

## MILITARY

Squadron chief keeps the beat at Yokota Air Base

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## FACES

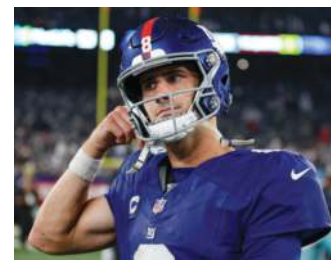
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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## Challenging China, US returns to Seychelles

By LIZ SLY

The Washington Post

MAHE ISLAND, Seychelles — At the height of the Cold War, the U.S. Air Force tracking station that monitored Soviet satellites from this island's soaring tropical forests was a focus of Seychelles life. The American servicemen and technicians living nearby hosted barbecues and bar nights to which all Seychellois were invited, distributed cookies and milk to local children and taught them basketball.

Then, the Cold War ended, the Soviet Union collapsed and in 1996 the Americans left, dismantling the tracking station and shutting down their embassy — citing budgetary reasons for abandoning what had seemingly become an irrelevant corner of the world.

Today, the compound where Americans and Seychellois partied is home to the Seychelles Tourism Academy, where young islanders training to be tour guides, hoteliers and masseuses take classes, among other subjects, in Chinese — just one small manifestation of a new geopolitical rivalry that has now lured the Americans back.

In June, Seychelles became the latest in a string of small nations around the world in which the United States has established, restored or is planning to open an embassy as part of a broad push-back against the influence China has acquired during more than two decades of neglect or disinterest on the part of the United States.

All are in small islands that had been judged insufficiently strategic by Washington to merit the cost of maintaining a diplomatic

SEE RETURNS ON PAGE 6



MATT WAGNER/Stars and Stripes

Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Marsh of the 21st Operational Weather Squadron carries an American flag as he climbs the steps of Fritz Walter Stadium in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

## Maintaining memories of 9/11

Americans, Germans honor firefighters with soccer stadium stair climb

By MATT WAGNER

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Air Force Tech. Sgt. Caleb Osland was a first grader in Aviano, Italy, when the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks occurred.

His father, Kendall, was stationed at the U.S. air base there during one of the stops in his 20-year military career. Even then, Osland no-

ticed the contrast before and after that day.

"It changed a lot for my family, for our way of life and how things were going," said Osland, of the 721st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Ramstein Air Base. "It went from what seemed kind of normal, for as normal as military (life) can be, to complete chaos with going on base,

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### RELATED

Stair climb events at US air bases in Japan carry on 9/11 tradition  
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# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Railroad inspectors find defects on Union Pacific

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Federal inspectors said they found an alarming number of defects in the locomotives and railcars Union Pacific was using at the world's largest railyard in western Nebraska this summer, and the railroad was reluctant to fix the problems.

Federal Railroad Administrator Amit Bose wrote a letter to UP's top three executives Friday expressing his concern that the defects represent a "significant risk to rail safety" on the Union Pacific

railroad.

Bose said the 19.93% defect rate on rail cars and the 72.69% rate for locomotives that inspectors found in July and August are both twice the national average. But the letter didn't detail what kind of defects inspectors found in the Bailey Yard in North Platte, and there are a myriad of federal rules.

"The compliance of the rolling stock (freight cars and locomotives) on the UP network is poor, and UP was unwilling or unable to take steps to improve the condi-

tion of their equipment," Bose said in his letter.

Bose questioned whether the recent layoffs of 94 locomotive craft employees and 44 carmen across the Omaha, Neb.-based railroad that is one of the nation's largest left UP without enough people to complete the necessary repairs.

Kristen South, a spokeswoman for Union Pacific, said Sunday that the layoffs weren't a problem, and the railroad remains committed to safety.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates			
Euro costs (Sept. 12)	\$1.05	Switzerland (Franc)	0.8915
British pound (Sept. 12)	\$1.22	Thailand (Baht)	35.51
Japanese yen (Sept. 12)	144.00	Turkey (NewLira)	26.8763
South Korean won (Sept. 12)	1300.00		
Commercial rates			
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770		
Britain (Pound)	1.2529		
Canada (Dollar)	1.3599		
China (Yuan)	7.2940		
Denmark (Krone)	6.9471		
Egypt (Pound)	30.9023		
Euro	1.0736		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8333		
Hungary (Forint)	357.21		
Israel (Shekel)	3.8152		
Japan (Yen)	146.45		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3085		
Norway (Krone)	10.6474		
Philippines (Peso)	56.67		
Poland (Zloty)	4.33		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7510		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3604		
South Korea (Won)	1329.79		

(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	8.50
Interest Rates Discount rate	6.00
Federal funds market rate	5.33
3-month bill	5.47
30-year bond	4.37

### WEATHER OUTLOOK

#### TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



#### TUESDAY IN EUROPE



#### WEDNESDAY 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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## STARS AND STRIPES

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MILITARY

# Squadron commander keeps the beat as DJ

By KELLY AGEE  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — When a party at this airlift hub in western Tokyo needs an experienced beatmatcher at the turntables, “DJ Darrick D” steps up.

Air Force Lt. Col. Darrick Duran, commander of the 374th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron, moonlights as a disc jockey, a sideline he picked up as a student at Fresno State University.

“He’s our go-to for any of our major morale events,” the 36th Airlift Squadron’s commander, Lt. Col. Kira Coffey, said by phone Wednesday. “Being a commander myself, I think it is impressive the amount of time and effort he puts into being a DJ on top of being a commander. It’s a testament to his passion for doing that and just how phenomenal of a person he is to be able to balance his job and DJing so well.”

“DJ Darrick D” said he started his music venture at age 6 with a drum set bought by his father. Seven years later, he put his drumsticks aside in favor of competitive wrestling. But he couldn’t resist the urge to spin vinyl. While at Fresno State in 2000, he bought turntables and records and learned to match beats.

Beatmatching is the foundation of DJing, Duran said. The DJ mixes songs with the same speed and time so the beats sync up seamlessly while transitioning to the next track.

Duran noticed he had a knack for DJing, so to make extra money,



KELLY AGEE/Stars and Stripes

DJ Darrick D, also known as Lt. Col. Darrick Duran, plays “Lovely Day” by Bill Withers as students arrive for the first day of classes at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Aug. 21.

he started working the turntables at Club Dance, a hip-hop and R&B nightclub in Fresno, under a mentor, DJ David Harris.

“He was a music lover, and it was easy because he learned fast,” Harris said. “He had started slightly before I met, and he fit right in.”

Duran was working at the Fresno County Health Department when his wife, Alena Duran, talked

him into joining the Air Force as a public health officer. He commissioned in 2005.

Duran took command at Yokota on June 28, 2022. By day, he oversees the active-duty clinic at the 374th Medical Group, along with the mental health flight, public health, audiology, optometry and physical therapy.

“After I joined the military, I was under this impression that I had to

leave the DJ scene,” Duran told Stars and Stripes on Aug. 28. “My wife and I used to joke about ‘You can’t do both; you can’t be an officer and a DJ.’”

How the tables have turned: Since 2009, Duran has been the DJ at squadron holiday parties, group holiday parties and promotion events on Air Forces bases. Most recently he worked the decks at the airlift squadron’s combat dining-

in and the first day of classes at Yokota High School on Aug. 21.

The most challenging part of being a DJ is programming an entire event, he said. The Air Force Ball, for example, unfolds in stages, like the social hour, dinner and dancing, which require changing music styles.

“At dinner you shouldn’t be playing Metallica for a formal event, you would play some smooth jazz instrumentals, songs that people are familiar with so that they can kind of listen and be like ‘Hey, I know that song,’” Duran said.

Also, the audience is composed of people of various ages and backgrounds, so the DJ must find music that everyone enjoys.

“We always call him up because we know that he gets the vibe of whatever we’re trying to do,” Coffey said. “And he goes and researches what kind of music he should be playing so that everyone is in the right mood to celebrate appropriately.”

Duran said he is very influenced by ‘70s soul and R&B; some of his favorite songs are “Midnight Star,” “Lovely Day” by Bill Withers and “La Vida Es un Carnaval” by Celia Cruz.

“I feel like even though it’s extra work and time, it’s something that I really like doing,” Duran said. “And it’s my way to connect people because music brings people together.”

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## United Launch Alliance Atlas V lifts off on mission for NRO and Space Force

Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — United Launch Alliance managed what was only its second launch of the year, sending up an Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station on Sunday morning.

The rocket featuring its most powerful configuration with five solid rocket boosters lifted off at 8:47 a.m. from Canaveral’s Space Launch Complex 41 on a mission for the National Reconnaissance Office and Space Force called SILENTBARKER/NROL-107.

ULA’s lone rocket launch in 2023 had been a Delta IV Heavy back in June. Meanwhile, SpaceX with its latest Starlink launch from neighboring SLC 40 on Friday night has managed 63 orbital missions across all its launch complexes including California.

For the Space Coast, the Atlas V launch marked the 48th of the year with all but three coming from SpaceX. Aside from the two now from ULA, Relativity Space managed a launch of its 3D-print-

ed Terran 1 rocket in March. With more than three months to go in the year, the Space Coast is on track to surpass its record 57 launches seen in 2022.

SILENTBARKER’s classified mission, which includes multiple payloads, has a primary goal of placing watchdog satellites in geostationary Earth orbit (GEO) “so that we can understand the intentions of other countries to see what they’re doing in the GEO belts and see if there’s any indications of threats or if it’s just normal operations,” said Chris Scolese, director of the NRO on a media call last week. “That capability will just allow us to have increased understanding of what’s going on there.”

The five boosters that combined with the first-stage produce 2.1 million pounds of thrust on liftoff burned for about 90 seconds and fell away from the first stage that continued until the payload fairing was jettisoned about 3½ minutes into flight. More than 66,000 gallons of liquid hydrogen and li-

quid oxygen were placed into the rocket’s first stage and Centaur upper stage.

Centaur, powered by a version of the workhorse Aerojet Rocketdyne RL-10 engine, will take its national security payloads to their destination about 24,000 miles away.

This is the 13th time Atlas V has flown with the five boosters since its debut in 2006, which have included NASA’s Juno and New Horizons missions. It’s the 98th Atlas V launch overall and 18th and final launch for the NRO.

ULA has just one Delta IV Heavy left to launch slated for liftoff next year and 18 more Atlas V rockets left including seven designated for the Boeing CST-100 Starliner, nine for the Amazon Project Kuiper satellite constellation and two others, all of which are sold.

The replacement for its Atlas V and Delta IV rockets is the new Vulcan Centaur, which could launch before the end of the year, but has faced a series of delays.

## Police: US soldier says he ‘accidentally’ took minivan

By DAVID CHOI  
AND YOO KYONG CHANG  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Police in Seoul arrested an American soldier on suspicion of driving drunk in a stolen minivan in the city early Sunday.

The minivan’s owner reported his Hyundai Staria had disappeared around 4:10 a.m. from its streetside parking spot in the Jongno district, a detective from the district’s police station told Stars and Stripes by phone Monday.

South Korean officials regularly speak to the media on the customary condition of anonymity.

Seoul police pulled the vehicle over less than a half-mile from its parking spot, the detective said. The driver, a U.S. soldier in his 30s under the influence of alcohol, told police he found the keys to the minivan and “accidentally” took the car, the detective said.

No injuries or damage were reported.

A police breath test measured

the soldier’s blood alcohol level at 0.08%, higher by 0.05% than the legal limit for drivers in South Korea, the detective said. By comparison, all 50 U.S. states have set 0.08% as the legal limit for driving under the influence or while impaired.

The detective declined to identify the soldier or the base where he’s stationed, citing South Korean privacy laws covering people suspected of a crime.

The soldier was handed over to U.S. Forces Korea military police, the detective said. U.S. Forces Korea, the command responsible for approximately 28,500 troops in the country, maintains custody of its personnel in criminal matters unless they are accused of serious crimes.

Police are still investigating the incident and plan to request an interview; no charges against the soldier were filed as of Monday, according to the detective.

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## MILITARY

# Bases in Japan take steps to remember 9/11

BY JUAN KING  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A vacant nine-story residential tower provided the setting Monday for a memorial stair climb at this airlift hub in western Tokyo, an event that's become synonymous with 9/11 commemorations in the U.S. and beyond.

About 100 people gathered at Yokota for the event, part of a widespread tradition 22 years after the terrorist attacks that brought down the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and killed hundreds more at the Pentagon and in a downed airliner in Pennsylvania.

In New York alone, 2,753 people died when terrorists linked to al-Qaida flew two hijacked airliners into the towers. Among the dead were 60 New York police officers and 343 firefighters and paramedics, whose deeds that day climbing the towers' stairwells to find survivors are remembered in the stair climbs.

"It is good to be out to commemorate the tragedy and keep the memory alive," Staff Sgt. Douglas Martin, an event organizer, said Monday at Yokota.

Air Force 2nd Lt. Shyo Yamamoto, of San Francisco, struggled to finish the event last year, he said Monday while waiting for the event to begin.

This year, he was part of the team from the 374th Civil Engineering Squadron, one of 15 teams and 14 individuals participating.

"I think we'll have a pretty de-

cent time, I'm not sure about winning or not," Yamamoto said.

In the Yokota event, individuals make 12.2 laps up and down the residential tower, with each team member taking three laps of six floors. The distance covered by each individual or team equals the 110 floors of the original towers that stood in Manhattan.

Along with more somber ceremonies, hundreds of memorial stair climbs are held close to the 9/11 anniversary across the United States. Many are sponsored by fire departments. Some are simple memorial feats of endurance, some are fundraisers.

Japanese fire departments in nearby Fussa and Akishima sent teams to the event at Yokota; the Akishima firefighters won the team event, according to Martin.

To make the memorial climbs, firefighters often donned their full firefighting gear, a reminder of the conditions the doomed New York responders faced.

However, the International Fallen Firefighters Foundation, whose website lists 38 stair climbs this year, advises firefighters to wear their gear "only when it is necessary for protection" over concerns that it's manufactured with PFAS, a toxic chemical used as a protective coating.

The Yokota participants wore fitness clothing and breathing apparatus, a vestige of firefighting gear. From the first floor, each runner picked up dog tags with the names of first responders who died during the attack, carried them to the succeeding floors and



JUAN KING/Stars and Stripes

**Two married couples, Team Spinstra, from left, Air Force Staff Sgt. Mark Williams, Senior Master Sgt. Manuel Campos, Marina Williams and Christine Campos, took part in a 9/11 stair climb at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Monday, 22 years to the day after the terrorist attacks killed thousands in the United States.**

dropped them inside firefighter helmets, said Ulises Meija, a base firefighter.

At Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, participants in its stair climb Friday each carried a photo of a fallen New York firefighter, according to the base's official Facebook page.

At Yokota, Tetsuya Hayashi, a

civilian employee of the civil engineering squadron, won the men's individual competition; Tech. Sgt. Alexandria Vidato was the top female finisher, Martin said.

Competitor Zach Webster, a member of the civil engineering squadron, said he looked forward to the event with some trepida-

tion. He trained on the stairs of a vacant tower a week before the event.

With a chuckle before the start, Webster said he anticipated "a lot of pain, exhaustion, maybe nausea."

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## Memories: 'It's important to look back and commemorate the loss'

FROM PAGE 1

getting bomb checks.

"We came out stronger on the other side of things — or at least we try to. Doing stuff in remembrance is the embodiment of the American spirit."

Osland was the first of about 60 participants to ring the bell and finish the 9/11 Stair Climb event Monday at Fritz Walter Stadium, a storied 50,000-seat soccer venue that is home to the FC Kaiserslautern soccer team.

The event honored the 343 New York City firefighters who died during the attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

American airmen and soldiers stationed in the Kaiserslautern Military Community, as well as U.S. and German firefighters, climbed the stadium's east stand. The stair loops were repeated 30 times to total 2,071 steps, equaling the number to get to the top of the 110-story twin towers.

The effort of all involved wasn't lost on those like Senior Airman Jesse Puschel, a firefighter with the 86th Civil Engineer Squadron



PHOTOS BY MATT WAGNER/Stars and Stripes

**American firefighters and service members climb down the steps of the east stand at Fritz Walter Stadium on Monday, in Kaiserslautern, Germany.**

at Ramstein.

"Having the German firefighters out here as well as some other

units out here together, it's really cool to see others remember this day," Puschel said.



**Senior Airman Breanna Hathaway rings the bell as she finishes the 9/11 Stair Climb.**

The firefighters based out of Sembach and Ramstein donned full gear at the start, despite temperatures that reached the upper

80s by mid-afternoon. Some service members added to the physical challenge by wearing vests and other gear.

U.S. Army Capt. Kevin Krupp began the climb with a large backpack.

Printed on paper placed in lanyards were the names of the fallen firefighters. Their photos also were plastered on the seats around the east curve's stairs.

"Any time it gets hard, you just look down (at the name) and remember why you're doing it," said Krupp, headquarters battery commander for the 52nd Air Defense Artillery Brigade at Sembach Kaserne.

The remembrance is necessary, Krupp said, "especially for the United States military and what it meant following 9/11. There's a lot of sacrifice that came from that one day.

"It's important to look back and commemorate the loss and the sacrifice that everybody made."

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PACIFIC

# US, allies focus on combat skills in drills

By FADLAN SYAM  
AND NINIEK KARMINI  
Associated Press

BANYUWANGI, Indonesia — Thousands of service members from the United States, Indonesia, Australia and other allied forces demonstrated their armor capabilities on Sunday in combat drills on the Indonesian island of Java at a time of increased Chinese aggression in the region.

President Joe Biden's administration has been strengthening an arc of military alliances in the Indo-Pacific to reassure allies alarmed by Beijing's increasingly provocative actions in the disputed South China Sea, which has become a battleground for U.S.-Chinese rivalries.

During the drills, Australian forces deployed five M1A1 Abrams battle tanks and the Indonesian military, deployed two Leopard-2 tanks for the two-week combat exercises in Banyuwangi, a coastal district in East Java province which began Sept. 1. It will include live-fire drills.

It was the first time Australia deployed battle tanks outside its territory since the Vietnam War.

The Garuda Shield drills have been held annually between American and Indonesian soldiers since 2009.

Last year's participants — Australia, Japan and Singapore — joined again Sunday and the list expanded to include the United Kingdom and France.

China sees the expanded drills as a threat, accusing the U.S. of building an Indo-Pacific alliance similar to NATO.

Maj. Gen. Marcus Evans, commanding general of the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division, told The Associated Press on Saturday that the introduction of armor capability in the large-scale drills would give the allied forces and defense partners a chance to test their weaponry in combat training as they fine tune their military readiness.

Garuda Shield is being held in several places, including in waters around Natuna at the southern portion of the South China Sea.

Evans refused to comment on China's long-standing opposition to U.S.-led military drills in Asia.

Asked whether there are plans by the U.S. military to carry out joint naval patrols with allies like Japan and the Philippines in or near contested waters, Evans said that "it is important that we maintain a continuous engagement with our regional partners and allies from a military perspective, because, that, again, enhances our overall readiness."

"I think it continues to show a sign of our commitment to regional partners and allies," said Evans, who is also senior commander of U.S. Army Hawaii.



TATAN SYUFLANA/AP

A machine gunner in a Marine helicopter takes part in Super Garuda Shield multi-national military exercise in Baluran, Indonesia, on Monday.

**"It is important that we maintain a continuous engagement with our regional partners and allies from a military perspective."**

Maj. Gen. Marcus Evans  
U.S. Army



TRISNADI/AP

Indonesian marines fire an artillery round during an amphibious landing operation in Situbondo, Indonesia, on Sunday.



TRISNADI/AP

U.S. Marines take part in Sunday's amphibious landing operation.



TATAN SYUFLANA/AP

U.S. Marines take photos during the exercises Monday.

## MILITARY

# Returns: China moved in when US military left islands at end of Cold War

## FROM PAGE 1

presence, including Seychelles, Tonga and the Solomon Islands, where embassies have been opened this year, and Maldives, Vanuatu and Kiribati, where embassies are planned, according to the State Department.

Seychelles offers an example of the ways America's absence opened the door to Chinese influence. In the 27 years since the United States pulled out, China has built schools, hospitals, houses for low-income families and public amenities, winning sympathy among Seychellois who felt abandoned by the U.S. departure.

"They do the little things that America doesn't do. This is where the Americans are weak. There is nothing we can say America built," said Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan in an interview. "This is why countries like China have come in, because there was a vacuum."

Seychelles officials say they are delighted to have the Americans back but also recognize that China is likely the main reason for the return, potentially pulling Seychelles into the big power rivalry.

"We cannot say we are naive. We do understand the competition going on. In the Cold War we had the United States and the Soviet Union and now it is the United States and China," Seychelles Foreign Minister Sylvestre Radeconde said in an interview. "Someone woke up and realized how important it is to counter the Chinese influence."

The United States now has ground to make up, he said. "When you are late at a party, the party starts without you, so you have to make up time. It's a fact that China has been a long time here. They have a lot of sympathy."

Most of the new embassies are in the Pacific, a strategic priority for China. The return to Seychelles underlines how the Indian Ocean is also emerging as an arena of competition between Washington and Beijing.

Bordered across a vast area by Africa, Australia, India and the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean is one of the world's most strategically vital waterways, the transit point for 80% of global seaborne trade — which in turn accounts for more than 80% of all trade, according to the Carnegie Endowment's Indian Ocean Initiative and the International Chamber of Shipping. Crucially, China relies on it for 80% of its energy supplies.

As Washington's attention strayed, Beijing's involvement in the region intensified.

In 2017, China located its first overseas military facility in Djibouti, on the northwestern edge of

the Indian Ocean. In a 2020 report, the Defense Department identified five Indian Ocean countries among a dozen locations where China has "likely" considered opening further bases, including Seychelles.

China is also the only country to have maintained diplomatic missions in all six of the Indian Ocean island nations that until recently were represented by three U.S. embassies, noted Darshana Baruah, who heads Carnegie's Indian Ocean Initiative.

Top Chinese officials regularly visit — China's President Hu Jintao called Seychelles "a shining pearl" during a stop in 2007, and Foreign Minister Wang Yi was here in 2021, describing Seychelles as "an important member of the big family of China-Africa solidarity and cooperation."

When the new U.S. Embassy in Seychelles was launched in June, Richard Verma, the deputy secretary of state for management and resources, became the most senior U.S. government official to visit the nation since the 1990s.

Chinese officials like to note the contrast. "Our foreign policy is to treat every country, big or small, as an equal," said Mu Jianfeng, China's charge d'affaires in Seychelles. "I don't know why they closed and I don't know why they opened," he said of the Americans. "But if they think Seychelles is important they will have an embassy here."

## Doing the little things

Seychelles illustrates the kind of largesse China has lavished even on some of the world's most remote countries. Best known as a tourist destination, its exquisite beaches draw mostly European tourists to its palm fringed shores and pristine coral reefs. Almost all of its 115 islands are uninhabited, and with a landmass of 175 miles and a population of around 100,000, it is Africa's smallest nation.

But its position on the equator and at the easternmost gateway to the African continent gives it an outside geopolitical significance. France and Britain contested the islands in the 19th century, the United States and the Soviet Union in the 20th — and now Seychelles is finding itself caught up again between competing powers.

At first glance, China appears to have no immediate stake in the country. There is a small Chinese community of around 1,000 that dates back to the 19th century. But Chinese visitors accounted for less than 1% of the island's tourists over the past year, according to Seychellois figures, and even before the pandemic few came from China. Unusually for an African

country, Seychelles does not count China among its top trading partners. Most of its goods are imported from the United Arab Emirates, South Africa and the European Union.

Yet over the past two decades China has become one of the nation's most important benefactors, embarking on the kind of soft power outreaches that have become a hallmark of its efforts to win over populations across the Global South. There have been no grand infrastructure projects, such as the multimillion-dollar ports, railways and roads that have entrenched China's hold over many developing countries, often entangling them in punishing debt. Beijing's efforts here are low-cost but have outsize impact in a country so small, and they have mostly been offered as gifts.

China built the stately white-pillared National Assembly building where the democratically elected parliament meets, and the adjoining Supreme Court, both important symbols of the country's identity as a nation. It's in the process of completing a new headquarters for the state broadcasting company, which will more than double the network's space.

Thousands of Seychellois live in housing built by China and made available at subsidized prices — a shortage of housing for the least well-off is identified by Seychelles officials as one of the country's biggest social needs.

Ramkalawan, the president, stressed that he, along with many Seychellois, is delighted the United States has returned. The Seychelles has been pushing almost since the United States left for the embassy to come back, and "we're happy it happened under our watch," he said.

But now that the United States is back, the pressure is on to live up to expectations, he said.

"America has to shape up. Americans have to participate."

## Relishing the attention

So far, the return is going well, said James Donegan, who relocated to the Seychelles to serve as U.S. charge d'affaires pending the appointment of an ambassador. "All I can tell you is that I'm glad we're back, the Seychellois are glad we're back, and we're going to look to the future," he said.

He is busy scouting out larger premises to house the new embassy, currently located in a cramped, two-room office in downtown Victoria, the capital. China, by contrast, operates out of a spacious three-story villa-like structure with a driveway and a swimming pool — and multiple security cameras.

Maritime security is high on the



EDUARDO SOTERAS/For The Washington Post

## The Chinese Embassy to the Seychelles is on the island of Mahe.

U.S. agenda for its new relationship, Donegan said. In March, the United States held its first naval military exercise with France and Seychelles and more maritime cooperation is planned, to help Seychelles counter the challenges of piracy, drug smuggling and human trafficking that are identified as the island's biggest external challenges.

U.S. officials say that countering China's presence is not the only reason for the return. Although Seychelles has been a multiparty democracy for the past two decades, elections in 2020 brought an opposition party to power for the first time, and the United States wants to support what amounts to the country's first democratic transition, they say.

"I'm not saying that there isn't a concern about the Chinese presence and what the influences could be, what the implications could be strategically, but I would not want to narrow it down to a reductionist approach and say it's purely a zero-sum matter of U.S.-China," said Henry Jardine, who serves as the de facto ambassador to Seychelles, based out of the U.S. Embassy in Mauritius; the U.S. Embassy in Mauritius has been responsible for Seychelles diplomacy since the pullout in 1996.

"We do see the relationship more broadly, but there are always these other questions about the strategic competition," Jardine added.

Radeconde, the foreign minister, said there is little doubt China is a key motive. "The U.S. coming back cannot be because we are lovely people," he said, adding "we are."

Seychelles seems to relish the attention it is getting and hopes that it translates into more assistance from all the countries vying for influence, which include India, the United Arab Emirates and Russia as well as the United States and China, said Ramkalawan.

It is also determined not to get drawn into any rivalries, he said. "It's good if the U.S. sees us as pro-Western, the Chinese see us as friends, the Indians see us as worthwhile partners. It means we are keeping the principle of neutrality."

## Suspicion about motives

How much real influence China has acquired with its efforts in Seychelles is in question, some officials and analysts say.

From China's perspective, the investments in Seychelles have been worthwhile if only because Seychelles can be consistently relied on to support Beijing's one-China principle, which holds that the island of Taiwan is an inalienable part of China, said Mu, the charge d'affaires.

But Seychelles has voted with the United States on recent resolutions condemning Russia at the United Nations, noted Jardine. Chinese attempts to promote its own form of authoritarian government appear not to have dented Seychellois pride in their democracy.

In 2011, the United States established a secret drone base at Seychelles airport to assist with counterterrorism operations in Somalia and Yemen. Talks the same year between China and Seychelles to build a Chinese naval facility in Seychelles fizzled.

"It might seem anomalous that they've put in so many resources that helped to build so many buildings they've done so much to try to gain influence but haven't really seen it. You'd be hard pressed to see where that effort to buy or co-opt influence has been successful," Jardine said.

The United States retains a powerful hold over the imaginations of ordinary people, something that remains a challenge for China's quest for influence in a world where American movies, music and culture are ubiquitous. Most Seychellois speak English, one of three official languages in addition to French and Creole.

But there are also questions about whether the United States return to the Seychelles will be enough to bring Seychelles fully on board. The abrupt departure in 1996 once the nation no longer served U.S. interests left Seychellois feeling they had been used, and their return now, at a time of heightened competition with a different rival, gives rise to suspicions they are being used again, many Seychellois say.

What will happen if the rivalry with China is resolved? Will the Americans leave again? wondered Danny Faure, the former president who lost the 2020 elections to Ramkalawan.

"With the United States it's always based on how they respond to geopolitical concerns," he said. "This shouldn't be a flash in the pan. If you do value the relationship, the cost shouldn't matter."

# WAR IN UKRAINE



Ng Han Guan/AP

**A green train with yellow trimmings, resembling one used by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, is seen steaming on the North Korea border with Russia and China from northeastern China on Monday. Russia and North Korea confirmed Monday that Kim will visit Russia and meet with President Vladimir Putin.**

## Kim set to visit Russia, might meet with Putin

By **KIM TONG-HYUNG**  
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will visit Russia, both countries said Monday, and he is expected to hold a highly anticipated meeting with President Vladimir Putin that has sparked Western concerns about a potential arms deal for Moscow's war in Ukraine.

A brief statement on the Kremlin's website said the visit is at Putin's invitation and would take place "in the coming days." It also was reported by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency, which said the leaders would meet — without specifying when and where.

"The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un will meet and have a talk with Comrade Putin during the visit," it said.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said delegations from both countries will meet, but he didn't confirm plans for a bilateral session

between Putin and Kim, saying the leaders will meet one-on-one "if necessary." The visit would be Kim's first foreign trip since the COVID-19 pandemic. While Kim has shown to be more comfortable using planes than his famously flight-adverse father, he has also used his personal train for previous meetings with Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and former U.S. President Donald Trump, reviving a symbol of his family's dynastic rule.

Associated Press journalists near the North Korea-Russia frontier saw a green train with yellow trim — similar to one used by the reclusive Kim during previous foreign trips — at a station on the North Korean side of a border river.

Citing unidentified South Korean government sources, the Chosun Ilbo newspaper reported the train likely left the North Korean capital of Pyongyang on Sunday evening and that a Kim-Putin meeting is possible as early as Tuesday.

# Ukraine claims to recapture Black Sea gas, oil platforms

By **ILLIA NOVIKOV**  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — The Ukrainian military said Monday that it recaptured strategic gas and oil drilling platforms from Russia in the Black Sea and claimed gains in occupied areas near Bakhmut, a city in eastern Ukraine left in ruins after the war's longest and deadliest fighting.

The recapture of the so-called Boyko Towers platforms provides an energy source and takes back an asset that Russia seized in 2015 and used to launch helicopters, Ukraine's Ministry of Defense said.

"Russia has been deprived of the ability to fully control the waters of the Black Sea, and this makes Ukraine many steps closer to regaining Crimea," the Main Intelligence Directorate said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has vowed to do all he can to bring back Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, and has urged international allies to support the effort.

Ukraine's reported battlefield gains, which could not be independently confirmed, came as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was on a train headed for Russia for a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The meeting announced by the two leaders' countries could include discussions of North Korea providing arms to restock Russia's dwindling arsenal.

In other developments, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock made an unannounced visit to Kyiv, Ukraine's capital. She promised support for Uk-

raine's path toward European Union membership while calling for additional reforms in the country.

"With enormous courage and determination, Ukraine is also defending the freedom of all of us," Baerbock said in a statement released by her ministry. "In the same way that Ukraine stands up for us, it can also count on us."

Baerbock also pledged continued military, economic, and humanitarian support for the country and said the 22 billion euros (\$23.6 million) provided so far now made Germany second to the U.S. in terms of total support.

Baerbock said that while Ukraine had already made good progress reforming the judiciary and the media, it still had "some way to go" in combating corruption.

In fighting, Ukrainian forces liberated part of the Donetsk province town of Optyne and advanced on the towns of Klishchivka and Andriivka south of Bakhmut, Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Malyar said.

Combat has persisted on the outskirts of Bakhmut since Ukrainian troops pulled out of the city in May. Ukraine is trying to gain the high ground in Klishchivka, to establish artillery control over Bakhmut.

In southern Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia province, Ukraine's primary counteroffensive forces were inching closer to overcoming Russian fortifications and dense minefields to take Tokmak, a critical logistics hub for Russian forces and a vital railway junction, Malyar said.

Ukrainian forces liberated Ro-

botyne, a town in the same province, last month.

Russian forces also attacked the Dnipropetrovsk province city of Kryvyi Rih, Zelenskyy's birthplace, with drones overnight, Ukrainian authorities said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

The retaking of the Black Sea platforms follows the U.K. Ministry of Defense reporting naval and air force skirmishes at sea two weeks ago.

Ukraine has struck several Russian-controlled platforms in fighting during the war, and troops from both countries have occupied them periodically, the U.K. said in a military update on the war. Along with drilling, the platforms can be used to land helicopters, as deployment bases and to position long-range missile systems.

Pro-Russia occupation authorities seized the platforms operated by the Chernomorneftegaz company following the annexation of Crimea, which most of the world regarded as illegal.

After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine more than 18 months ago, Putin illegally annexed four provinces in September 2022: Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia. Voting for Kremlin-installed legislatures began in the occupied areas last week as Russian authorities attempt to tighten their grip on territories that Moscow still does not fully control.

Russia's Central Election Commission said Monday that the country's ruling party, United Russia, placed first in the four Ukrainian regions and in Crimea.

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Available throughout the Pacific in the September 15th issue of Stars and Stripes.

STARS AND STRIPES

## NATION

# McCarthy has many tasks to keep him hopping

BY LISA MASCARO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—House Speaker Kevin McCarthy is a man who stays in motion — enthusiastically greeting tourists at the Capitol, dashing overseas last week to the G7 summit of industrial world leaders, raising funds back home to elect fellow Republicans to the House majority.

But beneath the whirlwind of activity is a stubborn standstill, an imbalance of power between the far-right Republicans who hoisted McCarthy to the speaker's role yet threaten his own ability to lead the House.

It's a political standoff that will be tested anew as the House returns this week from a long summer recess and McCarthy faces a collision course of difficult challenges — seeking to avoid a government shutdown, support Ukraine in the war and launch an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden.

"They've got some really heavy lifting ahead," said the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, John Thune, of South Dakota.

McCarthy, of California, is going to "have his hands full trying to figure out how to navigate and execute," he said.

Congress has been here before, as has McCarthy in his nearly two dec-

ades in office, but the stakes are ever higher, with Republicans powered by an increasingly hard-right faction that is refusing to allow business as usual in Washington.

With former President Donald Trump's backing, McCarthy's right-flank pushed him into the speaker's office at the start of the year only after he agreed to a long list of conservative demands — including the ability to call a quick vote to "vacate the chair" and remove him from office.



McCarthy

That threat of an abrupt ouster hovers over McCarthy's every move, especially now.

To start, Congress faces a deadline to fund the government by the end of the month, or risk a potentially devastating federal shutdown. There's just 11 working days for Congress to act once the House resumes Tuesday.

Facing a backlash from conservatives who want to slash government funding, McCarthy may be able to ease the way by turning to another hard-right priority, launching a Biden impeachment inquiry over the business dealings of the president's son, Hunter Biden.

For McCarthy, running the two tracks — a government funding process alongside an impeachment drive — is an unusual and politically fraught undertaking.

But starting a formal impeachment inquiry into Biden could help to appease Republican allies of Trump, who has emerged as the GOP front-runner to confront Biden in the 2024 election for the White House.

"He's being squeezed," Brad Woodhouse, a veteran Democratic operative, said of McCarthy. Woodhouse is now a senior adviser to the Congressional Integrity Project, which is preparing to criticize Republicans over the Biden impeachment.

The White House has said Biden is not involved in his son's business dealings.

But Trump's allies among House Republicans are working furiously to unearth any links between Biden and his son's business as they portray Hunter Biden as trading on the family name for financial enrichment and work to erode public support for the president ahead of the presidential election.

Republicans have not yet been able to produce evidence of wrongdoing by President Biden.

White House spokesman Ian Sams said, "Speaker McCarthy

shouldn't cave to the extreme, far-right members who are threatening to shut down the government unless they get a baseless, evidence-free impeachment of President Biden. The consequences for the American people are too serious."

Meanwhile, what should have been a fairly prescribed process to fund the government after McCarthy and Biden negotiated a more than \$1 trillion deal earlier this summer over the debt limit appears to be falling apart. Even a stopgap measure to simply keep government funding at existing levels for a few months while Congress tries to finish the spending bills is a nonstarter for McCarthy's right flank.

Conservatives powered by the House Freedom Caucus are insisting federal spending is rolled back to 2022 levels and they want to add other priorities to the legislation.

If not, they say they will oppose a temporary measure, called a continuing resolution, or CR, to keep government running.

The conservatives want to beef up border security and address what Republicans deride as the "weaponization" of the Justice Department's prosecutions, including of those charged in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. They also want to end what they call the Pentagon's "woke" policies as the Defense De-

partment tries to provide diversity, equity and inclusion to service personnel.

Congress also has a pending request from the White House to provide an additional \$40 billion on three fronts — some \$21 billion in military and humanitarian relief for Ukraine as it battles the Russian invasion; \$12 billion to replenish federal disaster aids after floods, fires and other problems, including to curb the flow of deadly fentanyl at the southern U.S. border with Mexico.

Several Republicans have made no secret of their disinterest in impeachment proceedings against Biden.

And GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski said those who don't think a federal shutdown of government operations is a big deal ought to visit her state of Alaska and see "real life."

During a previous government shutdown, Murkowski said crab fisherman couldn't get out in the water because federal permits could not be issued.

"You know, we've got a lot of things going on here in the Congress right now," she said. "So the House is going to have to sort through their priorities and hopefully, they're going to be priorities that are in the best interests of the operations of good governance."

## Puppy given overdose-reversing drug after fentanyl found in car

Associated Press

IRVINE, Calif. — A pit bull puppy that California police believe got into its owners' fentanyl stash was administered an overdose-reversing drug and is recovering, officials said.

The dog's owners, a man and a woman, were arrested and could face charges including drug possession and animal cruelty, according to the Irvine Police Department.

The incident began with a "consensual" encounter between the couple and police on Wednesday

outside a Walmart, department spokesman Kyle Oldoerp said. After officers discovered fentanyl in their car, the two were arrested, he said.

"Then the female said, 'Oh, I think my dog is overdosing,'" Oldoerp told the Los Angeles Times on Saturday. "She knew the symptoms because it was the second time the dog had overdosed."

He said it wasn't immediately clear how the dog would have been exposed to the drug, which is up to 50 times more powerful than heroin. A dose as small as 2 mil-

ligrams can be fatal to a human, though dogs are less sensitive to the drug, according to the Times.

"If they're using drugs in their car, we can only speculate," Oldoerp said.

At the station, officers administered overdose-reversing naloxone to the dog, which made a "pretty quick" turnaround, Oldoerp said. The man and woman were not identified. Authorities will hold on to the puppy until there is a hearing to determine whether to give the dog back to its owners, the Times reported.



IRVINE (CALIF.) POLICE DEPARTMENT/AP

In this video image, police officers hold a pit bull puppy in Irvine, Calif. The puppy, which police believe got into its owners' fentanyl stash, was administered an overdose-reversing drug and is recovering.

## Category 3 Hurricane Lee generates big swells along northern Caribbean

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Hurricane Lee whipped up waves of more than 15 feet on Monday as the Category 3 storm cranked through open waters just north of the Caribbean region.

The storm is not expected to make landfall this week, although forecasters said those in New England and nearby areas should keep a close eye on Lee, whose future path is uncertain. It was located some 340 miles north of the northern Leeward Islands. It had

winds of up to 120 mph and was moving northwest at 7 mph.

A high surf advisory was in effect for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, with the National Weather Service warning of breaking waves of up to 15 feet for north and east-facing beaches.

The National Hurricane Center also warned of dangerous surf and rip currents for most of the U.S. East Coast this week, but what the hurricane might do beyond that is unclear.

"It remains too soon to know

what level of impacts, if any, Lee might have along the U.S. East Coast and Atlantic Canada late this week, especially since the hurricane is expected to slow down considerably over the southwestern Atlantic," the center said.

Lee strengthened from a Category 1 storm to a Category 5 storm last week in the span of 24 hours before weakening slightly.

The storm is expected to strengthen slightly in upcoming days before weakening again.

Lee was forecast to turn north

on Wednesday, prompting the National Hurricane Center to warn that Bermuda could see wind, rain and high surf, adding that "it is too soon to determine the specific timing and level of those impacts."

Lee is the 12th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to Nov. 30 and peaked on Sunday.

In August, the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration updated its forecast and doubled the chance to 60% for an above-normal hurricane system. Be-

tween 14 and 21 named storms are forecast, with six to 11 predicted to strengthen into hurricanes. Of those, two to five are forecast to become major hurricanes.

Also swirling in the open Atlantic was Tropical Storm Margot, which was expected to become a hurricane on Monday night. The storm was located 1,215 miles northwest of the Cabo Verde islands. It had maximum sustained winds of 65 mph and was moving north at 8 mph. It is expected to remain over open waters.

# NATION

## Guinness gives '90s do its due

BY JONATHAN EDWARDS  
The Washington Post

Tami Manis has spent more than 33 years growing a mullet that stretches 5 feet, 8 inches — four inches longer than she is tall — and she plans to ride that business-in-the-front, party-in-the-back vibe into the afterlife.

“At my memorial, they can take it off then, and drape it across my urn,” she told The Washington Post.

In life, her mullet has brought her an increasing amount of recognition in recent years. On Aug. 31, Guinness World Records announced that Manis, 58, had earned the record for the longest female mullet ever recorded in competition: 68 inches. Because Manis is 5-foot-4, her hair sweeps the ground as a sort of mullet train when it's allowed to flow freely, she said. Her ever-lengthening hairstyle has become an intrinsic part of her identity over the decades, never more than after the stamp of legitimacy from the premier keeper of world records.

“Growing the longest mullet never really started out as anything other than it was the '80s and everybody had a rattail,” Manis said in a Guinness video. “And I started growing mine, and over the years, it's just kept growing, so I've kept it.”

Manis, a nurse from Knoxville, Tenn., started growing it on Feb. 9, 1990, which she recognizes as her “mullet birthday.” A few years before, she had seen a woman sporting a rattail in the music video for the song “Voices Carry” by Til Tuesday and wanted one of her own. When she went to get the rest of her hair cut, the barber told her



WADE PAYNE/Guinness World Records

**Tami Manis's business-in-the-front, party-in-the-back hairstyle now holds the Guinness World Record as the longest mullet in the world.**

a rattail wouldn't look good on her, but Manis persisted, according to what she told Guinness.

“Well,” she remembered telling the barber, “this is what I want.”

Manis rocked that look for a few years before cutting it off in November 1989. She immediately regretted it and started in earnest a few months later. That rattail evolved into a mullet, which has been growing ever since.

Caring for the mullet is pretty simple, Manis said. She has a handheld shower head, which al-

lows her to access all of her hair. She shampoos it every couple of days and applies a leave-in conditioner weekly. She's used a variety of hair care products over the years, including Mane 'n Tail, a shampoo originally designed for show horses. Regular towels leave lint, so she dries it using paper towels. Once a week, a friend braids it, in part because it now hits the floor.

“It does not frolic freely that often,” she said, adding: “Literally, my tail would be dragging.”

The latest lawsuit was filed in 2021 by another former student who alleged he was preyed upon and sexually abused at Redlands High School by Whitehurst in 2007 and 2008 when he was 14, according to the plaintiff's attorney, Morgan Stewart.



Whitehurst

Whitehurst admitted to police in 2013 she had sex with the youth 10 to 15 times in her classroom and at her apartment, a police report stated.

Redlands Unified spokesper-

son Christine Stephens said Friday that the district was aware of the recent settlement, but could not comment due to confidentiality agreements.

In the other lawsuit, the boy who fathered Whitehurst's child alleged that Redlands Unified officials knew of his relationship with the teacher and failed to warn his family.

Whitehurst gave birth in 2014 after having sex with the boy for a year, starting when he was 16.

Whitehurst, who taught English and was a soccer coach, pleaded guilty to unlawful sex with three former students. She served six months in jail and registered as a sex offender.

## Governor pardons man arrested at Va. school meeting

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — The father of a Virginia student sexually assaulted in her high school bathroom has been pardoned after his arrest two years ago protesting a school board meeting became a flashpoint in the conservative push to increase parental involvement in public education.

Virginia Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced on Fox News Sunday that he had pardoned Scott Smith of his disorderly conduct conviction stemming from the June 2021 incident. The episode featured prominently throughout the gubernatorial campaign that year for Youngkin, who has made support for the so-called “parents' rights” movement a cornerstone of his political brand.

“Scott Smith is a dedicated parent who's faced unwarranted charges in his pursuit to protect his daughter,” Youngkin said Sunday in a press release. “Scott's commitment to his child despite the immense obstacles is emblematic of the parental empowerment movement that started in Virginia.”

According to Loudoun Now, Smith threatened to kick out the teeth of deputies who dragged him away from a Loudoun County School Board meeting over state-mandated protections for transgender students. The local news outlet reported that he had argued loudly, clenched his fist and sworn at a woman while demanding answers over the handling of his daughter's assault.

In a statement released Sunday,

Smith vowed to pursue legal action against Loudoun County Public Schools and continue fighting “for parents and their children.” The district did not immediately respond to a phone call and email requesting a response.

But Loudoun County Commonwealth's Attorney Buta Biberaj said Sunday that Youngkin was interfering in the case for “political gain” before the start of early voting in legislative elections.

“The justice system does not work when a Governor becomes the judge and jury,” Biberaj said on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter.

A trial was scheduled this fall over Smith's appeal of the disorderly conduct conviction and a circuit court judge had already tossed another charge of obstructing justice.

Smith told WJLA that his pardon marked a “bittersweet moment.” He hoped the justice system would absolve him of wrongdoing without the “offramp” of a pardon.

“What happened to me cannot ever happen to another American again,” Smith said in an exclusive interview posted Sunday.

The teenager convicted of assaulting Smith's daughter was later found guilty of forcibly touching another classmate at a nearby school where the perpetrator was allowed to attend classes while awaiting trial in juvenile court. The case galvanized conservatives nationwide when reports spread that the cisgender male student wore a skirt during the first attack.

## Calif. school to pay \$2.25M to settle suit over teacher who had student's baby

Associated Press

REDLANDS, Calif. — A Southern California school district will pay \$2.25 million to settle the latest lawsuit involving a teacher who became pregnant by one of at least two students she was accused of sexually abusing.

The settlement brings to \$8.25 million the amount paid by Redlands Unified School District to Laura Whitehurst's victims since her 2013 arrest, the Southern California News Group reported Sunday.

In August 2016, the district agreed to pay \$6 million to a former student who impregnated Whitehurst while she was his teacher.

## Hawaii's Kilauea erupts again after 2-month pause

Associated Press

HONOLULU — Kilauea, one of the most active volcanoes in the world, began erupting Sunday after a two-month pause, displaying glowing lava that is a safe distance from people and structures in a national park on the Big Island.

The Hawaii Volcano Observatory said the eruption was observed in the afternoon at the summit of Kilauea.

The observatory said gases released by the eruption will cause volcanic smog downwind of Kilauea.

People living near the park should try to avoid volcanic particles spewed into the air by the

eruption, the observatory said.

The volcano's alert level was raised to warning status and the aviation color code went to red as scientists evaluate the eruption and associated hazards.

In June, Kilauea erupted for several weeks, displaying fountains of red lava without threatening any communities or structures. Crowds of people flocked to the Big Island's Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, which offered safe views of the lava.

Kilauea, Hawaii's second-largest volcano, erupted from September 2021 until last December. A 2018 Kilauea eruption destroyed more than 700 homes.

## NATION

# Some states addressing problem gamblers

By DAVID A. LIEB  
Associated Press

When the NFL season kicked off this week, Kentucky residents and visitors — for the first time — were able to legally place sports bets on something other than horse racing. When they do, some of that money will also fund the state's first-ever program for people with gambling problems.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for legalized sports betting five years ago, nearly three-fourths of the states have moved swiftly to allow it. State funding for problem gambling services has not kept pace, although more states — like Kentucky — are requiring at least a portion of sports wagering revenues to go toward helping addicted gamblers.

"The funding is starting to flow, but the amount is still clearly inadequate in most states," said Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling. He added: "Most of these amounts are token."

Legal sports betting operators took in \$220 billion during the past five years, generating \$3 billion in state and local taxes.

By contrast, states spent an average of 38 cents per capita on problem gambling services in the 2022 fiscal year, ranging from nothing in nine states to \$10.6 million in Massachusetts, according to the Portland, Ore.-based consulting firm Problem Gambling Solutions Inc. That money, which came from all forms of gambling, went toward services such as telephone helplines, counseling and public awareness campaigns.

The federal government, which spends billions of dollars on substance abuse prevention and treatment, provides nothing for gambling problems.

Advocates in Kentucky, which has a rich horse racing history, had tried for decades to persuade lawmakers to fund services for people with gambling problems. There was no guarantee they would finally succeed when sports betting was proposed.



WAYNE PARRY/AP

Fans wait for kickoff in the sports betting lounge at Ocean Casino Resort in Atlantic City, N.J., in 2018.

In fact, Republican state Rep. Michael Meredith did not originally include any funding for problem gambling in his legislation that legalized sports betting. Meredith told The Associated Press he would have preferred to first launch sports wagering, then come back in subsequent years with legislation earmarking problem-gambling funding from all types of betting, including horse racing.

But Meredith couldn't rally enough support to pass the bill this year until a provision was added dedicating 2.5% of sports wagering taxes and licensing fees to a new problem gambling account, which also can be tapped for alcohol and drug addictions.

"We had folks that wanted to vote for sports wagering," Meredith said. "But they were really reluctant to without some form of problem gambling money."

Kentucky's new fund is projected to receive about \$575,000 in its

first year.

That's a decent start, but "we've only got five certified gambling counselors in the state right now, and we're going to need probably five times that many to provide adequate geographic and demographic coverage," said Michael R. Stone, executive director of the nonprofit Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling.

As of a year ago, 15 states and the District of Columbia had laws earmarking a portion of their sports betting revenues toward problem gambling services, but another 15 states did not. Since then, seven additional states have either launched sports betting or passed laws to do so, and all of those have required part of their sports betting revenues to go to problem gambling services, said Rachel Volberg, a research professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Ohio, which launched sports

betting on Jan. 1, requires 2% of the tax revenues to go to a "problem sports gaming fund." The state law also requires all sports betting ads to include a phone number for a problem gambling helpline. Through the first seven months, calls to Ohio's helpline were up about 150% compared to the same period a year ago.

The surge appears driven by a spike in sports betting marketing, though some callers had problems with other types of gambling or weren't actually seeking help, said Derek Longmeier, executive director of the Problem Gambling Network of Ohio.

Research indicates that younger, higher educated men are among the most likely to bet on sports. Technology has raised the stakes for those with compulsive habits. In many states, people can now wager from anywhere with the tap of a smartphone app, 24 hours a day, betting not only on the winners of games but on a seem-

ingly limitless series of events that occur during the games.

From a problem gambling standpoint, "I think it is more dangerous, because the accessibility is easier," said Linda Graves, the recently retired executive director of the National Association of Administrators for Disordered Gambling Services.

Last month, attorneys general from several states gathered at a Connecticut casino for seminars focused on sports betting and online gaming. The widespread legalization of sports wagering has "added fuel" to a public health issue that "was already percolating under the surface," problem gambling consultant Brianne Doura-Schawohl told the group.

Yet some governments have reduced funding for problem gambling services in recent years.

In May, the District of Columbia Council eliminated what had been an annual \$200,000 allocation to the Department of Behavioral Health to prevent, treat and research gambling addictions. Although the funding is required by a 2019 act that authorized sports wagering, the department apparently had not used the money. The department said support services for problem gamblers are available through other means.

Kansas also has a history of low funding for problem gambling. Although 2% of state-owned casino revenues are directed to an addictions services fund, only a fraction of that actually has gone to problem gambling. This past year, problem gambling services were allotted less than \$60,000 while more than \$7 million went to Medicaid mental health expenditures, substance abuse grants and other programs.

But that's changing. The current Kansas budget allots more than \$1 million for problem gambling efforts in response to sports betting. The state plans to study the prevalence of addiction because of sports betting and then use the findings to shape a statewide public awareness campaign.

## Traumatic brain injuries linked to later cognitive decline

By TEDDY AMENABAR  
The Washington Post

Traumatic brain injuries are associated with cognitive decline later in life, and a sharper drop in cognition as we age, a study of twins who served in World War II shows.

There is robust research demonstrating a relationship between head injuries and cognitive impairment or dementia later in life, "but I do not know of any others that use a twin-study design," said Holly Elser, an epidemiologist and resident physician in neuro-

logy at the University of Pennsylvania who peer-reviewed the study.

The study published in *Neurology* on Wednesday found that individuals who had a traumatic brain injury were more likely to have lower scores on cognitive tests when they were about 70 years old.

They were also more likely to have rapidly declining scores after their first test if they had multiple traumatic brain injuries, lost consciousness because of a head injury or were 25 or older when

the injury happened.

"Even if it's just a single traumatic brain injury, we now know that it led to worse cognitive outcomes later in life," said Marianne Chanti-Ketterl, the lead author of the study and an assistant professor in psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Duke University School of Medicine.

The study of identical and fraternal twins allows researchers to compare participants to each other while controlling for some, if not all, of the underlying genetic factors and some of the twins'

early life conditions. Identical twins share 100% of their genes, while fraternal twins share about half.

Primarily white and male twins who were World War II veterans participated in the study, which began in the 1990s and was conducted by Duke University. The twins, born between 1917 and 1927, were part of a national registry started in the 1950s.

The researchers spoke with 8,662 people; 7,188 participated as twin pairs, and 1,474 participated without their twin. A quarter of

the twins in the study reported having at least one traumatic brain injury.

There were 589 pairs of identical twins in the study. Among that group, a history of at least one traumatic brain injury and having a concussion at age 25 or older was associated with lower scores on cognitive tests later in life.

"Those two kids shared the same household, the same environmental factors at that time. They were both in the military," Chanti-Ketterl said. "Very, very similar exposures of everything."

## NATION

# Why planes are extremely gross right now

BY NATALIE B. COMPTON,  
ANDREA SACHS  
AND HEIDI PÉREZ-MORENO  
*The Washington Post*

It was supposed to be a quick trip to pick up her kid from summer camp.

Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA International, was buckled up and ready for takeoff from Chicago to Portland, Maine, with her husband, David. The plane was full and hot — too hot, perhaps, for the passenger sitting next to them. As they taxied down the runway, there was an unsuccessful scramble for a barf bag, followed by a clasping of the hands over the mouth, and then disaster.

“The vomit sprayed directly all over my husband ... over everything ... everywhere,” Nelson said.

Nelson’s misfortune did not make headlines. Neither did the stomach-turning recent experiences shared by a dozen travelers, such as coming across feces spread on lavatory walls to airplane seats covered with fresh chewing gum and puppy poop. There was the traveler stuck sitting next to a passenger in first class who soiled themselves on a flight from Minneapolis to D.C.

Then there are the incidents that do make the news, like the deeply unfortunate Delta flight that had to make a U-turn over the weekend due to a passenger suffering from “diarrhea all the way through the airplane.” Or the travelers who were removed from their Air Canada flight after refusing to sit in vomit-soaked seats on Aug. 26.

The rapid-fire dose of gross has us reeling with questions. Namely: What is happening? And should we be worried? Are airlines capable of keeping planes clean? Are we doomed for disgusting flights?

## ■ The past, present and future of gross.

Unlike the recent Delta flight, Nelson’s flight stayed the course. The sick passenger was asked to find a change of clothes in her carry-on bag while the rest of the cabin managed their secondhand queasiness. “Sympathy vomiting” can be a real issue, Nelson says. She recalls an all-nighter from San Francisco to Boston she took before the pandemic on which a passenger vomited 30 minutes before landing, causing a “chain reaction” among roughly 50 people and a “waterfall of puke going into the aisle,” she said.

Nelson tells the horrifying story to illuminate her point: The recent spate of bodily disasters on planes isn’t new. Gross stuff happens all the time on planes. Scott Keyes, founder of Going.com, brings up a famous example from 1975 when 197 people got food poisoning onboard a Japan Airlines flight from Alaska to Copenhagen that sent



NATHAN LAINE/Bloomberg

## Recent reports of gross incidents aboard airliners have raised concerns among travelers.

144 people to the hospital.

Delta Air Lines spokesperson Morgan Durrant said in an email that “the vast majority of air travel is safe, uneventful and even, on Delta anyway, enjoyable.” In his 19 years in the aviation industry, the recent Atlanta flight was the first he’d heard of something of its kind happening.

But even though it’s not new or impacting the majority of flights, Nelson does believe we’re seeing more cases of gross. She credits the uptick to more people flying, as travel volume this summer exceeded 2019 levels.

Nelson also believes the pandemic kept more sick people at home, and that sick people may be more inclined to travel these days.

It doesn’t help that airlines have struggled with cleanliness with labor shortages and pandemic-cleaning procedures dropping. “Planes are not getting any kind of deep clean in the day unless there is a specific action to pull the plane out of service — and we frankly rarely see that.”

United, American, Southwest and Frontier did not respond to requests for details on their cleaning protocols. Allegiant Airlines said in a statement to The Washington Post that aircraft surfaces are cleaned on a daily basis, including seat belts, tray tables, galleys and lavatories.

## ■ What do airlines owe passengers?

Keyes says if you were to get a broken seat, airlines are required

to move you, but if your seat is dirty, the rules aren’t as clear.

“I don’t know of any law or item in the airline’s contract of carriage that requires reseating due to disgusting-but-not-unsafe-per-se conditions,” Keyes said in an email. “In fact, social media is rife with pictures of planes that have been inadequately cleaned, including vomit residue and other unwelcome sights from a previous flight.”

While there may not be a legal requirement for airlines to move you, if there’s a seat available “airlines will almost always reseat you away from the soiled area,” Keyes said. “And if the mess is so widespread that it’s unavoidable for some passengers — and especially if it’s illness-inducing — then the pilot may consider it a safety issue and choose to divert.”

When the flight is full, as was the case with the vomit-covered seat on Air Canada, flight attendants may not have a place to move you. It’s airline discretion what happens next, Keyes says. Most airlines may put passengers on the next flight, but he’s not aware of a legal or contractual right to cleanliness the way there is with safety protections.

“In some ways this is an unfortunate side effect of airlines’ focus on on-time departures — cutting corners on cleaning,” he said.

After the flight, ask for some token of compensation in-person or via the airline’s customer service email. Keyes says what you’ll get

is within the airline’s discretion, but more often than not you can expect some flight credit or frequent flier miles. Nelson recommends the same, and also adds that travelers can ask flight attendants to “alert the ground” of the situation so that by the time you land, staff will be there to assist you with the situation on-site.

Air Canada didn’t respond to questions from The Post on whether it refunded two passengers who were kicked off a flight after refusing to sit in soiled seats.

## ■ Should travelers be worried about their health?

In case of biohazards, flight attendants have protocols to follow from OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. There should be biohazard gear on planes to deal with contamination to keep passengers and flight attendants safe.

Kari Debbink, an associate scientist and virologist with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, said the risk of contracting a serious illness such as Ebola or HIV from a passenger’s bodily fluids is low. However, travelers exposed to infected particles could come down with norovirus, a gastrointestinal disease often associated with cruise ships.

Even if the airline thoroughly sanitizes the site of the incident, norovirus could still be a threat. The highly contagious disease can travel a distance and linger on surfaces for days, infecting unsuspecting passengers.

“If someone does a good job of cleaning up, it could still be on a surface around you. You could touch it, eat a sandwich and not even realize that you were in contact with it,” she said.

Debbink said if you become infected, you’ll experience symptoms such as diarrhea, vomiting, nausea and stomach pain within 24 to 48 hours. The virus typically lasts for a day or two.

Household bleach will kill the virus; however, the Transportation Security Administration bans liquid bleach in checked and carry-on luggage.

Debbink said passengers can wipe down surfaces with an alcohol-based sanitizer, but warns that pathogens are finicky. “They may work against some pathogens, but they may not work against all of them,” she said.

To protect yourself, she recommends wearing a mask and washing your hands and any objects that might have been exposed to the bodily fluids.

Overall, Debbink said passengers do not have to worry too much about falling ill from another passenger’s vomit, diarrhea or blood — unless they have a strong gag reflex.

“There’s really not that much of

an actual disease transmission concern,” she said, “but it’s gross.”

Stacey Rose, associate professor of infectious diseases and internal medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, said particles from profuse vomiting or diarrhea can spread far and wide.

“Particles tend to land in places and then you end up touching those surfaces, getting contaminated, and then touching your own mouth or eyes or nose or mucous membranes.”

She said a passenger could pick up an infection from a simple act such as pulling out a stick of gum to unpop their ears.

Blood-borne diseases are less of a threat than germs transmitted the fecal-oral route. “A blood-borne pathogen would be unlikely to transmit if it was something where you sat down and saw blood on the seat or on the tray table. Usually blood-borne pathogens are not going to survive for long periods of time on a surface. So as long as someone is wiping it down with alcohol-based or bleach-based cleaning products, I don’t see that as posing a huge risk,” she said.

## ■ How travelers can protect themselves.

For a better chance at getting a clean seat (or getting a flight that’s not full, so there are more seats open in case of emergency), Jen Moyses, VP of product for the travel app TripIt, recommends booking early-morning flights, “though even overnight cleaning may not be helpful for vomit,” she said in an email.

On the personal responsibility front, Rose reminds passengers to avoid flying if they are feeling unwell. The repercussions could ripple through the entire plane. These recent viral incidents are “a reminder that we have to be mindful of the potential for us to introduce potentially contagious microorganisms into our environment,” she said.

Nelson adds that travelers should avoid eating anything risky ahead of flying, to use the restroom before boarding and keep your shoes on throughout your trip, both because it’s gross for other passengers and you run the risk of picking up fungus, germs and bacteria that can cause infections or warts.

“Nobody wants to see or smell your feet on a plane,” she said. “But first and foremost, we’re concerned about your safety.”

Lastly, if you are feeling queasy on your travel day, locate a barf bag as soon as you take your seat. While they’re supposed to be in every seat-back pocket, sometimes they’re missing, or tucked away tighter than you want in an emergency. Don’t wait until it’s too late to find out.

# WORLD

# Moroccans dig through rubble after quake, hope limited

BY SAM METZ  
AND MOSA'AB ELSHAMY  
Associated Press

TAFEGHAGHTE, Morocco — Survivors with shovels worked alongside bulldozers Monday to dig through remote Moroccan villages flattened by a monstrous earthquake, as hope dwindled of finding people alive under wood-and-dirt homes that pancaked into rubble and rescuers overseas waited for Morocco to let them help.

More than 2,400 were killed when the quake struck late Friday — the strongest in the North African country in more than a century.

A French aid group that specializes in locating people trapped under debris said it is withdrawing an offer to send a nine-person search-and-rescue team after waiting without success for a green light from Morocco to deploy. Rescuers Without Borders' founder, Arnaud Fraisse, told The Associated Press that "our role is not to find bodies."

Because homes in quake-hit areas were often made of mud bricks with roofs of wood, stone and clay, he said, the hope of finding survivors at this point is slim.

"When all of that collapses, you don't have much chance of surviving, because there are no air pockets," Fraisse said — a contrast to places where buildings are made of concrete or other strong materials. "People are generally suffocated by the dust."

Moroccan officials have so far accepted government-offered aid from just four



MOSA'AB ELSHAMY/AP

**A woman tries to recover some of her possessions from her home which was damaged by the earthquake in the village of Tafeghaghte, near Marrakech, Morocco, on Monday.**

countries — Spain, Qatar, Britain and the United Arab Emirates. Morocco's Interior Ministry says officials want to avoid a lack of coordination that "would be counterproductive."

The United Nations estimates that 300,000 people were affected by Friday night's magnitude 6.8 quake, made more

dangerous by its relatively shallow depth.

Most of the destruction and deaths were in Al Haouz province in the High Atlas Mountains, where homes folded in on themselves and steep and winding roads became clogged with rubble. Residents sometimes cleared away rocks themselves.

In the remote impoverished settlement of

Tafeghaghte, villagers estimated that more than half of the 160 inhabitants were killed. People worked quickly to clear dead bodies, but a foul stench filled the air Monday from what residents said were dead cattle. Most buildings had disintegrated.

Ibrahim Wahdouch lost two young daughters and two other family members and likened the village to a warzone.

"There's not shooting but look around," he said.

Khadija Fairouje's face was puffy from crying as she joined relatives and neighbors hauling possessions down rock-strewn streets.

On Monday, a teen carried a shovel through the rocks, bulldozers cleaned up debris and survivors steered away from half-wrecked buildings that threatened to collapse.

A day earlier, people cheered when trucks full of soldiers arrived in the town of Amizmiz, down the mountain from Tafeghaghte. But they pleaded for more help.

"It's a catastrophe," said survivor Salah Ancheu. "We don't know what the future is. The aid remains insufficient."

Army units deployed Monday along a paved road leading from Amizmiz to remote mountain villages. State news agency MAP reported that bulldozers and other equipment are being used to clear routes. Tourists and residents lined up to give blood. In some villages, people wept as boys and helmet-clad police carried the dead through streets.



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# WORLD

## Biden closes Vietnam visit with new deals and McCain memorial

By JOSH BOAK AND AAMER MADHANI  
Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — President Joe Biden closed a visit to Vietnam on Monday by spotlighting new business deals and partnerships between the two countries and paying respects at a memorial honoring his late friend and colleague Sen. John McCain, who endured a lengthy imprisonment in Hanoi during the Vietnam War.

Biden met with Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, who also accompanied Biden to a quick drop by at a meeting of business leaders. Biden also sat down with President Vo Van Thuong, who hosted the U.S. president for a formal state luncheon. The two sides are looking to strengthen their partnership amid shared concerns about China's assertiveness

in the Pacific.

Both leaders spoke about strengthening Vietnam's semiconductor industry. Biden made clear his administration's commitment to an open Pacific.

"My message today is quite simple. Let's keep it up," Biden told the CEOs. "We need to develop and drive our collaboration, We need to forge new partnerships."

The prime minister also stressed the need to improve cooperation and said "the sky is the limit" for the expanding U.S.-Vietnam relationship.

"We truly wish to receive strong political commitment from the U.S. government including you, Mr. President, who has had great affection for Vietnam," the prime minister said.

Highlights of the major deals announced by the White House



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Joe Biden visits John Sidney McCain III Memorial in Hanoi, Vietnam, on Monday.

during Biden's first-ever visit to Vietnam include U.S.-based Boeing's \$7.5 billion deal with Vietnam Airlines to buy about 50 aircraft and Arizona-based Amkor Technology's plans for a \$1.6 billion factory in Bac Ninh Province.

Before departing, Biden visited the John Sidney McCain III Memorial near the site where, as a 31-

year-old Navy lieutenant commander, McCain's Skyhawk dive bomber was shot down by the North Vietnamese. Both sides exchanged documents Monday on unaccounted U.S. service members and Vietnamese soldiers. Biden left one of his commemorative coins at the memorial, the White House said.

## Afghanistan is thriving meth maker

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Afghanistan is the world's fastest-growing maker of methamphetamine, a report from the United Nations drug agency said Sunday. The country is also a major opium producer and heroin source, even though the Taliban declared a war on narcotics after they returned to power in August 2021.

The United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crimes, which published the report, said meth in Afghanistan is mostly made from legally available substances or extracted from the ephedra plant, which grows in the wild.

The report called Afghanistan's meth manufacturing a growing threat to national and regional health and security because it could disrupt the synthetic drug market and fuel addiction. It said seizures of meth suspected to have come from Afghanistan have been reported from the European Union and east Africa.

STARS AND STRIPES SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

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## FACES

## Singular satire

Cord Jefferson breaks through as major new voice in film with 'American Fiction'

BY JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

Fifty pages into Percival Everett's "Erasure," Cord Jefferson knew he wanted to adapt it into a movie script. Halfway through, he began to see Jeffrey Wright playing the book's academic protagonist, Thelonious "Monk" Ellison. By the time he was finished, he knew he wanted to direct it, too.

As quick as that, Cord Jefferson — the 41-year-old TV writer of "Succession," "Master of None" and "Watchmen" — began working toward his directing debut, "American Fiction." And just as speedily, following its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, "American Fiction" became a breakout hit of the festival, launching Jefferson as a major new voice in movies.

In the film, Monk (Wright), is a frustrated author whose agent (John Ortiz) tells him his books — the latest of which is a reworking of Aeschylus' "The Persians" — aren't "Black enough." "I'm Black," he responds, "and this is my book."

Monk, played with acerbic perfection and delightful disgust by Wright, writes as a drunken lark, a book intended to parody the kinds that sell and cater to white audiences' view of Black people. Under the pseudonym Stagg R. Leigh, he dashes off a manuscript of thug life trauma porn titled "My Pafology" that — surprise — immediately sells and gets bought for movie rights.

"All the conversations that the book was having were conversations I was having with my friends and had been having for decades," Jefferson, who was an editor for Gawker before transitioning into TV, said in an interview.

"I worked as a journalist for eight or nine years before working in television," he added. "I was having the exact same conversa-

tions with Black colleagues in both professions: Why are we always writing about misery and trauma and violence and pain inflicted on Blacks? Why is this what people expect from us? Why is this the only thing we have to offer to culture?"

"American Fiction," which MGM will release Nov. 3 in theaters, is a funny, jazzy riff on Black representation in books and films that delights in mocking both stereotypes and identity politics while pleading for something more nuanced.

"One of the main themes is the way we see ourselves as unique, specific individuals, and the way the world tries to put us into little boxes and sand away all the things that make us unique and special," Jefferson said.

At the TIFF premiere, Jefferson took a moment to note that he loves movies like "12 Years a Slave" and "New Jack City." But Jefferson, lamenting "a poverty of imagination when it comes to what Black life looks like," said other films on the spectrum should exist, too.

"I feel like Jewish people get 'Schindler's List' and 'Annie Hall,'" said Jefferson.

While Woody Allen's film may be a reference point to "American Fiction," direct comparisons are harder to come by for such a breezy but biting commentary. Tracee Ellis Ross, Sterling K. Brown and Erika Alexander co-star, along with Issa Rae, who plays the author of a book titled "We's Lives in Da Ghetto."

"One of the most exciting things has been in test screening when we ask people, 'What does this film remind you of?'" says Jefferson. "There's been several people who can't name a comedy or a film it reminds them of."

Jefferson, who grew up in Tucson, Ariz., wrote on some of the issues his film touched on in a 2014



JOEL C RYAN, INVISION/AP

"American Fiction" director Cord Jefferson, shown Sunday in Toronto, would like to see more nuance in depictions of Black culture.

**"Why are we always writing about misery and trauma and violence and pain inflicted on Blacks? Why is this what people expect from us? Why is this the only thing we have to offer to culture?"**

Cord Jefferson

piece titled "The Racism Beat." In it, he described the importance of writers from marginalized groups bringing individual perspective to journalism, but the difficulty of not being defined by it.

Jefferson, who has also written about donating a kidney to his father and being biracial, became a writer for "The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore" before transitioning into drama and comedy series.

Directing a film, Jefferson says, wasn't necessarily a lifelong ambition. He hadn't gone to film school, so he didn't think it was in the cards until he spoke with a friend directing an episode of "Master of None" who had studied business, not film.

"I realized all you need to do is have a vision and be able to articulate it other people," says Jefferson.

## 'The Nun II' tops box office with \$32.6M

From wire reports

Like many horror films before it, bad reviews didn't scare off moviegoers from seeing "The Nun II." The sequel to the 2018 hit topped the box office in its first weekend in North American theaters earning an estimated \$32.6 million, the studio said Sunday.

The Michael Graves-directed sequel starring Taissa Farmiga and Storm Reid fell far short of the debut for the first film (\$53.8 million), but it's still a solid launch. "The Nun" movies are part of the so-called Conjuring universe, which now has nine films, and \$2.1 billion in box office, to its name. The sequel also played well internationally, picking up \$52.7 million overseas and boosting its global debut to \$85.3 million.

"The Nun II" bumped Denzel Washington's "Equalizer 3" to second place in its second weekend. The Columbia Pictures release added \$12.1 million, bringing its domestic grosses to \$61.9 million and its worldwide earnings to \$107.7 million.

Third place went to another new movie: "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3." The film earned an estimated \$10 million.

## Paul Reubens reportedly died of respiratory failure

Paul Reubens was battling two forms of cancer when he died in July.

The actor and comedian's death certificate lists "acute hypoxic respiratory failure" as the immediate cause of death, according to a Sept. 8 report by People. Acute hypoxic respiratory failure occurs when the respiratory system cannot provide enough oxygen.

The underlying primary cause of death was recorded as acute myelogenous leukemia, a type of blood and bone marrow cancer. Reubens had also reportedly been diagnosed with metastatic lung cancer.

In a July 31 social media post announcing his death, it was revealed that Reubens, best known for portraying the character Pee-wee Herman, had been privately battling cancer for years.

## Other news

■ **Charlie Robison**, the Texas singer-songwriter whose rootsy anthems made the country charts until he was forced to retire after complications from a medical procedure left him unable to sing, died Sunday. He was 59. Robison died at a hospital in San Antonio after suffering cardiac arrest and other complications, according to a family representative. Robison's 2001 album "Step Right Up" produced his only Top 40 country song, "I Want You Bad."

## Emma Stone-led 'Poor Things' wins top prize in Venice

BY NICOLE WINFIELD  
Associated Press

"Poor Things," a film about Victorian-era female empowerment, won the Golden Lion on Sept. 9 at a Venice Film Festival largely deprived of Hollywood glamour because of the writers and actors strikes.

The film, starring Emma Stone, won the top prize at the 80th edition of the festival, which is often a predictor of Oscar glory. Director Yorgos Lanthimos said the film wouldn't exist without Stone, who was also a producer but was not on the Lido for the festival.

"This film is her, in front and behind the camera," Lanthimos said.

The film, based on Alasdair Gray's 1992 novel of the same name, tells the tale of Bella Baxter, who is brought back to life by a scientist and, after a whirlwind learning curve, runs off with a sleazy lawyer and embarks on a series of adventures devoid of societal judgments.

Other top winners on the Lido were two films shaming Europe for its migration policies.

"Io Capitano" (Me Captain), by Matteo Garrone, won the award for best director while Garrone's young star, Seydou Sarr, won the award for best young actor. The film tells the story of two young boys' odyssey from Dakar, Senegal, to the detention camps in Libya and finally across the Mediterranean to Europe.

Agnieszka Holland's "Green Border," about Europe's other migration crisis on the Polish-Belarus border, won the Special Jury Prize.

"People are still hiding in forests, deprived of their dignity, of their human rights, of their safety, and some of them will lose their lives here in Europe," Holland told the audience. "Not because we don't have the resources to help them but because we don't want to."

Peter Sarsgaard won best actor for "Memory," in which he co-stars with Jessica Chastain in a film about high schoolers reuniting.

Cailee Spaeny won best actress for "Priscilla," Sofia Coppola's portrait of the private side of Priscilla and Elvis Presley.

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OPINION

Whiskey Rebellion informs effort to disqualify Trump

By JASON WILLOCK

The Washington Post

Well, that didn't take long. Last month, two law professors, both of them constitutional originalists, made headlines with a 126-page article declaring that Donald Trump is "automatically" disqualified from the presidency under a provision of the 14th Amendment, ratified after the Civil War, that barred insurrectionists from office. Last week, a liberal group filed a lawsuit in Colorado demanding Trump's removal from the ballot for his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot, citing the new law review article 11 times. What is sure to be a well-funded and well-coordinated campaign to disqualify Trump from office has begun.

From the center-left to the center-right, most arguments against this radical course appeal to pragmatic concerns: The Constitution's language on "insurrection" is vague; mayhem would result if states could unilaterally disqualify presidential candidates; even attempts to remove candidates from the ballot will erode faith in the electoral process.

The disqualifiers impractically claim that someone can be constitutionally guilty of insurrection without having been convicted of the offense, either criminally or in an impeachment trial. But the 14th Amendment also bars from office those who gave "aid or comfort" to enemies of the United States. A liberal interpretation of that clause could be especially dangerous. Under the disqualifiers' reasoning, a person could essentially be barred from office based on foreign policy advocacy that is not criminal.

Accusations of aiding enemies are regrettably common in U.S. politics. Last week, for example, Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro accused Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., of "aiding and abetting communist and other autocratic regimes" because the senator is holding up military nominees in protest of a Pentagon abortion policy. The only time Congress has actually invoked the 14th Amendment to disqualify a member outside the context of the Civil War was during World War I, to remove an antiwar socialist from Wisconsin.

The criminal process exists to determine

guilt for offenses that require specific acts and intent. Impeachment provides a parallel political process. If the standard for disqualification is undefined and lower than the standard for conviction through either process, how can administrators and courts know reliably which candidates to yank from voters' ballots?

These arguments about the theory's unworkability are valid, but as a political matter, they won't persuade. Champions of "automatic" disqualification have one pragmatic objective in mind: Eliminating Trump from U.S. politics. So what if they turn the 14th Amendment's Section 3 into a Red Scare instrument in the process? Any damaging consequences from this constitutional leap of faith, in their view, pale in comparison with the damaging consequences of another Trump term. That internal political logic will only reinforce itself as the election approaches.

Courts might look for ways to resolve this issue on technicalities or prudential grounds. But a real debate requires reaching the merits of the question: Did Trump engage in insurrection or not?

The Jan. 6 Capitol attack was not comparable to the Civil War, which killed 2% of the U.S. population, and such comparisons are self-discrediting. But the law review article — and Colorado lawsuit — also reference the Whiskey Rebellion (or "Western Insurrection") from 1791 to 1794 as a point of comparison for the Capitol violence. The notoriety of the Whiskey Rebellion in the Constitution's early decades could show that Americans adopting the 14th Amendment in 1868 had a lower threshold for insurrection than the Civil War.

But a recent book on the Whiskey Rebellion by historian Brady J. Crytzer shows that the challenge to federal authority was far more sustained and organized in the early republic than in January 2021. The whiskey rebels, based in western Pennsylvania, opposed a 1791 tax on whiskey and Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton's wider economic program. They had leaders, assemblies and emissaries who negotiated with federal authorities.

A federal investigator found in 1792 that the rebels had created "a dangerous confederacy, composed of almost all the magistrates, other public officers, and clergy" in the region. Even

when the identity of violent insurgents was known, the authorities couldn't or wouldn't arrest them. The whiskey rebels perceived their assembly as a "new governing body," Crytzer writes. In 1794, a rebel militia staged a shootout at the home of a federal tax collector. The official called for military assistance; the federal troops arrived to face "six hundred rebels marching in formation." Another firefight ensued; the rebels disarmed the fleeing troops and took their commander as a "prisoner of war." Later, the rebels gathered at least 1,500 men under arms and threatened to seize Pittsburgh's Fort Lafayette.

The pro-Trump rioters' violent breach of the Capitol on Jan. 6 was a stain on the nation, but it was not an insurgency like the yearslong Whiskey Rebellion. The key difference is explicit in the legislation President George Washington invoked to use military force against the rebels: That they had formed "combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings." That wasn't the case for Jan. 6. After the riot, participants were identified and arrested.

The history of the Whiskey Rebellion should temper, not inflame, expectations that the 14th Amendment's insurrection clause applies automatically to Trump's Jan. 6 conduct. Zoom out, and the Whiskey Rebellion also highlights the practical case for avoiding lax standards for disqualification. About six years after the rebellion was put down, Thomas Jefferson rose to the presidency as the standard-bearer of the Democratic-Republican Party, whose political base included former sympathizers of the whiskey rebels. The Federalists, who had zealously quashed the rebellion, found themselves permanently out of power.

Backers of the disqualification campaign today seem to wish that Trumpism can simply be extirpated from the United States. More likely — following the pattern of the 1790s — populists will someday have another chance in government. At that point, liberals might come to regret having legitimated the 14th Amendment as a quasi-authoritarian tool for purging political opposition.

Jason Willock is a Washington Post columnist focusing on law, politics and foreign policy.

Maybe some elements of football are best left unexamined

By JOHN M. CRISP

Tribune News Service

Maybe the beginning of a new football season isn't the best time to consider the damage that football does to players' bodies. In fact, if you'd rather not think about it, turn the page. Otherwise, consider this:

The American football player's stock-in-trade is his body, and every game demands that players be willing to sacrifice a part — great or small — of their physical and mental capital. Football is an inherently violent sport; those unwilling to risk their health won't last long in the modern game.

In short, football's violence consumes its players. And just as players must be willing to sacrifice themselves for the game, so its many fans must be willing to sacrifice the players who make the game possible.

My guess is that the average fan doesn't spend much time thinking about the toll football takes on its players. Of course, games are paused when a player can't leave the field under his own power. Teams drop to a knee and spectators murmur worriedly while trainers

determine the severity of the injury.

An injured player who gives the crowd a thumbs up as he is carted off the field garners a great cheer from the fans, reflecting either their gratitude or their relief at the illusion that everything is fine and the game can go on. Which it soon does.

But most of football's damage is invisible to the fan in the stands. It occurs among the thousands of unseen players who sustain injuries of various severities, many of which will affect them for their lifetimes. Some players are paralyzed and a few die every year. These stories don't linger on the sports pages.

And in recent decades we've learned about chronic traumatic encephalopathy, the unsurprising consequence of hard blows to players' fragile brains or of repetitive sub-concussive blows. Some evidence indicates a staggering prevalence of CTE in pro football players, which results in life-devastating effects long after the fans have moved on to other players.

We rationalize the damage that football does to its players in various ways: They choose to play the game. They're well paid. They love football.

But these dubious pretexts ignore our complicity in the creation of the incentives that motivate football players to risk their lives and health, and they dodge the issue of whether the players' willing participation in the game absolves us of the damage they suffer.

In fact, football requires from its fans considerable denial about the harm the game does to its players. That's why Matthew Walther's column in The New York Times last week was a refreshing dose of candor. Walther agrees with Cardinals fullback Ron Wolfley that football "by definition cannot be safe."

He says that Homer "captured the spirit of the N.F.L. when he dismissed mortality as beneath the concern of the great-souled."

Homer said: "Even as are the generations of leaves, such are those also of men. As for the leaves, the wind scattereth some upon the earth." One wonders if this casual dismissal of the value to each individual life is too fatalistic. But we'll think about that after the game. Or not.

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Texas.

Bizarro

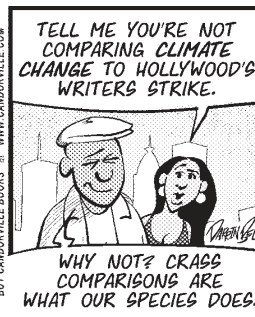
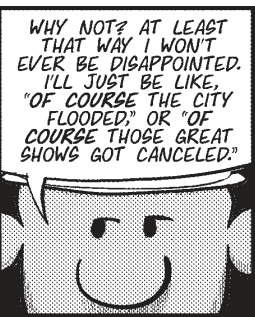
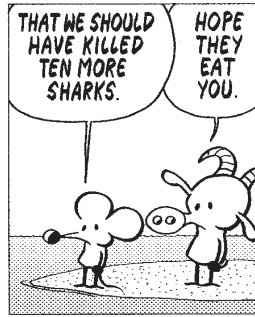
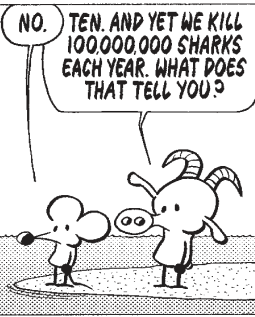
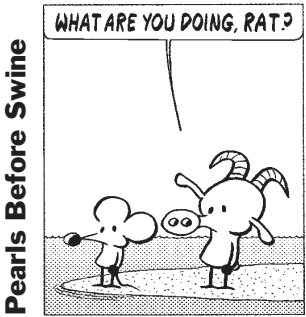
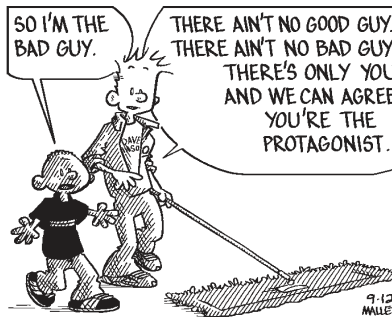


Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
			18					19	20			
21	22	23					24					
25					26	27				28	29	
30					31					32		
33			34							35		
		36						37				
38	39					40	41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		



ACROSS

- 1 Jeopardize
- 5 "Ray Donovan" star Schreiber
- 9 Govt. lender
- 12 Bailiwick
- 13 Farm measure
- 14 Cauldron
- 15 Emmy-winning "Hacks" actress
- 17 HIV-treating drug
- 18 Viewed
- 19 "The Jetsons" boy
- 21 Joy of "The View"
- 24 Singer India.—
- 25 Pub orders
- 26 New York City nickname
- 30 "Angie" actor
- 31 Asian noodles
- 32 DDE's opponent
- 33 "Ozark" and "Succession"
- 35 Enfold
- 36 Actor LaBeouf
- 37 Sucker
- 38 Pop star John
- 40 Think (over)
- 42 Sheep call
- 43 Fruity summer pastry
- 48 "It's c-c-cold!"
- 49 Elevator name
- 50 Perry's creator
- 51 Perched

- 52 "That — close one!"
- 53 Ascend

DOWN

- 1 British rule of India
- 2 Rage
- 3 Briny expanse
- 4 Sunflower State
- 5 Unconvincing
- 6 Volunteer's words
- 7 Mess up
- 8 November honoree
- 9 Repair shop piece
- 10 Chucklehead
- 11 Lawyer (Abbr.)
- 16 Sun. talk
- 20 Back talk
- 21 Homer's son
- 22 Mountain ht.
- 23 Early advantage
- 24 Ice and Bronze
- 26 Crimson Tide, briefly
- 27 "— Believer"
- 28 Meadows
- 29 Glimpse
- 31 Colorful arc
- 34 Plato's P
- 35 — White ("Breaking Bad" protagonist)
- 37 Layer
- 38 Recedes
- 39 Zhivago's love
- 40 Hosp. scans
- 41 Celestial bear
- 44 LAX info
- 45 Shapiro of NPR
- 46 "Kidnapped" monogram
- 47 Casual shirt

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

9-12

CRYPTOQUIP

GEFKWD Q LWD QH Q JEIIWD  
 YI QCYFIALJD K WSKBB ADSIC  
 YI GDIGBD: "WKV EDBBI YI  
 SV BQYYBD HQDCA."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN ACTRESS LUCY PERFORMED WONDERFULLY, THE DRAMA CRITIC SIMPLY WROTE "LAWLESS FLAWLESS!"  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals P

# SCOREBOARD

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

### AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Sep. 9, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Georgia (55)	2-0	1540	1
2. Michigan (2)	2-0	1458	2
3. Florida St. (3)	2-0	1413	4
4. Texas (2)	2-0	1338	11
5. Southern Cal	3-0	1269	6
6. Ohio St.	2-0	1265	5
7. Penn St.	2-0	1204	7
8. Washington	2-0	1102	8
9. Notre Dame	3-0	1015	10
10. Alabama	1-1	953	3
11. Tennessee	2-0	929	9
12. Utah	2-0	847	12
13. Oregon	2-0	827	13
14. LSU	1-1	667	14
15. Kansas St.	2-0	636	15
16. Oregon St.	2-0	605	16
17. Mississippi	2-0	505	20
18. Colorado	2-0	481	22
19. Oklahoma	2-0	453	18
20. North Carolina	2-0	444	17
21. Duke	2-0	421	21
22. Miami	2-0	230	—
23. Washington St.	2-0	129	—
24. UCLA	2-0	107	—
25. Iowa	2-0	106	—

**Others receiving votes:** Clemson 86, Arkansas 33, TCU 19, Kansas 19, Tulane 17, Wisconsin 10, Kentucky 5, Mississippi St. 5, Minnesota 3, Cincinnati 3, Fresno St. 2, Wyoming 1, Oklahoma St. 1, Maryland 1, James Madison 1.

### USA Today ACFA Coaches Poll

The USA Today Sports AFCA Coaches Poll Top 25 with first-place votes received, team's records, total points based on 25 for first place through one point for 25th and ranking in last weeks poll:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Georgia (64)	2-0	1624	1
2. Michigan (1)	2-0	1533	2
3. Florida State	2-0	1441	5
4. Ohio State	2-0	1401	4
5. Southern California	3-0	1319	6
6. Texas	2-0	1318	10
7. Penn State	2-0	1229	7
8. Washington	2-0	1129	8
9. Tennessee	2-0	1039	9
10. Alabama	1-1	1016	3
11. Notre Dame	3-0	1004	11
12. Utah	2-0	893	12
13. Oregon	2-0	870	13
14. LSU	1-1	714	14
15. Kansas State	2-0	675	15
16. Oklahoma	2-0	584	17
17. Oregon State	2-0	562	18
18. North Carolina	2-0	506	16
19. Mississippi	2-0	503	20
20. Duke	2-0	363	24
21. Colorado	2-0	357	25
22. Clemson	1-1	207	21
23. Miami (Fla.)	2-0	195	—
24. Iowa	2-0	166	—
25. UCLA	2-0	101	—

**Dropped out:** No. 19 Wisconsin (1-1); No. 22 Tulane (1-1); No. 23 Texas A&M (1-1).

**Others receiving votes:** Washington State (2-0) 80; Kentucky (2-0) 38; TCU (1-1) 26; Auburn (2-0) 23; Texas A&M (1-1) 21; Fresno State (2-0) 21; Kansas (2-0) 17; Tulane (1-1) 16; Missouri (2-0) 14; Maryland (2-0) 14; Wake Forest (2-0) 13; Oklahoma State (2-0) 12; Central Florida (2-0) 11; Arkansas (2-0) 10; Syracuse (2-0) 9; Cincinnati (2-0) 8; Wisconsin (1-1) 7; Mississippi State (2-0) 7; Wyoming (2-0) 6; Minnesota (2-0) 6; Air Force (2-0) 5; Louisville (2-0) 3; South Carolina (1-1) 3; Memphis (2-0) 3; James Madison (2-0) 2; Michigan State (2-0) 1.

### Schedule

#### Thursday, Sept. 14 SOUTH

Bethune-Cookman (1-1) at Miami (2-0) Navy (1-1) at Memphis (2-0)

#### Friday, Sept. 15 EAST

Virginia (0-2) at Maryland (2-0)

#### SOUTHWEST

Army (1-1) at UTSA (1-1)

#### FAR WEST

Utah St. (1-1) at Air Force (2-0)

## AP SPOTLIGHT

### Sept. 12

**1895** — Defender wins three straight matches from the British challenger Valkyrie II to defend the America's Cup for the United States.

**1936** — Fred Perry becomes the first for-

## PRO BASKETBALL

### WNBA

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-New York	32	8	.800	—
x-Connecticut	27	13	.675	5
x-Atlanta	19	21	.475	13
x-Washington	19	21	.475	13
x-Chicago	18	22	.450	14
Indiana	13	27	.325	19

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Las Vegas	34	6	.850	—
x-Dallas	22	18	.550	12
x-Minnesota	19	21	.475	15
Los Angeles	17	23	.425	17
Seattle	11	29	.275	23
Phoenix	9	31	.225	25

#### x-clinched playoff spot

#### Sunday's games

Indiana 87, Minnesota 72  
Washington 90, New York 88  
Dallas 94, Atlanta 77  
Chicago 102, Connecticut 91, OT  
Las Vegas 100, Phoenix 85  
Los Angeles 91, Seattle 89

#### End of regular season

#### WNBA playoffs

#### (x-if necessary) First Round

#### (Best-of-three)

#### No. 1 Las Vegas vs. No. 8 Chicago

**Wednesday:** at Las Vegas  
**Sunday, Sept. 17:** at Las Vegas  
**x-Wednesday, Sept. 20:** at Chicago

#### No. 2 New York vs. No. 7 Washington

**Friday:** at New York  
**Tuesday, Sept. 19:** at New York  
**x-Friday, Sept. 22:** at Washington

#### No. 3 Connecticut vs. No. 6 Minnesota

**Wednesday:** at Connecticut  
**Sunday, Sept. 17:** at Connecticut  
**x-Wednesday, Sept. 20:** at Minnesota

#### No. 4 Dallas vs. No. 5 Atlanta

**Friday:** at Dallas  
**Tuesday, Sept. 19:** at Dallas  
**x-Friday, Sept. 22:** at Atlanta

#### Semifinals

#### (Best-of-five)

#### Sept. 24-Oct. 3

Las Vegas-Chicago winner vs. Dallas-Atlanta winner  
New York-Washington winner vs. Connecticut-Minnesota winner

#### Finals

#### (Best-of-five)

#### Oct. 8-20

Semifinal winners

## DEALS

### Sunday's transactions

#### BASEBALL

#### Major League Baseball

#### American League

**BOSTON RED SOX** — Reinstated RHP Garrett Whitlock from the bereavement list. Placed LHP James Paxton on the 15-day IL, retroactive to Sept. 7. Recalled RHP Nick Robertson from Worcester (IL). Optioned LHP Joe Jacques to Worcester.

**DETROIT TIGERS** — Selected the contract of RHP Sawyer Gipson-Long from Toledo (IL). Optioned RHP Brendan White to Toledo.

**LOS ANGELES ANGELS** — Reinstated RHP Ben Joyce and INF Zach Neto from the IL. Optioned INF Trey Cabbage and LHP Kolton Ingram to Salt Lake (PCL). Sent RHP Chris Rodriguez to Inland Empire (CL) on a rehab assignment.

**MINNESOTA TWINS** — Placed SS Jorge Polanco on the bereavement list. Recalled OF Gilberto Celestino from St. Paul (IL).

**NEW YORK YANKEES** — Recalled LHP Anthony Misiewicz and RHP Matt Bowman from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL). Optioned RHP Ron Marinaccio and LHP Matt Krook to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

**SEATTLE MARINERS** — Recalled RHP Eduard Bazardo from Tacoma (PCL). Designated RHP Luke Weaver for assignment.

#### National League

**ATLANTA BRAVES** — Recalled RHPs AJ Smith-Shawver and Allan Winans from Gwinnett (IL). Optioned LHP Dylad Dodd and RHP Darius Vines to Gwinnett (IL).

**CINCINNATI REDS** — Reinstated RHP Hunter Greene, 1B Joey Votto and 3B Jonathan India from the 10-day IL. Optioned RHP Lyon Richardson to Louisville (IL). Returned 2B Alejo Lopez and RHP Carson Spiers to Louisville (IL).

**LOS ANGELES DODGERS** — Selected the contract of RHP Wander Suero from Oklahoma City (PCL). Placed RHP Gus Varland on the 10-day IL.

**MIAMI MARLINS** — Optioned LHP Emmanuel De Jesus to Jacksonville (IL). Selected the contract of LHP Daniel Castano from Jacksonville.

#### COLLEGE

**MICHIGAN STATE** — Suspended football coach Mel Tucker.

ign player to win three U.S. men's singles titles when he defeats Don Budge, 2-6, 6-2, 8-6, 1-6, 10-8. Alice Marble ends the four-year reign of Helen Jacobs as U.S. women's singles champion, with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory.

## AUTO RACING

### Hollywood Casino 400

#### NASCAR Cup Series

#### Sunday

#### At Kansas Speedway

#### Kansas City, Kan.

#### Lap length: 1.50 miles

**(Start position in parentheses)**  
1. (5) Tyler Reddick, Toyota, 268 laps, 51 points.  
2. (14) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 268, 48.  
3. (19) Erik Jones, Chevrolet, 268, 39.  
4. (2) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 268, 43.  
5. (11) Joey Logano, Ford, 268, 35.  
6. (4) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 268, 41.  
7. (35) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 268, 30.  
8. (1) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 268, 38.  
9. (12) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 268, 41.  
10. (23) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 268, 27.  
11. (20) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 268, 34.  
12. (17) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 268, 35.  
13. (6) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 268, 31.  
14. (36) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, 268, 23.  
15. (9) William Byron, Chevrolet, 268, 22.  
16. (15) Daniel Suárez, Chevrolet, 268, 21.  
17. (25) Aric Almirola, Ford, 268, 20.  
18. (28) Ryan Preece, Ford, 268, 19.  
19. (26) Chase Briscoe, Ford, 268, 18.  
20. (21) Carson Hocevar, Chevrolet, 268, 0.

21. (30) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 268, 16.  
22. (24) Corey Lajoie, Chevrolet, 268, 15.  
23. (16) Ricky Stenhouse Jr, Chevrolet, 268, 14.  
24. (27) Cole Custer, Ford, 268, 0.  
25. (32) Todd Gilliland, Ford, 267, 12.  
26. (7) Michael McDowell, Ford, 267, 11.  
27. (13) Chris Buescher, Ford, 267, 12.  
28. (33) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 267, 9.  
29. (34) Sheldon Creed, Chevrolet, 266, 0.  
30. (22) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 266, 7.

31. (18) Austin Cindric, Ford, 266, 6.  
32. (10) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 264, 14.  
33. (8) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 259, 4.  
34. (31) JJ Yeley, Ford, dvp, 212, 0.  
35. (29) Harrison Burton, Ford, dvp, 175, 2.  
36. (3) Martin Truex Jr, Toyota, accident, 3, 1.

#### Race statistics

**Average speed of race winner:** 125.213 mph.  
**Time of race:** 3 hours, 12 minutes, 38 seconds.

**Margin of victory:** 0.327 seconds.  
**Caution flags:** 9 for 45 laps.

**Lead changes:** 19 among 10 drivers.  
**Lap leaders:** C.Bell 0-9; K.Larson 10-39; A.Almirola 40-42; K.Larson 43-66; B.Wallace 67-69; K.Larson 70-109; J.Yeley 110; K.Larson 111-114; C.Elliott 115-131; K.Larson 132; C.Elliott 133-162; B.Keselowski 163-171; D.Hamlin 172; B.Keselowski 173-186; D.Hamlin 187-215; C.Bell 216-221; D.Suárez 222-230; D.Hamlin 231-263; D.Suárez 264-266; T.Reddick 267-268

**Leaders summary (driver, times led, laps led):** K.Larson, 5 times for 99 laps; D.Hamlin, 3 times for 63 laps; C.Elliott, 2 times for 47 laps; B.Keselowski, 2 times for 23 laps; C.Bell, 2 times for 15 laps; D.Suárez, 2 times for 12 laps; A.Almirola, 1 time for 3 laps; B.Wallace, 1 time for 3 laps; T.Reddick, 1 time for 2 laps; J.Yeley, 1 time for 1 lap.

**Wins:** W.Byron, 5; K.Larson, 3; K.Busch, 3; C.Buescher, 3; M.Trux, 3; T.Reddick, 2; D.Hamlin, 2; R.Blaney, 1; R.Chastain, 1; C.Bell, 1; J.Logano, 1; R.Stenhouse, 1; M.McDowell, 1.

**Top 16 in points:** 1. K.Larson, 2117; 2. T.Reddick, 2111; 3. D.Hamlin, 2105; 4. W.Byron, 2097; 5. B.Keselowski, 2089; 6. R.Bla-

### Firestone Grand Prix of Monterey

#### IndyCar Series

#### Sunday

#### At WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca

#### Monterey, Calif.

#### Lap length: 2.238 miles

#### (Start position in parentheses)

1. (11) Scott Dixon, Dallara-Honda, 95 laps, Running.  
2. (2) Scott McLaughlin, Dallara-Chevrolet, 95, Running.  
3. (5) Alex Palou, Dallara-Honda, 95, Running.  
4. (7) Will Power, Dallara-Chevrolet, 95, Running.  
5. (20) Callum Ilott, Dallara-Chevrolet, 95, Running.  
6. (3) Christian Lundgaard, Dallara-Honda, 95, Running.  
7. (15) Alexander Rossi, Dallara-Chevrolet, 95, Running.  
8. (14) Marcus Armstrong, Dallara-Honda, 95, Running.  
9. (9) Pato O'Ward, Dallara-Chevrolet, 95, Running.  
10. (25) Ryan Hunter-Reay, Dallara-Chevrolet, 95, Running.  
11. (8) Romain Grosjean, Dallara-Honda, 95, Running.  
12. (24) Sting Ray Robb, Dallara-Honda, 95, Running.  
13. (27) Helio Castroneves, Dallara-Honda, 95, Running.  
14. (19) Agustin Canapino, Dallara-Chevrolet, 95, Running.  
15. (18) Marcus Ericsson, Dallara-Honda, 94, Running.  
16. (23) Benjamin Pedersen, Dallara-Chevrolet, 94, Running.  
17. (17) Santino Ferrucci, Dallara-Chevrolet, 94, Running.  
18. (6) Rinus VeeKay, Dallara-Chevrolet, 93, Running.  
19. (1) Felix Rosenqvist, Dallara-Chevrolet, 93, Running.  
20. (22) David Malukas, Dallara-Honda, 93, Running.

21. (4) Josef Newgarden, Dallara-Chevrolet, 91, Running.  
22. (26) Devlin DeFrancesco, Dallara-Honda, 91, Running.  
23. (12) Colton Herta, Dallara-Honda, 80, Did not finish.  
24. (13) Juri Vips, Dallara-Honda, 71, Running.

25. (16) Kyle Kirkwood, Dallara-Honda, 65, Running.  
26. (21) Tom Blomqvist, Dallara-Honda, 61, Did not finish.  
27. (10) Graham Rahal, Dallara-Honda, 0, Did not finish.

**Average speed of race winner:** 92.645 mph.  
**Time of race:** 02:17:41.6400.

**Margin of victory:** 7.3180 seconds.  
**Cautions:** 8 for 35 laps.

**Lead changes:** 6 among 6 drivers.  
**Lap leaders:** Rosenqvist 1-6, Palou 7-28, Herta 29, Palou 30-58, O'Ward 59-73, Grosjean 74-75, Dixon 76.

**Points:** Palou 656, Dixon 578, McLaughlin 488, O'Ward 484, Newgarden 479, Ericsson 438, Power 425, Lundgaard 390, Rossi 375, Herta 356.

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## GOLF

### Kroger Queen City Championship

#### LPGA Tour

#### Sunday

#### At Kendale Course

#### Cincinnati

#### Purse: \$2 million

#### Yardage: 6,515; Par: 72

#### Final Round

**(x-won on second playoff hole)**  
x-Minjee Lee, \$300,000 67-69-65-71-272 -16  
Charley Hull, \$181,723 67-68-68-69-272 -16  
Ruoning Yin, \$131,827 68-66-73-67-274 -14  
Ally Ewing, \$101,979 69-70-71-66-276 -12  
Peiyun Chien, \$56,545 66-64-73-74-277 -11  
Ariya Jutanugarn, \$56,545 69-69-68-71-277 -11  
Mi Hyang Lee, \$

MLB

ROUNDUP

# Braves are 1st to clinch playoff spot

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Having become the first team to clinch a playoff berth, the Atlanta Braves looked ahead toward larger aims.

“I wanted to congratulate the guys, but our No. 1 goal coming out of spring training is to win the division,” manager Brian Snitker said after the Braves rallied to beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 5-2 on Sunday.

Matt Olson went 2-for-3 with three RBIs.

“It’s exciting to be a part of this team. It is going to be a fun end of the season,” rookie starter Allan Winans said.

Atlanta leads the second-place Phillies by 15 games in the NL East heading into a four-game series starting Monday in Philadelphia. If the Braves win three of the four, they would clinch their sixth straight division title.

“It will be a tough four games in three days,” Snitker said. “Their lineup is every bit as tough as ours.”

By clinching after 142 games, the Braves tied the 1975 Cincinnati Reds for the sixth-fewest games to clinch a postseason berth in a 162-game season, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The 1998 Yankees set the record by clinching after 135 games.

Atlanta (93-49) reached the postseason for the sixth straight year, the second-longest streak in franchise history. The Braves won 11 straight NL East titles from 1995-2005.

**Yankees 4, Brewers 3 (13):** Milwaukee rookie right fielder Sal Frelick preserved a no-hit bid with a leaping catch at the wall of Anthony Volpe’s drive in the 10th inning to keep the game scoreless, but host New York rallied when Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-run homer in the 12th off Andrew Chafin and Kyle Higashioka hit a winning double in the 13th against Hoby Milner (2-1).

After Corbin Burnes pitched eight hitless innings, Devin Williams worked a 1-2-3 ninth and Abner Uribe a hitless 10th. Tyrone Taylor hit a run-scoring single in the 11th as Milwaukee went for the first 11-inning no-hitter in major league history, but Oswaldo Cabrera hit a tying RBI double with one out in the bottom half off Joel Payamps.

Joey Wiemer had an RBI double and Andrew Monasterio a sacrifice fly off Nick Ramirez in the 12th. Anthony Misiewicz (2-0) pitched around a walk in a hitless 13th.

**Rays 6, Mariners 3:** Zach Eflin (14-8) tied for the AL wins lead as host Tampa Bay took three of four. The Rays have a 7½-game lead over Toronto for the top AL wild card, while Seattle trails AL West-leading Houston by 2½ games.

Eflin allowed three runs and seven hits in five innings and four pitchers combined for scoreless,



HAKIM WRIGHT SR./AP

Atlanta Braves mascot Blooper waves a flag after a victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Sunday in Atlanta. The Braves became the first team in the majors to clinch a playoff spot this season with the 5-2 win.

## Scoreboard

Wild Card				
American League				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	88	56	.611	+8½
Toronto	80	63	.559	+1
Seattle	79	64	.552	—
Texas	78	64	.549	½
Sunday's games				
Tampa Bay 6, Seattle 3				
Toronto 5, Kansas City 2				
Texas 9, Oakland 4				
Monday's games				
Tampa Bay at Minnesota				
Texas at Toronto				
L.A. Angels at Seattle				
National League				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	78	64	.549	+4
Chicago	77	67	.535	—
Arizona	75	69	.521	+2
Miami	74	69	.517	½
San Francisco	73	70	.510	1½
Cincinnati	74	71	.510	1½
Sunday's games				
Miami 5, Philadelphia 4				
Chicago Cubs 5, Arizona 2				
San Francisco 6, Colorado 3				
Cincinnati 7, St. Louis 1				
Monday's games				
Atlanta at Philadelphia				
Chicago Cubs at Colorado				
Arizona at N.Y. Mets				
Miami at Milwaukee				
Cleveland at San Francisco				

two-hit relief, with Pete Fairbanks working the ninth for his 21st save,

Yandy Díaz had a leadoff single, Brandon Lowe walked, Harold Ramírez hit a two-run double in the first off Bryce Miller (8-5) and Josh Lowe had a run-scoring double.

**Astros 12, Padres 2:** Kyle Tucker hit two RBI triples in an eight-run sixth inning as host Houston routed San Diego. Tucker became the 12th major leaguer with two triples in an inning and first since Colorado’s Cory Sullivan on April 9, 2006, at San Diego.

Jose Altuve homered and drove in three runs for Houston, which has won five of six to open a 2½-

game AL West lead over Seattle. The defending World Series champion Astros (82-62) are a season-high 20 games over .500.

**Cubs 5, Diamondbacks 2:** Christopher Morel, Cody Bellinger and Dansby Swanson each hit a solo homer in the third inning, and host Chicago snapped a three-game skid with a victory over Arizona.

Swanson added two singles and Kyle Hendricks (6-7) tossed 5⅓ effective innings to help the Cubs strengthen their hold on the second NL wild-card spot. Arizona’s four-game winning streak ended, but the Diamondbacks still had a half-game lead over Miami for the third and final wild card going into Monday’s games.

**Blue Jays 5, Royals 2:** Kevin Kiermaier hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning and host Toronto took advantage of three consecutive wild pitches by Cole Ragans to complete a three-game sweep of Kansas City.

The Blue Jays hold the second AL wild card by one game over Seattle and 1½ over Texas, which began a four-game series in Toronto on Monday.

**Dodgers 7, Nationals 3:** James Outman homered and visiting Los Angeles moved closer to another division title with a victory over Washington.

Jason Heyward drove in two runs for the Dodgers, who lead the NL West by 13 games over Arizona. Los Angeles reduced its magic number to six for wrapping up the division crown.

**Marlins 5, Phillies 4:** Bryan De La Cruz hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning and visiting Miami, held hitless until the seventh, rallied past Philadelphia.

Dane Myers broke up a no-hit bid

by Phillies starter Ranger Suárez with a one-out double in the seventh. Yuli Gurriel drove in two runs for the Marlins, who pulled within a half-game of Arizona for the final National League wild card. Miami has won eight of 10 after taking two of three games from Philadelphia.

**Red Sox 7, Orioles 3:** Triston Casas hit a three-run homer off Cole Irvin as host Boston averted a three-game sweep with a rain-delayed victory that halted Baltimore’s seven-game winning streak.

**Rangers 9, Athletics 4:** Marcus Semien homered twice among his four hits, Corey Seager went deep for the 30th time this season and host Texas won consecutive games for the first time in September.

**Reds 7, Cardinals 1:** Hunter Greene allowed one hit in six innings, Joey Votto homered on his 40th birthday and host Cincinnati stopped a three-game losing streak by beating St. Louis.

**Giants 6, Rockies 3:** Keaton Winn had a career-high nine strikeouts in six innings to get his first major league win, and host San Francisco completed a three-game sweep of Colorado.

**Mets 2, Twins 0:** DJ Stewart hit a two-run double in the ninth inning and visiting New York overcame a career-high 14 strikeouts by Minnesota starter Pablo López to avoid a three-game sweep.

**Angels 2, Guardians 1:** Kenny Rosenberg gave up one run over five innings to earn his first career win as host Los Angeles held off Cleveland.

**Tigers 3, White Sox 2:** Sawyer Gipson-Long won his major league debut and Spencer Torkelson hit a two-run double in a three-run third inning as host Detroit beat Chicago.

## Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	90	52	.634	—
Tampa Bay	88	56	.611	3
Toronto	80	63	.559	10½
Boston	73	70	.510	17½
New York	71	72	.497	19½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	75	68	.524	—
Cleveland	68	76	.472	7½
Detroit	66	77	.462	9
Chicago	55	88	.385	20
Kansas City	44	100	.306	31½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	82	62	.569	—
Seattle	79	64	.552	2½
Texas	78	64	.549	3
Los Angeles	67	77	.465	15
Oakland	44	99	.308	37½
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Atlanta	93	49	.655	—
Philadelphia	78	64	.549	15
Miami	74	69	.517	19½
New York	65	77	.458	28
Washington	64	79	.448	29½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	79	63	.556	—
Chicago	77	67	.535	3
Cincinnati	74	71	.510	6½
Pittsburgh	66	77	.462	13½
St. Louis	63	80	.441	16½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	87	55	.613	—
Arizona	75	69	.521	13
San Francisco	73	70	.510	14½
San Diego	67	77	.465	21
Colorado	51	91	.359	36
z-clinched playoff berth				
Sunday's games				
Tampa Bay 6, Seattle 3				
Detroit 3, Chicago White Sox 2				
Toronto 5, Kansas City 2				
Boston 7, Baltimore 3				
N.Y. Mets 2, Minnesota 0				
Houston 12, San Diego 2				
N.Y. Yankees 4, Milwaukee 3, 13 innings				
Texas 9, Oakland 4				
L.A. Angels 2, Cleveland 1				
Atlanta 5, Pittsburgh 2				
Miami 5, Philadelphia 4				
Cincinnati 7, St. Louis 1				
Chicago Cubs 5, Arizona 2				
L.A. Dodgers 7, Washington 3				
San Francisco 6, Colorado 3				
Monday's games				
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 2				
Washington at Pittsburgh				
St. Louis at Baltimore				
Texas at Toronto				
Arizona at N.Y. Mets				
N.Y. Yankees at Boston				
Kansas City at Chicago White Sox				
Tampa Bay at Minnesota				
Miami at Milwaukee				
Oakland at Houston				
Chicago Cubs at Colorado				
L.A. Angels at Seattle				
Cleveland at San Francisco				
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers				
Tuesday's games				
Washington (Adon 2-1) at Pittsburgh (TBD)				
St. Louis (Wainwright 3-11) at Baltimore (Means 0-0)				
Atlanta (Fried 7-1) at Philadelphia (Wheeler 11-6)				
Cincinnati (TBD) at Detroit (TBD)				
Texas (Scherzer 12-6) at Toronto (Ryu 3-2)				
Arizona (Nelson 7-7) at N.Y. Mets (TBD)				
N.Y. Yankees (Rodón 2-5) at Boston (Pivetta 9-8)				
Kansas City (TBD) at Chicago White Sox (TBD)				
Tampa Bay (Littell 3-5) at Minnesota (Ryan 10-9)				
Miami (TBD) at Milwaukee (Peralta 11-8)				
Oakland (Sears 4-11) at Houston (Verlander 11-7)				
Chicago Cubs (Assad 3-3) at Colorado (Flexen 1-7)				
L.A. Angels (Sandoval 7-12) at Seattle (Woo 2-4)				
Cleveland (Quantrill 2-6) at San Francisco (Manaea 5-5)				
San Diego (Wacha 11-3) at L.A. Dodgers (Lynn 10-11)				

## AUTO RACING

## Reddick gets Cup Series win, 1st at Kansas

By DAVE SKRETTA

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Every time Tyler Reddick walked into a competition meeting at 23XI Racing and talk turned to Kansas Speedway, it seemed that just about everyone in the room had a win there but him.

There's co-owner Denny Hamlin, who has won at the track four times, more than anyone else. Kurt Busch, who retired as a driver but remains a consultant for the team. And Bubba Wallace, Reddick's teammate, who won at Kansas a year ago.

"We joked about that," admitted Reddick's crew chief, Billy Scott, "that he's the only one that sits in our debriefs without a win."

Not anymore.

Reddick took advantage of a late caution and fresh tires to rocket past six others in a two-lap sprint to the finish Sunday, and his win at Kansas Speedway punched his ticket to the next round of the NASCAR Cup Series playoffs.

Hamlin got a poor jump on the last restart, couldn't chase Reddick down and finished second. Erik Jones held on for third and Kyle Larson, who won at Darlington to clinch his playoff spot a week ago, marched through the field to finish fourth ahead of Joey Logano.

"Just an outstanding job by this whole 23XI team," Reddick said. "We had really good pace, we just couldn't get ahead of Denny there, but chaos ensued. Then the bottom lane opened up there and it was crazy."

Even crazier: It was the third win for the No. 45 car of 23XI in the last four races at Kansas, and all with different drivers after Busch and Wallace won last year. Its owner, meanwhile, nearly pulled off the sweep after Hamlin won in the spring.

"I think that myself and this team work really close together," said Hamlin, who has long driven



COLIN E. BRALEY/AP

**Tyler Reddick celebrates on the track after winning a NASCAR Cup Series race at Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kan., on Sunday. Reddick advanced to the next round of the playoffs with the win.**

for Joe Gibbs Racing. "Typically when we run well, they run well, and we're learning as much from them as they are learning from us. It's a great partnership and really valuable to have talented guys behind the wheel of fast cars."

Hamlin was cruising to the win when Chris Buescher blew his right rear tire with about six laps to go. That forced the leaders into the pits, and just about everyone had a different tire strategy — Reddick took four fresh tires, even though it shuffled him back to seventh on the restart — to set them-

selves up for the two-lap finishing sprint.

The win was the second of the season for Reddick and the fifth of his career but, more importantly, sends him out of the round of 16 in the playoffs for the first time. The cut-off for the top 12 to advance comes next weekend at Bristol.

"Now they get to go to Bristol and work a strategy that is best for them to win the race, and they don't really have to worry about finish points," said Hamlin, who is the leader in points among those yet to advance and in good posi-

tion to join them.

"Really happy about them putting a whole race together and capitalizing on the late restart," he said.

It was a tough race for several playoff drivers. Wallace and Martin Truex Jr. also blew right rear tires, which has been a problem with the latest generation of car at Kansas, and sustained heavy damage. Wallace was able to continue after repairing a toe link and finished 32nd, but Truex's day was done after just three laps and he finished last.

There was also more drama at Kansas for Larson, who was bumped by Hamlin for the lead on the last lap in the spring.

On the final stop before the finish, the No. 5 car had to quickly jerk to the right to avoid Brad Keselowski coming out of his stall, and Larson collided with Chase Elliott, who is not in the playoffs but was aiming for his first win of the year.

The minor contact didn't sit well with Elliott, who bumped Larson back when the cars got back on the track.

## Who's hot

Keselowski still doesn't have a win since April 2021 at Talladega, when he was still at Team Penske, and Buescher has been overshadowing him lately with three wins for RFK Racing. But the No. 6 car has quietly been running up front, finishing second to his teammate at Daytona, sixth at Darlington and ninth on Sunday.

Logano, who has three playoff wins at Kansas, is also on a roll. Logano has been in the top 10 in three of the past four races with the No. 22 car, including fifth-place runs at Daytona and again on Sunday.

## Who's not

Truex, the regular-season champion, came into the race 25 points above the playoff cut line and left in peril. Truex had his right rear tire go down in the opening laps, sending him into the wall with heavy damage and ending his day.

"I knew something was up for sure, just didn't realize it was going to blow the tire out," said Truex, who is seven points behind Kevin Harvick for the last spot in the round of 12. "I guess I should have just pitted, but at that point in time, you just don't know if the car is just really tight or what's going on. It's a real shame. I hate it for my team."

## Dixon rallies to take IndyCar season finale, finish 2nd overall

By JENNA FRYER

Associated Press

MONTEREY, Calif. — By the time Scott Dixon turned his season around, it was too late to beat teammate Alex Palou for the IndyCar championship.

But it was good enough to affirm Dixon's legacy as the greatest driver of his generation.

The six-time IndyCar champion won the season finale Sunday at Laguna Seca — his first win at the permanent California road course, 56th of his career and third in the final four races of the season. His turnaround last month ensured that Dixon's streak of 19 consecutive seasons with at least one win would remain intact.

"It's always nice to finish the year like that," said Dixon.

Palou became the first driver in nearly 20



Dixon

years to clinch the IndyCar title before the season finale with his victory last weekend in Portland. Palou won his second title in three years with last week's win, his fifth of the season. Palou's title is the 15th in IndyCar for Chip

Ganassi Racing.

Dixon had been mathematically eligible to challenge Palou for the title until the Portland victory. He was still guaranteed to finish second in the standings no matter what happened in Sunday's finale.

"It's just a shame that Palou decided to lead the championship by too many points, and it became a bit boring on the championship side," Dixon said. "I don't think I've ever been part of a situation where you come

into the last race and you can't fight really much for anything in the championship. We were locked into second. Alex was locked obviously for the championship, which was quite bizarre.

"Everybody's stress level was a lot lower. You could all just kind of fight for the win. ... Everybody was just going for a win because everybody was trying a bit of everything throughout the day."

Dixon's win moved him within 11 of AJ Foyt's all-time record.

Scott McLaughlin, like Dixon from New Zealand, finished second for Team Penske and was followed by Palou, who scored 10 podiums in 17 races this season.

Will Power of Team Penske finished fourth and ended his run as IndyCar champion by snapping a 16-year streak of winning at least one race. Callum Hott of Juncos Holl-

inger Racing tied his career-best finish of fifth and was followed by Christian Lundgaard of Rahal Letterman Lanigan.

Alexander Rossi of Arrow McLaren was seventh and followed by Marcus Armstrong, who won rookie of the year honors for Ganassi. Pato O'Ward of McLaren was ninth and Ryan Hunter-Reay of Ed Carpenter Racing finished 10th.

The win for Dixon was the first of his career at Laguna Seca and he overcame an early penalty for avoidable contact to cycle into the win in a sloppy race slowed by eight cautions for 35 laps. The lengthy yellows took such a toll on the race that the pace car ran out of gas and needed to be refueled with more than 30 laps remaining.

"It's a credit to the team, they've been executing like that all season," Dixon said. "But we won. That's all that matters. We won."

## US OPEN/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Djokovic wins 24th Grand Slam title

BY HOWARD FENDRICH  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Halfway through a second set that lasted 1 hour, 44 minutes, a test of tenacity as much as talent amid a U.S. Open final as exhausting as it was exhilarating, Novak Djokovic and Daniil Medvedev engaged each other in a 32-stroke point.

It was among many such elongated exchanges between two men whose styles are nearly mirror images, and Djokovic capitulated by netting a backhand. He fell to his back and stayed down, chest heaving. The crowd roared. Djokovic sat up but remained on the ground for a bit. The crowd roared some more, appreciating the effort, saluting the entertainment.

Using every ounce of his energy and some serve-and-volley guile — an old man with new tricks — Djokovic emerged for a 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-3 victory over Medvedev at Flushing Meadows to claim a historic 24th Grand Slam title on Sunday night in a match more closely contested than the straight-set score indicated.

“I never imagined that I would be here standing with you talking about 24 Slams. I never thought that would be the reality,” said Djokovic, a 36-year-old from Serbia and the tournament’s oldest male champion in the Open era, which dates to 1968. “But the last couple of years, I felt I have a chance, I have a shot for history, and why not grab it if it’s presented?”

He moved one major singles title ahead of Serena Williams and is the first player to win 24 in the Open era. Margaret Court also collected a total of 24, but 13 came before professionals were admitted to the Slams.

There were snapshots, particularly in the miniseries of a second set, when it appeared Djokovic was faltering. After some of the most grueling points — and there were many — he would lean over with hands on his knees or use his racket for support or pause to stretch his legs. And then, suddenly, he would snap to.

“That’s Novak,” Medvedev said. “No matter what, he can be there.”

There was an inescapable sense, on the part of the participants and any observer, that whichever man succumbed in the second set would be unable to overcome it.

“I don’t think I have ever played a longer



MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

Novak Djokovic holds the championship trophy after defeating Daniil Medvedev in straight sets during the final of the U.S. Open on Sunday in New York. It was Djokovic's fourth U.S. Open title and 24th Grand Slam championship.

set in my life,” Djokovic said.

Medvedev’s take on that segment of the match?

“Oh, regrets, for sure,” he said. “Should have won it.”

Medvedev came within a single point of taking that set while returning at 6-5. Djokovic rushed the net behind his serve, and while Medvedev had an opening for a backhand passing shot by hitting it down the line, he instead went cross-court, and Djokovic had it covered. In the tiebreaker, Medvedev led 5-4 before Djokovic grabbed the next three points.

One key adjustment: When Djokovic was looking more bedraggled, he turned to serve-and-volleying, not his usual sort of tactic. He won 20 of 22 points he played that way, and 37 of 44 overall on the points when

he went to the net, some with spectacular volleys or half-volleys at angles a pool shark would appreciate.

This was the 27-year-old Medvedev’s fifth major final and he is 1-4, with two losses apiece to Djokovic and Rafael Nadal. The victory came against Djokovic in the 2021 final at Flushing Meadows, stopping a bid for the first men’s calendar-year Grand Slam in more than a half-century.

That weighed on Djokovic.

“I really did my best in the last 48 hours not to allow the importance of the moment and what’s on the line get to my head,” Djokovic said Sunday, “because two years ago that’s what happened, and I underperformed.”

Djokovic’s fourth championship in New York, where he was unable to compete a

year ago because he isn’t vaccinated against COVID-19, goes alongside 10 trophies from the Australian Open, seven from Wimbledon and three from the French Open, extending his lead among men. Nadal is next with 22.

When it was over, Djokovic flung his racket, put his arms up and then knelt on the court, head bowed. Then he found his daughter for a hug. His son and wife came next, along with his parents and his team.

“This is one of the biggest achievements in (sports) history,” said his coach, Goran Ivanisevic. “We’re not talking about tennis. We are talking generally in sports.”

As good as ever, Djokovic went 27-1 in the sport’s most prestigious events this season: The blemish was a loss to Carlos Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final.

## Tucker suspended after sexual harassment allegations

BY LARRY LAGE  
Associated Press

Michigan State suspended football coach Mel Tucker without pay on Sunday, less than 24 hours after allegations became public in a USA Today report that he sexually harassed activist and rape survivor Brenda Tracy during a phone call last year.

University President Teresa K. Woodruff and athletic director Alan Haller announced the suspension pending the results of an outside investigation into the allegations.

The university hired a Title IX attorney to investigate Tracy’s complaint and the investigation concluded on July 25. A hearing is



Tucker

scheduled for the week of Oct. 5 to determine if Tucker violated the school’s sexual harassment and exploitation policy.

When the investigative report was finished, Tucker was told not to have contact with Tracy and that Haller would increase his oversight of him and the program, Haller said at a news conference Sunday evening.

Haller said he didn’t immediately suspend Tucker in July because the entire process of the investigation was not completed.

Secondary coach Harlon Barnett will serve as the team’s interim coach and former coach Mark Dantonio was named associate head coach while Tucker awaits his fate with the program.

Tucker is in the third year of a \$95 million, 10-year contract and if he is fired for cause, the school would not have to pay him what’s remaining on his deal.

Michigan State may fire Tucker for cause if he “engages in any conduct which constitutes moral turpitude or which, in the University’s sole judgment, would tend to bring public disrespect, contempt or ridicule upon the university,” according to his contract. The school was also able to suspend

Tucker, without pay, if he “materially breaches” his contract.

Messages seeking comment were left Sunday by The Associated Press with Tucker, Tracy and Tucker’s attorney, Jennifer Belveal.

Tracy became friends with Tucker, 51, over her advocacy work, but that relationship took a turn in April 2022 when Tucker masturbated during a phone call with her, according to USA Today.

“The idea that someone could know me and say they understand my trauma but then re-inflict that trauma on me is so disgusting to me, it’s hard for me to even wrap my mind around it,” Tracy told

the newspaper. “It’s like he sought me out just to betray me.”

Tucker, who is married and has two children, acknowledged to investigators last spring that the phone call with Tracy took place, but he said they had consensual “phone sex.”

“Ms. Tracy’s distortion of our mutually consensual and intimate relationship into allegations of sexual exploitation has really affected me,” Tucker wrote in a March 22 letter to the Title IX investigator. “I am not proud of my judgment and I am having difficulty forgiving myself for getting into this situation, but I did not engage in misconduct by any definition.”

# NFL

## Scoreboard

## ROUNDUP

# Purdy helps 49ers drill Steelers

American Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	1	0	0	1.000	36	34
Buffalo	0	0	0	.000	0	0
N.Y. Jets	0	0	0	.000	0	0
New England	0	1	0	.000	20	25
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Jacksonville	1	0	0	1.000	31	21
Houston	0	1	0	.000	9	25
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	21	31
Tennessee	0	1	0	.000	15	16
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	1	0	0	1.000	25	9
Cleveland	1	0	0	1.000	24	3
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	3	24
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	.000	7	30
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Las Vegas	1	0	0	1.000	17	16
Denver	0	1	0	.000	16	17
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	20	21
L.A. Chargers	0	1	0	.000	34	36
National Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	1	0	0	1.000	40	0
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	25	20
Washington	1	0	0	1.000	20	16
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.000	0	40
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	24	10
New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	16	15
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	20	17
Carolina	0	1	0	.000	10	24
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	1	0	0	1.000	21	20
Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	38	20
Chicago	0	1	0	.000	20	38
Minnesota	0	1	0	.000	17	20
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
L.A. Rams	1	0	0	1.000	30	13
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	30	7
Arizona	0	1	0	.000	16	20
Seattle	0	1	0	.000	13	30

*Associated Press*  
**PITTSBURGH** — Brock Purdy spent months rehabbing his surgically repaired right elbow and an entire training camp wondering if he could regain the magic he summoned so improbably — and so regularly — during his remarkable rookie season a year ago.

The answers came swiftly during San Francisco's 30-7 dismantling of Pittsburgh on Sunday. Purdy's elbow is fine. His confidence, too.

And his team? Potentially special.

Operating the offense with precision and a dash of daring that took him from "Mr. Irrelevant" to the NFC championship game last season, Purdy threw for 220 yards and a pair of touchdowns to Brandon Aiyuk — both with Steelers cornerback Patrick Peterson in coverage — to calm any doubts about whether his stunning rise in 2022 was a fluke.

"Purdy shut some haters up," 49ers defensive end Nick Bosa said.

Peterson among them. The eight-time Pro Bowler, who signed with the Steelers in the off-season, said in the run-up to the game he respected Purdy's play but would still find a way to get his hands on the ball.

What Peterson got instead was a close-up look at Aiyuk celebrating in the end zone. Peterson slipped in the first quarter when Aiyuk darted inside for an 8-yard touchdown. He was in perfect position in the second quarter when Aiyuk went streaking down the sideline.

It didn't matter. Purdy aimed for Aiyuk's back shoulder and Aiyuk did the rest, somehow keeping his feet in bounds for a 19-yard score as the 49ers (1-0) quickly built a 20-point lead and never looked back.

Christian McCaffery ran for 151 yards and caught three passes for 17 more for the 49ers (1-0), who looked every bit the dominant force they were down the stretch last season when Purdy took over at quarterback.

**Eagles 25, Patriots 20:** Jalen Hurts threw a touchdown pass and Darius Slay had a 70-yard interception return for a score as visiting Philadelphia built a big early lead, then hung on to beat New England.

The Eagles capitalized on two early turnovers by the Patriots, spoiling a day when New England honored former quarterback Tom Brady at halftime.

New England's Mac Jones recovered from a rough start to finish 35-for-54 for 316 yards, three touchdowns and an interception. Kendrick Bourne had two TD re-



MATT DURISKO/AP

**San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk is congratulated by teammates after a touchdown reception on Sunday in Pittsburgh. Aiyuk caught both of Brock Purdy's touchdown passes.**

ceptions for an offense that out-gained the NFC champion Eagles 382-251.

**Ravens 25, Texans 9:** J.K. Dobbins ran for an early touchdown before leaving with a torn Achilles tendon, Justice Hill scored twice in the second half and host Baltimore beat Houston.

Lamar Jackson turned the ball over twice, and Baltimore looked out of sync for much of its first game with new offensive coordinator Todd Monken. But the Ravens kept Houston and rookie quarterback C.J. Stroud out of the end zone.

The Texans made a game of it for a half under new coach DeMeco Ryans, and Stroud directed a couple of solid drives, but Houston couldn't move the ball consistently enough. Stroud threw for 242 yards.

**Browns 24, Bengals 3:** Deshaun Watson ran for a touchdown and threw for another, and host Cleveland's defense bottled up Cincinnati quarterback Joe Burrow.

Watson bolted for a 13-yard TD late in the first half, making the kind of dynamic play the Browns envisioned when they signed him to a \$230 million contract in 2022. He added a 3-yard TD pass in the fourth quarter to tight end Harrison Bryant, and Watson converted the two-point try with a run up the middle.

**Buccaneers 20, Vikings 17:** Baker Mayfield recovered from a rough start to throw two touchdown passes without a turnover in his debut for visiting Tampa Bay, which forced three first-half turnovers by Minnesota.

Mayfield hit Mike Evans for a

score right before halftime and was at his best down the stretch. Chris Godwin made a stretched-out 11-yard catch on third-and-10 right after the 2-minute warning to clinch it.

Kirk Cousins went 33-for-44 for 344 yards and touchdowns to rookie Jordan Addison and running back Alexander Mattison, and Justin Jefferson had nine catches for 150 yards. But after going an NFL-record 11-0 in one-score games during the 2022 regular season, the Vikings ran out of that late-game mojo.

**Rams 30, Seahawks 13:** Matthew Stafford threw for 334 yards even without favorite target Cooper Kupp, Kyren Williams ran for two touchdowns, and visiting Los Angeles stunned Seattle.

Rookie Puka Nacua had 10 catches for 119 yards and was targeted 15 times in the first game of his career. Tutu Atwell had a career-high 119 yards on six catches. And the Rams were at their best on third downs, where they converted 11 of 17 chances.

Los Angeles had 27 first downs, 426 total yards and 39:23 time of possession. Seattle had just 12 yards of offense and only one first down in the second half.

**Raiders 17, Broncos 16:** Jimmy Garoppolo threw two touchdown passes to fellow newcomer Jakobi Meyers in their debuts for visiting Las Vegas, which spoiled Sean Payton's first game as Denver's coach.

Russell Wilson looked much better under Payton than he did last year with Nathaniel Hackett at the helm, completing 27 of 34 passes for 177 yards and two touchdowns without an interception.

**Jaguars 31, Colts 21:** Tank Bigsby made up for a big mistake by scoring the go-ahead touchdown and Travis Etienne Jr. added a 26-yard scoring run to seal visiting Jacksonville's win over Indianapolis.

DeForest Buckner stripped the ball from Trevor Lawrence on a sack and then scooped up Bigsby's subsequent fumble before sprinting 26 yards to give Indy a 21-17 lead late in the third quarter.

Three series later, Bigsby's 1-yard TD plunge gave Jacksonville a 24-21 lead with 5:14 to play.

Colts rookie Anthony Richardson became the third-youngest quarterback to start an NFL season opener at age 21, going 24-for-37 for 223 yards, one TD and the interception.

**Saints 16, Titans 15:** Derek Carr passed for 305 yards and a touchdown in a difficult but successful debut for host New Orleans, which held on to beat Tennessee.

The Saints' defense did not allow a touchdown, intercepted Ryan Tannehill three times, sacked him three times, and stopped Tennessee on 10 of 12 third-down plays.

Chris Olave caught eight passes for 112 yards for New Orleans, while Rashid Shaheed had five receptions for 89 yards and the game's lone touchdown.

**Falcons 24, Panthers 10:** Bijan Robinson outshined top overall pick Bryce Young in their NFL debuts, leading host Atlanta past Carolina.

Young was intercepted twice by Jessie Bates in a rough start for the former Alabama star who is being counted on to lead a resurgence for the Panthers.

Robinson, selected at No. 8 by the Falcons in defiance of those who say running backs shouldn't go that high, showed his versatility by taking a swing pass for an 11-yard touchdown.

**Commanders 20, Cardinals 16:** Sam Howell threw a touchdown pass and ran for another score to make up for two turnovers and host Washington rallied to beat Arizona in its first game under new ownership.

The Commanders were sloppy with a pair of turnovers and several penalties along the offensive line that allowed Howell to be sacked six times.

Washington's defense eventually took over and made game-changing plays. Monte Sweat strip-sacked Joshua Dobbs early in the fourth quarter to set up Howell's go-ahead 6-yard TD run, and Abdullah Anderson recovered another fumble by Arizona with under five minutes left.

Thursday, Sept. 7	
Detroit 21, Kansas City 20	
Sunday's games	
Green Bay 38, Chicago 20	
Dallas 40, N.Y. Giants 0	
Miami 36, L.A. Chargers 34	
San Francisco 30, Pittsburgh 7	
Philadelphia 25, New England 20	
Baltimore 25, Houston 9	
Cleveland 24, Cincinnati 3	
Tampa Bay 20, Minnesota 17	
L.A. Rams 30, Seattle 13	
Las Vegas 17, Denver 16	
Jacksonville 31, Indianapolis 21	
New Orleans 16, Tennessee 15	
Atlanta 24, Carolina 10	
Washington 20, Arizona 16	
Monday's game	
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets	
Thursday's game	
Minnesota at Philadelphia	
Sunday, Sept. 17	
Las Vegas at Buffalo	
Baltimore at Cincinnati	
Chicago at Tampa Bay	
Green Bay at Atlanta	
Indianapolis at Houston	
Kansas City at Jacksonville	
L.A. Chargers at Tennessee	
Seattle at Detroit	
N.Y. Giants at Arizona	
San Francisco at L.A. Rams	
N.Y. Jets at Dallas	
Washington at Denver	
Miami at New England	
Monday, Sept. 18	
New Orleans at Carolina	
Cleveland at Pittsburgh	
Thursday, Sept. 21	
N.Y. Giants at San Francisco	
Sunday's best	
<b>Passing:</b> Tua Tagovailoa, Dolphins, 466 yards.	
<b>Rushing:</b> Christian McCaffrey, 49ers, 152 yards.	
<b>Receiving:</b> Tyreek Hill, Dolphins, 11 catches, 215 yards.	

## NFL

# Days: Rain impacted players' performances

## FROM PAGE 24

munication with receivers. "You see it across the league. That's something that everybody has to get cleaned up. We have to get it cleaned up and we will."

Burrow was pulled with 5:15 left in the game. He kept his helmet on, folded his arms and waited for the clock to expire.

Hurts and the Eagles played in similar wet conditions in a 25-20 win at New England. Philadelphia's dynamic offense sputtered, totaling just 251 yards. Hurts, the NFL MVP runner-up in 2022, lost a fumble late in the fourth quarter that almost cost the Eagles a win. The offense's only TD drive came after Ezekiel Elliott fumbled at the Patriots 26.

After Philly's uneven debut, Hurts said figuring out this group's identity will take more than one game.

"That's something that we're navigating," he said. "We're going to continue to grow. And it's always better when you win."

The spotty performance left Eagles coach Nick Sirianni reconsidering his stance on sitting his starters in the preseason.

"I'll definitely reevaluate some of the preseason stuff next year," Sirianni said. "If I had to do it over again right now, I would say, yeah, I would have played starters one or two drives in the preseason."

Jackson was rusty in his first game under new offensive coordinator Todd Monken but the Ravens still defeated the Texans 25-9 in C.J. Stroud's debut. Jackson fumbled twice and threw a pick while also completing 77.3% of his passes.

"I haven't played since November, didn't play preseason, but I feel like it's the first game and things like that may come up — not just with us (but) throughout the league," Jackson said about the rust. "But, we got the win. Just move forward, focus on practicing a little harder on the things we messed up on."

"There's so many things that we

need to work on and get better at, and that's what we'll do starting on Monday," coach John Harbaugh said.

Tagovailoa and the Dolphins, Brock Purdy and the 49ers and Jordan Love and the Packers came out firing. So did Matthew Stafford and the Rams in a surprise 30-13 upset at Seattle.

Tagovailoa threw for 466 yards and three TDs, including a pinpoint 4-yard TD toss to Tyreek Hill for the decisive score in a 36-34 victory in Los Angeles. Hill had 11 catches for 215 yards and two scores.

Purdy, playing his first game since suffering an elbow injury that required surgery only six months ago, picked up where he left off in a brilliant rookie season. He passed for 220 yards and two TDs in San Francisco's 30-7 win at Pittsburgh.

Kenny Pickett and the Steelers proved preseason success doesn't matter. Pickett played five series in the preseason, leading the offense to five TDs. They managed just 239 yards against the 49ers.

The Packers still own the Bears without Aaron Rodgers. Love had three TD passes in Green Bay's 38-20 win at Chicago.

Love and the Packers weren't the only team to have success in the first game without a legendary QB. No Tom Brady was no problem for Tampa Bay. Baker Mayfield played efficiently in a 20-17 win at Minnesota.

The biggest surprise of Week 1 was Stafford and the rebuilding Rams routing the Seahawks, who made the playoffs last season. Stafford threw for 334 yards even without Cooper Kupp on the opposite end of those passes.

Trevor Lawrence and Calvin Ridley had an instant connection in Jacksonville's 31-21 win at Indianapolis. Derek Carr got off to a winning start in New Orleans. Russell Wilson returned to his old self under Sean Payton but Jimmy Garoppolo rallied the Raiders to a 17-16 win at Denver.

## Ravens lose Dobbins for season

BALTIMORE — Ravens running back J.K. Dobbins will miss the rest of the season with a torn Achilles tendon, coach John Harbaugh said after Baltimore's season-opening 25-9 win over Houston on Sunday.

Dobbins left in the third quarter after catching a pass from Lamar Jackson that went for 5 yards to the Houston 2. He was tackled near the sideline by M.J. Stewart and gingerly shuffled toward the sideline.

Dobbins had eight carries for 22

yards and a touchdown, along with two catches for 15 yards, when he left the game.

Dobbins missed all of Baltimore's summer workouts and was absent during a good portion of training camp while on the physically unable to perform list.

In 23 games prior to this year, Dobbins has rushed for 1,325 yards and scored 11 TDs.

Associated Press



ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

Miami Dolphins wide receiver Tyreek Hill loses his helmet after making a catch next to Los Angeles Chargers cornerback Ja'Sir Taylor during the second half of Sunday's game in Inglewood, Calif.

# Miami's Tagovailoa, Hill too much for Chargers

By JOE REEDY

Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Tua Tagovailoa might have shocked some observers by putting up one of the best passing days in an opener in NFL history.

His coach wasn't surprised at all.

"It was validating for me, because I don't feel crazy. That's kind of what I expected to happen," coach Mike McDaniels said after the Miami Dolphins rallied for a 36-34 victory over the Los Angeles Chargers on Sunday.

Tagovailoa threw for 466 yards, the fourth most in an opener, and three touchdowns. In a game that saw two ties and nine lead changes, his 4-yard throw to Tyreek Hill in the right corner of the end zone with 1:45 remaining put the Dolphins ahead to stay.

"I was super excited to be out there again," said Tagovailoa, who completed 28 of 45 passes. "It's the first game. You don't necessarily know what to expect from their team. They give us their best shot. They ran almost everything that we've seen watching film. So it feels good."

Hill, who said during training camp he wants to be the first receiver to reach 2,000 yards in a season, got off to a great start. He had 215 yards — the third-best total in Week 1 in league history — on 11 receptions and two touchdowns.

"I wanted to play fast and deliberate. I kind of went into a zone



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa passed for 466 yards and three touchdowns.

there," said Hill, who had his third 200-yard receiving game. "Even during halftime, Tua was getting guys going. He leaned on me a little bit toward the end and that meant more targets."

Hill had two receptions on the decisive 8-play, 75-yard drive. On third-and-10 from the Dolphins 25, he beat Ja'Sir Taylor on a go route and caught a 47-yard pass after Tagovailoa stepped up in the pocket and made a pinpoint throw.

"I'm glad that we started with this game," Hill said. "Last year, those guys did a great job of pressing us. So I feel like this year, like I've been saying, we had a chance to go back and get a full understanding of the offense. And you

see that the results were different."

Different would be an understatement. In last season's 23-17 win in Week 13, the Chargers held the Dolphins to 219 total yards, with 119 coming on two plays, and didn't allow Miami to get into the red zone.

Tagovailoa's 466 passing yards were the most ever allowed by the Chargers, and Miami's 536 yards of offense is the most the franchise has yielded in an opener.

"I don't think that we played the right leverages in the secondary and I didn't think that we rushed the quarterback effectively enough," coach Brandon Staley said. "It turned into a track meet in the passing game."

Chargers edge rusher Khalil Mack blamed the defense for the loss, but also acknowledged the brilliance of Tagovailoa and Hill.

"I feel like it's a rare occasion when you've got two guys like that on the field at the same time, blazing up and down the field," Mack said. "We've just got to look at it and get better, make sure we get better on the back end and the front end."

Miami had nine plays of at least 21 yards. Those included Hill's 35-yard score late in the third quarter to put the Dolphins up 27-24.

Raheem Mostert had 37 yards rushing, including a 2-yard TD in the first quarter. Jaylen Waddle had four receptions for 78 yards. Jason Sanders kicked three field goals.

NFL

# Love delivers in Packers' opening win

BY ANDREW SELIGMAN  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jordan Love kept telling himself he and his teammates were going to play great. He imagined how it would feel to leave the field with a win, too.

Now he knows.

Love looked like he might be ready to follow in the footsteps of Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers, throwing for three touchdowns to lead the Green Bay Packers to a 38-20 season-opening victory over the Chicago Bears on Sunday.

Love spent three years waiting for this moment behind four-time MVP Rodgers. He shook off a slow first half and helped propel the Packers to a lopsided win.

"It feels great," Love said. "It feels great. It's definitely been a long time coming for me — three years as a backup. Just watching, learning and growing, seeing this team work. It feels good to be out there leading those guys and being out there playing with them, finally. And to come away with a dub, it's just what we wanted."

Aaron Jones ran for a touchdown and caught one, helping the Packers pull away in the second half for their ninth straight win over the Bears. Green Bay was 25-5 against Chicago with Rodgers, including an NFC championship game win at Soldier Field in the 2010 season, and the Packers were 22-10 in games Favre started.



ERIN HOOLEY/AP

**Green Bay Packers quarterback Jordan Love hands off to running back Aaron Jones during the first half against the Chicago Bears on Sunday in Chicago. The Packers won 38-20.**

ed.

For the Bears, it was more of the same for a team that went 3-14 to set a franchise record for losses last season. Chicago came into the season expecting major improvement after a series of offseason up-

grades.

Love completed 15 of 27 passes for 245 yards and posted a 123.2 rating. His only previous start was a loss at Kansas City in 2021 when Rodgers was sidelined with COVID-19.

"I couldn't be more proud of just his performance, his poise," coach Matt LaFleur said. "There's a big-time belief in that locker room for Jordan Love, and I think the guys are gonna rally around him. They're excited for him. They love

him. They respect him."

Jones caught two passes for 86 yards. He turned a screen into a 51-yard gain that led to a scoring run for him in the third, and added a 35-yard touchdown off a short pass on the next drive.

Romeo Doubs had two touchdown catches. Quay Walker returned an interception 37 yards for a TD, and the Packers won for the 13th time in 14 games at Soldier Field.

The Bears lost their 11th straight game overall, and their 10th in a row against NFC North opponents.

"You've just got to let truth soak in," safety Eddie Jackson said. "As much as it hurts, as bad as it feels we've got to come out, there's still 16 more games left. We've got to come out tomorrow, look at the film, put the corrections in and just have that in our mindset that we can't ever let that happen again."

Fields was 24-for-37 for 216 yards. He had a touchdown pass and an interception in a performance that did little to answer biggest question hanging over the team: Can he become the passer the Bears need him to be?

Fields also ran for 59 yards.

Prized acquisition DJ Moore was targeted just twice and had two catches for 25 yards.

"This game was hyped up and we didn't bring the juice and hype to the party today and we lost," Moore said.

# Cowboys rip error-prone Giants for historic shutout

BY TOM CANAVAN  
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The Dallas Cowboys have not only put some distance between themselves and the New York Giants in the NFC East, they showed Sunday night that they are going to be a contender for more than a division title.

If they play this way all season, owner Jerry Jones might have a championship contender again.

Noah Igbinoghene returned a blocked field goal 58 yards for a touchdown on the opening series, DaRon Bland scored on a pick-6 later in the first quarter and the Cowboys embarrassed the Giants again, posting a season-opening 40-0 victory Sunday night.

"It's the first game," Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott said. "That's y'all's job to write whatever statement it needs to be. For us, it's about not getting ahead of ourselves. Continuing to stay disciplined, to show the discipline. Not only what we did through these four quarters, but taking that and making sure we use it throughout our preparation this week."

Tony Pollard scored on two short touchdown runs, and Dallas forced three turnovers and sacked



ADAM HUNGER/AP

**The Cowboys' DaRon Bland, left, intercepts a pass that was knocked loose from the Giants' Saquon Barkley, right, during the first quarter on Sunday. Bland returned it for a touchdown in Dallas' 40-0 win.**

Daniel Jones seven times in shutting down New York's supposedly improved offense to beat the Giants for the fifth straight time and 12th in 13th meetings.

The Giants' shutout loss was the largest between the teams, topping the Cowboys' 35-0 win in

1995, also in a season-opener in the Meadowlands. It was also the Cowboys' biggest shutout victory in any game, topping their 38-0 win over the Baltimore Colts in 1978.

"I saw this before anybody," Cowboys edge rusher Micah Par-

sons said. "I said I can't wait to get to New York. I knew it was coming. With 'execution meets preparation,' there is no one that can beat it. We've already felt this. We've been to war before. We knew the standard."

This was supposed to be the game that showed whether the Giants had closed the gap on Dallas and defending NFC champion Philadelphia in the NFC East.

Enough said.

The Cowboys didn't need much from Prescott and the offense. They got two field goals from new kicker Brandon Aubrey and Pollard got Dallas' first TD on offense on a 2-yard run midway through the second quarter to push the advantage to 26-0 at halftime.

Pollard, the Cowboys' lead running back after the release of Ezekiel Elliott during the offseason, had a 1-yard run in the third quarter. KaVontae Turpin added a 7-yard TD run in the fourth.

The game changed on the opening series. New York took the opening kickoff, rolled down the field and reached the Dallas 8 behind the running of Saquon Barkley and Jones. On a third-and-2, left tackle Andrew Thomas moved early and rookie center John-Mi-

chael Schmitz — a second-round pick — made a bad snap that Jones recovered back at the 27.

Graham Gano's 45-yard field goal attempt was blocked by Juan-nyeh Thomas, who jumped between a crack at the end of the line and easily blocked the kick. Igbinoghene picked up the ball at the 42 and was not touched on his way to scoring.

After Aubrey kicked a 21-yard field goal, Bland scored on the ensuing series. Cornerback Trevon Diggs hit Barkley while the running back caught a swing pass, the ball popped in the air and Bland caught it and scored.

The game was never close after that, just to show how bad the Giants played, Gano missed a 36-yarder with 1:05 left in the half, leaving coach Brian Daboll shaking his head.

Daboll offered no excuses after the game and gave credit to Dallas.

"I'm focused on trying to improve, and there's a lot to improve," said the second-year head coach who led New York to the playoffs last season. "It's one game. It wasn't a good game and I'm not going to sugarcoat it. It was a bad game and it's on me."

# SPORTS

## Adding to his record haul

Djokovic overpowers Medvedev to win 24th Grand Slam title » **US Open, Page 20**



**NFL**



DAVID RICHARD/AP

Cincinnati quarterback Joe Burrow is sacked by Cleveland defensive end Myles Garrett. Burrow had one of his worst games as a pro, throwing for just 82 yards in a 24-3 loss.

# Good days, bad days

## Some QBs looked terrific in Week 1, others showed rust

By **ROB MAADDI**  
Associated Press

**S**everal NFL teams looked like they needed more preseason work. Some seemed unstoppable.

It's only one game so don't rush to judge.

Most of the NFL's \$50 million men had shaky days, though two ended up on the winning side. The Packers, Dolphins, 49ers and Rams were impressive. The Cowboys dominated despite an average of defensive performance.

Eight of 14 games Sunday finished under 40 points combined and 12 teams scored less than 20. Nine road teams won, including five underdogs.



**Jackson**

Joe Burrow, fresh off becoming the highest-paid player in league history, had one of his worst games as a pro. Lamar Jackson and Jalen Hurts, who briefly took turns owning the biggest contract, were rusty in victories. Justin Herbert, who also joined the \$50 million club in the offseason, was sharp but couldn't outplay Tua Tagovailoa.

Daniel Jones, the New York Giants' \$40 million QB, had a miserable game in a 40-0 loss to Dallas.

Burrow threw for a career-low 82 yards in Cincinnati's 24-3 loss to the Cleveland Browns. Considering he missed most of

the preseason with a calf strain and played in steady rain that made it difficult to throw, it's no surprise Burrow was out of sync. Myles Garrett and the Browns' ferocious defense never gave him a chance to get comfortable.

Burrow had overthrows, underthrows and generally seemed to be on a different page of the playbook than his receivers. He didn't complete a single pass to Tee Higgins despite targeting the receiver eight times, and he didn't want to blame missing a month for his uncharacteristic performance.

"It's just some Week 1 stuff that happens everywhere," Burrow said about miscom-

**SEE DAYS ON PAGE 22**



MATT DURISKO/AP

San Francisco quarterback Brock Purdy picked up where he left off last season, passing for 220 yards and two TDs in his team's 30-7 rout of Pittsburgh.

# Reddick secures first Cup win at Kansas » Auto racing, Page 19



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