraser Minten on injured reserve. Placed C Calle Jankrok on injured reserve. Placed D Dakota Mermis on injured reserve. Placed D Jani Hakanpaa on injured reserve.
VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Claimed G Jiri Patera off waivers. Placed G Thatcher Demko on injured reserve. Placed C Dakota Joshua on the injured non-roster list. Loaned LW Arshdeep Bains to Abbotsford (AHL).
VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS — Claimed RW Cole Schwindt off waivers. Claimed C Raphael Lavoie off waivers.
WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Returned LW Andrew Cristall to Kelowna (WHL). Loaned LW Ivan Miroshnichenko to Hershey (AHL). Signed LW Jakob Vrana to a one-year contract.
WINNIPEG JETS — Placed D Ville Heinola on injured reserve. Placed D Logan Stanley on injured reserve. Assigned C Brad Lambert to Manitoba (AHL). Assigned LW Nikita Chibrikov to Manitoba. Loaned D Elias Salomonsson to Manitoba.

PRO SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	21	4	8	71	73	47
Columbus	17	6	9	60	65	38
Cincinnati	17	11	5	56	56	47
Orlando City	15	11	7	52	58	48
NYCFC	14	11	8	50	54	47
Charlotte FC	13	11	9	48	43	37
New York	11	8	14	47	53	47
D.C. United	10	13	10	40	52	67
CF Montréal	10	13	10	40	46	64
Toronto FC	11	19	4	37	40	61
Philadelphia	9	14	10	37	61	53
Atlanta	9	14	10	37	44	48
Nashville	8	16	9	33	35	54
New England	9	19	4	31	35	64
Chicago	7	17	9	30	40	59

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LA Galaxy	19	7	7	64	68	48
LAFC	17	8	7	58	58	41
Seattle	16	9	8	56	50	34
Real Salt Lake	15	7	11	56	63	47
Houston	14	10	9	51	45	38
Colorado	15	13	5	50	59	57
Minnesota	14	12	7	49	54	48
Vancouver	13	11	8	47	50	45
Portland	12	11	10	46	64	55
Austin FC	10	14	9	39	36	46
FC Dallas	10	15	8	38	52	55
St Louis City	8	12	13	37	49	59
Sporting KC	8	18	7	31	50	64
San Jose	6	24	3	21	40	75

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday, Oct. 5
Miami 1, Toronto FC 0
Minnesota 1, Vancouver 0
Atlanta 2, New York 1
Charlotte FC 2, CF Montréal 0
Orlando City 3, Cincinnati 1
Columbus 3, Philadelphia 2
D.C. United 2, New England 1
Los Angeles FC 3, Sporting Kansas City 0
St Louis City 3, Houston 0
Seattle 1, Colorado 0
LA Galaxy 2, Austin FC 1
Real Salt Lake 1, San Jose 0

Sunday, Oct. 6
New York City FC 3, Nashville 1
FC Dallas 0, Portland 0, tie

Saturday's game
New England at Columbus

Sunday's game
Los Angeles FC at Vancouver

Saturday, Oct. 19
Nashville at Chicago
Charlotte FC at D.C. United
New England at Miami
New York City FC at CF Montréal
Columbus at New York
Atlanta at Orlando City
Cincinnati at Philadelphia
Colorado at Austin FC
Sporting Kansas City at FC Dallas
LA Galaxy at Houston
San Jose at Los Angeles FC
St Louis City at Minnesota
Vancouver at Real Salt Lake
Portland at Seattle

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Orlando	17	0	6	57	42	13
Washington	15	6	2	47	44	27
Gotham FC	14	4	5	47	32	18
Kansas City	13	3	7	46	49	29
North Carolina	12	9	2	38	33	25
Chicago	10	11	2	32	30	31
Portland	8	11	4	28	32	34
Bay FC	9	13	1	28	27	38
Louisville	6	10	7	25	30	32
San Diego	5	11	7	22	20	28
Angel City	7	12	4	22	27	37
Utah Royals FC	6	14	3	21	17	35
Seattle	5	13	5	20	23	37
Houston	4	14	5	17	15	37

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday, Oct. 4
Chicago 2, Houston 0
Angel City 1, Seattle 0

Saturday, Oct. 5
North Carolina 2, San Diego 1
Kansas City 2, Louisville 0
Gotham FC 5, Bay FC 1
Utah Royals FC 2, Portland 1

Sunday, Oct. 6
Orlando 2, Washington 0

Friday's game
Orlando at Portland

Saturday's games
Gotham FC at Chicago
Angel City at North Carolina
Kansas City at Bay FC

Settled lawsuit approved

By EDDIE PELLIS
Associated Press

A judge granted preliminary approval Monday to the \$2.78 billion legal settlement that would transform college sports by allowing schools to pay players.

U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken released an order setting a timeline for a deal that would put millions of dollars into the pockets of college athletes, who can begin applying for payment on Oct. 18.

A final hearing is set for April 7, 2025, the day that one of college sports' biggest moneymakers, March Madness, comes to a close with college basketball's national title game. If finalized, the deal would allow the biggest schools to establish a pool of about \$21.5 million in the first year to distribute money to athletes through a revenue-sharing plan. Athletes would still be able to cut name, image and likeness deals with outside groups.

Former college athletes from as far back as 2016 would be able to apply for their share of \$2.576 billion set aside to help them recoup money they could've made from NIL deals, which weren't allowed until 2021.

"We are pleased that we are one step closer to a revolutionary change in college athletics that will allow billions in revenue sharing," said plaintiff attorney Steve Ber- man.

The judge's approval comes 11 days after attorneys tweaked wording in the original settlement agreement to address Wilken's concerns. The main change involved getting rid of the word "boosters" and replacing it with a better-defined description of whose potential NIL deals would be subject to oversight by a neutral arbitrator once the deal goes through.

That did not, however, strike to the heart of the settlement, which sets up a revenue-sharing arrangement between schools and athletes who, for decades, played for scholarships, a few expenses and little else, while coaches and athletic departments brought in millions. The \$21.5 million figure comes from the 22% of average revenue that power conference schools generate through media rights, tickets and other sources. It will be recalculated periodically through the 10-year window the agreement covers.

Not every school will chip in the full amount. Those that will be hurrying to find ways to replace what they'll pay out to athletes.

MLB PLAYOFFS



PHIL LONG/AP

The Detroit Tigers' Kerry Carpenter watches his three-run home run in the ninth inning in front of Guardians catcher Bo Naylor during Game 2 of an AL Division Series on Monday in Cleveland.

Carpenter's homer off Clase lifts Tigers over Guardians

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Kerry Carpenter hit a three-run homer off Cleveland's All-Star closer Emmanuel Clase in the ninth inning, and the Detroit Tigers stunned the Guardians 3-0 in Game 2 on Monday to even their AL Division Series at one game apiece.

Carpenter connected for a 423-foot shot with two outs off Clase, who had not given up a run since Aug. 30 and led the American League with 47 saves.

"To do it off him is special," said Carpenter. "He's one of the best."

Detroit ace Tarik Skubal pitched seven shutout innings, increasing his postseason total to 13, before the Tigers put together a rare big inning against the almost unhittable Clase.

The intimidating right-hander has dominated hitters all season — he hasn't blown a save since May — and was making just his second multi-inning appearance of 2024.

Jake Rogers and Trey Sweeney hit consecutive two-out singles. Carpenter, who entered an inning earlier as a pinch-hitter, turned on Clase's third straight slider, sending the ball into the right-field seats and shocking Cleveland's rowdy home crowd.

"How about those three two-out hits?" Tigers manager A.J. Hinch said.

Guardians manager Stephen Vogt didn't regret using Clase for more than one inning.

"Emmanuel has been locked down all year," Vogt said. "He's been nearly perfect. He's human,

Scoreboard

Playoffs	
x-if necessary	
DIVISION SERIES (Best-of-five)	
American League	
New York 1, Kansas City 1	
New York 6, Kansas City 5	
Monday: Detroit 3, Cleveland 0	
Wednesday: New York (Schmidt 5-5) at Kansas City (Lugo 16-9), AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.	
Thursday CET, 9 a.m. Thursday JKT (joined in progress)	
Thursday: at Kansas City	
x-Saturday, Oct. 12: at New York	
Cleveland 1, Detroit 1	
Cleveland 7, Detroit 0	
Monday: Detroit 3, Cleveland 0	
Wednesday: Cleveland (Cobb 2-1) at Detroit (TBD), AFN-Sports, 2, 9 p.m. Wednesday CET, 4 a.m. Thursday JKT	
Thursday: at Detroit	
x-Saturday, Oct. 12: at Cleveland	
National League	
Los Angeles 1, San Diego 1	
Los Angeles 7, San Diego 5	
San Diego 10, Los Angeles 2	
Tuesday: at San Diego	
Wednesday: at San Diego, AFN-Sports, 4 a.m. Thursday CET, 11 a.m. Thursday JKT (joined in progress)	
x-Friday: at Los Angeles	
New York 1, Philadelphia 1	
New York 6, Philadelphia 2	
Philadelphia 7, New York 6	
Tuesday: at New York	
Wednesday: Philadelphia (Suárez 12-8) at New York (Quintana 10-10), AFN-Sports, 11 p.m. Wednesday CET, 6 a.m. Thursday JKT	
x-Friday: at Philadelphia	

West champion Houston Astros in the Wild Card Series.

They're at it again and head home to Comerica Park for Games 3 and 4 on Wednesday and Thursday with a chance to advance.

"You come to this environment, on the road, and it's a five-game series," Tigers manager A.J. Hinch said. "When you get that emotional win and go back home 1-1, you feel like you got one on their home turf."

"We now have two games at our place. We know it's going to be electric. We know Detroit has waited a really long time for a playoff game. We're going to have a couple of them and a chance to take control of this series."

When Carpenter stepped into the box, the Tigers felt something good would happen.

"Kerry coming up there being Kerry Bonds, that's what you want right there," Rogers said. "He got one low and in the middle of the zone. I had the best view of it and I was screaming from the bottom of my lungs."

After Skubal pitched seven innings and winner Will Vest got through the eighth, Beau Brieske pitched a perfect ninth for the save.

Skubal was getting a postgame workout when Carpenter homered.

"What a swing," he said. "I was on the ground, and I think that's the fastest I've ever stood up in my life. What a swing off a really good pitcher, too, the best closer in the game. That was incredible to watch."

Royals score four in 4th, beat Yanks to even ALDS 1-1

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Salvador Perez homered leading off the fourth inning to spark a four-run rally against Carlos Rodón, and the Kansas City Royals beat the New York Yankees 4-2 on Monday night to even their AL Division Series at one game apiece.

Four relievers held New York in check after an inconsistent Cole Ragans lasted four innings. Tommy Pham, Garrett Hampson and Maikel Garcia singled in runs for the Royals.

Garcia, moved up from ninth to first in Kansas City's batting order, had four hits.

Game 3 in the best-of-five playoff is Wednesday night at Kansas City, the Royals' first postseason home game since the 2015 World Series.

"It's basically like a brand-new series when we get to the K," Ragans said, referring to Kauffman Stadium.

Yankees slugger Aaron Judge went 1-for-3 with an infield single and is 1-for-7 with four strikeouts in the series. Kansas City star Bobby Witt Jr., expected to finish second to Judge in AL MVP voting, was 0-for-5 with three strikeouts, dropping to 0-for-10 in the series.

All four Division Series opened 1-1 for the first time since the round started in 1995.

Giancarlo Stanton put the Yankees ahead with an RBI single in the third, but New York went 1-for-6 with runners in scoring position and is 3-for-19 in the two games.

"They were making their pitches when they needed to," Judge said. "We've got to come through in

those situations to kind of break it open."

Ragans allowed just the one run and three hits, striking out five and walking four. Winning pitcher Angel Zerpa and John Schreiber each followed with a hitless inning before Kris Bubic threw two scoreless innings. Lucas Erceg worked the ninth for his third save this postseason.

Erceg gave up a leadoff homer to Jazz Chisholm Jr. and a two-out single to Jon Berti but retired Gleyber Torres on a grounder to end it with slugger Juan Soto on deck. Chisholm's homer was the first off Erceg since June 12, when he was still pitching for Oakland.

Perez, at 34 the only remaining Royals player from their 2015 championship team, tied the score when he drove a 2-0 slider into the left-field seats. The nine-time All-Star entered 12-for-26 (.462) with three homers off Rodón, an old AL Central rival when he pitched for the Chicago White Sox.

"He falls behind him, and from there started making some mistakes with his secondary (pitches) just in the heart of the plate," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

Rodón, lined up to pitch a potential Game 5, gave up four runs and seven hits in 3¹/₃ innings with seven strikeouts and no walks. Twenty-four of the 32 home runs he has allowed this season have been solo shots.

"Obviously, I want to be better than that — especially how the first three innings went," Rodón said. "I wouldn't say I tired out. Just got to be better with those pitches, just more fine with them and get to better spots."



SETH WENIG/AP

Kansas City Royals captain Salvador Perez celebrates after hitting a solo home run against the Yankees during the fourth inning of Game 2 of an AL Division Series on Monday in New York. The Royals won 4-2.

NHL

Next generation set to make impact

Celebrini, Smith, Slafkovsky among best young stars

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

Juraj Slafkovsky was an NHL Draft pick, just like Alex Ovechkin, Sidney Crosby, Auston Matthews, Nathan MacKinnon, Connor McDavid and Connor Bedard. The spotlight, however, has not been quite as bright or the hype train as strong for him in Montreal.

"I like it that way," Slafkovsky said.

Regardless of the attention or lack thereof, Slafkovsky is on the vanguard of hockey's next generation of stars, along with the likes of San Jose's Macklin Celebrini and Will Smith, Buffalo's JJ Peterka and New Jersey's Luke Hughes.

"It's really cool to be a part of it, and I hope I will be a part of it," Slafkovsky said two years after the Canadiens took him at No. 1 in 2022. "Hopefully we can do some things as the younger generation."

Slafkovsky, Peterka, Hughes and Quinton Byfield of the Los Angeles Kings have been around a bit, and now is the time to show they can be among the league's best. Newcomers like Celebrini, Smith, Philadelphia's Matvei Michkov and even teammate Lane Hutson are front-runners in the race for the Calder Trophy as rookie of the year.

Macklin Celebrini

The most recent No. 1 pick does not have the so-called "generational talent" label like Crosby, McDavid or Bedard, but he still won the Hobey Baker Award last season at Boston University as the top college player in the country with 64 points in 38 games.

Sharks forward William Eklund was not too familiar with Celebrini's game until the draft, so he made it a point to check out his highlights.

"I looked him up a little bit, and obviously he's a great skill guy," Eklund said. "He's a high-caliber player, and it's going to be fun to see."

Will Smith

Rivals at Boston-area schools, Smith and Celebrini are now front and center as the faces of San Jose's rebuild.

"It's going to be a fun relationship," said Smith, the fourth pick in 2023 who decided to turn pro after starring last season at Boston College. "Really cool. We were talking about it earlier just how crazy it is that we're on the same team now."



JEFF CHIU/AP

The Sharks' Macklin Celebrini takes part in a scrimmage at the team's practice facility in San Jose, Calif. There will be high expectations of Celebrini after he was the top overall pick in this year's draft.

Smith, a year older than Celebrini, is coming off a 71-point season, helped the United States win world junior gold and played at the world championships.

"He's a kid that has a really bright future and a ton of talent," said Washington goaltender Charlie Lindgren, who was a teammate at worlds. "A really good kid, too, and I think he'll go in and play for San Jose this year and I think you'll see him do pretty well."

Juraj Slafkovsky

The MVP of the 2022 Beijing Olympics without NHL players struggled in his rookie year. Last season, he quintupled his production with 20 goals, 30 assists and 50 points and said, "I'm ready to start where I finished."

Slafkovsky in the spring signed an eight-year contract extension worth over \$60 million. Now it's up to the big Slovak forward to earn it.

"I just want to show them that they made the right decision," Slafkovsky said. "I feel like the only way I can do it is showing up every day and playing hard and being there."

JJ Peterka

A 2020 second-round pick of the Sabres, Peterka is older at 22 but could get a look on the first line this season after establishing himself as a full-time NHL player and scoring 28 goals. The German forward is in a contract year looking to get the kind of guaranteed deal Slafkovsky and others have.

Peterka thinks the key is not

putting too much pressure on himself, especially while trying to help Buffalo end the league's longest playoff drought.

"I want to be put more in situations where I'm maybe not too uncomfortable," Peterka said. "I want to be more responsible, more consistent. For me it's just take the next step to just grow as a player, as more of a complete player."

Quinton Byfield

The 6-foot-5, 220-pound power forward is expected to play center after getting a five-year, \$31.25 million contract. He spent the summer working on his shot to be more of a threat from further away from the net and prefers center offensively and defensively.

"I like playing good defense and shutting down their top lines, so when I can be in my own end kind of playing those guys down low, that's where I want to be," Byfield said. "Also, I don't want to just be on the wall standing there going up the ice. I want to be able to use my speed and kind of demand the middle of the ice."

Luke Hughes

A left shoulder injury from summer training could cause the Devils defenseman to miss the start of the season. That absence should not keep Hughes from building on a 47-point rookie year that left him third in Calder Trophy voting.

"He'll take another step," older brother and New Jersey teammate Jack Hughes said. "Luke will be even more mature this

year. He'll know the league a little bit more and know the players and he'll know things he can get away with and where he can capitalize on certain things. I think he'll have a better year offensively, obviously, and just keep getting better."

Matvei Michkov

The 19-year-old Russian winger is the new face of the Flyers with the weight of the franchise's nearly five-decade Stanley Cup drought on his shoulders. Michkov was the seventh pick in 2023, with some teams concerned he might not be able to leave the KHL or was under-scouted given the war in Ukraine.

Early returns are positive. "Everyone's really excited to have him, and when you see him on the ice it's pretty special and gives our team a positive boost," forward Owen Tippett said. "Super skilled. We're all really excited to have him on our side, and we're excited to see what he can do."

Lane Hutson

A saucer pass from Hutson during an early training camp scrimmage that landed right on the stick blade of teammate Emil Heineken went viral in hockey circles. It's just a taste of what the 20-year-old defenseman might be able to do when he gets used to life in the NHL, but he already has big expectations in Montreal.

"I haven't proved anything yet," Hutson said. "There's a lot to prove before I'm even close to a face of the team."

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Toronto	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Detroit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montreal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ottawa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buffalo	2	0	2	0	0	2	7

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	2	2	0	0	4	7	2
Carolina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Columbus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N.Y. Islanders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N.Y. Rangers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Philadelphia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pittsburgh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Western Conference

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dallas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nashville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utah	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winnipeg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calgary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edmonton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Los Angeles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Jose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seattle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vegas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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.

Tuesday's games

St. Louis at Seattle
Boston at Florida
Chicago at Utah

Wednesday's games

Toronto at Montreal
N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh
Calgary at Vancouver
Colorado at Vegas
Winnipeg at Edmonton

Thursday's games

Florida at Ottawa
Los Angeles at Buffalo
Montreal at Boston
Pittsburgh at Detroit
Toronto at New Jersey
Utah at N.Y. Islanders
Columbus at Minnesota
Dallas at Nashville
St. Louis at San Jose

Friday's games

Tampa Bay at Carolina
Chicago at Winnipeg
Philadelphia at Vancouver
St. Louis at Las Vegas

Saturday's games

Los Angeles at Boston
Florida at Buffalo
Pittsburgh at Toronto
Ottawa at Montreal
Nashville at Detroit
Carolina at Tampa Bay
Utah at N.Y. Rangers
New Jersey at Washington
N.Y. Islanders at Dallas
Seattle at Minnesota
Columbus at Colorado
Philadelphia at Calgary
Chicago at Edmonton
Anaheim at San Jose



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Montreal Canadiens left wing Juraj Slafkovsky signed an eight-year, \$60.8 million extension in July.

NHL

More settled Bedard ready to break out

By JAY COHEN
Associated Press

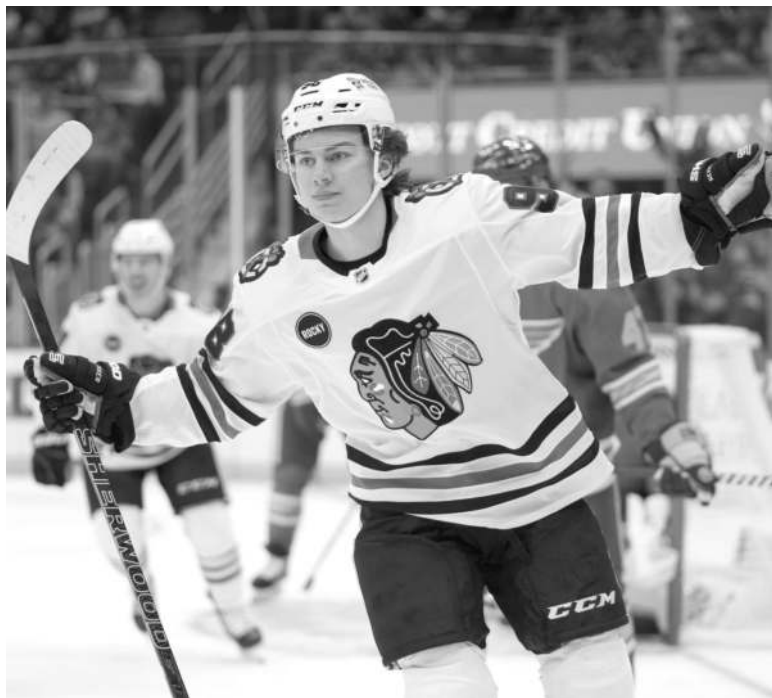
CHICAGO — Connor Bedard was one of the first players on the ice Monday. He was also one of the last to leave when practice was over.

In many ways, Bedard is the same guy as he begins his second season with the Chicago Blackhawks. In some subtle ways, he is a different person and player than he was a year ago.

“I think he’s become — I mean even more so than last year — just a little more comfortable in his skin,” Blackhawks captain Nick Foligno said. “I think he understands the league, and you can see he’s growing as a person and as a player. ... I’ve seen a more driven player. I think he wants to better himself for this season and build on last year.”

Bedard is once again Chicago’s most important player ahead of its season opener at Utah on Tuesday night, just like he was as a rookie. His development will be closely watched, but the hype that followed him throughout his first NHL season has dissipated a bit.

That’s just fine with Bedard, who — while seemingly comfortable with the attention — has never seemed to enjoy talking about him-



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Chicago center Connor Bedard won the Calder Memorial Trophy last season as rookie of the year. He had 22 goals and 39 assists.

self all that much.

“It feels good for myself, just being maybe a little more relaxed going into it,” Bedard said.

The biggest difference with Bedard, who just turned 19 in July, might have more to do with his surroundings than the young center

himself. Looking to help Bedard take his game to another level and start to emerge from its rebuild, Chicago upgraded its roster after it went 23-53-6 last year.

Bedard skated with Teuvo Teravainen and Ilya Mikheyev — two offseason acquisitions — for the

team’s last practice before traveling to Utah. He also played alongside Tyler Bertuzzi, who signed with Chicago in free agency, during training camp.

“I think he’s always had that confidence with the puck and making plays,” defenseman Connor Murphy said. “I’d say if anything now he’s got more veterans around him on his line, so I think that can help in different situations in the game and having more of a 200-foot game.”

Bedard was taken by Chicago with the No. 1 overall pick in the 2023 draft. While dealing with all the hoopla that went along with his arrival in the NHL, he had 22 goals and 39 assists despite being sidelined for more than a month because of a broken jaw. He won the Calder Memorial Trophy for NHL rookie of the year.

When it was over, he applied everything he learned as he prepared for his second year.

“I think, for me, a lot of speed and stuff,” Bedard said. “I was in the gym and on the ice just trying to put myself in as much of game situations as I can.”

Some of Bedard’s confidence going into his second year — even with his considerable skillset, made even sharper by his summer

work — just has to do with the experience he gained in his first season.

“I think there’s just little things that you pick up or you change a little bit after getting used to the league and playing some games,” he said. “So I think there’s just kind of little plays that I make now or know what’s going to work and all that.”

Bedard, listed at 5-foot-10 and 185 pounds, was a bit feisty during Chicago’s preseason games, tangling with Minnesota’s Joel Eriksson Ek and fighting with St. Louis forward Zach Bolduc. He brushed it off as “just hockey” and not part of any adjustment on his end, wryly pointing out that he would lose a fight against most NHL players.

Coach Luke Richardson also downplayed the significance of Bedard’s preseason physicality. But he highlighted where he thinks Bedard’s game is going.

“I think he’s just going to get stronger and know when he needs to hold on to that puck and know when he needs to get it off his stick a little bit earlier and spin off and get open again,” Richardson said. “And I think those things are going to come in time. ... He’s just raring to go and move up the ladder, both as a team and then I think himself individually.”

Education: Rempe wants to be known as more than a fighter

FROM PAGE 24

know,” Laraque told The Associated Press by phone. “He’s a force. Dumping the puck, when the ‘D’ will go retrieve, they’re going to die. He’s so strong that the whiplash, just the contact of him while skating how fast he is, he’s going to hurt guys. ... He’s a truck.”

Rempe’s hopes

Rempe added 15 pounds of muscle in the gym in addition to everything on the ice aiming to manage and protect the puck better and eventually perhaps be counted on as a penalty killer, like he was at the junior level. Teammates are expecting more of everything from Rempe in the coming months.

“His game will improve,” center Vincent Trocheck said. “You can tell he worked really hard this summer and he got bigger — somehow — and stronger. But he’s fast. He can fly. For a guy his size, he flies. He’s got good hands, and he’s been working hard. With opportunity, I think he’ll continue to get better.”

Rempe wears No. 73, but he’s already No. 1 in the hearts of Rangers fans, based largely off fighting Matt Martin of the Islanders outdoors in front of a crowd of nearly 80,000 at MetLife Stadium in his NHL debut in February. He is not afraid to throw his fists and his body around in a very old-school way. Trocheck said he has only heard three names chanted at Madison Square Garden — Rempe and two elite goalies, Igor Shesterkin and Henrik Lundqvist.

“I’ve never seen anything like it,” Trocheck said. “Last year was crazy with



DERIK HAMILTON/AP

The New York Rangers’ Matt Rempe scores past Flyers goaltender Samuel Ersson on Feb. 24 in Philadelphia. Rempe averaged 6 minutes of ice time last season.

Remps. Rangers faithful really fell in love with him.”

Will he fight less?

Fans need to realize Rempe probably will not fight as much moving forward. He does not think he fought too much last season, but Rempe and Laraque talked about being smarter about knowing when to accept and when to decline.

“The thing with fighting is that fighting is not just technical, how to use your reach,

what to do if you’re in trouble. It’s also when to do it,” said Laraque, who explained how older players trap tired rookies at the end of their shifts and use other tricks to gain an upper hand. “You have to make sure that when you get into it, you’re 100%.”

Rempe isn’t sure if he has a target on his back given his reputation, but he knows he has a presence. He also does not want to back down and said he enjoys fighting, so it won’t totally disappear from his game.

Hence Rempe taking Laraque up on his

offer and going through four two-hour sessions in July at a rink in Nisku, Alberta, just south of Edmonton (Rempe is from Calgary).

“We fought and worked on his technique for like two hours every day until everything was perfect,” Laraque said. “I have no doubt that this year, if or when he gets into a scuffle, you’re going to see a different man than you saw last year.”

Growing his game

Lundqvist, the Hall of Famer and long-time face of the franchise who now has his number retired in the rafters in New York, liked what he saw from Rempe in his rookie year.

“It’s hard to miss him when you have that size and speed,” Lundqvist said. “He was very impactful when he played. He’s a great skater with good speed and obviously he has this presence on the ice where I’m sure, the opponents, they’re aware when he’s on the ice.”

After averaging roughly six minutes a game so far and putting up just three points, what Rempe worked on beyond the fighting could help him stay on the ice more and be more productive.

He isn’t pretending to be Artemi Panarin or Mika Zibanejad, but Rempe has a very clear path toward exactly the type of player he wants to be.

“Just be speedy, hard to play against, mean, bring an edge, a great net-front presence,” Rempe said. “Make sure the other team always knows that, hey, they’re going to have to deal with me every night.”

NFL

Jets fire Saleh after 2-3 start

Defensive coordinator Ulbrich to lead team still expecting to make playoffs

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.
Associated Press

Robert Saleh insisted no one was panicked about the New York Jets' slow start. A day later, he was out of a job.

Owner Woody Johnson made the stunning decision Tuesday to fire Saleh five games into his fourth season after the team's 2-3 start following a 23-17 loss to Minnesota in London on Sunday.

"This morning, I informed Robert Saleh that he will no longer serve as head coach of the Jets," Johnson said in a statement issued by the team. "I thanked him for his hard work these past 3½ years and wished him and his family well moving forward."

"This was not an easy decision, but we are not where we should be given our expectations. And I believe now is the best time for us to move in a different direction."

Saleh was 20-36 as coach of the Jets, who are trying to snap the NFL's longest active playoff drought at 13 seasons. The move marks the first time in Johnson's 25-year tenure that a head coach has been fired during the season.

Defensive coordinator Jeff Ulbrich will serve as interim coach for the rest of the season — with the Jets maintaining expectations to make the playoffs.

"He is a tough coach who has the respect of the coaches and players on this team," Johnson said. "I believe he along with the coaches on this staff can get the most out of our talented team and attain the goals we established this offseason."

The surprising move came a day after Saleh said he was confident Aaron Rodgers and the Jets would be able to turn things around after losing two straight, including falling to undefeated Minnesota. Rodgers had his worst game with New York, throwing three interceptions.

"There's so much football to be played," Saleh said Monday. "There's so many things that we can get better at, and there's so many things that we can continue to build on, the things that we are doing well."

"So, I'm not panicked. Nobody in the building is panicked."

But apparently Johnson had seen enough from Saleh, who became the NFL's first coach fired this season.

It's the 12th time since 2000 that a team has changed coaches just five games or fewer into a season, with six coming in the last six seasons.



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

The New York Jets fired head coach Robert Saleh on Monday with the team struggling on offense and falling to 2-3.

Matt Rhule was the most recent, having been fired by Carolina after five games in 2022.

The Jets face the Buffalo Bills (3-2) on Monday night, when they have a chance to share the AFC East lead with a victory. But instead of Saleh, it will be the 47-year-old Ulbrich on the sideline.

Ulbrich, who played linebacker for 10 seasons with San Francisco, joined the Jets as part of Saleh's initial staff in 2021.

Saleh replaced the fired Adam Gase in January 2021 after the Jets went 9-23 in his tenure.

Saleh's tenure began with a major decision. They moved on from quarterback Sam Darnold — the No. 3 overall pick in 2018 — to draft Zach Wilson with the second overall pick in 2021.

While Saleh and Ulbrich's defense was a strength for the Jets, Wilson and the offense struggled mightily. Quarterback instability was a theme that was consistent throughout Saleh's tenure.

The Jets traded for Rodgers in April 2023, adding the four-time NFL MVP to a franchise looking for a winner. But last season was short-circuited when Rodgers tore his left Achilles tendon four snaps into his debut.

There were questions about his relationship with the 40-year-old Rodgers, but both denied any friction as recently as last week in London when the quarterback said "there's some driving force trying to put a wedge outside the facility" between the two.

"We're really good friends," Rodgers said. "We enjoy each other. We spend time almost every day in his office talking about things and talking about the energy of the team, focus of the team and what we need to get done, how I can help him out, how he can help me out. So we've got a great relationship."



EMILEE CHINN/AP

Ravens safety Ar'Darius Washington, center, celebrates while Bengals place kicker Evan McPherson, right, watches his 53-yard field-goal attempt miss wide left during overtime Sunday in Cincinnati.

BEHIND THE CALL

Coaches' baffling late moves prove costly for Bengals, Bills

By ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

If only Zac Taylor and Sean McDermott could have swapped end-of-game strategies, the teetering Cincinnati Bengals and Buffalo Bills might have avoided their big bellyflops in the NFL's topsy-turvy Week 5.

Taylor called three straight runs that ultimately doomed Cincy (1-4) and McDermott dialed up three straight passes that basically did in Buffalo (3-2).

Joe Burrow and Lamar Jackson put on an electric quarterback duel in Cincinnati, combining for 740 yards passing and nine touchdown throws.

The Ravens were driving for a potential winning touchdown in overtime when Jackson fumbled the snap and Cincinnati's Germaine Pratt recovered all the way back at the Ravens' 38.

That was already safely in kicker Evan McPherson's range. He'd nailed his last three field-goal attempts from 50 or more yards and had made his last 14 tries in the fourth quarter or overtime.

So, Taylor played it safe and had Joe Burrow hand off three times to Chase Brown rather than have Burrow keep throwing. He'd already thrown for 392 yards and a career-high five touchdowns, including two each to Ja'Marr Chase and Tee Higgins.

Chase led the Bengals with 10 catches for 193 yards, and Higgins had nine grabs for 83 yards and both faced single coverage on the Bengals' final series.

Even though 50-yarders have become routine in the NFL, a lot can go wrong on a long field-goal attempt, and after the Bengals ran three times into Baltimore's wall of defenders for 3 yards, McPherson, known as "Money Mac" for his accuracy, lined up for a 53-yard try that sailed wide left after holder Ryan Rehkow mishandled the snap.

Baltimore took over on its own 43. On the next play, Derrick Henry, who had been bottled up all afternoon with just 41 yards on 14 carries, rumbled 51 yards down to the Bengals 6 and Justin Tucker chipped in the 24-yarder for the 41-38 win.

Burrow defended Taylor's conservative approach. "I'm not going to second-guess that," Burrow said. "We're in field-goal range. Yes, you want to get yards to make it easier on him. As good as their rush is, you always take a chance at getting sacked in that situation."

Which, coincidentally, is one reason Bills fans



ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH/AP

Bills quarterback Josh Allen threw three straight incompletions late in the game that allowed the Texans to have time for the winning field goal.

were miffed when McDermott called for three passes when they got the ball at their own 3 with 32 seconds left rather than handing off three times and draining the Texans of their three timeouts.

Unlike Burrow, Josh Allen was having an awful day — he completed just 9 of 30 passes for 131 yards and misfired on his final eight throws.

As the broadcast crew noted, the Bills were risking a safety for a hold by throwing out of their end zone three times and again on fourth down when Sam Martin booted a 56-yard punt just inches from the back of the end zone.

It was returned 13 yards to the Bills' 46, and Houston had seven seconds and all of its timeouts left. While Allen and the Bills prepared for overtime on the sideline, C.J. Stroud hit a quick 5-yard pass to running back Dare Ogunbowale and called timeout with 2 seconds remaining.

Ka'imi Fairbairn trotted out and nailed the 59-yarder as time expired for a 23-20 win.

McDermott readily accepted the blame afterward by noting the Bills should have at least attempted a run on first down — "And that's on me," he said.

Unless they bounce back in a big way, both the Bills and Bengals may find themselves looking back and lamenting their lost opportunities and their coach's conservative calls that backfired so spectacularly.

NFL

Scoreboard

American Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	3	2	0	.600	142	106
Miami	2	3	0	.400	60	113
N.Y. Jets	2	3	0	.400	93	85
New England	1	4	0	.200	62	102
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	4	1	0	.800	102	114
Indianapolis	2	3	0	.400	119	122
Tennessee	1	3	0	.250	79	90
Jacksonville	1	4	0	.200	97	143
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	147	126
Pittsburgh	3	2	0	.600	92	73
Cincinnati	1	4	0	.200	140	145
Cleveland	1	4	0	.200	79	121
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	5	0	0	1.000	118	85
Denver	3	2	0	.600	96	73
L.A. Chargers	2	2	0	.500	68	50
Las Vegas	2	3	0	.400	96	131
National Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	4	1	0	.800	155	115
Dallas	3	2	0	.600	117	121
Philadelphia	2	2	0	.500	86	96
N.Y. Giants	2	3	0	.400	89	104
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	3	2	0	.600	111	115
Tampa Bay	3	2	0	.600	127	114
New Orleans	2	3	0	.400	140	96
Carolina	1	4	0	.200	83	165
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	5	0	0	1.000	139	76
Detroit	3	1	0	.750	104	82
Chicago	3	2	0	.600	113	85
Green Bay	3	2	0	.600	128	108
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	3	2	0	.600	122	114
Arizona	2	3	0	.400	120	129
San Francisco	2	3	0	.400	126	106
L.A. Rams	1	4	0	.200	94	139
Thursday's game						
Atlanta 36, Tampa Bay 30, OT						
Sunday's games						
Minnesota 23, N.Y. Jets 17, London, GBR						
Baltimore 41, Cincinnati 38, OT						
Chicago 36, Carolina 10						
Houston 23, Buffalo 20						
Jacksonville 37, Indianapolis 34						
Miami 15, New England 10						
Washington 34, Cleveland 13						
Arizona 24, San Francisco 23						
Denver 34, Las Vegas 18						
Green Bay 24, L.A. Rams 19						
N.Y. Giants 29, Seattle 20						
Dallas 20, Pittsburgh 17						
Monday's game						
Kansas City 26, New Orleans 13						
Open: L.A. Chargers, Tennessee, Detroit, Philadelphia						
Thursday, Oct. 10						
San Francisco at Seattle						
Sunday, Oct. 13						
Jacksonville vs Chicago at London						
Arizona at Green Bay						
Cleveland at Philadelphia						
Houston at New England						
Indianapolis at Tennessee						
Tampa Bay at New Orleans						
Washington at Baltimore						
L.A. Chargers at Denver						
Pittsburgh at Las Vegas						
Atlanta at Carolina						
Detroit at Dallas						
Cincinnati at N.Y. Giants						
Monday, Oct. 14						
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets						
Open: Kansas City, Miami, L.A. Rams, Minnesota						
Thursday, Oct. 17						
Denver at New Orleans						
Sunday, Oct. 20						
New England vs. Jacksonville at London						
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants						
Seattle at Atlanta						
Tennessee at Buffalo						
Cincinnati at Cleveland						
Houston at Green Bay						
Miami at Indianapolis						
Detroit at Minnesota						
Las Vegas at L.A. Rams						
Carolina at Washington						
Kansas City at San Francisco						
N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh						

Ex-Chiefs return, give KC boost

Hunt, Smith-Schuster both eclipse 100 yards to help Mahomes lead victory over Saints

By **DAVE SKRETTA**
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Patrick Mahomes threw for a bunch of yards. Travis Kelce caught a whole lot of his passes. And Kareem Hunt plowed into the end zone once again, sending a torrent of red fireworks flying over Arrowhead Stadium on Monday night.

It might as well have been six years ago, the last time that trio of Chiefs played in a home game together.

But with injuries having ravaged their offense, the Chiefs were forced to lean on two of their stalwarts and the return of their erstwhile star running back to beat the Saints, 26-13. Mahomes finished with 331 yards through the air, Kelce had a game-high nine catches for 70 yards, and Hunt ran 27 times for 102 yards and a touchdown.

“It was a great feeling to get back in the end zone. I missed it very much,” said Hunt, who only returned to the Chiefs a couple of weeks ago, after an injury to starter Isiah Pacheco. “That’s why I threw up a heart. To show my love for Kansas City.”

There was a lot of love flowing inside Arrowhead Stadium.

Just as the Chiefs were moving to 5-0 behind another defensive gem, the Royals were beating the Yankees in Game 2 of their AL Division Series in New York. There were frequent chants of “Let’s go Royals!” throughout the game, and when the Royals finished off a 4-2 victory to send the series back to Kansas City tied at a game apiece, a roar ripped through Arrowhead.

“There was kind of a lull there toward the end of the game, and I was like, ‘They’re not showing the score. The Yankees came back,’” said Mahomes, who owns a part of the Royals. “But they picked it up and got the win, and it was extremely exciting.”

The Chiefs held Saints quarterback Derek Carr to 185 yards passing with two touchdowns and an interception before leaving with an oblique injury. It occurred with about 9½ minutes left, when Carr was hit by blitzing defensive back Chamarri Conner on a fourth-down incompleteness as he tried to rally New Orleans from a 23-13 deficit.

“I couldn’t do what I needed to do in the simplest form,” said Carr, who planned to get an MRI exam on Tuesday.

The Saints’ Alvin Kamara managed 26 yards rushing on 11 carries, becoming the latest high-profile running back to struggle against the Chiefs. They held the Ravens’ Derrick Henry to 46 yards, Zack Moss of the Bengals to 34, Falcons star Bijan Robinson to 31 and J.K. Dob-



PETER AIKEN/AP

Chiefs running back Kareem Hunt runs against New Orleans Saints defensive tackle Bryan Bresee on Monday in Kansas City, Mo. Hunt carried 27 times for 102 yards and a touchdown.

bins to 32 last week against the Chargers.

“We got outplayed,” Saints coach Dennis Allen said. “We really couldn’t get a whole lot going on either side of the ball.”

The first half Monday night featured a bit of everything: Hunt’s first TD since returning to Kansas City, where his once-promising career was derailed by an off-the-field incident; a 43-yard touchdown pass from Carr to Rashid Shaheed, the shortest of the three Shaheed has caught this season; and yet another lateral by Kelce, which came on the most bizarre of drives.

The Chiefs were leading 10-7 when a fumbled pitch and a holding penalty left them facing second-and-34. They got some of it back on a pass to JuJu Smith-Schuster, and then Mahomes hit Kelce over the middle. Kelce lateraled to Samaje Perine, who got within a yard of a first down, and Kansas City converted the fourth-and-short to set up a field goal.

It was exactly that — field goals — that kept New Orleans in the game, though. The Chiefs have struggled to score TDs in the red zone all season, and they were forced to let Harrison Butker kick a trio of chip shots to lead 16-7 at the break.

Their red-zone woes continued in the third quarter. On second-and-goal, Smith-Schuster had a pass bounce off his hands at the goal line and into the arms of 324-pound former Chiefs defensive tackle Khalel Saunders, who made his first career interception.

The Saints promptly marched 65 yards with Foster Moreau’s TD catch getting them within 16-13 with 14:16 to play.

But unlike every other game for the Chiefs, which had been decided in the final minutes — if not the final play — they answered the blow by delivering one of their own. Smith-Schuster hauled in a 50-yard pass moments later, and Xavier Worthy took a handoff on first-and-goal at the 3 for a touchdown that extended their cushion early in the fourth quarter.

After the Chiefs stopped the Saints on fourth down, they tacked on another field goal with 3:03 left to put away the game.

“It’s pretty cool to get the band together,” said Smith-Schuster, who is also back with the Chiefs after a couple of years spent in New England. “Man, I’m telling you, there is no place like this. What we have here is special. It’s unreal.”

“It’s pretty cool to get the band back together.”

Juju Smith-Schuster
Chiefs wide receiver

Pats might be getting closer to playing Maye

By **JIMMY GOLEN**
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The clock is ticking for Drake Maye.

After another lackluster performance by Jacoby Brissett and the Patriots’ offense — this one a 15-10 loss to the Miami Dolphins — coach Jerod Mayo took nothing off the table when looking for answers.

“Every single week, or I should say every single day, we’re all being evaluated,” Mayo told report-

ers on Monday, a day after New England (1-4) managed just two sustained drives against another of the worst teams in the NFL. “And it’s no different now.”

Brissett was 18-for-34 for 160 yards in the Patriots’ fourth straight loss. They are averaging 119.4 net yards passing per game — the worst start for New England since 1982.

Brissett has yet to throw for more than 168 yards in a game — though, in fairness, he is often run-

ning for his life.

After being sacked 13 times in the previous two games, Brissett was sacked just twice on Sunday — on back-to-back plays on New England’s first possession — but he was hit nine times.

Backing him up is Maye, the No. 3 overall pick in the draft. He came in for mop-up duty in the Week 3 loss to the New York Jets and completed 4 of 8 passes for 22 yards.

The first pick, Chicago’s Caleb

Williams, just had his second 300-yard passing day. The second pick, Jayden Daniels, has led Washington to four straight wins.

Asked if the coaches would discuss a change at quarterback, Mayo said: “We’re in a solution-driven business, and we aren’t playing good football.

“We have to look at every single unit and every single player,” he said, “and figure out how we use this roster to go out there and win games.”

SPORTS



Tigers even ALDS

Carpenter homers in ninth off Guardians closer Clase » **MLB playoffs, Page 19**

NHL



DERIK HAMILTON, ABOVE, AND PAUL J. BERESWILL, BELOW/AP

The Rangers' Matt Rempe, above left, fights the Flyers' Nicolas Deslauriers last season. Rempe got fighting tips from ex-enforcer Georges Laraque, below, during the summer.



Offseason education

Rangers' Rempe got lessons to improve fighting and skills

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

Matt Rempe was fighting and Georges Laraque did not like what he saw.

"He was getting hit way too much in the face," Laraque said.

Laraque would know. Over the course of more than 150 fights in the NHL, he lasted more than a decade as an enforcer because he knew how to reduce the number of blows to his head. He reached out to Rempe to give some advice over the phone, then spent a few days with him on the ice over the summer to teach the 6-

foot-8 forward some of the finer points about fighting.

That was just one piece of Rempe's off-season education, which also included nearly daily power skating and working with New York Rangers veteran Chris Kreider on tipping pucks in front of the net. The 22-year-old Rempe goes into his first full season expecting to be better at hockey — with and without his gloves on.

"The fighting is a very small part, and I highly prioritized the skills and skating and everything," Rempe said over the summer. "I've got to become a better player, so that's what I've got to work on. I

definitely enjoyed it, and I think I've taken big strides this summer with that."

With 28 games of regular-season and playoff experience under his belt — and five bouts against some of the sport's toughest heavyweights — Rempe's goal is to prove he can be an everyday player. Laraque thinks Rempe could develop into a good-quality third-liner because he's so young and willing to learn how to add to his physical attributes.

"Without fighting, that guy could be a factor, and that's what a lot of people don't

SEE EDUCATION ON PAGE 21

After stumbling to 2-3 start, Jets fire Saleh » NFL, Page 22

