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Ketamine infusers eyed for battlefield

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

An infuser filled with a small amount of ketamine could relieve pain and even help save lives in future wars, say Air Force officials who have worked with the device. The infuser produced by the small California-based company Bexson Biomedical was transported by a drone under simulated battlefield conditions at a military exercise in Michigan this summer. Ketamine has received negative attention in recent decades because of its hallucinogenic properties when used illicitly as a recreational drug. But its use as a short-term anesthetic goes back to the Vietnam War, and combat medics increasingly turned to ketamine as a pain reliever for patients with battlefield wounds during more recent U.S. wars. Its use increased from less than 1% of combat injuries up to 11% of such injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan from 2011 to 2016, according to a 2021 study published in the journal Military Medicine.

SEE KETAMINE ON PAGE 7



The ketamine infusion device is said to be based on the same concept as insulin pumps.



Courtesy of Hannah Wacholder Katsman

Clockwise from above: Hayim Katsman, one of the Americans killed in Saturday's attacks in Israel. Deborah and Shlomi Matias, who died shielding their 16-year-old son, who survived, at Kibbutz Holit on Saturday. Hersh Goldberg-Polin, a missing American who is believed to be held hostage by Hamas.



Courtesy of Troen family



Courtesy of Goldberg-Polin family

Caught in the chaos

Among Americans killed or missing in Israel: A scholar, a nurse, tourists

By JOANNA SLATER AND EMILY WAX-THIBODEAUX
The Washington Post

When Hayim Katsman received his doctorate from the University of Washington in 2021, friends encouraged him to stay in the United States. He could build a good life there, they said, maybe even in Seattle, a city where his family had long roots.

Katsman, 32, was adamant. He wanted to return to Israel and the small commune where he had lived for years. He was committed to forging a more peaceful future for the residents of Israel and the Palestinians. His dissertation was dedicated to "all life forms that exist between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea." On Saturday, Katsman was one of at least 14 Americans killed in a wave of unprecedented attacks by

RELATED
Unity government is formed in Israel to oversee war
Page 3

Hamas militants that plunged Israel into war. He died at the commune, or kibbutz, that he loved, located at the edge of Israel near

where the Gaza Strip borders Egypt. The number of Americans killed could rise along with the overall death toll in Israel, a testament to the close ties and history of immigration that link the two countries. More than 1,000 people have been killed in Israel and at least 830 in Gaza by retaliatory strikes.

SEE AMERICANS ON PAGE 3

BUSINESS/WEATHER

FTC proposes ban on hidden online ‘junk fees’

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Trade Commission on Wednesday proposed a rule to ban any hidden and bogus “junk” fees, which can mask the total cost of concert tickets, hotel rooms and utility bills.

President Joe Biden has made the removal of these fees a priority of his administration. The effort has led to a legislative push and a spate of initiatives aimed at helping consumers. Administration officials have said these additional costs can inflate prices and waste

people’s time.

“The proposed rule would prohibit corporations from running up the bills with hidden and bogus fees, requiring honest pricing and spurring firms to compete on honesty rather than deception,” said FTC Chair Lina Kahn on a call with reporters. “Violators will be subject to civil penalties and be required to pay back Americans that they tricked.”

The FTC proposal is being coupled with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau announcing

that it will block large banks from charging junk fees in order to provide basic customer services.

Biden planned to speak about both plans in remarks Wednesday morning in the White House Rose Garden.

Lael Brainard, director of the White House National Economic Council, said research indicates that hidden fees can cause consumers to pay as much as 20% more than had they known the total cost upfront and comparison shopped.

EXCHANGE RATES

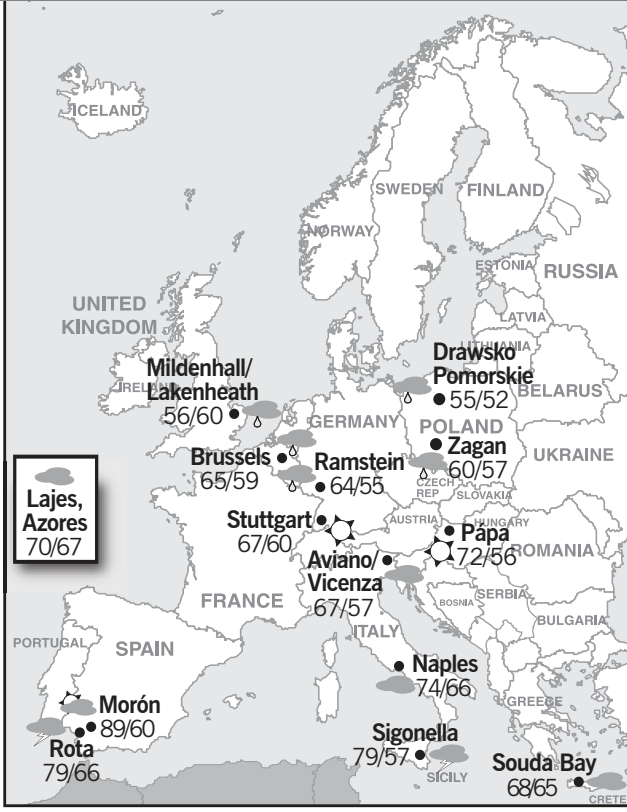
Military rates												
Euro costs (Oct. 12)	\$1.03	Switzerland (Franc)	.9010									
British pound (Oct. 12)	\$1.20	Thailand (Baht)	36.36									
Japanese yen (Oct. 12)	145.00	Turkey (New Lira)	27.7373									
South Korean won (Oct. 12)	1,307.00											
Commercial rates												
Bahrain (Dinar)	.3769	<p>(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.)</p> <div>INTEREST RATES</div> <table><tr><td>Prime rate</td><td>8.50</td></tr><tr><td>Interest Rates Discount rate</td><td>6.00</td></tr><tr><td>Federal funds market rate</td><td>5.33</td></tr><tr><td>3-month bill</td><td>5.50</td></tr><tr><td>30-year bond</td><td>4.85</td></tr></table>	Prime rate	8.50	Interest Rates Discount rate	6.00	Federal funds market rate	5.33	3-month bill	5.50	30-year bond	4.85
Prime rate	8.50											
Interest Rates Discount rate	6.00											
Federal funds market rate	5.33											
3-month bill	5.50											
30-year bond	4.85											
Britain (Pound)	1.2330											
Canada (Dollar)	1.3583											
China (Yuan)	7.2998											
Denmark (Krone)	7.0151											
Egypt (Pound)	30.9000											
Euro	.9408											
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8194											
Hungary (Forint)	363.70											
Israel (Shekel)	3.9604											
Japan (Yen)	148.98											
Kuwait (Dinar)	.3091											
Norway (Krone)	10.8261											
Philippines (Peso)	56.66											
Poland (Zloty)	4.26											
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7509											
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3616											
South Korea (Won)	1,339.58											

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY 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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MILITARY

Israel forms war-time Cabinet to oversee fight

**By JOSEPH KRAUSS
AND WAFAA SHURAF**
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and a leading opposition figure on Wednesday created a war-time Cabinet overseeing the fight to avenge a stunning weekend attack by Hamas militants. In the sealed-off Gaza Strip ruled by Hamas, Palestinian suffering mounted as Israeli bombardment demolished neighborhoods and the territory’s only power plant ran out of fuel.

The new Cabinet establishes a degree of unity after years of bitterly divisive politics, and as the Israeli military appears increasingly likely to launch a ground offensive into Gaza. The war has already claimed at least 2,300 lives on both sides.

The Israeli government is under intense public pressure to topple Hamas after its militants stormed through a border fence Saturday and massacred hundreds of Israelis in their homes, on the streets and at an outdoor music festival. Militants in Gaza are holding an estimated 150 people



LEO CORREA/AP

Israelis take cover from the incoming rocket fire from the Gaza Strip in Ashkelon, southern Israel, on Wednesday.

taken hostage from Israel — soldiers, men, women, children and older adults.

The Cabinet, which will focus only on issues of war, will be led by Netanyahu, Benny Gantz — a senior opposition figure and former defense minister — and current Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. A former chief of a staff and another government minister were named as “observer” members.

Still, Israel’s political divisions remain. The country’s chief opposition leader, Yair Lapid, was invited to join to new Cabinet but did not immediately respond to the offer. It appeared that the rest of Netanyahu’s existing government partners, a collection of far-right and ultra-Orthodox parties, would remain in place to handle non-war issues.

Israel’s increasingly destructive airstrikes in Gaza have flattened entire city blocks and left

unknown numbers of bodies beneath debris. A ground offensive in Gaza, whose 2.3 million residents are densely packed into a tiny, coastal strip, would likely result in a surge of casualties for fighters on both sides.

Militants in Gaza have fired thousands of rockets into Israel since Saturday, and their barrages continued on Wednesday, aimed at the southern town of Ashkelon.

Some 250,000 people have fled their homes in Gaza most crowding into U.N. schools. Others crowded into a shrinking number of safe neighborhoods in the strip of land only 25 miles long, wedged among Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea.

After nightfall, Palestinians were plunged into pitch blackness in large parts of Gaza City and elsewhere after the territory’s only power station ran out of fuel and shut down Wednesday. Only a few lights from private generators still glowed.

Israel on Sunday halted the entry of food, water, fuel and medicine into the territory. The sole remaining crossing from Egypt was

shut down Tuesday after airstrikes hit nearby.

The Gaza Strip’s biggest hospital, Al-Shifa, only has enough fuel to keep power on for three days, said Matthias Kannes, a Gaza-based official for Doctors Without Borders.

The group said the two hospitals it runs in Gaza were running out of surgical equipment, antibiotics, fuel and other supplies. “We consumed three weeks worth of emergency stock in three days,” Kannes said.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said other hospitals’ generators will run out in five days. Residential buildings, unable to store as much diesel, likely will go dark sooner.

Egypt and international groups have been calling for humanitarian corridors to get aid into Gaza. Convoys stood loaded with fuel and food Wednesday on the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing, but were unable to enter Gaza, an Egyptian security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press.

Americans: More than a dozen US citizens unaccounted for

FROM PAGE 1

On Tuesday, President Joe Biden confirmed that Americans were also among the hostages taken by Hamas, but he did not specify how many.

“As president, I have no higher priority than the safety of Americans being held hostage around the world,” Biden said. “Like every nation in the world, Israel has the right to respond and indeed has a duty to respond to these vicious attacks.”

National security adviser Jake Sullivan said there are 20 American citizens unaccounted for, at least some of whom are Hamas hostages. That puts the U.S. government in uncharted territory as it seeks the safe return of large numbers of its citizens from Gaza. Biden said Monday that he had directed his team members to work with their Israeli counterparts on “every aspect of the hostage crisis.”

Americans killed or missing in the attacks include tourists visiting Israel; U.S. citizens serving in the Israeli army; people born in the United States who immigrated to Israel; and children born in Israel to American parents who then acquired U.S. citizenship, like Katsman. They range in age from 18 to 80. It is unclear whether any American citizens have been killed by Israeli military action in Gaza.

Judith Raanan, 59, and her daughter Natalie, 18, live in Evan-

ston, Ill., and were visiting relatives at a kibbutz near Gaza. Natalie had just graduated from Deerfield High School, where she is known as a talented artist. On Saturday, Natalie’s father, Uri, received a message from his daughter that said they were under attack. Then nothing, relatives said, weeping as they spoke with a reporter.

Americans were also among the revelers at an open-air trance music festival that turned into a scene of carnage. Danielle Ben-Senior, 34, was born in Los Angeles and later moved to Israel so her ailing parents could be closer to family members, said her cousin Riki Ben-Senior. Early Saturday, Danielle, who had worked as an intensive-care nurse during the pandemic, left Tel Aviv with a group of friends to attend the music festival.

“This is the first time in so long she was going to just relax and dance,” said Riki, who still holds out hope for Danielle’s return. She is a “tough cookie,” her cousin said.

Hersh Goldberg-Polin, 23, left home late Friday night with a backpack and a sleeping bag on his way to the music festival, called Tribe of Nova. The next morning, his mother, Rachel Goldberg, checked her phone.

At 8:11 a.m., her son had sent two messages via WhatsApp.

“I love you,” the first read. The next one said: “I’m sorry.”

His parents haven’t heard from him since.

Goldberg-Polin was born in California and his parents grew up in Chicago. They learned from eyewitnesses that he fled the festival in a car and sought safety in a public bomb shelter. About 30 people were in the small cement structure when they were attacked by militants, who threw grenades and fired weapons. Then they told anyone who could stand to walk outside.

A witness saw Goldberg-Polin walk out, his mother said. He was missing his arm from his elbow down and had improvised a tourniquet. He was loaded onto a pickup truck with three other young men and two women. Israeli police traced the last signal from his cellphone to the border with Gaza.

Goldberg said she has faith in the Biden administration’s efforts to find the missing Americans, including her son. “Every American citizen who is being held hostage, especially critically wounded citizens, they should be treated, released, traded, whatever it has to be,” she said.

Jonathan Dekel-Chen’s son Sagui, 35, disappeared after an attack on Kibbutz Nir Oz, where the family lived. Dekel-Chen said he knew of at least three other American citizens from their kibbutz who were missing and two other Americans who were killed.

At least two Americans were killed in Kibbutz Holit, a com-

munity founded in 1978. One of them was Katsman, who received a doctorate in international studies from the University of Washington and was a dual U.S.-Israeli citizen. The other was Deborah Matias, 50, who was born in Missouri.

Matias and her husband, Shlomi, were killed as they shielded their 16-year-old son, Rotem, with their bodies, said Matias’s father, Ilan Troen. Rotem was shot in the abdomen, and for the next 12 hours, his family members guided him via text message on how to stay alive until help arrived.

Katsman was hiding in a closet with a neighbor, Avital Alajem, when militants overran the kibbutz. He was closest to the door, Alajem told CNN, and his body absorbed the bullets, protecting Alajem. “He was murdered,” Alajem said. “I was saved.” Katsman was “a good soul in this world,” she said, noting that his name, Hayim, means “life” in Hebrew.

Among Katsman’s friends and colleagues from his time at the University of Washington, there was grief and disbelief. “There’s something about certain people that really gets into your heart,” said his friend Yoav Duman, a political scientist in Seattle. “I’ve never met anyone who doesn’t like him.”

Katsman was a rare combination, Duman said. He was a gifted scholar but also a car mechanic, landscaper and DJ. He worked

hard but always had time for his friends, whether to help them move or teach them to drive or catch up over a beer.

Katsman won a prize for an academic paper he wrote about contemporary religious Zionism, the focus of his research.

“I really think his work helped illuminate some of the very dynamics that have brought us to this horrific moment,” said Liora Halperin, a historian at the University of Washington. “There are many pieces to this puzzle, but he had devoted years of his life trying to understand some of the pieces.”

Katsman had a “very deep concern for all the residents of Israel and the Palestinian territories,” said Devin Naar, another historian at the university who asked Katsman to be his teaching and research assistant.

His mother, Hannah Wacholder Katsman, grew up in Cincinnati, while his father, Daniel Katsman, is from Seattle. The family moved to Israel in 1990 and Hayim, the second of six siblings, was born a year later.

After finishing his mandatory service in the Israeli army, Katsman moved with friends to Kibbutz Holit.

They went to “revive this kibbutz that was aging and isolated and frankly dangerous” because of its location, his mother said. But he found a real sense of community and told friends he loved living there.

MIDEAST

How Hamas breached Israel's 'Iron Wall'

The Washington Post

The massive, complex attack on Israel on Saturday by militants from the Gaza Strip stunned Israelis, who watched in horror as fighters easily bypassed one of the world's most advanced security systems.

At least 900 people have been killed in Israel and more than 2,600 wounded. More than 100 people have been taken captive. Israel has pounded Gaza with airstrikes, killing hundreds of people, according to Palestinian authorities.

The "smart fence" that separates Israel from Gaza is equipped with cutting-edge technology, designed to detect any security breach. This is how the militants got through.

An 'iron wall'

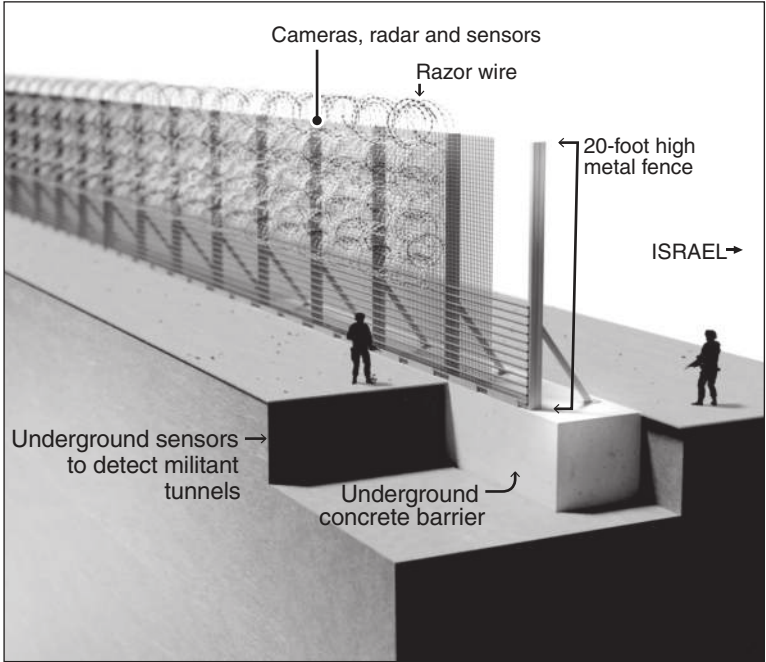
In 2021 Israel announced the completion of its "smart fence," a 40-mile-long barricade along the Gaza Strip that included an underground concrete barrier.

The project was publicly announced in 2016 after Hamas used underground tunnels to attack Israeli forces in the 2014 war.

It required more than 140,000 tons of iron and steel, according to Reuters, and the installation of hundreds of cameras, radars and sensors.

Access near the fence on the Gaza side was limited to farmers on foot. On the Israeli side, observation towers and sand dunes were put in place to monitor threats and slow intruders.

In 2021, then-Defense Minister Benny Gantz said the barrier



SOURCE: The Washington Post

placed an "iron wall" between Hamas and southern Israel.

But on Saturday, a surprise series of coordinated efforts enabled Hamas to get past the wall.

The fence was breached at 29 points, according to the Israel Defense Forces.

Though there were Israeli guard towers positioned every 500 feet along the perimeter of the wall at some points, the fighters appeared to encounter little resistance.

The border was minimally staffed, it soon became apparent, with much of Israel's military diverted to focus on unrest in the West Bank.

"The most compelling parts of the system were the ones that provided indicators and warnings," said Matthew Levitt, director of the counterterrorism program at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "But once you don't see in advance that someone is massed at the fence, it's still just a fence. A big fence, but just a fence."

1. Drones dropped explosives

Using commercial drones, Hamas bombed Israeli observation towers, communications infrastructure and weapons systems

along the border.

2. Coordinated rocket fire and manpower

Israel said Hamas fired more than 3,000 rockets into the country, with some reaching as far as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Militants on fan-powered hang gliders flew across the border.

3. Explosives along the fence

Militants also used explosives to blow up sections of the barrier. Men on motorbikes drove through the gaps.

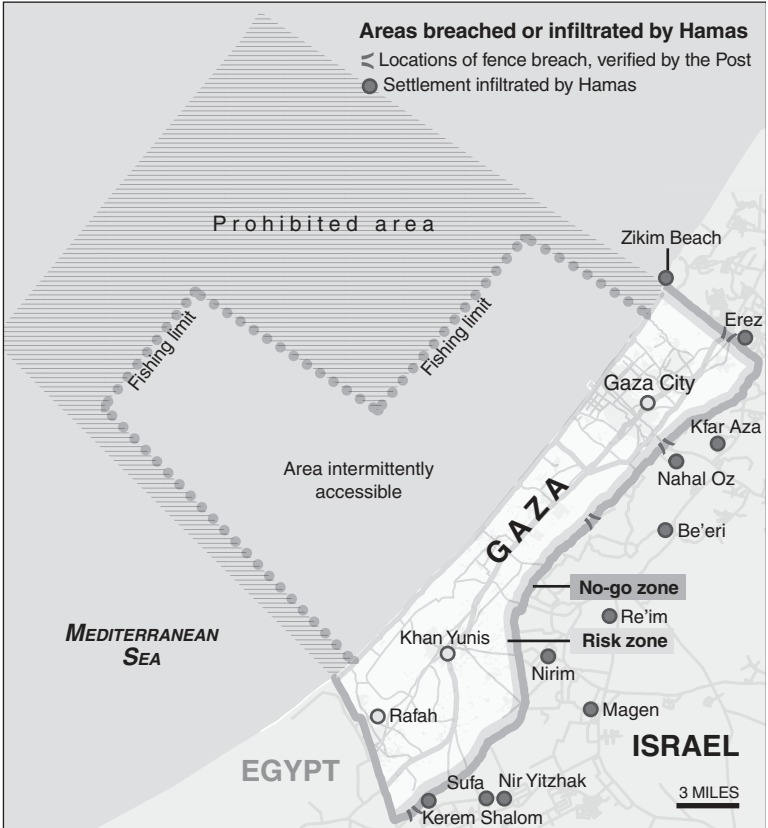
4. Widening the gap

Bulldozers did the rest, allowing enough space for larger vehicles to drive through.

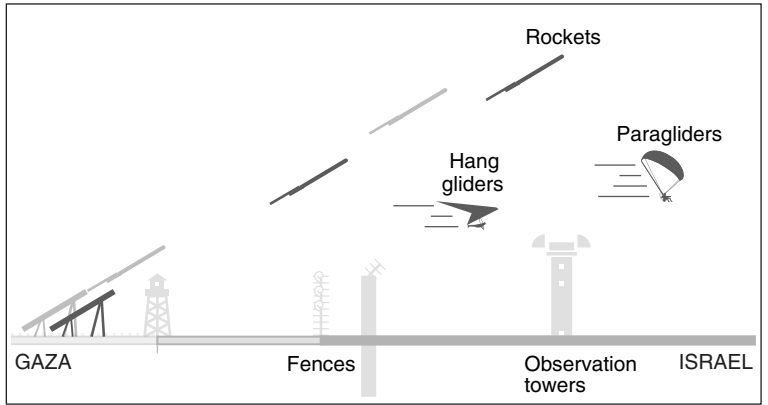
Experts said the attack would have required weeks, at least, of preparation and subterfuge.

"The key would be to move equipment into position over a period of weeks beforehand, and then put it into buildings or under tarps," said Michael E. O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. He noted that many of the vehicles could have been hidden in plain sight in parking lots or construction zones.

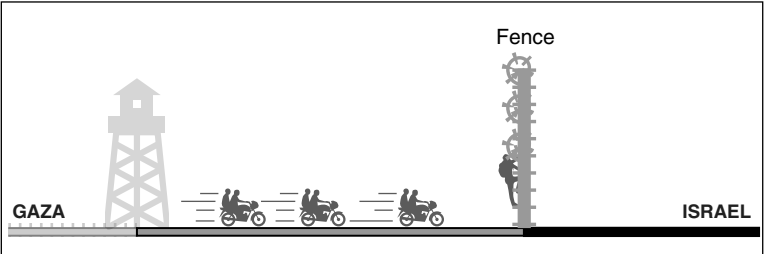
Still, "The idea of a bulldozer getting that close to the fence at all just boggles the mind," Levitt said.



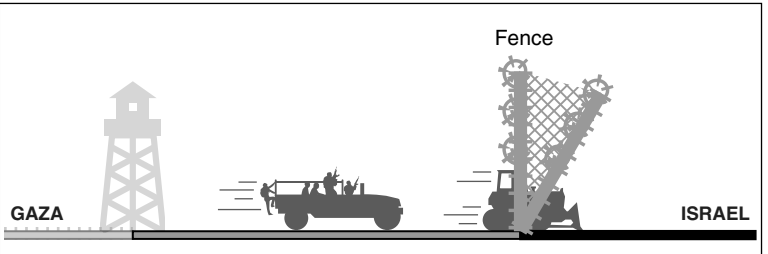
SOURCE: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, The Washington Post



SOURCE: The Washington Post



SOURCE: The Washington Post



SOURCE: The Washington Post

US considers moving USS Eisenhower into the Eastern Mediterranean

By MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The USS Dwight D. Eisenhower could soon be deployed to the Eastern Mediterranean, a defense official said Tuesday, a move that would position a second U.S. aircraft carrier in the region as fighting rages between Israeli forces and Hamas militants.

The Eisenhower, along with other

ships and aircraft that make up its strike group, is scheduled to depart Norfolk, Va., this week. The aircraft carrier has long been scheduled to deploy and operate near Europe, Air Force Lt. Col. Bryon McGarry, a Defense Department spokesman, said in a statement.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Sunday ordered the USS Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group to the

region as part of the U.S. response to the Hamas attack on Israel.

The Ford arrived in the Eastern Mediterranean on Tuesday, U.S. Central Command said in a statement. The Ford strike group includes eight squadrons of attack and support aircraft, the Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Normandy and four Arleigh-Burke-class guided missile destroyers.

"The arrival of these highly capable forces to the region is a strong signal of deterrence should any actor hostile to Israel consider trying to take advantage of this situation," said Army Gen. Michael "Erik" Kurilla, commander of CENTCOM, which oversees operations in the Middle East.

A senior defense official, who spoke with reporters Monday on the

condition of anonymity, said the Ford has the potential for long-range strike capabilities, but moving ships into the region was to deter groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and other Iranian-backed groups from escalating the conflict with Israel.

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MILITARY

Austin on weapons aid to Israel and Ukraine: ‘We will do both.’

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced Wednesday that the U.S. will send another \$200 million in new weaponry to Ukraine while also signaling that the Pentagon was gearing up to support Israel in its war against Hamas.

Austin, during a meeting of allied and partner defense chiefs at NATO headquarters in Brussels, said the new security package for Ukraine includes munitions for a new air defense system, artillery, anti-tank and anti-drone weapons.

“We’re here to dig deep to meet Ukraine’s most urgent needs,” Austin said at the start of talks that also centered around the unfolding war in Israel and Gaza.

Austin, flanked by Air Force Gen. Charles “CQ” Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said U.S. support for Israel’s security “will remain ironclad.”

“We will stay in close contact with our Israeli partners and ensure that they have what they need to protect their country,” Austin said.

On Thursday, NATO leaders in

Brussels will be briefed about the security situation in Israel by that country’s defense chief, Yoav Gallant. The war in Israel has threatened to overshadow the two-day meeting of NATO defense ministers, whose focus for the past 19 months has been on finding ways to bolster Ukraine’s military in its war against Russia.

Last week, a top NATO commander warned that allies were running out of ammunition to send to Kyiv and cautioned that industry needed to ramp up production if the West wants to keep the arms flowing.

“The bottom of the barrel is now visible,” Dutch Adm. Rob Bauer, head of NATO’s Military Committee, said during a discussion at the Warsaw Security Forum.

Now, Israel’s war could potentially exacerbate the situation given the existing strain on weapons stocks.

Austin, however, insisted that the U.S. will be able to deliver what is required to both Israel and Ukraine.

“Absolutely we can do both and we will do both,” Austin said. “We’re going to do what’s necessary to help our allies and partners and we’re go-

ing to also do what’s necessary to make sure that we maintain the capability to protect our interests and defend our country.”

On Monday, Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said the service is prepared to “lean forward” when it comes to delivering arms to Israel, but that lawmakers will need to step up funding to ensure that the needs of both Ukraine and Israel can be met.

Already, the U.S. has begun sending critical munitions to Israel along with interceptors to replenish Israel’s Iron Dome air defense system. But questions loom over the defense industry’s ability to meet the demand for munitions and arms.

“Upholding U.S. commitments to supply Israel with the munitions and equipment necessary to fend off Hamas while simultaneously sustaining Ukraine’s fight against Russia is an expensive undertaking,” said Kathryn Levantovskaia, an analyst with the Atlantic Council think tank, in a statement Tuesday.

Even if Congress can put aside differences and come to an agreement on emergency appropriations to speed up production, there are



ALEXANDER RIEDEL/Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin — shown last month at Ramstein Air Base, Germany — said Wednesday in Brussels that the U.S. would help Ukraine with its most urgent defense needs, while also making sure Israel has sufficient arms for its war against Hamas.

uncertainties about whether an industrial base built around a “just-in-time” business model has the raw material to meet the moment, she said.

“Inventories are practically nonexistent,” Levantovskaia said.

Still, Austin said allies remain committed to ensuring Ukraine gets the weapons it needs to eventually beat back the Russian military.

The war in Ukraine is at a critical point, as Ukrainian forces push slowly ahead with a counteroffensive and brace for another winter

when energy infrastructure will likely be targeted once again by Russian missiles.

“We should be ready for the Kremlin to again bombard Ukraine this winter with cruise missiles and drones,” Austin said. “We should expect Putin’s forces to cruelly and deliberately put Ukrainian cities, civilians and critical infrastructure in their gun sights by turning civilians into targets.”

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MILITARY

Air Force aims to curb domestic violence

By Corey Dickstein
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force and Space Force will ramp up training on domestic violence and bolster support staff as it aims to better combat the problem following a monthslong review of its prevention and response efforts, service officials said.

The Air Force will hire new advocates at its bases for domestic violence victims and new civilian staffers for its Family Advocacy Program to boost training and education efforts, according to a service release dated Sept. 29. The new efforts come as the result of a 90-day review ordered in January by Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall of the department's handling of domestic abuse cases. The Air Force inspector general last year found problems in the service's managing of reports and investigations in their early stages.

"There is no place in our Air Force and Space Force family for domestic violence or interpersonal violence in any form," Kendall, who oversees the Air Force and Space Force, said in the statement issued just ahead of October, which is national domestic violence awareness month. "While we have taken important steps to better support domestic violence survivors, we must do more to establish trust and build a foundation of respect, responsiveness and support for survivors of violence."

Kendall requested the IG probe in September 2021 after learning of allegations that service officials had mishandled numerous domestic violence cases. His request



Kendall

came after an internal Air Force investigation found thousands of cases of abuse, including domestic abuse, went unreported. That review also found many victims were displeased with support services offered to them by the Air Force.

"Our review revealed areas where we could clearly improve our efforts to prevent violence and support those impacted by domestic violence," Kendall said. "We listened to survivors and are deeply appreciative of the candid insights they provided — their candid perspectives have informed our efforts as we work to create more effective solutions to this heart-breaking issue."

It was not immediately clear Tuesday how many domestic abuse cases the Air Force and Space Force handle annually. The Defense Department defines domestic abuse as "domestic violence, or a pattern of behavior re-

sulting in emotional or psychological abuse, economic control or interference with personal liberty" aimed at a current or former spouse or intimate partner or a person with whom the alleged abuser shares a child.

The Defense Department in its most recent published data on the issue reported domestic violence cases within the military had generally declined in the last decade. However, reports increased from fiscal 2020 to 2021 and fiscal 2021 to 2022. The Pentagon did not provide data for the individual military services in its April report to Congress on child abuse and neglect and domestic violence in fiscal 2022.

In fiscal 2022, the Pentagon received 15,479 domestic violence reports and found 8,307 incidents met its criteria for investigation, according to the April report. Those incidents involved some

6,469 unique victims.

Among those cases, 14 people died from domestic abuse in fiscal 2022, according to the report. Five of those deaths involved individuals previously reported for abuse, and four of the victims had previously reported abuse.

In addition to hiring new staff to help with domestic violence response and prevention, the Air Force will also update its policies to better align domestic violence cases with how it handles sexual assault cases, the service said.

The service will also implement an annual domestic violence exercise to test security forces, Office of Special Investigations agents, legal offices, Family Advocacy Program personnel and command teams on their responses to domestic violence incidents, the service said.

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2 years after leak, US ready to empty Red Hill fuel tanks

By Wyatt Olson
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Defense Department will begin emptying millions of gallons of fuel from the defunct Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility in Honolulu next week after state officials on Tuesday signed off on defueling plans.

The job will take about three months, according to Joint Task Force-Red Hill, the entity overseeing the operation.

The Hawaii Department of Health gave the task force conditional approval to begin emptying 104 million gallons of fuel on Monday.

"Today's conditional approval marks an important milestone in the process that will ultimately result in permanent closure of the Red Hill Facility and remediation of our aquifer," Kathleen Ho, deputy director of environmental health for the Department of Health, said in a news release Tuesday.

The approval is conditional on the task force's adherence to requirements placed on the operation by the Department of Health, which will have staff on-site to oversee defueling, the news release said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency gave the plans the green light last week.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in March 2022 ordered the World War II-era underground

storage facility permanently closed after jet fuel leaked from its tanks and contaminated nearby well water in late 2021.

Plan, prepare, rehearse

That contaminated well was part of the Navy's distribution system that supplied tap water to about 93,000 people living in military communities on and near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Thousands of residents were forced to relocate to area hotels for several months.

The tanks sit about 100 feet above an aquifer that supplies much of Honolulu's tap water.

The start of defueling on Monday comes after more than a year of planning, repairing and training by the Red Hill task force.

Nearly 300 repairs and enhancements were required to the vast underground piping system to safely defuel, the Health Department said in the news release.

"After months of methodical planning, preparing and rehearsing, we are ready to begin defueling Red Hill and setting the conditions for its closure," Vice Adm. John Wade, the task force commander, said in a news release Monday.

"We have taken significant precautions to mitigate risk for safe operations, ensure preparedness to respond to contingencies, and protect the aquifer, environment, and human health as we defuel



KYLER CHATMAN/Department of Defense

A member of Joint Task Force-Red Hill conducts a safety check at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility in Honolulu last month in preparation for final defueling of the tanks slated to begin Oct. 16.

the facility," he said.

Fuel will drain via gravity through roughly 3 miles of pipes that end at a fueling pier on the joint base.

Ready for removal

The fuel will be loaded onto tanker ships and relocated to San Diego, Subic Bay in the Philippines, the Port of Singapore and a pair of fuel depots in Hawaii, the task force said in a statement Tuesday in response to a query by Stars and Stripes.

"We expect the removal to take 9 movements," the task force said.

Filling a tanker takes about 52 hours, the task force said in a fact

sheet on the defueling process.

The first transport ship, the merchant tanker Empire State, is slated to arrive at Pearl Harbor early Wednesday morning, the task force said in an advisory on Monday.

The first phase of defueling will require two of the facility's three main pipelines, bringing the fuel level in the tanks to about 10 feet.

That remaining fuel will be drained using a connection newly built for the defueling process, the Health Department said in its letter of conditional approval.

Among the required upgrades to the facility were improvements to fire-suppression equipment and beefed-up spill mitigation

measures, such as the sealing of drains and construction of diversion berms.

The Navy has set up temporary air monitoring stations on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and at adjacent military housing communities with an eye toward the defueling process, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported Monday.

The monitoring is "part of a greater spill response strategy to identify, quantify and assess potential threats to public safety, should there be a spill during the defueling of Red Hill," a Navy spokesperson told the newspaper.

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MILITARY

Sailor pleads guilty to providing info to China

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A U.S. Navy sailor charged with providing sensitive military information to China pleaded guilty in Los Angeles on Tuesday to conspiring with a foreign intelligence officer and receiving a bribe, federal prosecutors said.

Petty Officer Wenheng Zhao, 26, originally pleaded not guilty when he was charged Aug. 4. The Justice Department alleges that Zhao, based at Naval Base Ventura County, north of Los Angeles, conspired to collect nearly \$15,000 in bribes from a Chinese intelligence officer in exchange for information, photos and videos involving

Navy exercises, operations and facilities.

The information included plans for a large-scale U.S. military exercise in the Indo-Pacific region, which detailed the location and timing of naval force movements, prosecutors said. The Chinese officer told Zhao the information was needed for maritime economic research to inform investment decisions, according to the indictment.

Zhao, who also went by the name Thomas Zhao and held a U.S. security clearance, “admitted he engaged in a corrupt scheme to collect and transmit sensitive U.S. military information to the intelli-

gence officer in violation of his official duties,” the U.S. Attorney’s Office said in a news release Tuesday.

Zhao, of Monterey Park, Calif., faces a statutory maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison. He has been in custody since his arrest on Aug. 3.

Zhao was charged on the same day as another California-based Navy sailor who is accused of similar crimes. But they are separate cases, and federal officials haven’t said if the two were courted or paid by the same Chinese intelligence officer as part of a larger scheme.

Jinchao Wei, a 22-year-old assigned to the San Diego-based USS

Essex, is charged with providing detailed information on the weapons systems and aircraft aboard the Essex and other amphibious assault ships that act as small aircraft carriers. He pleaded not guilty in federal court in San Diego.

Last week, a former U.S. Army intelligence officer was charged in Seattle with attempting to provide classified defense information to the Chinese security services during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sgt. Joseph Daniel Schmidt, 29, was arrested Oct. 6 at San Francisco International Airport as he arrived from Hong Kong, where he had been living

since March 2020, the Justice Department said.

A federal grand jury returned an indictment charging him with retention and attempted delivery of national defense information. U.S. District Court records in Seattle did not yet list an attorney representing Schmidt on the charges, and neither the U.S. attorney’s office nor the federal public defender’s office had information about whether he had a lawyer.

An FBI declaration filed in the case quoted Schmidt as telling his sister in an email that he left the U.S. because he disagreed with unspecified aspects of American policy.

Ketamine: Program director touts time savings of using an infuser

FROM PAGE 1

The military is interested in the new device because high casualty rates in a war might strain the ability of medics to keep up, said Air Force Lt. Col. David Brewer, program director of AIM-HI, an Air National Guard technology program.

“This technology is adaptive for what we anticipate contested wartime environments to look like in the future, if we saw casualty rates similar to that of what we’re seeing on the front lines of Ukraine,” Brewer said in a recent interview.

Ketamine is delivered intravenously by a needle. But poking a vein can take valuable time in a battlefield environment, Brewer said. The current way of delivering ketamine takes an average of eight minutes, while the device only needs 30 seconds to apply — time that would free up medics to save more people, he added.

Delivery with a needle also requires trained medics and saline solution, which might be in short supply in a war with mass casualties.

Five service members at AIM-HI who were assigned the task of improving combat field medicine learned about the ketamine device, which is similar to an insulin pump for diabetes patients, Brewer said. The device is attached to a



Bexson Biomedical

U.S. Army and Air Force medics tested a ketamine infuser device at a military exercise in Michigan in August. The device eventually could be used to provide pain relief on the battlefield.

person’s body and delivers medicine just under the top layer of skin.

They reached out to Bexson

Biomedical in February about whether they could make a prototype for military use. The device has a preloaded cartridge with six

milliliters of ketamine.

“Basically, the medic takes it right out of the blister pack, or in the civilian world, the patient

takes it right out of the blister pack, slaps it on themselves, and literally presses the play button,” said Gregg Peterson, CEO of Bexson, in a recent interview.

In August, Bexson brought a ketamine-free version of the device to a military exercise in Michigan, dubbed Northern Strike. There, Army medics tested whether it was rugged enough to survive in the field. It was attached to dummies and fitted on people, as well put on a helicopter. At one point, half a dozen devices were loaded onto a quadcopter drone, which flew 35 miles and delivered them.

Bexson has been invited to bring the device to future military exercises in Michigan and North Carolina, Peterson said. The company is still seeking Food and Drug Administration approval for their device and their ketamine formula, he said.

So far, the company has completed animal testing and plans to start human trials next year, he said.

Brewer said the military is working to get funding to help Bexson build a new working prototype. He added he is optimistic that the technology could be in the hands of medics within three to five years.

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Ramstein airman dies after weekend motorcycle crash

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A 36-year-old service member assigned to Ramstein Air Base died from his injuries following a motorcycle crash over the weekend, military officials and German police said.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lionel Rhone Jr., a flight sergeant for the 86th Security Forces Squadron,

died Tuesday night after being removed from life support, base officials said Wednesday. A spokesman with the Westpfalz police department in Kaiserslautern said the American died Monday, following a statement the department released Tuesday.

The crash occurred Saturday on K53, a country road south of Kaiserslautern near the village of Trippstadt. The man was driving a

sports motorcycle when he went off the road at a curve and fell into a ditch, a Westpfalz police report said. Passersby provided first aid before Rhone was airlifted by helicopter with life-threatening injuries to the Westpfalz hospital in Kaiserslautern.

The crash is under investigation by German police.

“We are deeply saddened by the lost of Tech. Sgt. Rhone,” Brig.

Gen. Otis Jones, 86th Airlift Wing commander, said in a statement. “Losing one of our own always has a great impact on the Ramstein family, which includes Lionel’s family, friends, and co-workers. We will offer our support in every way possible as they endure this period of grief.”

The airman’s death is the second recent loss from a vehicle crash involving a security forces

member in the area. Senior Airman Christopher Lee Rocha died Sept. 5, more than two weeks after being injured in a two-vehicle, head-on collision near Ramstein. Rocha, 24, was a member of the 569th U.S. Forces Police Squadron at Vogelweh Air Station. That crash is still under investigation.

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MILITARY

US formally declares Niger takeover a coup

Designation will cut back cooperation with country; more than \$500M in aid now on hold

By MICHAEL BIRNBAUM
The Washington Post

More than two months after military forces deposed Niger’s democratically elected president, the Biden administration Tuesday designated their actions a coup, a move that will slash aid and cooperation with a country that had been a rare success story in a region battling Islamist militant insurgencies.

The State Department and top U.S. policymakers had been holding out hope they could find a way to restore President Mohamed Bazoum to power, pushing for his release from the presidential residence, where he has been under military guard since late July. The coup designation — months after other countries, including Niger’s former colonial ruler, France, started using that term — was a sign that the Biden administration has lost hope of winning a quick reversal.

The military junta is led by the former head of the presidential guard, Gen. Abdourahamane

Tchiani, and calls itself the National Council for Safeguarding the Homeland. In August, Tchiani appointed a civilian prime minister, economist Ali Mahamane Lamine Zeine, who has said he will lead consultations for a transitional government.

“The United States has concluded that a military coup d’etat has taken place in Niger,” State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said in a statement. “Any resumption of U.S. assistance will require action by the National Council for Safeguarding the Homeland to usher in democratic governance in a quick and credible timeframe.”

More than \$500 million in U.S. aid is now on hold, Miller said.

Under U.S. law, a coup designation typically suspends all non-humanitarian aid, including military cooperation.

Ahead of the coup, Niger had been a major staging ground for Pentagon operations battling Islamist insurgencies in the turbulent area south of the Sahara Desert,

known as the Sahel. A drone base near the desert city of Agadez has been an especially important facility, and the Defense Department has been looking for ways to preserve its capability in the region.

About 1,100 U.S. troops were in Niger before the coup, a number that Pentagon officials have said has been slightly reduced since the July upheaval.

The Pentagon plans to keep forces in place for now, and the U.S. Embassy is still operating in Niamey, the capital.

The coup designation will suspend the U.S. training of Nigerien forces, but the U.S. military continues to operate “force protection” operations from the Agadez base, a senior administration official said Tuesday, speaking like others on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

“We cannot continue business as usual,” the official said.

The Pentagon is still making long-term plans about its presence in Niger after consolidating

forces in the country last month, the official said, and it has suspended other forms of counterterrorism operations from Niger.

France began a full withdrawal of its military Tuesday, after also pulling its ambassador at the demand of the military junta.

“We’re taking this action because over the last two months, we’ve exhausted all available avenues to preserve the constitutional order in Niger,” a second senior administration official said. “As time has passed, it’s become clear that the [military] officials that we’ve been dealing with did not want to abide by these constitutional guidelines.”

The Nigerien Embassy in Washington did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

The administration’s hesitancy to declare the situation a coup had come under criticism from some civil society groups and other U.S. allies who said the delay muddled the waters about U.S. support for democracy. U.S. diplomats had countered that a coup designation

could be counterproductive so long as any chance remained that Bazoum could be restored to power.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke Monday with Bazoum, Miller said in a statement, a conversation that informed the deposed leader of the U.S. decision. Blinken “reiterated that a democratically elected, civilian-led government presents the best opportunity to ensure that Niger remains a strong partner in security and development in the region,” Miller said.

Bazoum’s future remains uncertain. One of the officials said Tuesday that it was possible that he would eventually be freed on the condition he leave Niger.

The State Department plans to leave in place the U.S. ambassador to Niamey, Kathleen FitzGibbon, who arrived in the country in mid-August, weeks after the coup.

Her presence in the country gives the Biden administration a senior set of eyes and ears on the ground.

Typhoon Bolaven heads for open ocean after close call with Guam

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

Typhoon Bolaven strengthened Wednesday after a close call with Guam the previous day, pulling away from the island but leaving its communities, roadways and military bases intact.

Guam was all clear at 10 a.m., the Governor’s Office said in a news release Wednesday. The island reverted to Condition of Readiness 4, Guam’s lowest typhoon preparatory status.

Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero found the island’s major thoroughfares were “clear of any major debris and accessible” on Wednesday morning, according to the release.

Military bases on the island also “fared well,” with no major damage reported and no impact on operations, according to Joint Region Marianas, which oversees the island’s military installations.

“From the region perspective, I am impressed by the collaborative partnerships between and among our civilian, federal and military communities,” joint region commander Rear Adm. Gregory Huffman told Stars and Stripes by email Wednesday. “Each real-world contingency challenges us to come together as a unified team to remain resolute in our efforts to recover quickly and to maintain our readiness posture.”

At Naval Base Guam, the “ma-



GREG SICKELS/U.S. Coast Guard

The U.S. Coast Guard resumed full operations in Guam following Typhoon Bolaven on Wednesday.

jority of services,” including the commissary and exchange, were open for business, base spokeswoman Theresa Cepeda said by email.

Andersen Air Force Base was wrapping up its assessments Wednesday morning, but the base was fully operational with the “majority, if not all” of its facilities and services at normal operating hours, base spokeswoman 1st Lt. Ariana Wilkinson said by email.

Marine Corps Camp Blaz, also making final post-storm surveys, had found no impact on its operations, base spokeswoman Maj. Diann Rosenfeld said by email.

The island’s Department of Defense Education Activity schools, which closed Wednesday due to storm cleanup, were expected to reopen Thursday.

Bolaven barreled toward Guam over the weekend as a tropical storm before strengthening Tuesday to a Category 1 typhoon with winds of as high as 80 mph. The storm pivoted at the last minute, narrowly missing landfall on the island, and passed between Rota and Tinian, about 75 miles north-east of Guam.

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Airman at Montana missile base pleads guilty to selling child pornography

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

An airman who worked with security forces at one of the Air Force’s intercontinental ballistic missile bases will serve up to 20 years in prison after admitting in civilian federal court Tuesday to selling child pornography on social media.

Brandon Earl Bankston, 23, pleaded guilty to possession with intent to sell child pornography after investigators found thousands of illegal images, the Justice Department said in a statement Tuesday. Sentencing is set for March 24, 2024.

Bankston faces a mandatory minimum of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and between five years and a lifetime of supervised release, the Justice Department said. He is being detained pending sentencing, the agency said.

Bankston was listed as an airman 1st class at the assignment prior to his most recent posting with the 341st Missile Security Forces Squadron at Malmstrom Air Base in Montana. It was there that investigators first became aware of his online criminal activity in the summer of 2021.

The Great Falls Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, Homeland Security and the Air

Force Office of Special Investigations were part of the investigation.

The task force was alerted that a suspect in Montana had uploaded videos containing known child sexual abuse material to an account on Twitter, the Justice Department statement said.

The task force also learned that a Snapchat user with a Montana address had posted an image of child pornography. Further investigation linked the accounts to Bankston’s IP address, a numeric designation that identifies its location on the internet.

Bankston admitted to Air Force investigators that he obtained the images and video through a messaging platform and stored the material on a cloud-based site in New Zealand, according to the Justice Department.

He said he received about \$6,750 for selling the material to about 25 people, totaling 42 separate transactions.

A search of the airman’s electronic devices, social media platforms, bank accounts and cloud-based storage applications uncovered thousands of pictures and videos.

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NATION

GOP nominates Scalise for speaker post

BY LISA MASCARO
AND KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans nominated Rep. Steve Scalise on Wednesday to be the next House speaker and will now try to unite to elect the conservative in a floor vote after ousting Rep. Kevin McCarthy from the job.

In private balloting at the Capitol, House Republicans pushed aside Rep. Jim Jordan, the Judiciary Committee chairman, in favor of Scalise, the current majority leader, lawmakers said. The Louisiana lawmaker is seen as a hero to some after surviving a mass shooting on lawmakers at a congressional baseball game practice in 2017. He is now battling blood cancer.

Republicans who have been stalemated after McCarthy's historic removal last week will seek to assemble their narrow House majority around Scalise in what is certain to be a close vote of the full House. Democrats are set to oppose the Republican nominee.

"I don't know how the hell you get to 218," said Rep. Troy Nehls, R-Texas, referring to the majority vote typically needed in the 435-member House to become speaker. "It could be a long week."

It's an extraordinary moment of political chaos that has brought the House to a standstill at a time of uncertainty at home and crisis abroad, just 10 months after Republicans swept to power.

Aspiring to operate as a team and run government more like a business, the GOP majority has drifted far from that goal with the unprecedented ouster of a speaker.

Americans are watching. One-



House Majority Leader Steve Scalise of Louisiana speaks to reporters as he arrives for a meeting of House Republicans to vote on candidates for speaker of the House on Capitol Hill on Wednesday in Washington.

quarter of Republicans say they approve of the decision by a small group of Republicans to remove McCarthy as speaker. Three in 10 Republicans believe it was a mistake, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The hard-right coalition of lawmakers that ousted McCarthy, R-Calif., has shown what an oversize role a few lawmakers can have in choosing his successor.

"I am not thrilled with either choice right now," said Rep. Ken Buck, R-Colo., who voted to oust McCarthy.

It's unclear whether Scalise can amass the votes that would be needed from almost all Republicans to overcome the Democratic opposition. Usually, the majority

needed would be 218 votes, but there are currently two vacant seats, dropping the threshold to 217.

Many Republicans want to prevent the spectacle of a messy House floor fight like the grueling January brawl when McCarthy became speaker.

"People are not comfortable going to the floor with a simple majority and then having C-SPAN and the rest of the world watch as we have this fight," said Rep. Kat Cammack, R-Fla. "We want to have this family fight behind closed doors."

Some have proposed a rules change that Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., the interim speaker pro tempore, is considering to ensure a majority vote before the

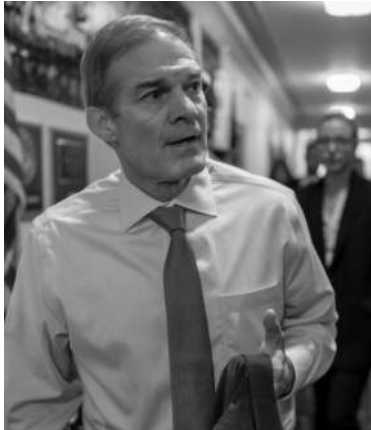
nominee is presented for a full floor vote.

McCarthy himself appeared to agree with a consensus approach. "They shouldn't come out of there until they decide that they have enough votes for whoever they bring to the floor," McCarthy said.

But short of a rules change, Republican lawmakers would be expected to agree to a majority-wins process.

Neither Scalise nor Jordan was seen as the heir apparent to McCarthy, who was removed in a push by the far-right flank after the speaker led Congress to approve legislation that averted a government shutdown.

Jordan is known for his close alliance with Donald Trump, particularly when the then-president



Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, arrives at the Capitol on Wednesday.

was working to overturn the results of the 2020 election, leading to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. Trump backed Jordan's bid for the gavel.

Scalise and Jordan presented similar views at a GOP candidate forum on Tuesday about cutting spending and securing the southern border with Mexico, top Republican priorities.

Several lawmakers, including Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., who engineered McCarthy's ouster, said they would be willing to support either Scalise or Jordan.

For now, McHenry is effectively in charge. He has shown little interest in expanding his power beyond the role he was assigned — an interim leader tasked with ensuring the election of the next speaker.

The role was created in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to ensure the continuity of government. McHenry's name was at the top of a list submitted by McCarthy when he became speaker in January.

New charges accuse Rep. Santos of identity theft, credit card fraud

BY ANUMITA KAUR
The Washington Post

A superseding indictment made public Tuesday charges Rep. George Santos with stealing the identities of family members and using donors' credit cards to spend thousands of dollars, intensifying the legal peril facing the freshman congressman five months after he was charged with a host of other financial crimes.

Santos, 35, faces 10 additional charges, according to the indictment: one count of conspiracy to commit offenses against the United States, two counts of wire fraud, two counts of making materially false statements to the Federal Election Commission, two counts of falsifying records submitted to obstruct the FEC, two

counts of aggravated identity theft, and one count of access device fraud.

The new charges were filed just days after Nancy Marks, the treasurer for the Santos campaign, pleaded guilty to fraud conspiracy and implicated Santos in a scheme to embellish his campaign finance reports with a fake loan and fake donors.

Santos, who is expected to appear in federal court on the additional charges Oct. 27, told reporters at the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday evening that he does not intend to resign his seat in Congress.

In May, the New York Republican was charged with 13 counts related to allegedly defrauding his donors, using their money for his personal benefit and wrongfully

claiming unemployment benefits. Those charges were seven counts of wire fraud, three counts of money laundering, one count of theft of public funds, and two counts of making materially false statements to the U.S. House of Representatives. He pleaded not guilty, and called the investigation a "witch hunt" at the time.

Tuesday's indictment accuses Santos of running two fraudulent schemes during the 2022 election cycle.

Between December 2021 and August 2022, he allegedly stole the personal identity and financial information of some of his campaign donors, and then charged the donors' credit cards "repeatedly," racking up thousands in unauthorized charges.

More presumed human remains recovered from submersible that imploded

The Associated Press

The Coast Guard has recovered remaining debris, including presumed human remains, from a submersible that imploded on its way to explore the wreck of the Titanic, killing all five onboard, deep beneath the Atlantic Ocean's surface, officials said Tuesday.

The Coast Guard said that the recovery and transfer of remaining parts was completed last Wednesday, and a photo showed the intact aft titanium endcap of the 22-foot vessel. Additional presumed human remains were carefully recovered from within Titan's debris and transported for analysis by U.S. medical professionals, the Coast Guard said.

The salvage mission conducted under an agreement with the U.S. Navy was a follow-up to initial recovery operations on the ocean floor roughly 1,600 feet away from the Titanic, the Coast Guard said.

The new materials were offloaded at an unnamed port.

The Coast Guard previously said it recovered presumed human remains along with parts of the Titan after the debris field was located at a depth of 12,500 feet.

Investigators believe the Titan imploded as it made its descent into deep North Atlantic waters on June 18.

The submersible was attempting to view the British passenger liner that sank in 1912.

NATION

Trump acknowledged smaller penthouse size

By MICHAEL R. SISAK
AND JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump signed a document 30 years ago that gave the true size of his New York penthouse which was later listed as far larger on financial statements, according to evidence Tuesday at the former president's civil business fraud trial.

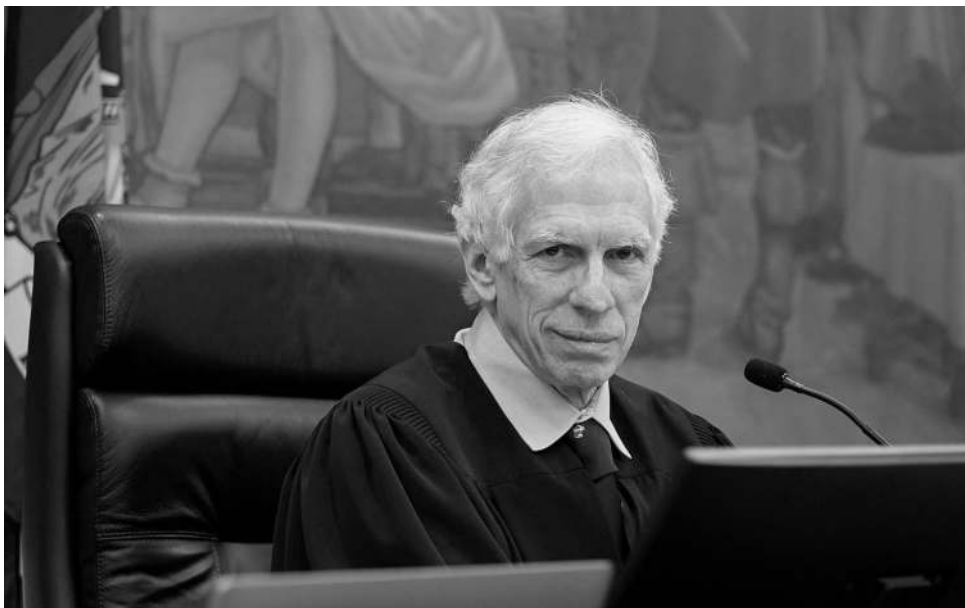
The evidence appeared in an email attachment shown as Allen Weisselberg, the former finance chief of Trump's company, testified in New York Attorney General Letitia James' fraud lawsuit against Trump and his Trump Organization. Trump denies any wrongdoing.

The attachment was a 1994 document, signed by Trump, that pegged his Trump Tower triplex at 10,996 square feet — not the 30,000 square feet later claimed for years on financial statements that were given to banks, insurers and others to make deals and secure loans.

Weisselberg said he recalled seeing the email but not the attachment, explaining that the attachments were documents he already had on file in the company's offices. But in any event, he said, he didn't pay much mind to the apartment's size because its value amounted to a fraction of Trump's wealth.

"I never even thought about the apartment. It was de minimis, in my mind," Weisselberg said, using a Latin term that means, essentially, too small to care about.

"It was not something that was that important to me when looking at a \$6 billion, \$5 bil-



SETH WENIG/AP

Judge Arthur Engoron sits on the bench inside New York Supreme Court, on Tuesday, in New York. In a pretrial ruling last month, Engoron found that former President Donald Trump, former Trump Organization CFO Allen Weisselberg and others committed fraud by exaggerating the value of Trump's assets and net worth on his financial statements.

lion net worth," said Weisselberg, whose questioning will resume after an ex-bank official testifies Wednesday.

Later, Weisselberg was asked about an appraisal that came in \$230 million below what Trump's financial statements showed for his Seven Springs estate north of New York City. Weisselberg said he was aware of the appraisal

but didn't think the disparity was worth flagging to the outside accountants who prepared the statements.

Nevertheless, Weisselberg acknowledged signing documents certifying that financial summaries given to banks to meet loan requirements were "true, correct, and completely and fairly" represented Trump's fi-

nancial condition.

Weisselberg repeatedly said he couldn't remember whether he discussed the financial statements with Trump while they were being finalized. The ex-CFO said he reviewed drafts "from a 30,000-foot level" but paid special attention to something "very important" to Trump: the descriptions of his properties.

"It was a little bit of a marketing piece for banks to read about our properties, how well they're taken care of, that they're first-class properties," said Weisselberg, who added that Trump scrutinized the language used in such descriptions.

"He might say, 'Don't use the word 'beautiful' — use the word 'magnificent,' 'or something like that,'" Weisselberg testified.

Weisselberg, 76, left a New York City jail six months ago after serving 100 days for dodging taxes on \$1.7 million in extras that came with his Trump Organization job, including a Manhattan apartment, school tuition for his grandchildren and luxury cars for him and his wife.

In a pretrial ruling last month, Judge Arthur Engoron found that Trump, Weisselberg and other defendants committed years of fraud by exaggerating the value of Trump's assets and net worth on his financial statements.

As punishment, Engoron ordered that a court-appointed receiver take control of some Trump companies, putting the future oversight of Trump Tower and other marquee properties in doubt. An appeals court on Friday blocked enforcement of that aspect of Engoron's ruling, at least for now.

Ahead of ruling, NM governor defends effort on gun violence

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Tuesday defended her decision to treat gun violence as a public health epidemic, citing statistics on recent firearms seizures, reduced reports of gunfire in the Albuquerque metro area and an uptick in jail bookings, while awaiting a crucial court ruling on a signature effort to suspend gun-carry rights in public parks and playgrounds.

The governor last week extended an emergency public health order regarding gun violence an additional 30 days into early November. A federal judge has temporarily blocked provisions that suspended the right to carry guns in public parks, playgrounds and other areas where children recreate, setting a Wednesday deadline for a ruling on whether to indefinitely block the restrictions while several court challenges are resolved.

Lujan Grisham appeared at the news conference alongside Cabinet secretaries not only for New Mexico's Public Safety and Corrections departments but also child welfare services, public health and environmental protection agencies that are under orders to respond to the ravages of gun violence and drugs.

They unveiled a new website dashboard for statistics related to gun violence in the Albuquerque area. Administration officials said some new efforts to contain gun violence and drugs wouldn't be possible without the emergency orders — such as a mandate that expanded behavior health services from major medical insurers and emergency

funding for wastewater testing for drugs at schools.

"I won't rest until we don't have to talk about (gun violence) as an epidemic and a public health emergency. That's the goal — and if we turn the tide and it's sustainable," Lujan Grisham said.

Lujan Grisham is confronting a public backlash from critics of her public health order who describe its gun restriction provisions as an assault on constitutional rights that allow a person to carry a firearm for self defense.

On Tuesday, the governor said she has a responsibility to explore opportunities for gun-free "safe spaces" amid shifting judicial precedent.

"That's a question that's now moving to the courts," Lujan Grisham said of her proposed gun restrictions. "I need to know what we can and cannot do to keep New Mexicans safe."

The governor has scaled back initial gun restrictions in the emergency public health order that broadly suspended the right to carry guns in most public places, which the sheriff and Albuquerque's police chief had refused to enforce.

The latest health order also avoids interference with access to a municipal shooting range in Albuquerque located within a public park. Gun restrictions would be tied to a statistical threshold for violent crime that applied only to Albuquerque and the surrounding area.

State police would have authority under the governor's order to assess civil penalties and fines of up to \$5,000 for infractions.

Son of man who texted he entered Pelosi's office Jan. 6 pleads guilty

By JEREMY ROEBUCK
The Philadelphia Inquirer

A New Jersey construction worker who tussled with officers outside the U.S. Capitol building and an Atlantic City man whose father boasted that he and his son could have defecated on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's desk pleaded guilty Tuesday to charges stemming from their participation in the insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021.

Like many of the rioters, both Peter Michael Krill, 55, of Sewell, and James Rahm III, 29, of Atlantic City, were eventually identified in part through videos they posted to their social media accounts.

Each man is now facing the prospect of prison time after admitting involvement in the attack during separate hearings in Washington.

Krill, the owner of Sewell-based PMK Construction, first came to the attention of FBI agents after a tipster flagged video he'd posted to his TikTok account of the brawling that broke out along the scaffolding that had been set up on the north side of the Capitol building.

He later surfaced in body camera footage from one of the officers that depicted Krill grabbing a police barricade and pulling it aside, allowing a group of rioters to push past officers and toward the Capitol building.

Security camera footage shows Krill in the Capitol Rotunda later that afternoon.

He pleaded guilty Tuesday to one count of impeding law enforcement during a civil disorder, a felony punishable by up to five years in prison.

Rahm's guilty plea comes a year after his father — James Rahm Jr., 64, of Philadelphia

— was found guilty at trial from charges arising from his participation in the attack. He was sentenced to a year in prison in January.

The father and son traveled together to Washington on Jan. 6. As Rahm III, who also goes by the nickname "J.D.," told U.S. District Judge Christopher R. Cooper on Tuesday, he went primarily to film footage of the Donald Trump rally on the National Mall earlier that day and was separated from his father as they marched toward the Capitol building.

But it was video he filmed and posted to his Snapchat account that caught the attention of tipsters who alerted the FBI.

"Oh my f— God, we just stormed the Capitol," Rahm III shouted in one clip posted just moments before he entered the building.

Videoposted to Twitter showed Rahm III at the forefront of a crowd of people inside the Capitol who forced officers away from one of the Capitol's exterior doors and opening them to allow dozens of other rioters inside. Among those who gained entry was Rahm Jr.

Though Rahm Jr. deleted all his own social media posts from Jan. 6 in the days after the attack, investigators later uncovered text messages in which he boasted of entering Pelosi's office with his son.

"I pissed in her office," he texted one friend, according to an exchange quoted in government court filings. "My son's got video."

He texted another man: "We breached the Capitol. Jay-Z [an autocorrection for J.D.] could [have defecated] on Pelosi's desk."

Prosecutors have said they have no evidence to suggest that Rahm Jr.'s talk of relieving himself inside the House speaker's office was anything more than idle boasting.

NATION



Sergii Molchanov via AP

In this photo provided by Sergii Molchanov, a man gets out of his car after crashing into the lobby of the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco on Monday.

White House condemns violent crash at Chinese Consulate in San Francisco

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ
AND AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A U.S. official said Tuesday the government believes the driver who crashed into the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco the day before did so “with malign intent,” but police haven’t shared details about the driver’s identity or motive for what the Chinese government has branded a “violent attack.”

A witness waiting his turn to submit his visa documents at the consulate Monday described seeing the car barrel through the main doors at full speed before striking a wall. The driver was bleeding from his head as he exited the vehicle yelling about the C.C.P., an abbreviation for the Chinese Communist Party, Sergii Molchanov said.

San Francisco police arrived on scene and shot the driver, who died later in a hospital.

“We condemn this incident and all violence perpetrated against foreign diplomatic staff working

in the United States,” White House National Security Council spokeswoman Adrienne Watson said.

U.S. government officials have been in contact with Chinese foreign ministry officials in the aftermath of the incident Monday, according to a White House official who was not authorized to comment and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The official added that investigators believe the driver was “acting with malign intent.”

San Francisco police said Monday they didn’t know why the unidentified driver smashed through the front of the consulate, located in a residential neighborhood and next to a major street. The San Francisco Police Department said in a statement Tuesday it had no other information and that it would hold a town hall meeting within 10 days to discuss the fatal shooting.

Molchanov was in line waiting for his turn to submit his visa documents when the car, a blue Honda sedan, barreled in through the

main doors at full speed, barely missing him.

Molchanov told The Associated Press that the car struck a wall, and he saw the driver, who was bleeding from his head, exit the car.

Molchanov took out his phone and recorded security guards approaching the man and several people running out of the building.

“Two security guards from the entrance tried to confront him and calm him down,” Molchanov said. “But I couldn’t see what he held in his hands.”

When it appeared that the man was attempting to grab something from his car, Molchanov said he rushed outside.

Shortly after that, police arrived on the scene. Molchanov said he heard two gunshots.

San Francisco police haven’t said how many officers fired or if the driver had a weapon.

Another witness said the driver was bleeding and holding knives when he exited the car and then began arguing with security guards.

Star witness says FTX founder hoped to be president

By KEN SWEET
AND LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Caroline Ellison, the tech executive who ran Sam Bankman-Fried’s hedge fund while sometimes dating him, testified Tuesday that he directed her to commit crimes before his cryptocurrency empire collapsed last November. She also revealed that her former boss thought he might be U.S. president someday.



Ellison

With Bankman-Fried watching from his courtroom seat, Ellison, 28, said at the New York City trial that she committed fraud, conspiracy to commit fraud and money laundering with Bankman-Fried and others as they stole from customers and investors in FTX, a company Bankman-Fried started, and lenders to his hedge fund, Alameda Research.

“He directed me to commit these crimes,” she said of Bankman-Fried.

Repeatedly, Ellison made clear that Bankman-Fried was behind the biggest financial moves in his companies, to the point that bitcoins he created were sometimes called “Sam’s coins.”

She described him as “very ambitious” and envisioning eventually leading huge companies and using his money influentially, especially in politics.

He even thought there was a 5% chance he’d become president someday, Ellison said.

“When you say president, what are you referring to?” asked As-

sistant U.S. Attorney Danielle Sassoon.

“Of the United States,” Ellison answered.

Shortly after Ellison’s highly anticipated turn on the witness stand began, she was asked to identify Bankman-Fried in the courtroom. The bespectacled Ellison stood and scanned the courtroom for a long minute, at first unable to spot him, before gesturing his way with a flip of her hand and saying he was “over there wearing a suit.”

The appearance of Bankman-Fried, who sat with his lawyers, has changed dramatically recently as he has lost weight and trimmed his well-known wild coif into a tightly cropped look more traditional among financial professionals.

Bankman-Fried, 31, could face decades in prison if he is convicted of charges lodged against him when he was brought to the United States from the Bahamas last December. He has pleaded not guilty.

Bankman-Fried was one of the world’s wealthiest people on paper, with an estimated net worth of \$32 billion, when his cryptocurrency businesses collapsed as investors and customers sought to empty their accounts last November. Bankruptcy proceedings followed as prosecutors alleged that stolen funds were used to fund his businesses, make donations and contribute to political campaigns in the hopes of influencing cryptocurrency regulation in Washington.

Ellison testified under a cooperation deal that could win her leniency at sentencing. It could also be pivotal when the jury decides Bankman-Fried’s fate on the seven counts he faces.

Utah sues TikTok, alleging it lures children into addictive habits

By MEAD GRUVER
Associated Press

Utah became the latest state Tuesday to file a lawsuit against TikTok, alleging the company is “baiting” children into addictive and unhealthy social media habits.

TikTok lures children into hours of social media use, misrepresents the app’s safety and deceptively portrays itself as independent of its Chinese parent company, ByteDance, Utah claims in the lawsuit.

“We will not stand by while these companies fail to take adequate, meaningful action to protect our children. We will prevail in holding social media companies accountable by any means necessary,” Republican Gov. Spencer Cox said at a news conference announcing the lawsuit, which was filed in state court in Salt Lake City.

Arkansas and Indiana have filed similar lawsuits while the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to decide whether state attempts to

regulate social media platforms such as Facebook, X and TikTok violate the Constitution.

Public health concerns are cited in the Utah lawsuit. Research has shown that children who spend more than three hours a day on social media double their risk of poor mental health, including anxiety and depression, the lawsuit alleges.

“TikTok designed and employs algorithm features that spoon-feed kids endless, highly curated content from which our children

struggle to disengage. TikTok designed these features to mimic a cruel slot machine that hooks kids’ attention and does not let them go,” Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes said at the news conference.

The lawsuit seeks to force TikTok to change its “destructive behavior” while imposing fines and penalties to fund education efforts and otherwise address damage done to Utah children, Reyes said.

“TikTok has industry-leading safeguards for young people, in-

cluding an automatic 60-minute time limit for users under 18 and parental controls for teen accounts. We will continue to work to keep our community safe by tackling industry-wide challenges,” TikTok spokesperson Alex Haurek said in an emailed statement.

Utah earlier this year became the first state to pass laws that aim to limit children and teen use of social media apps such as TikTok. The laws are set to take effect next year.

PACIFIC

Japan renaming air force as threats become ‘complex’

By SETH ROBSON
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Japan Air Self-Defense Force is adding to its name as potential threats from space become “more diverse, complex and advanced,” the nation’s defense minister said Tuesday at this airlift hub in western Tokyo.

The change to Air and Space Self-Defense Force is scheduled for fiscal year 2027, according to a document posted on the Defense Ministry website.

Clad in a green bomber jacket, newly appointed Defense Minister Minoru Kihara told around 100 Japanese airmen at Air Defense Command headquarters at Yokota that the threats they face have become more complicated amid advances in aircraft and missile technology.

“Today, it is extremely important for our country to respond to threats from the air,” he told reporters at the headquarters. “With the advent of ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, manned and unmanned aircraft and hypersonic missiles, the threats to our country from the air are becoming more diverse, complex and advanced.”

Japan’s air force frequently scrambles its fighters to meet Chinese and Russian aircraft approaching Japanese air space; it also tracks North Korean missile tests over the Sea of Japan, also known as the East Sea, including high-arching ballistic missiles

that enter space.

Kihara recently returned from Washington, where he met with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Oct. 4 and discussed Japan’s plans to accelerate the acquisition of hundreds of Tomahawk missiles.

Japan approved a \$51.4 billion defense budget this fiscal year, which started in April, and plans to buy 400 Tomahawks from the United States to develop counter-strike capabilities between fiscal years 2025 and 2027.

At Yokota, the headquarters of U.S. Forces Japan, Kihara saw Japanese and American airmen working closely together, he told reporters.

To deal with threats from the air, the defense force needs to improve information gathering, communication and use of space, Kihara said.

“Taking these points into account, the name (of Japan’s air force) will be changed to Air and Space Self-Defense Force,” he said.

The Air Self-Defense Force established a Space Operations Group last year at Fuchu Air Base, about five miles southeast of Yokota.

The U.S. Space Force is expanding its presence in Japan and may establish a headquarters at Yokota, Gen. Chance Saltzman, chief of space operations, told reporters in Tokyo on Sept. 25.

Securing the use of space is a vital issue



AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

Japan's newly appointed defense minister, Minoru Kihara, told airmen Tuesday at Air Defense Command at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, that the Japan Air Self-Defense Force needs to adjust to advances in aircraft and missile technology.

for national defense, Kihara said Tuesday.

“We will build satellite constellations with the aim of acquiring target detection and tracking capabilities, conduct technology demonstrations aimed at improving our ability to deal with detection and tracking of hypersonic glide weapons and strengthen our space domain awareness capabilities to

understand the movements of debris and untrustworthy satellites while strengthening cooperation with the United States,” he said.

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WORLD

Another quake hits western Afghanistan

Associated Press

CHAHAK, Afghanistan — Another strong earthquake shook western Afghanistan on Wednesday morning after an earlier one killed more than 2,000 people and flattened whole villages in Herat province in what was one of the most destructive quakes in the country's recent history.

The magnitude 6.3 earthquake on Wednesday was about 17 miles outside Herat, the provincial capital, and 6 miles deep, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It triggered a landslide that blocked the main Herat-Torghondi highway, Information Ministry spokesman Abdul Wahid Rayan said.

Janan Sayiq, a spokesman for the Afghan Taliban government's national disaster authority said Wednesday's earthquake killed at least one person and injured around 120 others.

The aid group Doctors Without Borders said Herat Regional Hospital received 117 people injured

in Wednesday's temblor. The group, also known by its French acronym MSF, said it sent additional medical supplies to the hospital and was setting up four more medical tents at the facility.

Wednesday's quake also flattened all 700 homes in Chahak village, which was untouched by the tremors of previous days. But no deaths have been reported so far in Chahak because people have taken shelter in tents this week, fearing for their lives as tremors continue to rock Herat.

Villagers are distraught over the loss of their homes and livestock, often their only possessions, and worry about the coming harsh winter months.

Some said they had never seen an earthquake before and wondered when the shaking of the ground would stop.

Many said they have no peace of mind inside the tents for fear the "ground will open and swallow us at any moment."

French troops begin to withdraw from Niger following the July coup

Associated Press

COTONOU, Benin — French troops have started leaving Niger more than two months after mutinous soldiers toppled the African country's democratically elected president, the military said Wednesday.

The French didn't specify how many troops were departing or where they were headed.

Late Tuesday, Niger's state television broadcast images of a convoy leaving a base in Ouallam in the country's north, saying it was

bound for neighboring Chad, to the east. French military transport aircraft were also shown departing from an airbase in the capital, Niamey.

The departure comes weeks after French President Emmanuel Macron announced that France will end its military presence in Niger and pull its ambassador out of the country as a result of the coup that removed President Mohamed Bazoum in late July. Some 1,500 French troops have been operating in Niger, training its mil-

itary and conducting joint operations.

Since seizing power, Niger's military leaders have leveraged anti-French sentiment among the population against its former colonial ruler and said the withdrawal signals a new step towards its sovereignty.

The United States has formally declared that the ousting of Bazoum was a coup, suspending hundreds of millions of dollars in aid as well as military assistance and training.

Malaysia's wildlife department defends use of puppies as live bait to trap black panthers

Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysia's Wildlife Department defended its use of puppies as live bait to capture black panthers spotted at a Malaysian village after animal rights groups protested the method and appealed to the

government to use other means.

The department resorted to using puppies after earlier attempts to lure the panthers with a goat failed. Wildlife Department Director General Abdul Kadir Hashim said the puppies were not physically harmed in the process.

Farmers in a village in southern Negeri Sembilan state were terrified after spotting a panther near their home in September. Villagers lodged a complaint with the Wildlife Department after a panther mauled their dog at a fruit orchard in the state on Sept. 4.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man killed while hunting with friends for coyotes

IA ALDEN — An Iowa man died after being shot while hunting with friends for coyotes.

Mark Arends, 53, was hunting on private land near the town of Alden, 60 miles northeast of Des Moines, around 8 p.m. Sunday. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources said in a news release that Arends was struck by a single rifle shot. The shooting remains under investigation and no arrests have been made.

The state agency said the hunters were several hundred yards apart when Arends was shot. He was pronounced dead at a hospital. An autopsy is planned.

3 of 4 killed in stolen SUV crash were teens

MD MITCHELLVILLE — Three teenagers were among four people killed in a fiery crash involving a stolen SUV fleeing from an attempted traffic stop in Maryland, police said on Monday.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Marquay Swann, 14, of Lanham, and two passengers were identified as Zyshaun Cufey, 15, of Glenarden, and Serenity Sellman, 15, of Upper Marlboro, the Prince George's County Police Department said in a statement. The medical examiner's office was still working to confirm the identity of the fourth person, police said.

According to police, officers attempted a traffic stop on a Kia Sorento with expired temporary tags on Sept. 29.

About four minutes later, according to an "independent witness," police said the driver of the Kia used the shoulder of a roadway to attempt a pass, lost control and hit a tree in Mitchellville.

Historic schooner's mast fall onto deck, killing 1

ME ROCKLAND — The main mast of a historic excursion vessel splintered and fell onto the deck Monday, killing one person and injuring three others aboard the schooner Grace Bailey off the coast of Maine, officials said.

A nearby Coast Guard vessel began evacuating the injured passengers within minutes of the mast's catastrophic failure and collapse on the deck, which occurred while the schooner was returning from a four-day cruise, the vessel's owner said in a statement.

Thirty-three people were on board the schooner, which was about 1 mile east of the Rockland harbor, the Coast Guard said.

One person died from injuries and three people were transported to hospitals Monday, the Rockland Fire Department said. A helicopter transported one of the injured, while the other two were



ALAN WARREN, (OWENSBORO, KY.) MESSENGER-INQUIRER/AP

Once upon a time in Kentucky

Dewayne Simpson walks past a new mural of Owensboro native Johnny Depp by artist Aaron Kizer on the side of RYco Jewelers in Owensboro, Ky., on Monday.

transported to a local hospital, fire officials said.

Library mistakenly adds kids' book to explicit list

AL HUNTSVILLE — An Alabama public library mistakenly added a children's picture book to a list of potentially inappropriate titles because the author's last name is "Gay," the library's director said.

"Read Me a Story, Stella," a children's picture book by Canadian author Marie-Louise Gay, was added to a list of books flagged for potential removal from the children's section of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library because of "sexually explicit" content.

But the book, which is about a pair of siblings reading together and building a dog house, should not have been on the list and was only added because of the keyword "gay," Cindy Hewitt, the library's executive director told AL.com on Sunday.

The book was one of 233 books set to be reviewed and potentially moved.

Florida settles lawsuit over COVID data

FL TALLAHASSEE — Florida will have to provide COVID-19 data to the public again after a former Democratic state representative settled a lawsuit with Republican Gov. Ron

DeSantis' administration over the decision two years ago to stop posting information on the virus' spread online.

Then-Rep. Carlos Guillermo Smith sued after the Department of Health denied his public records request for COVID-19 data in 2021 and announced the settlement Monday.

He was joined by the Florida Center for Government Accountability.

The settlement requires the department to provide COVID-19 data to the public for the next three years, including weekly statistics on cases, deaths and vaccinations by county, age group, gender and race, Smith said in a news release.

The state must also pay more than \$152,000 in legal fees to cover the plaintiffs' legal costs.

Nuclear plant gets warning over cracked pipe

SC JENKINSVILLE — Federal officials have issued a warning about a substantial safety violation at a South Carolina nuclear plant after cracks were discovered again in a backup emergency fuel line.

Small cracks have been found a half-dozen times in the past 20 years in pipes that carry fuel to emergency generators that provide cooling water for a reactor if electricity fails at the V.C. Summer plant near Columbia, according to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory

Commission.

The agency issued what it calls a preliminary "yellow" warning to plant owner Dominion Energy last week.

It is the second most serious category and only seven similar warnings have been issued across the country since 2009, nuclear power expert David Lochbaum told The State newspaper after reviewing records from federal regulators.

Court votes to limit eviction records

WI MADISON — The Wisconsin Supreme Court voted Monday in its first public administrative conference in more than a decade to reduce from 20 years to two years the time when most eviction records must be kept on the state court website.

The change was sought by tenant rights advocates who argued that the longer record-keeping has made it more difficult for people with lower incomes to find housing.

The court voted 4-3, with liberals in support and conservatives against, for shortening the record-keeping on the state court website, commonly referred to by the acronym CCAP.

Legal Action of Wisconsin sought the change for cases where there is no money judgment against a tenant. At a hearing last month, tenant advocates said the

change would help renters with eviction histories, since many landlords rely solely on the statewide court website for determining whether to rent to someone.

Justice Brian Hagedorn dissented. He questioned closing off public access to the records, which he also said would pose an administrative burden for court officials.

Pumpkin weighing 2,749 pounds sets world record

CA HALF MOON BAY — A Minnesota horticulture teacher set a world record in California on Monday for the heaviest pumpkin after growing a giant jack-o'-lantern gourd weighing 2,749 pounds.

Travis Gienger of Anoka, Minn., won the 50th World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off in Half Moon Bay, Calif., with an enormous, lumpy, orange pumpkin that could produce at least 687 pies.

"I was not expecting that. It was quite the feeling," said Gienger, 43, who has been growing pumpkins for nearly 30 years and last year set a new U.S. record for growing a giant gourd.

The previous world record for heaviest pumpkin was set by a grower in Italy who produced a 2,702-pound squash in 2021, according to Guinness World Records.

FACES

Rena Sofer heads back to ‘Hospital’

Fan favorite rejoins soap opera decades after last appearance

By ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

It’s been nearly 30 years, but Rena Sofer still remembers her line from a classic scene on ABC’s “General Hospital” in 1994 when her character jumped out of a cake to surprise her husband and his other wife.

“She said, ‘Happy birthday, Mrs. Ned Ashton, from me, the other Mrs. Ned Ashton!’ And then she turns and she goes, ‘Help me out, boys,’” Sofer recalled in a recent interview.

The scene was memorable (and even parodied in the 1996 movie “The Great White Hype”), but Sofer’s portrayal of Lois Cerullo — a fast-talking Brooklyn girl, with long nails and a thick accent, who wears her heart on her sleeve — made her a fan favorite. Sofer reprised the role for a limited run on Wednesday.

“My husband and I are planning a move to the East Coast and, you know, I just thought, when I moved here, one of my first big jobs was ‘General Hospital,’ and it just felt very full circle for one of my last jobs in Los Angeles while I live here to be ‘General Hospital’ and doing this character that I love so much.”

Sofer recognizes how special it is for an actor’s work to resonate with people.

“I played Lois for just under three years and I still have people walking up to me saying, ‘Lois is my favorite.’ I’m proud of who she is. I’m proud to have played her. I just love Lois,” she said of the character she began playing in 1993. “If Lois were a real human being, I would hope she’d want to be my friend.”

Returning to set after more than 25 years away was “really weird,” an odd mix of familiarity with essentially being new.

“Just walking around the halls, I’m looking at the names on the dressing rooms and so many I remembered and so many I had no idea. I felt like a fish out of water. But it was also the same building. So it was a little disconcerting, but it was also a little *deja vu*,” she recounted.

One name she obviously is very familiar with is Wally Kurth, who still plays Ned on the show. Sofer and Kurth were married for a short time after meeting on “General Hospital.”



WILLY SANJUAN, INVISION/AP

Actor Rena Sofer, shown at the Daytime Emmy Awards in 2018, is appearing on the daytime series “General Hospital” after nearly 30 years.

There was this moment of, ‘Is it going to be OK? Am I treading on his space?’ Because this is his home. This is not my home. I’m being allowed to be here as a guest,” Sofer said.

“But, you know, Wally is so open-hearted and so kind and decent and I think he’s so excited to have Lois be part of his storyline in the same way that I’m so excited to be part of the show again,” she added.

Their daughter Rosabel even wanted to come home from college to see her parents on set together.

“Any children of divorce who get to see their parents actually enjoy being in the same space with each other, I think it’s like a celebration, you know?” Sofer said. “I’m like, ‘If that’s what it takes for you to come home’ — because she never comes home — ‘then we are both in for it. We will both pay for your flight to come home.’”

All it took to slip into the character was to pick out Lois’ signature nails: “I put the nails on, I was done. The nails are such a part of who she is.”

Executive producer Frank Valentini brought in a nail artist to work with Sofer to create nail designs to match Lois’ outfits.

“We sat for like 3½ hours and we designed nails and it was a blast. And then you put on the outfit with the matching nails and it was like, ‘Oh my God, here she is,” Sofer said. “It was perfect.”

Manilow musical ‘Harmony’ finally making it to Broadway

By JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

More than 30 years after the musical “Harmony” was written, it finally prepares to make its Broadway debut. The show was almost lost to history — like its subject.

The historical show written by Barry Manilow and Bruce Sussman tells the true story of the forgotten German performing group The Comedian Harmonists. Many regard the six-man group as one of the first boy bands, as they recorded a string of popular albums and played sold-out venues around the globe.

But at the height of their popularity, the Nazi party took control of Germany, and they were denounced for being degenerates. Three of the group’s members were Jewish, and possessing their music was considered a crime.

Relegated to obscurity and word of mouth, Sussman learned of the group through a German-language documentary. After seeing it, he recalls running to a phone booth in lower Manhattan to call his writing partner about what he just saw.

“I had never heard of them. And I thought, (Manilow) knows every song ever written. He knows every group that ever was,” Sussman told the Associated Press in a recent interview.

Manilow was also unaware.

“Then we realized that’s the story,” Sussman said.

But that was half the battle, as information on the group was hard to come by. “The Nazis tried to annihilate them, and they did. You couldn’t find any records. You couldn’t look at any of their movies,” Manilow said.

Though they made approximately a dozen films and released numerous recordings, most were confiscated and destroyed.

“It was illegal to own or play or sell the records, so people hid their 78s under their mattresses. And after the war, they began to emerge,” Sussman said.

While the show was written in the 1990s, Manilow states that the long road to Broadway — including stops off-Broadway in New York City and La Jolla Playhouse in California — had little to do with finishing the show and more about finding the right person to bring it to the big stage.

Then Tony-Award winning theatrical producer Ken Davenport stepped in. “He delivered all the way,” Sussman said. Previews begin Oct. 18 at the Barrymore Theatre.

The musical stars Sierra Boggess, Chip Zien and Julie Benko. The six Comedian Harmonists are Sean Bell, Danny Kornfeld, Zal Owen, Eric Peters, Blake Roman and Steven Telsey. The director is Warren Carlyle.



JOHN CARUCCI/AP

From left: Bruce Sussman, Barry Manilow and Warren Carlyle confer during a Sept. 27 rehearsal for the musical “Harmony” in New York.



AMY HARRIS, INVISION/AP

Keith Urban, shown June 9, is among the new inductees into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Keith Urban shares his secrets to songwriting

By MARIA SHERMAN
Associated Press

Country superstar Keith Urban and Kix Brooks of powerhouse duo Brooks & Dunn were to be inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame on Wednesday night at Nashville’s Music City Center.

Urban, a four-time Grammy Award winning musician, was celebrated at the 53rd anniversary gala for hits such as “But for the Grace of God,” “Who Wouldn’t Wanna Be Me” and “Days Go By.”

Kix Brooks’ songwriting in Brooks & Dunn helped shaped the iconic ‘90s country music sound, with tracks like the Grammy-nominated “Brand New Man,” “You’re

Gonna Miss Me When I’m Gone” and “Only in America.”

Other inductees include Casey Beathard and David Lee Murphy, in the contemporary songwriter category, and Rafe Van Hoy in the veteran songwriter category.

When asked to share the secret behind great songwriting in advance of the ceremony, Urban told The Associated Press over the phone: “It’s one of the most elusive things. Some days it just flows, and other days, there’s nothing. I just always hope it’s not a day where I show up to somebody important to write with and nothing comes in.”

Urban says he’s learned over the years that if the inspiration to write a song doesn’t

hit one day, it’s best to be kind to yourself.

“Just be in the moment and flow. If it’s there, it’s there. If it’s not, it’s not. But there’s a real balance, I think, of inspiration and craft,” he said. “It’s a blend of those two and then a whole bunch of mysticism all at the same time.”

Simply put: There’s no equation.

“It’s alchemy. You’re making something where there was nothing,” he continued. “I’ve often said that I can’t physically bring a child into being, but I can bring a song into being.

“And that song didn’t exist before that day. And now it exists and now it will always exist. And that’s an amazing feeling.”



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OPINION

New Biden immigration policies face uphill battle

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

The immigration issue has hit Democratic strongholds up north, prompting new moves from the Biden administration.

In both a substantive and political response, it announced it would resume deporting illegal Venezuelan entrants and complete parts of former President Donald Trump’s controversial border wall.

But the impact will likely be mostly symbolic, and the actions won’t do much to solve either aspect of the long-standing problem, which has become the latest threat to President Joe Biden’s re-election.

Last spring, the administration instituted some revised border procedures and temporarily slowed the migrant flow. But recently, the number of asylum seekers crossing the Southern border has soared again, along with Venezuelans fleeing their country’s autocratic regime and continuing economic and social disorder.

Besides Texas border areas, they are flooding northern cities, straining public resources. That prompted criticism from Democratic governors and mayors, among Biden’s strongest political allies in states he needs in next year’s election.

New York Mayor Eric Adams warned the influx will “destroy” the nation’s largest city. Democratic governors in Massachusetts, New York, California and Illinois all demanded more federal help.

In a typical response, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker called the current situation “untenable,” declaring in a letter to Biden, “Unfortunately, the welcome and aid Illinois has been providing to these asylum seekers has not been matched with support by the federal government.”

Republican foes like Texas Gov. Greg Abbott have long criticized the Biden administra-

tion’s immigration policies, and some exacerbated the situation by shipping busloads of migrants north. And congressional Republicans have sought to include new enforcement measures in must-pass funding legislation, a battle certain to be renewed next month when the federal government’s spending authority again expires.

But the impact of criticism changed when it began to come from the president’s Democratic allies — almost certainly a factor in last week’s reversals despite White House denials politics was a motivation.

Just two weeks after extending temporary legal status to more than 70,000 illegal Venezuelan immigrants living in the United States, the administration said Venezuelans arriving after July 31 would be subject to deportation.

Meanwhile, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas announced the federal government would bypass environmental and conservation laws to complete some 20 miles of Trump’s wall in south Texas.

During his presidential campaign, Biden vowed not to build “another foot of wall” and, upon taking office, halted Trump’s signature project, leaving dozens of gaps and piles of unused equipment.

But last week, he said Congress had required him to spend previously voted funds for the project. “I was told that I had no choice,” Biden said.

Both Biden and Mayorkas also renewed their contention the wall was an ineffective means of halting the influx of illegal entrants.

Noting the reversal, Trump promptly called on Biden to “apologize to me and America for taking so long to get moving.” And the announcement drew sharp criticism from Biden’s normal environmental allies, many liberal Democratic lawmakers and Hispanic groups.

But Rep. Colin Alford, D-Texas, who is running for the U.S. Senate, called it “a necessary

Iran’s entanglements permeate Israel-Hamas conflict

By MARC CHAMPION
Bloomberg Opinion

It has been as unsurprising as it is grotesque to see Iran’s leaders applaud Hamas’ “victory” even as evidence of atrocities against Israeli women and children mounts. From here on, the outlook becomes much more complicated for Tehran, but so too for Israel and the U.S. We still don’t know exactly what role Iran played in Saturday’s attack on Israel by Hamas, but there’s growing evidence that Tehran’s client at least asked permission, and that means Israeli and U.S. policymakers will have to factor it into their responses.

Iran is no longer as isolated or vulnerable as it once was. The war in Ukraine has shuffled geopolitical alignments and, as a result, possibly for the first time since the 1979 revolution, Tehran can count on powerful friends to give it at least diplomatic protection. Its role in providing Moscow with attack drones for its invasion of Ukraine has ensured that.

Andrey Gurulyov, a former Russian military commander and now member of parliament for the ruling United Russia party, said on his Telegram channel Monday: “We and China will not allow the adoption of an anti-Iranian resolution in the UN Security Council.” A China-brokered agreement to restore Tehran’s relations with Saudi Arabia has also helped to stabilize that relationship.

The importance of Iran’s oil supply to sup-

pressing prices on the global market, and its potential to disrupt much larger flows through the Strait of Hormuz also offer a measure of leverage, if not protection.

At the same time, the process of normalizing relations between Israel and the Arab world had been making progress since the 2020 U.S.-brokered Abraham accords. A deal adding Saudi Arabia was on the table, even as Israel embarked on a no-concessions policy in dealing with Palestinians living in Gaza and the West Bank. All that hit a wall on Saturday — a clear win for Iran.

For Hamas and Iran’s clerical leadership, both dedicated to eradication of Israel, the Jewish state’s regional normalization had been humiliating and called in question their purpose — either as a self-styled strike force for the Palestinian cause or as a revolutionary Islamic Republic. The Hamas attack is precisely the kind of ostentatiously disruptive operation Iran has wanted to see for years, and offers a welcome distraction from its many internal problems.

The 1979 revolution is today a gerontocracy. Its battle cries of “Death to Israel” and “Death to America” no longer resonate with the growing majority of the population that has only known rule by an Islamist dictatorship it despises.

For the Iranian regime, the main concern is that war with an enraged Israel, fully backed by the force of the U.S., could if mis-

step to help Texas’ overwhelmed border communities deal with the current surge of migrants.”

Many northern states and cities have policies requiring them to house and feed migrants, and the costs have spiraled out of control.

In New York City, where some 120,000 migrants arrived in the past year, many from Southern states, officials said they had spent \$1.7 billion by the end of July and expect the yearlong cost to reach \$5 billion. Adams last week visited Central America to seek help in stemming the tide, declaring “There is no more room in New York.”

In Massachusetts, Gov. Maura Healy declared a state of emergency in August, calling the situation “desperate.” In Illinois, Pritzker said that, besides 15,000 migrants already there, “we are now seeing busloads [of] more migrants at increasingly higher rates being sent specifically to Chicago each day.”

In recent weeks, the administration provided \$770 million for states and cities to deal with migrants and asked Congress to authorize \$600 million more. But judging from burgeoning costs, officials are right when they say that’s insufficient. And the issue threatens to become an even greater problem for the Democrats in next year’s election.

In a recent NBC News poll, the Republicans’ advantage on immigration has grown to 18 points from 9 in October 2021. That makes it almost certain the administration will accede to some Republican demands for increased border funds and personnel.

But the issue is basically insoluble without the comprehensive approach the administration can’t institute on its own and Congress has repeatedly ignored — one more political handicap for Biden to surmount.

Carl P. Leubsdorf is a former Washington bureau chief of The Dallas Morning News.

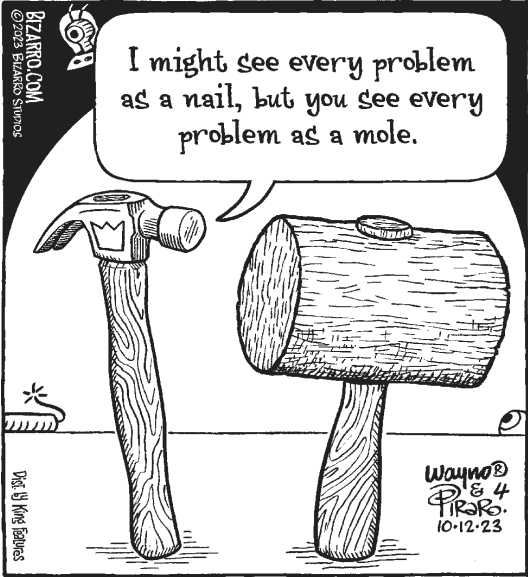
carried be its last fight, or equally could mark the end of Hezbollah, its proxy force in Lebanon, says John Raine, a Middle East specialist and senior adviser for Geopolitical Due Diligence at the international Institute for Strategic Studies in London. That’s why Iran has in recent years tried to avoid a direct conventional war with either.

At the same time, the challenge for the U.S. and Israel is punishing Iran without just expanding the coming conflict’s cost and destruction for themselves.

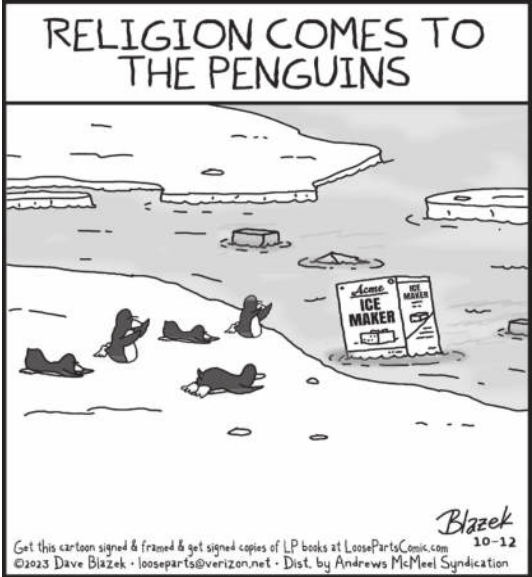
The pressure on both Israel and Iran to expand Operation Iron Sword against Hamas into a regional war is real. But a wider war is far from inevitable. Iran’s ultra-conservative leadership “will lionize Hamas as this fight goes on, but the time will come when it is under pressure to put its money where its mouth is, because Hamas will have its hat out there for help,” says Raine. In Syria and Iraq, that meant sending Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps personnel to the front lines, but the stakes in Gaza are much higher. Even Hamas, having made sure Israel would have to attack its stronghold in Gaza, can’t be sure if Iran’s aging Islamist revolutionaries will come to its rescue.

Marc Champion is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering Europe, Russia and the Middle East. He was previously Istanbul bureau chief for The Wall Street Journal. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

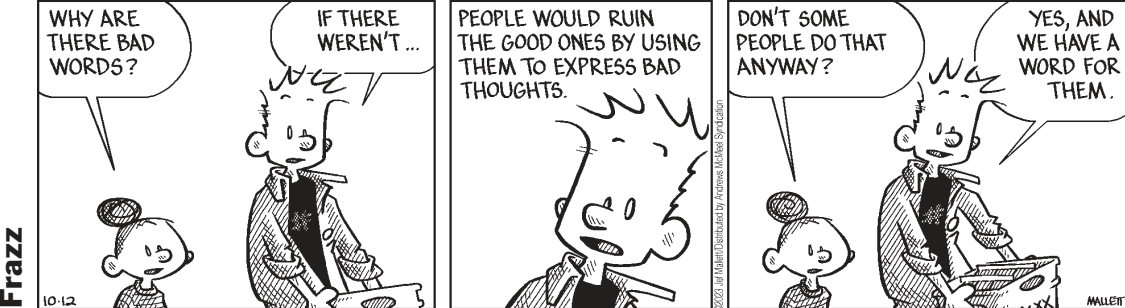
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59					60					61		

- ACROSS
- 60 Reporter's quest
- 61 Storm center
- 22 Laundry appliance
- 23 Cry
- 27 Crosses (out)
- 29 "Well played!"
- 30 Too
- 31 Punch
- 33 Relate
- 35 "So frustrating!"
- 38 HBO rival
- 40 Realty listings
- 43 Money expert
- 45 Label
- 46 X-ray doses
- 47 Pennsylvania port
- 48 Give up
- 49 Trig function
- 53 SSE's opposite
- 54 Has permission
- 55 Ram's mate
- DOWN
- 1 Dog's foot
- 4 Ale variety
- 8 Actress Sorvino
- 12 Previously
- 13 Jai —
- 14 Inventor Sikorsky
- 15 Gin or bridge, e.g.
- 17 Spruced up
- 18 Payable
- 19 Freaky
- 21 Hardships
- 24 Not 'neath
- 25 Lyricist Gershwin
- 26 Boston team, for short
- 28 French painter Edgar
- 32 Freebie
- 34 Entreat
- 36 Causeway charge
- 37 Leg joints
- 39 Pouch
- 41 Buckeyes' sch.
- 42 Sorority letter
- 44 "Oh boy!"
- 46 Clerical leaders
- 50 Pester
- 51 Vicinity
- 52 Psychological trick
- 56 Conn of "Grease"
- 57 Part of A.D.
- 58 Big mouth
- 59 Viewed

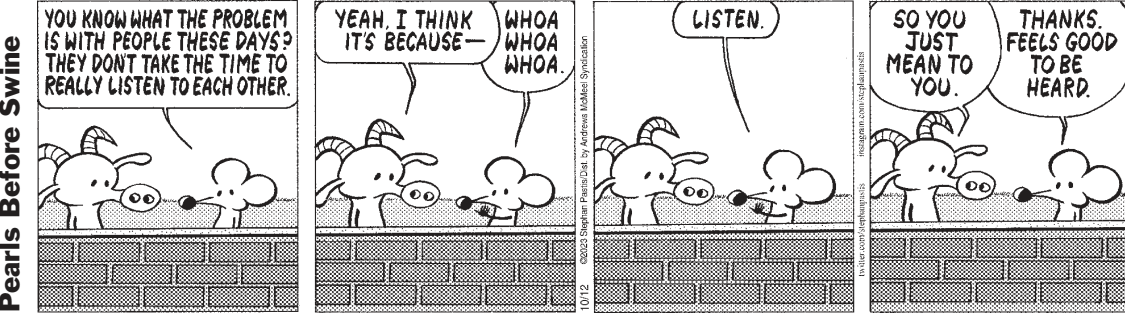
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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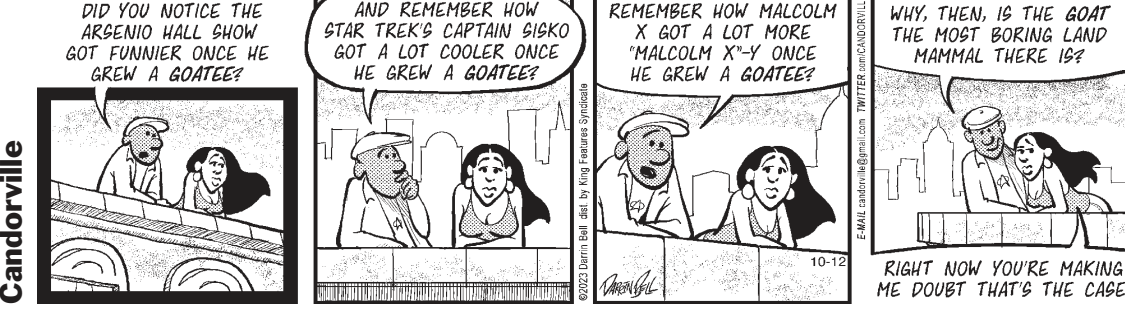
Pearls Before Swine



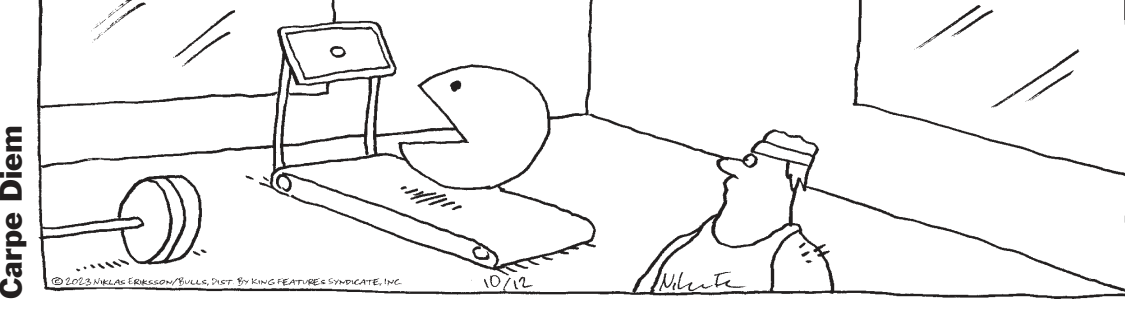
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



10-12 CRYPTOQUIP

HCJL INEP ZJLMXUM DUJ

SNZTEJB GNLT IUXP SCJNU

FXAM, HCDS DUJ SCJQ BXNLK?

A E J J G N L K I X U F X Q.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL A VERY DULL STORY THAT GOES ON FOR FAR TOO LONG? AN OVERDRAWN ACCOUNT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals G

NHL

ROUNDUP

Knights raise Cup banner, top Kraken

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Jonathan Marchessault scored, Adin Hill made 23 saves and the Stanley Cup champion Vegas Golden Knights beat the Seattle Kraken 4-1 on Tuesday night after a banner-raising ceremony.

Conn Smythe winner Marchessault scored in the first game of the season for the fourth straight year and the fifth time in seven seasons with Vegas.

Chandler Stephenson, Ivan Barbashev and Jack Eichel also scored for the Golden Knights.

The Golden Knights improved to 6-1-0 in home openers, their only loss coming in 2018 to Philadelphia. Vegas has outscored their visitors 26-14 in those games.

Jared McCann scored Seattle's lone goal. Philipp Grubauer made 24 saves.

Vegas got the scoring going early in the first period when Mark Stone, Brett Howden and Stephenson played tic-tac-toe in the offensive zone. As they crossed the blue line, Stone went cross-ice with a pass to Howden, who sent the puck to the crease where Stephenson was there for the finish.

The Golden Knights made it 2-0 when Seattle's Brandon Tanev went to clear the puck past the goal, but Marchessault nicked it off course and past Grubauer.

Barbashev connected on a breakaway snapper 1:20 into the second period to make it 3-0. Seattle answered midway through the period when McCann's wrist shot from the slot sailed past Hill.

The Kraken had an ample opportunity midway into the third, when Howden was called for a match penalty after he delivered a shot to Tanev's head. But just as he did in standing tall during the Golden Knights' Stanley Cup run, Hill was outstanding in making six saves during the penalty kill.

"I thought our penalty kill did an excellent job," Hill said. "It was kind of an area of emphasis during camp, just trying to work on it and kind of be aggressive and err on the side of aggression. I thought we did that tonight and I thought our penalty kill was outstanding. Of course they're going to get a couple looks, but yeah, we did a good job limiting it."

Eichel scored into an empty net with a little more than a minute remaining.

Lightning 5, Predators 3: Jonas Johansson made 29 saves in his first start in place of the injured Andrei Vasilevskiy and host Tampa Bay beat Nashville.

Johansson was signed to be Vasilevskiy's backup. Vasilevskiy

had back surgery two weeks ago and is expected to miss another six to eight weeks.

Brandon Hagel converted a penalty shot for Tampa Bay, Nicholas Paul had two power-play goals and Nikita Kucherov also scored twice. Brayden Point had three assists, and captain Steven Stamkos added an assist.

Nashville's Juuse Saros stopped 29 shots. Ryan O'Reilly, Juuso Parssinen and Tommy Novak had goals in Andrew Brunette's debut as Predators coach.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference									
Atlantic Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	0	2	5	3		
Toronto	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Montreal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Ottawa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Florida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Buffalo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Detroit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Boston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Metropolitan Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Columbus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
N.Y. Islanders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
N.Y. Rangers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Carolina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Philadelphia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
New Jersey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Pittsburgh	1	0	1	0	0	2	4		
Western Conference									
Central Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Chicago	1	1	0	0	2	4	2		
Winnipeg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Minnesota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
St. Louis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Dallas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Arizona	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Colorado	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Nashville	1	0	1	0	0	3	5		
Pacific Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Vegas	1	1	0	0	2	4	1		
Seattle	1	0	1	0	0	1	4		
Calgary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Los Angeles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Edmonton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Anaheim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Vancouver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
San Jose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Tuesday's games

Chicago 4, Pittsburgh 2
Vegas 4, Seattle 1
Tampa Bay 5, Nashville 3

Wednesday's games

Montreal at Toronto
Ottawa at Carolina
Chicago at Boston
Colorado at Los Angeles
Edmonton at Vancouver
Winnipeg at Calgary

Thursday's games

N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo
Philadelphia at Columbus
Detroit at New Jersey
Florida at Minnesota
Seattle at Nashville
St. Louis at Dallas
Vegas at San Jose

Friday's games

Arizona at New Jersey
Pittsburgh at Washington



The Chicago Blackhawks' Connor Bedard, left, and the Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby skate Tuesday in Pittsburgh. Crosby scored a goal, but Chicago rallied to win with Bedard recording an assist.

Bedard has assist in win over Crosby, Pens

By WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Connor Bedard skated into the faceoff circle, saw one of his idols standing across from him and tried to soak in the moment.

That really was Sidney Crosby within arm's reach. That really was referee Kelly Sutherland welcoming him to the NHL on national television. That really was a sellout crowd pulling cameras out trying to capture the meeting of two generational talents at opposite ends of their careers.

Then the puck dropped, and the instincts that have made the 18-year-old Bedard the NHL's next big thing kicked in.

Playing with a charismatic fearlessness, Bedard dazzled in Chicago's 4-2 comeback win over Crosby and the Penguins on Tuesday night.

The top pick in the draft picked up an assist and fired five shots at Tristan Jarry while playing 21:29, hardly looking intimidated by the stage, the stakes or pretty much anything else.

"I think, for me, it's just trying to get better every shift, every game," Bedard said. "I created a bit. There's obviously things I can get better at. But felt pretty good."

Looked pretty good too. Penguins defenseman Kris Letang gave Bedard a couple of "welcome to the NHL hits," not in an attempt to send a message but because at times it was the only way to keep

up with Bedard.

"He's so good, so shifty," Letang said. "He's got great moves. I had to play him hard. He's really deceptive. You can't even look at the puck one second, because he's so fast."

Chicago trailed 2-0 when Crosby began his 19th season by scoring his 551st career goal, a shot into an open net off a pass from Jake Guentzel 11:56 into the second period.

The Blackhawks roared back behind a goal from Ryan Donato — with a secondary assist from Bedard — in the second period and Cole Guttman's goal midway through the third. Jason Dickinson gave Chicago the lead with 4:31 remaining. Nick Foligno's empty-netter with 1:33 to go sent most of the sellout crowd that came to watch one of the NHL's brightest stars take on one of its newest home.

"I feel like that was a complete game," Dickinson said. "We played the full 60. We stuck to our game plan. We played a hard game. It's nice when you get rewarded."

Petr Mrazek stopped 38 shots for the Blackhawks.

Crosby and Bryan Rust scored for the Penguins.

Bedard's arrival in the NHL had been anticipated for years, much like Crosby's when the Penguins grabbed him with the top overall selection in 2005, all of 13 days after Bedard was born. His arrival

in Chicago has given the beleaguered franchise a much-needed jolt even though there almost certainly will be some growing pains on a team that's missed the playoffs five of the last six seasons as the dynasty that won three Stanley Cups between 2010-15 faded.

Like Crosby, Bedard seems at ease with the attention that has followed him from childhood prodigy to the NHL. He joked during the morning skate that he slept "like a baby." He sprinted onto the ice with fellow Blackhawks rookie Kevin Korchiński during warmups, the two teenagers having the rink to themselves momentarily as is tradition for players making their NHL debuts.

Bedard was fidgety during the national anthem, his legs in constant motion, eager to get a moment he'd been dreaming about since he was a phenom growing up in British Columbia, Canada.

While he didn't win that opening faceoff — he didn't win many, going just 2 for 13 on draws — once the puck was in motion, Bedard was frequently a blur.

He recorded the first shot of his career just over six minutes in on a one-timer with Chicago on the power play. He kept right on pumping pucks at Jarry, his No. 98 constantly in motion. He was unafraid to fling his 5-foot-10, 185-pound frame into tight spaces, be they the front of the net or the corners.

NFL

Off the charts: Dolphins, 49ers offenses dominant

By **JOSH DUBOW**
Associated Press

Kyle Shanahan and Mike McDaniel spent years together scheming ways to exploit NFL defenses.

Now split apart with McDaniel in his second season coaching Miami and Shanahan in year seven in San Francisco, the two offensive coaches have their teams threatening records with their early season domination.

The 49ers and Dolphins rank 1-2 in several key offensive categories from scoring, to yards per play, to success rate, to passer rating to first downs.

Miami is the second team in NFL history to average at least 500 yards of offense a game through five games, with their 513.6 beating out the previous record of 505.4 set by the Rams in 2000.

The Dolphins are scoring 36.2 points per game for the best total at this point of the season in eight years as defenses have had no answer for the speed of players like Tyreek Hill, De’Von Achane, Jaylen Waddle or Raheem Mostert.

Miami has seven of the nine fastest speeds for ball carriers tracked by NFLNextGen stats, led by Hill’s 22.01 mph on a 64-yard catch last week. Hill also reached a speed of 20.95 mph on a 69-yard TD against the Giants last week that gave him five TDs on the season and tied him with Lance Alworth for fifth place with his 19th career TD of at least 60 yards.

Achane is on a record-setting pace of his own with his seven TDs in his first four games ranking second in NFL history to Bill Paschal’s eight in 1943.

Achane has rushed for 100 yards and a TD in three straight games, tied for the second-longest streak ever for a rookie since the merger before Franco Harris’ six-game streak in 1972. He is averaging 12.1 yards per carry on the season.

Mostert leads the NFL with eight TDs, making the Dolphins the second team ever with three players with at least five TDs from scrimmage in the first five games of a season. New England did it in 2011 with Rob Gronkowski, Wes Welker and BenJarvus Green-Elis.

The Niners have been more dominant overall, becoming the ninth team in the Super Bowl era to start 5-0 with a point differential of plus-99 or better. Six of the previous eight teams to do it made the Super Bowl with Washington (1991), the Rams (1999) and Saints (2009) winning it all.

San Francisco is the sixth team to score at least 30 points in each of



REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP

Dolphins wide receiver Tyreek Hill gestures as he races for a touchdown against the New York Giants on Sunday.

the first five games of a season, and their eight-game regular season streak of scoring at least 30 points ranks fifth-longest ever.

Quarterback Brock Purdy and running back Christian McCaffrey have fueled this run, with Purdy throwing a career-high four TD passes and McCaffrey running for a score in a 42-10 win over Dallas.

Purdy has won all 10 of his regular season starts with his 121.1 rating in those starts the best ever through 10 starts. He has completed 70.4% of his passes — second best to Chad Pennington’s 70.8% — through 10 starts. Only Ben Roethlisberger has won more consecutive starts to begin his career with 15.

McCaffrey has TDs in 14 consecutive games in the regular season and playoffs, tied with Emmitt Smith for the fourth longest streak ever. Only Lenny Moore (17 games), O.J. Simpson (15) and John Riggins (15) have longer streaks.

Magnificent Mahomes

With last week’s win over Minnesota, Patrick Mahomes has now beaten every team in the NFL in the regular season or playoffs, becoming the 10th player to beat 31 teams. Only Brett Favre, Peyton Manning, Drew Brees and Tom Brady have wins over all 32 teams. Mahomes gets to play his favo-

rite opponent this week when he tries to improve to 12-0 all-time against Denver. The only quarterback since at least 1950 who is undefeated against an opponent with more starts than Mahomes has against the Broncos is Otto Graham, who went 12-0 in his career against the Cardinals.

In all, Kansas City has won 15 straight games against Denver, which is tied for the fourth-longest regular-season winning streak against an opponent ever. Miami won 20 straight vs. Buffalo in the 1970s, San Francisco won 17 in a row against the Rams in the 1990s and Washington won 16 straight vs. Detroit from 1968-97.

Under pressure

Sam Howell and Daniel Jones are spending far too much time on their backs this season.

Howell has been sacked an NFL-worst 29 times for Washington after taking five more last week, while Jones is only one behind at 28 for the Giants after being sacked six times against Miami.

Both are just behind the record-setting pace of David Carr. As a rookie on the expansion Texans in 2002, Carr was sacked 31 times in the first five games on the way to an NFL record 76 for the season.

Carr was also sacked 30 times in the first five games in 2005 for Houston.

Weekly statistics

AFC individual leaders

Quarterbacks

	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Tagovailoa, Mia	166	119	1614	11	5
Stroud, Hou	186	114	1461	7	0
J.Allen, Buf	175	128	1407	11	5
Mahomes, KC	184	123	1287	10	4
Lawrence, Jac	180	121	1258	5	2
Wilson, Den	163	109	1210	11	2
Herbert, LAC	145	103	1106	7	1
Tannehill, Ten	142	90	1052	2	5
Burrow, Cin	197	123	1045	5	3
Jackson, Bal	143	100	1030	4	2

Rushers

	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Achane, Mia	38	460	12.1	76t	5
Moss, Ind	89	445	5.0	56t	3
Etienne, Jac	95	396	4.2	35t	3
Bre.Hall, NYJ	54	387	7.2	83	1
Henry, Ten	86	328	3.8	29t	2
Mixon, Cin	84	328	3.9	22	1
Pacheco, KC	71	325	4.6	48t	3
Mostert, Mia	58	314	5.4	43t	7
Cook, Buf	61	292	4.8	36	1
Jackson, Bal	47	265	5.6	26	4

Receivers

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
T.Hill, Mia	36	651	18.1	69t	5
Diggs, Buf	39	520	13.3	55t	5
Chase, Cin	44	476	10.8	63t	3
N.Collins, Hou	25	467	18.7	52t	3
Adams, Las	37	442	11.9	32t	3
K.Allen, LAC	35	434	12.4	42	3
Pickens, Pit	22	393	17.9	71t	2
Hopkins, Ten	26	356	13.7	38	0
Kirk, Jac	30	335	11.2	45	1
Ridley, Jac	22	333	15.1	32	2

Punters

	No	Yds	Lg	Avg
Stonehouse, Ten	18	923	74	51.3
Cole, Las	18	918	70	51.0

Scoring Touchdowns

	TDRush	Rec	Ret	Pts	
Mostert, Mia	8	7	1	0	48
Achane, Mia	7	5	2	0	42
Diggs, Buf	5	0	5	0	30

Kicking

	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Fairbairn, Hou	10-10	15-16	43	55
Folk, Ten	7-7	13-13	53	46

AFC team statistics

AVERAGE PER GAME OFFENSE

	Yards	Rush	Pass
Miami	513.6	185.8	327.8
Buffalo	390.4	116.2	274.2
L.A. Chargers	388.8	119.8	269.0
Kansas City	381.0	123.0	258.0
Jacksonville	358.2	119.2	239.0
Houston	357.4	82.6	274.8
Indianapolis	343.6	131.2	212.4
Baltimore	335.0	146.0	189.0
Denver	328.2	104.2	224.0
Cleveland	316.2	143.8	172.5
Tennessee	293.6	106.6	187.0
New England	287.4	83.8	203.6
N.Y. Jets	283.6	123.2	160.4
Las Vegas	281.2	71.4	209.8
Pittsburgh	268.2	80.4	187.8
Cincinnati	264.8	74.6	190.2

DEFENSE

	Yards	Rush	Pass
Cleveland	196.8	71.8	125.0
Baltimore	266.4	91.4	175.0
New England	298.4	108.0	190.4
Kansas City	301.4	97.2	204.2
Buffalo	325.2	134.0	191.2
Las Vegas	326.6	129.4	197.2
Tennessee	334.8	94.6	240.2
Houston	338.8	112.4	226.4
Jacksonville	344.0	81.6	262.4
Cincinnati	350.2	154.0	196.2
N.Y. Jets	352.6	146.2	206.4
Miami	353.2	115.8	237.4
Indianapolis	382.0	119.2	262.8
Pittsburgh	389.4	143.8	245.6
L.A. Chargers	404.0	104.2	299.8
Denver	450.6	187.6	263.0

NFC individual leaders

Quarterbacks

	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Cousins, Min	204	137	1498	13	4
Stafford, LAR	203	124	1451	5	5
Howell, Was	191	131	1349	6	6
Purdy, SF	136	98	1271	9	0
Goff, Det	159	111	1265	9	3
Hurts, Phi	168	113	1262	6	4
Fields, Chi	152	94	1143	11	5
Love, GB	162	90	1083	8	6
Ridder, Atl	156	102	1073	4	3
Prescott, Dal	160	111	1061	5	4

Rushers

	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
McCaffrey, SF	99	510	5.2	65t	7
Swift, Phi	76	434	5.7	43	2
Montgomery, Det	88	371	4.2	42t	6
Conner, Ari	68	364	5.4	35	2
Robinson, Atl	67	364	5.4	38	0
Pollard, Dal	81	340	4.2	31	2
K.Williams, LAR	77	298	3.9	20	5
Walker, Sea	64	283	4.4	36	5
Mattison, Min	64	276	4.3	17	0
Herbert, Chi	51	272	5.3	34	0

Receivers

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Nacua, LAR	46	572	12.4	37	2
Jefferson, Min	36	571	15.9	52t	3
A.Brown, Phi	35	541	15.5	59t	2
Moore, Chi	27	531	19.7	58	5
Thielen, Car	38	394	10.4	30	3
Aiyuk, SF	21	378	18.0	42	2
Lamb, Dal	27	358	13.3	49	1
Evans, TB	20	337	16.9	70	3
St. Brown, Det	26	331	12.7	39	2
Olave, NO	25	318	12.7	45	1

Punters

	No	Yds	Lg	Avg
Dickson, Sea	13	695	73	53.5
Camarda, TB	18	958	74	53.2

Scoring Touchdowns

	TD Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts	
McCaffrey, SF	8	7	1	0	48
Montgomery, Det	6	6	0	0	36
K.Williams, LAR	6	5	1	0	36

Kicking

	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Elliott, Phi	11-12	16-17	61	59
Aubrey, Dal	10-11	14-14	55	52

NFC team statistics

AVERAGE PER GAME OFFENSE

	Yards	Rush	Pass
Philadelphia	404.4	164.0	240.4
San Francisco	402.6	156.4	246.2
Detroit	384.4	141.0	243.4
L.A. Rams	364.0	94.0	270.0
Minnesota	362.4	80.8	281.6
Chicago	334.4	130.8	203.6
Arizona	329.0	143.2	185.8
Dallas	327.4	124.4	203.0
Washington	323.8	91.0	232.8
Seattle	319.8	108.5	211.2
Atlanta	316.8	121.6	195.2
Tampa Bay	301.5	87.0	214.5
Carolina	294.4	96.0	198.4
New Orleans	289.0	97.2	191.8
Green Bay	281.6	81.6	200.0
N.Y. Giants	255.2	92.2	163.0

DEFENSE

	Yards	Rush	Pass
San Francisco	266.8	64.2	202.6
New Orleans	274.6	91.6	183.0
Dallas	292.0	123.4	168.6
Detroit	292.8	68.4	224.4
Atlanta	295.2	104.4	190.8
Philadelphia	308.8	61.2	247.6
Tampa Bay	318.5	94.8	223.8
Carolina	325.8	140.8	185.0
L.A. Rams	327.4	120.6	206.8
Green Bay	337.8	143.4	194.4
Minnesota	342.4	102.4	240.0
Seattle	367.5	87.5	280.0
Washington	372.2	133.6	238.6
Arizona	375.6	124.2	251.4
N.Y. Giants	378.0	151.4	226.6
Chicago	384.2	98.2	286.0

NFL



CHRIS SZAGOLA/AP

After helping lead their teams to the NFC Championship game last season, Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver A.J. Brown and San Francisco 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy are once again at the top of the NFC.

ON FOOTBALL

Eagles, 49ers obvious NFC favorites; AFC more messy

By ROB MAADDI
Associated Press

The Eagles and 49ers are the clear front-runners in the NFC while the AFC is jumbled five weeks into the season. San Francisco made the biggest statement so far with a dominant 42-10 win over Dallas on Sunday night. The 49ers (5-0) have been the NFL's most complete team. They can win behind Brock Purdy's passing, Christian McCaffrey's running or by leaning on Nick Bosa and a stingy defense. An offense that's loaded with Purdy, McCaffrey, Deebo Samuel, George Kittle, Brandon Aiyuk easily handled one of the league's top defenses. The Cowboys couldn't do anything to stop San Francisco. Injuries might be the only thing that can slow down the 49ers. They learned that last season when Purdy, who began the season as the No. 3 quarterback, tore an elbow ligament in the NFC championship game against Philadelphia. The defending NFC champion Eagles (5-0) are still building their identity, but keep finding ways to win despite playing below the standard they set last season on their way to a Super Bowl appearance.

Similar to San Francisco, the Eagles beat teams multiple ways. They can do it in the air with Jalen Hurts throwing to A.J. Brown or other playmakers or on the ground behind Hurts, D'Andre Swift and a powerful offensive line. The NFL's only two undefeated teams seem headed for a rematch in the conference title game with a Week 13 matchup to determine who gets the No. 1 seed. Of course, there's a long way to go until January. The 49ers have a challenge on the road against Cleveland this week. The Browns (2-2) are coming off a bye so they've had extra time to prepare for San Francisco's dynamic offense. They'll need Deshaun Watson to return from a shoulder injury to have a chance. The Eagles also have a difficult matchup on the road against the New York Jets (2-3). There's a gap between Philly, San Francisco and the rest of the NFC, though the Detroit Lions (4-1) are playing up to preseason hype. The Lions haven't won a playoff game in 31 years, but it's a new era in Motown. The Cowboys (3-2) can't be counted out, either. The AFC still goes through the defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs (4-1). Kansas City has only had one dominant win. The Bills (3-2) went from dropping 48

points in a statement win over Miami to losing to the Jaguars (3-2) in London. The Dolphins (4-1) have been mostly impressive except for their loss at Buffalo. They have two measuring stick games upcoming at Philadelphia and at Kansas City over the next four weeks. Cincinnati is the biggest wild card in the AFC. If Joe Burrow is healthy, the Bengals (2-3) can make a run. Jacksonville, Baltimore (3-2) and the Los Angeles Chargers (2-2) are also in the mix. The Vikings and Giants met in the playoffs last season, but both are off to 1-4 starts and should start looking ahead to next season. New York hasn't had a chance in the three losses without injured running back Saquon Barkley. Up next is a trip to Buffalo. The Giants are the biggest underdog on the schedule this week so it'll take a major upset for them to avoid a 1-5 start. Minnesota has already equaled its loss total from last season and now faces four games without All-Pro wide receiver Justin Jefferson. With Kirk Cousins eligible for free agency after the season, the Vikings could look to add draft capital by making some trades before the Oct. 31 deadline.

Get ready for 2024

Broncos ignoring long losing streak to Chiefs

By ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Nobody on the Denver Broncos' roster or coaching staff was with the team the last time they defeated the Kansas City Chiefs way back on Sept. 17, 2015. The Broncos scored touchdowns nine seconds apart in the final minute for a stunning 31-24 win on a Thursday night at Arrowhead Stadium in Week 2 that season.

That's the site of their game this Thursday night when the Broncos (1-4) try to snap their 15-game losing streak to the defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs (4-1). Eight years ago, when Patrick Mahomes was still flinging footballs at Texas Tech, Peyton Manning threw a 19-yard touchdown pass to Emmanuel Sanders with 36 seconds left and Brandon McManus' extra point tied the game at 24.

Linebacker Brandon Marshall poked the ball from Jamaal Charles' grasp on the ensuing kickoff and cornerback Bradley Roby scooped up the loose ball and raced 21 yards into the end zone for the game-winning touchdown with 27 seconds left.

Broncos 31, Chiefs 24.

Two months later, the Chiefs won 29-13 in Denver with Manning limited by a foot injury that would sideline him until the playoffs, when he returned to the starting lineup and helped the Broncos go on a Super Bowl run.

That's the last time the Broncos beat the Chiefs.

The Broncos are 10½-point underdogs Thursday night, according to FanDuel Sportsbook, just the fourth time in Sean Payton's coaching career his team has been a double-digit underdog.

The Broncos face the Chiefs again on Oct. 29 and if they get swept by Kansas City for the eighth straight season, they'll be approaching the record of 20 consecutive losses against one opponent set by the Buffalo Bills, who didn't beat the Miami Dolphins a single time in the 1970s.



Denver Broncos (1-4)
at Kansas City Chiefs (4-1)
AFN-Sports2
2:15 a.m. Friday CET
9:15 a.m. Friday JKT

The Broncos, however, aren't looking back as they prepare for Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce this week.

"We gotta create a new history," Russell Wilson said Tuesday.

The Broncos have stumbled under Payton's leadership, losing their first three home games to a trio of teams — the Raiders, Commanders and Jets — who are a combined 3-9 against other opponents. Denver lost by 50 points at Miami and fell behind the Bears by three touchdowns before rallying for their only win of the season.

All of this has fueled speculation the Broncos will conduct a fire sale of their roster ahead of the league's Halloween trade deadline with veterans such as Justin Simmons, Garrett Bolles, Frank Clark, Jerry Jeudy and Courtland Sutton being prominently mentioned.

"George and I talk every day, three, four times a day," Payton said of his constant communication with general manager George Paton. "We're not looking to do business with any of our players. That doesn't prevent teams from calling at times, and you pick the phone up but that's kind of where it's at."

Simmons, who's been with the Broncos for all but the first of their 15 consecutive losses to the Chiefs, did allow himself to ponder what it would be like to finally beat Kansas City.

"I mean, it would be huge," Simmons said, not so much to end the streak but just to give the Broncos a much-needed and long-awaited boost.



REED HOFFMANN/AP

The Kansas City Chiefs won their last matchup with the Denver Broncos 27-24 on Jan. 1 — their 15th straight win against Denver.

MLB PLAYOFFS

Rolling: Rangers are 5-0 in postseason so far

FROM PAGE 24

tober there, and Seager was the MVP in both the NLCS and World Series. A year later, when Texas was coming off a 102-loss season, the shortstop signed a \$325 million, 10-year deal with the Rangers — and he occupies the same locker he did during that most unusual postseason with limited attendance.

With a full house for his first home playoff game with the Rangers, after they had won the first two ALDS games in Baltimore following a Wild Card Series sweep at Tampa Bay, Seager sent the record sellout crowd of 40,861 into a frenzy when he connected in his first at-bat. He went deep seven times for the Dodgers there in 2020.

“That’s what he does. He’s done it before in the big moments,” said Marcus Semien, the second baseman who signed with Texas for \$175 million over seven years the same week as Seager’s deal. “He picks his game up in the playoffs. It’ll be really fun to see what he can do as we move on.”

Nathaniel Lowe also homered for Texas, a solo shot in the sixth. Lowe had led off the Rangers’ five-run second inning with a lineout to left, but that came on the 15th pitch of the at-bat after fouling off nine two-strike pitches.

“I saw a team that was really motivated,” Bochy said. “The offense, everybody was doing something to contribute.”

Seager is one of five Texas hitters who started for the AL squad in this year’s All-Star Game. That is quite a lineup for Bochy, who was hired last offseason by Rangers general manager Chris Young, one of the manager’s former pitchers in San Diego.

Also an All-Star in his first season with the Rangers, Eovaldi has won both their series-clinching games this postseason. Those are the right-hander’s longest and best two starts since returning in September after missing seven weeks

because of a right forearm strain.

Eovaldi threw 76 of 98 pitches for strikes without a walk while allowing only one run and striking out seven. He was serenaded with chants of his name as he walked off the mound after the seventh — and then was prodded out of the dugout by García to tip his cap to the crowd. Eovaldi also won the Wild Card Series clincher at Tampa Bay last Wednesday.

“I’ve never had a curtain call or anything like that, but our fans were bringing it all night long,” he said. “When I walked out at 6:30 tonight, they were chanting, the ‘Let’s go Rangers.’ I knew it was going to be a really good night for us.”

José Leclerc got the final four outs, the first one with the bases loaded in the eighth when he induced an inning-ending groundout by pinch-hitter Aaron Hicks, who in the ninth inning of Game 2 had hit a three-run homer off him.

Leclerc pitched a perfect ninth, setting off celebratory fireworks inside the ballpark when he struck out Jordan Westburg to end the game.

Kremer’s 1½ innings marked his shortest outing all season. The 27-year-old wore a Star of David necklace as usual, with thoughts of extended family members in Israel, where war has been declared following a deadly incursion by militant group Hamas. His mother was at the game.

Kremer was 13-5 with a 4.12 ERA in 32 regular-season starts that included Baltimore’s two clinching games: Sept. 17 to secure a playoff spot, and 11 days later for the team’s 100th win to clinch the AL East.

“Offensively, we weren’t at our best the last two, three weeks of the season. That carried into the postseason where we had guys scuffling,” Hyde said. “They rolled in with a ton of momentum. I don’t think we rolled in with a ton of momentum offensively.”



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

The Texas Rangers’ Adolis Garcia celebrates his three-run home run with Mitch Garver in the third inning of Game 3 of an AL Division Series against the Baltimore Orioles on Tuesday in Arlington, Texas.



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Baltimore Orioles manager Brandon Hyde takes relief pitcher DL Hall out of the game in the eighth inning of Game 3 of an AL Division Series against the Rangers on Tuesday in Arlington, Texas.

Orioles swept for 1st time this season in ALDS loss

By SCHUYLER DIXON
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Gunnar Henderson and the Baltimore Orioles picked the wrong week to get swept for the first time in 2023.

The rookie shortstop didn’t even know what losing in a sweep felt like in the big leagues before the AL Division Series against the Texas Rangers.

After winning 101 games and finishing the regular season with the American League’s best record, the Orioles trailed by six runs after just two innings Tuesday night. They never gave themselves a chance in a 7-1 loss, their eighth postseason defeat in a row over 10 seasons.

Baltimore still has a 91-series streak without getting swept in the regular season, going back to before Henderson was called up in the summer of 2022.

The Orioles went 52 series over the entire 2023 regular season without getting swept, a first for the franchise since it moved to Baltimore in 1954. They became the fourth big league team since 2000 to accomplish that feat.

It means little now.

“We have a lot of guys who have never been to the postseason be-

fore. So this hurts, and it’s OK to hurt,” manager Brandon Hyde said. “It’s OK to have this kind of fuel your fire in the offseason. It’s going to take a while for us to get over this a little bit. But I think our guys will come in hunting and hungry in spring training.”

Baltimore fell behind by seven runs through three innings of an 11-8 loss in Game 2 at Camden Yards, then was down by six runs in the second inning of Game 3.

Henderson had one of the few highlights with an RBI single off Nathan Eovaldi in the fifth, but the Orioles couldn’t get close.

“We knew we were going to have to score runs,” Hyde said. “We just scored a little bit the second game. First and third game, had a tough time.”

Baltimore loaded the bases against hard-throwing Aroldis Chapman with two outs in the eighth, but José Leclerc retired pinch-hitter Aaron Hicks on a grounder to first. Hicks had hit a three-run homer off Leclerc in the ninth inning in Game 2.

“I feel like it was a great development all year,” Henderson said. “Just not how we wanted it to end. But we got the taste of playoff baseball, and that’s what I’m looking

forward to — continuing that.”

Dean Kremer started both clinching games for the Orioles in the regular season, the one that secured a playoff spot and the 100th victory that ensured the AL East title.

Kremer allowed six runs and seven hits in a season-low 1½ innings against Texas, giving up homers to Corey Seager and Adolis García.

“Just hats off to them,” Henderson said. “They put together really good at-bats. They walked a lot. And whenever they had people on base, it seemed like they always got the hit they needed. Just looking forward to getting in this position next year and pushing through.”

The 91-series streak included series of at least two decisions with no ties. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, it’s the fourth-longest streak in MLB history behind the 1942-44 St. Louis Cardinals (124), 1906-09 Chicago Cubs (115), and 1903-05 New York Giants (105).

Henderson followed a season that made him a strong contender for AL Rookie of the Year with a 6-of-12 showing in the postseason.

“Much rather have won,” he said. “But I guess it’s pretty cool.”

MLB PLAYOFFS

Astros launch 4 homers, rout Twins

Abreu goes deep twice, Alvarez hits fourth of series to lead Houston to 2-1 lead

Scoreboard

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Late-afternoon shadows made the ball difficult to pick up, and Minnesota's Sonny Gray presented a tough opponent on the mound.

The Houston Astros just powered their way through and produced yet another October masterpiece.

José Abreu hit a three-run homer for Houston in a four-run first inning against Gray and piled on with a two-run shot in the ninth, carrying the Astros past the Twins 9-1 on Tuesday for a 2-1 AL Division Series lead.

Yordan Alvarez hit his fourth home run in three games and Alex Bregman had a homer and an RBI single for the defending World Series champions, who took charge from their first at-bat and moved within one win of a seventh consecutive AL Championship Series appearance. Astros starter Cristian Javier took it from there with nine strikeouts in five scoreless innings.

"It was kind of just pass the torch to the next guy," said Bregman, who has 16 postseason homers. "Put together a good at-bat and grind it out."

Game 4 was at Target Field on Wednesday. If the Twins forced Game 5, it would be in Houston on Friday.

"This was one of the reasons why I signed with this organization, to be in the best situation and compete," said Abreu, who set his low with a .237 average this season, nearly 50 points below his career mark.

Splitting the first two games in Houston gave the Twins home-field advantage, and they sold out both games three days in advance. Johan Santana threw out the ceremonial first pitch to Joe Mauer, and the crowd the Twins credited for carrying them to a two-game sweep of Toronto in the AL Wild Card Series was roaring from the start.

The Astros were hardly going to be fazed by the environment. They went 51-30 on the road, the third-best record in the major leagues, and have made October games quite a habit since their run started in 2017.

"It's a very confident club, not a cocky club. We don't showboat too much. We just play," manager Dusty Baker said. "The guys have a knack of picking each other up."

Javier had a 4.56 ERA that was by far his worst in four big league seasons and failed to finish five innings in five of his prior 11 starts, but the Astros weren't concerned.

"He has a slow heartbeat. He wants the baseball," Bregman



JORDAN JOHNSON/AP

Jose Abreu is greeted at the Astros dugout after hitting a two-run home run in the ninth inning of Game 3 of an American League Division Series against the Minnesota Twins on Tuesday.

said. "He's a competitor and we have all the confidence in the world in him every single time he takes the mound."

The right-hander, who threw six hitless innings in World Series Game 4 last year to beat Philadelphia, lowered his career postseason ERA to 1.91 over 37⅓ innings.

"Their guy did what I didn't do. He executed pitches in spots with runners on," Gray said.

With 13 misses in 16 swings at Javier's slider, the Twins flailed through the shadows in a feeble response to the early Astros explosion. Javier allowed one hit, a one-out double by Max Kepler in the first, but he stranded two runners in scoring position with consecutive strikeouts of Royce Lewis and Carlos Correa.

With five walks and one hit batter, the Twins had plenty of opportunities to catch up. They loaded the bases on walks in the fifth inning, but Kepler and Lewis ended the inning with strikeouts.

The Twins left nine men on base and went 1 for 9 with runners in scoring position. Correa, who has a hit in all five postseason games and is 9 for 19 with four RBIs, scored on Willi Castro's one-out single in the sixth. But Jeremy Peña made a diving stop at shortstop of a grounder rocketed by Ryan Jeffers and leaped to his feet to start a double play.



BRUCE KLUCKHORN/AP

Astros third baseman Alex Bregman, left, greets first baseman Jose Abreu after Houston won Game 3 to a take a 2-1 ALDS lead.

Playoffs
x-if necessary
DIVISION SERIES
(Best-of-five)
American League
Texas 3, Baltimore 0
Texas 3, Baltimore 2
Texas 11, Baltimore 8
Tuesday: Texas 7, Baltimore 1
Houston 2, Minnesota 1
Houston 6, Minnesota 4
Minnesota 6, Houston 2
Tuesday: Houston 9, Minnesota 1
Wednesday: Houston at Minnesota
x-Friday: Minnesota at Houston

National League
Philadelphia 1, Atlanta 1
Philadelphia 3, Atlanta 0
Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 4
Wednesday: Atlanta at Philadelphia
Thursday: Atlanta at Philadelphia, **AFN-Sports, Midnight Friday CET; 7 a.m. Friday JKT**
x-Saturday: Philadelphia at Atlanta

Arizona 2, Los Angeles 0
Arizona 11, Los Angeles 2
Arizona 4, Los Angeles 2
Wednesday: Los Angeles at Arizona
x-Thursday: Los Angeles at Arizona, **AFN-Sports, 3 a.m. Friday CET; 10 a.m. Friday JKT**
x-Saturday: Arizona at Los Angeles

"It was a difficult day to hit, so them jumping out early was very, very important," Twins manager Rocco Baldelli said. "Whichever team did that was going to definitely be in the driver's seat."

Fast start

Jose Altuve greeted Gray with a single, and a one-out bouncer down the first-base line eluded Alex Kirilloff's glove for a two-base error. Kyle Tucker put the Astros on the board with a single. Then Abreu hit a 2-1 sweeper into the second deck for a 4-0 lead that took some buzz out of the ballpark.

"We were fighting an uphill battle as a team. I was fighting an uphill battle every inning," Gray said.

Going deep

Gray gave up two home runs in a game for the first time in two seasons with the Twins. The previous multi-homer game against him was on Sept. 24, 2021, with Cincinnati.

The eighth major league pitcher since 2000 to throw at least 180 innings with eight or fewer homers allowed, Gray was the runaway leader in fewest home runs allowed per nine innings this year (0.391). He gave up eight hits and one walk in four-plus innings, with five runs — one unearned — and six strikeouts.

"Thankfully we were able to get the right swings across," Abreu said.

Awesome Alvarez

Alvarez is 6 for 12 with six RBIs in the series, and his four homers are tied for the most in the first three games of a single postseason with Juan Gonzalez (1996) and Bob Robertson (1971).

"He's the best hitter in baseball," Altuve said, "and hopefully he continues to hit like that."

SPORTS



Memorable debut

Bedard gets assist in Blackhawks' win over Crosby, Penguins » **NHL, Page 19**

MLB PLAYOFFS



Texas keeps rolling along

Rangers sweep top-seeded Orioles to earn 1st ALCS berth since 2011

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Corey Seager is still going deep in Texas during the postseason. This time he is doing it for the Rangers, who are streaking through October.

Seager and Adolis García homered early, Nathan Eovaldi pitched seven smooth innings in another playoff clincher and Texas completed an AL Division Series sweep of the Baltimore Orioles with a 7-1 victory in Game 3 on Tuesday night.

The Rangers, whose loss at Seattle on the last day of the regular season made them a wild-card team instead of the AL West champion, have since won all five of their postseason games. They are headed to the American League Championship Series for the first time since 2011.

"We had our work cut out going on the road against Tampa and Baltimore. Just shows the toughness with this ballclub and the deal with having to fly to Tampa," said Texas manager Bruce Bochy, a three-time World Series champion with San Francisco who is now going to his first ALCS. "Trust me, they wanted to win one more game in the worst way.

Didn't happen. ... They put it behind them."

Baltimore won an AL-high 101 games and was never swept in a series during the regular season, but the surprise AL East champions are done after a sweep at the most inopportune time. The Orioles have lost eight playoff games in a row over the past 10 seasons.

"Really proud of our group. They defied all the odds. Nobody gave us a chance," Baltimore manager Brandon Hyde said. "These guys played their butts off for six months. We just didn't play well for these last three, unfortunately."

Seager pulled a 445-foot drive into the right-field seats in the first inning, and García's three-run homer — one the All-Star slugger admired while taking a few slow steps out of the batter's box — made it 6-0 in the second to chase Orioles right-hander Dean Kremer, the Israeli-American pitcher making his first career postseason start.

"We've just been playing good ball," Seager said. "Can't say enough about what our pitching staff has been able to do."

It was the first Rangers playoff game at Globe Life Field, the stadium that was brand new in 2020 when it hosted much of MLB's neutral postseason during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Los Angeles Dodgers spent most of that Oc-

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INSIDE

Abreu, Bregman, Alvarez all go deep as Astros rout Twins to take 2-1 ALDS lead
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Texas Rangers starting pitcher Nathan Eovaldi celebrates after striking out the Baltimore Orioles' Jordan Westburg in the seventh inning of Game 3 of an AL Division Series on Tuesday in Arlington, Texas.

TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Broncos ignore long losing streak to Chiefs » NFL, Page 21

