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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Zelenskyy visits retaken strategic city in Ukraine

By ELENA BECATOROS
AND HANNA ARHIROVA
Associated Press

IZIUM, Ukraine — His hand on his heart, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy watched as his country's flag was hoisted Wednesday above the recently recaptured city of Izium, a rare foray outside the capital that highlighted Moscow's embarrassing retreat in the face of a lightning Ukrainian counteroffensive.

Russian forces left the war-scarred city last week as Kyiv's soldiers pressed a stunning advance that has reclaimed large swaths of territory in the country's northeastern Kharkiv region.

As Zelenskyy looked on and sang the national anthem, the Ukrainian flag was raised in front of the burned-out city hall building in the largely devastated town, where apartment buildings are blackened by fire and pockmarked by artillery strikes. The center of one residential building had collapsed, a gaping hole and piles of rubble where homes used to be.

SEE RETAKEN ON PAGE 8



LEO CORREA/AP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy attends a ceremony in Izium, Ukraine, on Wednesday.



JAN JASON FLORES/U.S. Navy

Sailors assigned to the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville load a MK-141 Harpoon missile launcher during a weapons onload in support of Valiant Shield 2022.

New moniker urged for cruiser

USS Chancellorsville one of more than 1,100 DOD assets identified as honoring Confederacy

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

A guided-missile cruiser based in Yokosuka, Japan, should be renamed because it commemorates the Confederate victory at Chancellorsville, a Defense Department commission says.

The USS Chancellorsville is one of more than 1,100 Defense Department assets that have been identified as honoring the Confederacy, according to a report by the

congressionally mandated Naming Commission. Changing those names could cost roughly \$62.5 million.

Members of the commission said Tuesday they had finished the third — and final — part of their report and briefed the House and Senate Armed Services committees on its findings. It focuses on the final costs associated with renaming all assets that the group identified and all recommenda-

tions associated with assets not covered by the previous two sections.

The first two sections outlined the renaming of the nine Army bases that bear Confederate-linked names, which is expected to cost about \$21 million, and the second focused on the U.S. Military Academy and the Naval Academy, which will cost about \$451,000.

"Our goal was to inspire eve-

ryone in the Department of Defense, local communities and the nation with names that have meaning," retired Brig. Gen. Ty Seidule, vice chairman of the commission, said during a call with reporters.

The final section recommends the Navy rename two ships, the USS Chancellorsville and USNS Maury, the Air Force rename Fort

SEE MONIKER ON PAGE 3

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Court largely upholds \$4B Google Android antitrust fine

Associated Press

LONDON — A top court largely rejected Google’s appeal of a record European Union antitrust fine imposed for throttling competition and reducing consumer choice through the dominance of its mobile Android operating system.

The European Court of Justice’s General Court mostly confirmed a 2018 decision by the EU’s executive Commission to slap Google with a fine of more than \$3.99 billion.

“In order better to reflect the gravity and duration of the infringement,” it’s appropriate to give Google a fine of 4.125 billion euros, the court said. That’s slightly lower than the original 4.34 billion euro penalty, with the court saying its reasoning differed “in certain respects” from the commission’s.

“We are disappointed that the Court did not annul the decision in full,” Google said in a statement. “Android has created more choice for everyone, not less, and supports thousands of successful

businesses in Europe and around the world.”

The company has argued that free and open-source Android has resulted in low-cost phones and driven competition with its chief rival, Apple.

Android is the most popular mobile operating system, beating even Apple’s iOS.

The fine is one of three antitrust penalties totaling more than \$8 billion that the European Commission slapped on Google between 2017 and 2019.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		South Korea (Won)	1393.73
Euro costs (Sept. 15)	\$0.98	Switzerland (Franc)	.9618
Dollar buys (Sept. 15)	0.975	Thailand (Baht)	36.59
British pound (Sept. 15)	\$1.13	Turkey (NewLira)	18.2428
Japanese yen (Sept. 15)	139.00	(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.)	
South Korean won (Sept. 15)	1355.00	INTEREST RATES	
Commercial rates		Prime rate	5.50
Bahrain(Dinar)	.3769	Interest Rates Discount rate	3.00
Britain (Pound)	1.1567	Federal funds market rate	2.32
Canada (Dollar)	1.3170	3-month bill	3.26
China(Yuan)	6.9621	30-year bond	3.49
Denmark (Krone)	7.4435		
Egypt (Pound)	19.3804		
Euro	.9991		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8488		
Hungary (Forint)	405.60		
Israel (Shekel)	3.4281		
Japan (Yen)	142.92		
Kuwait (Dinar)	.3087		
Norway (Krone)	10.0913		
Philippines (Peso)	57.05		
Poland (Zloty)	4.72		
Saudi Arab (Riyal)	3.7602		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4051		

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

Nominee: Revamp Space Force to counter rivals

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Competition from China and Russia is rapidly eroding the U.S. military’s dominance in space and the Space Force in its current form would struggle in a conflict with the two countries, the general nominated to lead the service told senators on Tuesday.

Lt. Gen. Bradley C. Saltzman said the U.S. remains “the greatest spacefaring nation on the planet” and for now can resist the attack capabilities wielded by its two closest adversaries but it has not designed systems to operate at a crisis level.

“We need to change to a more defensible architecture to account for the fact that space has shifted from a benign environment to a more contested warfighting domain,” he said.

Saltzman repeatedly told the Senate Armed Services Committee that he was worried about the pace of advancement by China and, to a



Saltzman

Raymond.

“They have invested heavily in the ability to destroy — not just disrupt and degrade — but destroy our space capabilities,” Saltzman said of China and Russia. “I don’t see anybody more dangerous, more committed to attacking U.S. interests in those areas.”

Sen. Jim Inhofe, of Oklahoma, the committee’s top Republican, singled out the threat from China in particular, and he said the U.S. had slipped from its standing as the “unquestioned leader in space” to merely one of two peers in the span of a decade.

“Most people don’t realize that,” he said.

lesser degree, Russia. The committee is vetting his promotion from deputy chief of space operations to chief, replacing retiring Gen. John

Saltzman called for a shift to more resilient space architecture, including proliferated constellations made up of many satellites in low orbits rather than a single, large satellite that is more vulnerable to attack.

The Space Force is taking notes on how such an architecture has aided Ukraine’s resistance to Russia’s invasion, he said, noting some of the constellations that Ukraine is using have shown resiliency to degradation attempts.

Another valuable lesson gleaned from the war is Ukraine’s effective reliance on commercial space capabilities to augment military and national decision-making, Saltzman said. The Space Force should also take advantage of “profoundly growing” commercial services, he said.

The military’s newest branch, established in 2019 as the world’s only independent space force, can improve in other areas as well, Saltzman said. It lacks simulators to al-

low operators to practice against thinking adversaries and does not have training ranges for routine practice, he said.

The Space Force is also not capable now of linking multiple units together to practice operating as a large force.

“If we have exquisite weapons systems, exquisite systems on orbit to provide joint capabilities but our guardians and our operators don’t have the skills, the training, the experience they need to make the most of their systems, then I feel like we’re not fully combat ready,” Saltzman said.

The end strength of the Space Force is expected to grow from 8,400 guardians to 8,600 in fiscal 2023, according to the White House’s budget request. The Senate’s version of the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, which outlines priorities for the Pentagon and has yet to be voted on, also calls for an increase of 200 guardians.

Recruiting or commissioning

them is not expected to be a challenge. The Space Force is not facing the recruiting difficulties plaguing other services and has more volunteers than it can accept, Saltzman said.

However, if confirmed, he said he would more broadly loosen enlistment standards to account for the highly technical skills needed for service. Only 23% of 17- to 24-year-old Americans are fully qualified to serve in the military, according to the Pentagon.

Retention is likely to be more of a problem than recruitment as the private sector offers more opportunities and higher salaries, he said. Creating the right organizational structure for the Space Force, including the possibility of establishing a Space National Guard, as well as provide flexible career paths for guardians, are issues that he would work to develop, Saltzman said.

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Moniker: Commission member wants communities involved

FROM PAGE 1

Fisher Recreation Area in North Carolina and the Army strip the Confederate Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia to its base.

It also suggests the Army review renaming Fort Belvoir in Virginia, which was renamed from Camp Humphreys in 1935 as a direct commemoration of the plantation that once operated on the land.

The commission did not recommend new names for the Navy’s ships because that is a job done regularly by the service’s secretary, Seidule said.

The Chancellorsville was named for a Confederate Civil War victory in Virginia in 1863. The Maury, an oceanographic survey ship, honors Matthew Fontaine Maury, who resigned from the U.S. Navy to fight with the Confederacy. The Air Force’s Fort Fisher site is named for a Confederate stronghold of the Civil War that honored Charles Frederick Fisher, who served as a colonel in

the Confederate army and died in battle in 1861.

The memorial at Arlington was built in 1914 and is “problematic from the beginning to the end,” Seidule said. Designed by a Confederate veteran, the monument depicts a “mythologized version of the Confederacy, including highly sanitized depictions of slavery,” according to the cemetery’s website. It also includes a quote that describes the South’s secession as noble.

The commission was given more than \$2.3 million in funding to conduct its examination, but said it only spent a quarter of it, roughly \$612,500. It will return the remaining \$1.7 million, according to its members. The group’s work lasted 19 months and included 32 meetings, 11 in-person visits to Army posts and nine virtual visits, Seidule said.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has until Jan. 1, 2024, to implement the recommendations, should he choose to do so. The deadline is also included in the Na-



RACHEL LARUE/Arlington National Cemetery

The Confederate Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery was unveiled June 4, 1914, according to the Virginia cemetery’s website.

tional Defense Authorization Act, which sets priorities and spending for the Pentagon.

Retired Lt. Gen. Thomas Bos-

tick, a commission member, said the group spoke with lawmakers on Tuesday about the importance of working with local communi-

ties where the Confederate-linked names are associated with non-military assets, such as city streets and businesses.

“I think the bases are going to have to work with the communities together and that’s why it was important, we believe, to have the communities involved, to hear their concerns and that they’ll work this together,” he said about choosing new names for the nine Army bases.

“I don’t think you’ll see it change overnight, but we’ve got a deadline of Jan. 1, 2024, so I’m sure they’ll set a plan and work towards it as quickly as they can,” Bostick said.

The commission recommended bases be allowed to work with local historical societies, societies, museums and veteran associations to donate Defense Department assets that will be removed as part of the renaming process to those interested entities.

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Remote working no longer required at Pentagon as risk level lowered

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Wednesday lowered its coronavirus health-risk level to the lowest severity for the first time since the pandemic began more than two years ago.

The Pentagon is now at Health Protection Condition Alpha, which indicates there is a

“low [coronavirus] community-level risk,” the Defense Department said in a statement. It allows the Pentagon to return to 100% normal occupancy, meaning remote work is no longer required.

“A reminder HPCON Alpha is not HPCON Normal, and certain safety precautions in addition to the normal handwashing,

healthy eating, getting enough sleep and exercise are prescribed,” defense officials said.

The Pentagon had reached HPCON Charlie during the height of the pandemic, which required everyone to wear masks inside the complex and reduced workplace capacity to less than 25% of the workforce.

Most recently, the Pentagon

had been at HPCON Bravo, which allows up to 50% of personnel to come into the building.

At HPCON Alpha, Pentagon personnel and visitors remain encouraged to stay vigilant with hygiene, sanitation and other mitigation practices as there remains a “limited” transmission rate for the virus, according to the Defense Department.

“If you’re sick, call your medical provider for instructions on receiving care before going to a clinic or hospital,” the Pentagon said in the statement. “Make sure your installation is aware of the symptoms of your health threat.”

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MILITARY

Air, Space Forces raise bonuses for troops

By JONATHAN SNYDER
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force and Space Force are prepared to pay a premium to keep their cyber-trained professionals wearing blue, according to the updated list of bonus-eligible career fields.

Released Sept. 8, that list added two cyber-related career specialties for a total of 65 careers eligible for a re-enlistment bonus, including five existing cyber fields whose bonus potentials also increased.

"This [Selective Retention Bonus] addition is an acknowledge-

ment of extreme demand for the advanced skills and talent within the targeted cyber specialties, as well as their criticality to the future force," Air Force spokeswoman Laurel Falls told Stars and Stripes by email Tuesday.

The largest bonus bumps within the cyber fields went to the cyber warfare and defense specialties. Airmen who re-up in those fields would receive the same amount as those in special tactics jobs, historically the riskiest jobs, whose practitioners were paid the highest bonuses.

A senior airman with five years

in cyber warfare is eligible for an \$83,610 bonus for re-enlisting for six years, the same amount airmen in the pararescue, combat control and tactical air control party fields.

"For some cyber specialties, cumulative individual training costs reach close to one million dollars and the unique National Defense experiences that further develop these member's cyber proficiency are nearly incalculable," Falls said.

The Air Force created cyber warfare operations as a career field in 2010. The career field re-

mains open only to enlisted personnel serving in information technology professions.

Specialists in this field ensure computer networks function properly and remain secure from outside intrusion, according to the Air Force website.

The military services are now competing in a post-pandemic job market in which the unemployment rate continues to decline, leaving employers fighting for workers.

A similar job in the civilian world in information security analysis has a median salary of

\$102,600, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website.

Employment in this field is projected to grow 35% from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations.

"The [Air Force] continues to monitor retention rates across all specialties and while overall [Air Force] retention remains high, there are areas, such as some cyber specialties, that signal retention concerns," Falls said.

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Marines and sailors mark 80 years of the 'Fighting Third'

By FRANK ANDREWS
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HANSEN, Okinawa — Born in the midst of World War II, the Marine Corps' 3rd Division played key roles on Guam and Iwo Jima and again in Vietnam at Khe Sanh and the evacuation of Saigon.

Subsequent generations of its Marines fought in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. From its beginnings, the division has stood watch in the Western Pacific.

On Wednesday, Marines and sailors of the 3rd Marine Division, flanked by rocket launchers, artillery pieces and U.S. state flags, marked the division's 80th anniversary with a ceremony beneath a scorching September sky.

"I am proud of each and every one of the thousands of young men and women who had volunteered and honorably served over these 80 years," division commander Maj. Gen. Jay Barger on said to Marines at parade rest on the Camp Hansen field and to guests filling the nearby bleachers.

"Some better known than others, but together collectively they've been the real strength of the division," Barger on said. "Men and women of many different backgrounds but with one important thing in common: selfless desire to serve their country as Marines and sailors."

Activated on Sept. 16, 1942, at



FRANK ANDREWS/STARS AND STRIPES

Members of the 3rd Marine Division mark the division's 80th anniversary with a ceremony Wednesday at Camp Hansen, Okinawa.

Camp Elliott in San Diego, the division was relocated permanently to Okinawa in November 1969.

Along the way, the "Fighting Third" has produced more than 40 Medal of Honor recipients, earned 11 streamers for its unit flags, including two presidential citations, in World War II, Vietnam, the Global War on Terrorism and humanitarian relief efforts in Indonesia in 2004. It also took part in Operation Tomodachi, the effort to assist survivors of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami that

leveled communities in northeast Japan in March 2011.

"These decisions to sacrifice and to put others before themselves, these decisions are really the lifeblood of our nation and these individual decisions to serve continue to be made today," Barger on said.

The 3rd Marine Division today is a "stand-in force" ready to seize and control key maritime terrain on the island chain that stretches from northern Japan down through Okinawa and the Philip-



U.S. MARINE CORPS

The 3rd Marine Division played key roles on Guam and Iwo Jima during World War II and again in Vietnam at Khe Sanh and the evacuation of Saigon.

pines, according to the division's mission statement.

The division has five major elements, including the recently constituted 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment in Hawaii and the 12th and 4th Marine Regiments, the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion and the Headquarters Battalion on Okinawa, Japan.

"We are the first line of defense, we are the caltrap, along with the Japanese and our joint partners," Sgt. Matthew Wampler told Stars and Stripes after the ceremony. The caltrap, the division's symbol, is a spiked weapon deployed on the ground to slow an enemy's advance.

Wampler, 24, a native of Seattle

and a radio operator with the headquarters' battalion communications company, has been in the Corps for six years. He said he enlisted in the Marines because "they are the best of the best."

Sgt. Apreanna Johnson, 28, of Chicago, a 10-year Marine who served in Afghanistan in 2014, carried the colors for 4th Marine Regiment during the ceremony at Hansen.

"To me our motto means to be mentally and physically strong, ensuring we incorporate our [military occupational specialties] into the Marine Corps' concept as a whole," she told Stars and Stripes. "I work in supply, but I am also a Marine, I am a rifleman, so I need to be ready to deploy."

Barger on concluded the hour-long ceremony by thanking the division's troops.

"Together every day we operate within range of clear threats to our peace and security, and we do so with great confidence," he said. "It's a confidence that's rooted in the commitment of our allies and partners in the trust of our fellow Marines and sailors and in the legacy of fidelity, honor and valor forged by those who went before us we owe them past and present a great debt."

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KC-135 tanker, B-1 bomber land after midair refueling incident

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A B-1B Lancer bomber diverted to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, after an air refueling incident involving a KC-135 Stratotanker over the weekend, according to Pacific Air Forces.

The Stratotanker, an aerial refueler, belongs to the 18th Wing at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa; the Lancer is attached to the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., PACAF spokesman Capt. Brandon Romano told Stars and Stripes in an email

Wednesday.

"The B-1 landed at Andersen AFB and the KC-135 landed at Yokota AB without incident," he said. "No injuries were reported." Yokota Air Base is in western Tokyo.

The incident happened Saturday during a bomber task force mission, Romano said.

An investigation will determine the extent of damage to both military aircraft, said Romano, who did not provide details of the incident.

During bomber task force missions, Air Force crews fly throughout the world at a moment's notice "to help maintain global

stability and security while enabling units to become familiar with operations in different regions," according to the Air Force website.

The missions have become commonplace in the Indo-Pacific as part of U.S. demonstrations in response to China's military asserting itself in the region.

Photographs released by the 28th Bomb Wing show B-1Bs taking off from Ellsworth on Aug. 19 and returning the next day from a long-duration mission to the Indo-Pacific region.

The refueling incident was described as

an "in flight emergency" by 374th Airlift Wing spokesman 1st Lt. Danny Rangel in an email Monday.

Rangel provided no details of the emergency.

An incoming charter aircraft traveling to Yokota was diverted to Narita International Airport in nearby Chiba prefecture as a result, he said.

An investigation will determine the extent of damage to both military aircraft, Romano said.

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MILITARY

Study: Lack of abortion access could hinder military readiness

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Diminished combat readiness, recruitment woes and lower retention are among the factors the Pentagon could face now that nearly half of active-duty servicewomen live in states that have severely curtailed abortion access, a new policy study says.

"The possible costs to [the Defense Department] are wide-ranging," the nonpartisan research group Rand Corp. wrote this month in an analysis of the potential effects of the U.S. Supreme Court's June ruling that eliminated federal abortion protections, leaving all such decisions up to individual states.

The result of the ruling is that 40% of active-duty servicewomen in the U.S. will have very limited access to abortion services where they are stationed or no access at all, Rand said.

Additionally, nearly 43% of civilian women in the Defense Department's workforce are in the same situation, according to the report.

"Ultimately, the most important

effect might be a decrease in force readiness and our national security," Rand said.

Between 5,000 and 7,400 active-duty servicewomen and DOD civilian women seek abortion services in any given year, according to a Rand estimate that relied on various Pentagon health surveys.

Given that many of the military's largest bases are in states where abortion has been either banned outright, such as Texas, or restricted, the Pentagon will need to assess the implications, the report said.

As of July, 21 states restrict abortion care. States that have instituted a ban or severe abortion restrictions and also have large military installations include Texas, Georgia, Florida, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Arizona, Rand said.

The Pentagon's options are limited when it comes to dealing with the possible negative effects.

Federal law prohibits abortions on military installations in cases other than pregnancy from rape or incest or when a mother's life is in danger. As a result, DOD may

need to focus efforts on ramping up conception education and awareness programs, Rand said.

About 63% of servicewomen who had an unintended pregnancy were not using any form of contraception just before the pregnancy, according to Rand. And 32.8% were using a form of contraceptive "that is not considered to be highly effective."

If more unintended pregnancies are carried to term, DOD will need to provide care to those women during and after pregnancy and anticipate higher demand for child care and education, Rand said.

Meanwhile, there will be an inevitable operational impact because pregnant women in the military often have duty restricted and can't deploy, according to the report.

"Although there is an individual cost to pregnant women in terms of medical readiness, there is a collective cost to operational readiness," Rand said.

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Report finds Coast Guard units unprepared for tsunami disaster

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Half of the 39 Coast Guard units based on the Pacific Northwest coast lack tsunami evacuation plans for their personnel, despite their location in a high-risk zone for such a disaster, according to a new government watchdog report.

Among the 19 units that have written plans for evacuating Coast Guard members and their families, the content and feasibility of the documents varied widely, the Government Accountability Office wrote in a report published last Wednesday.

The units are part of the Coast Guard's District 13, whose area of responsibility includes the coastlines of Washington and Oregon.

Addressing those planning gaps requires some urgency. Emergency management authorities in Oregon alone estimate the odds of a killer earthquake at nearly 40% in the next 50 years, according to GAO.

A quake that size could generate a tsunami wave similar to the one that devastated the northeastern coast of Japan in March 2011, killing tens of thousands.

The Coast Guard serves as a

first responder and provides humanitarian assistance in disasters such as tsunamis, so it is of paramount importance the units maintain mission capability in the wake of a catastrophic tsunami, the GAO said.

District 13 officials told the GAO that neither it nor its subordinate sectors had "developed or provided tsunami-specific guidance or templates to units to ensure that unit-developed plans include consistent information," the report said.

GAO personnel visited 10 Coast Guard units, eight of which had written tsunami evacuation plans. "However, the feasibility of these eight plans was unknown to Coast Guard personnel located at these units because the units had not exercised their plans to assess feasibility, according to unit leadership," the report said.

Tsunamis are a routine but often deadly feature of the Pacific Ocean. Tsunami waves are created by water displaced by underwater earthquakes as tectonic plates shift. The force can carry waves thousands of miles, sometimes at astounding speeds.

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MILITARY

‘That’s him’

The nephew of a WWII Marine casualty witnesses remains recovery on Okinawa

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

ITOMAN, Okinawa — Larry Paleno, 61, had never been outside the United States, but he dropped everything and flew to Okinawa on Friday after learning that a team of volunteers may have discovered the remains of his uncle lost in World War II.

Marine Pfc. John Quinn Jr., was killed June 29, 1945, one week after the Battle of Okinawa ended, when he entered a supposedly cleared cave in Itoman for souvenirs and was ambushed by Japanese soldiers. He died alongside Pvt. John Hartman, who rushed in to save him. The cave was sealed after the Japanese troops refused to surrender.

On the eve of Paleno’s visit, Kuentai-USA, a Japan-based non-governmental organization working to find Quinn and Hartman, unearthed what it thinks are Quinn’s remains. Paleno grew emotional Saturday morning after viewing the spot where his uncle was believed to lie.

“Very surreal; wow,” he said, his voice wavering. “All these volunteers; it’s unbelievable, all the work they’ve done in that cave to find him.”

The apparent discovery of Quinn’s remains on Sept. 6 capped a long journey for Paleno, a recently retired union electrician from Kings Park, N.Y. He began researching his uncle in 2006 after watching Steven Spielberg’s classic film “Saving Private Ryan.”

His efforts took on a greater urgency a year later after his uncle, Gerald Quinn, requested a memorial Mass for his long-lost brother that was attended by dozens of family and friends.

“When I started, nobody knew anything about him; you know, what happened to him, where he was. Every story was different,” Paleno told Stars and Stripes on

Saturday.

He said his search picked up steam after stumbling upon the 6th Marine Division’s website. Bill Pierce, a veteran of the battle and then public affairs director for the organization, helped Paleno request Quinn’s service record and casualty file from the National Archives. In those files, Paleno found the coordinates for the cave on Okinawa.

Subway search

In 2011, retired Marine Maj. Kerry Quinn, no relation to Pfc. Quinn, contacted the family to return one of the missing Marine’s dog tags that had been found in the cave. Paleno traveled to Washington, D.C., the following year to accept it and met then-Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Amos.

About six years later, Paleno, on his way to work one day aboard the subway, Googled his uncle’s name. He was shocked to learn that Kuentai had begun looking for Quinn. He reached out to the group’s secretary general, Yukari Akatsuka, and started planning for a trip.

“The pandemic hit, and we couldn’t go,” he said.

Paleno lost touch with the group in the two years that followed. Kuentai went back to excavate the cave in April. Paleno reconnected with the group during a second dig in July and again started to plan a visit.

“If I don’t come now, I’ll never come,” he recalled. “It was something that I had to come see.”

Meanwhile, Kuentai volunteers made a promising discovery.

On Sept. 5, they were trying to clear a giant rock that had caved in over the years when Senior Airman Lukas Maschmeier, 23, of the 18th Component Maintenance Squadron at Kadena Air Base, spotted an American-made rubber boot sole. The volunteers



MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

Larry Paleno, right, of Kings Park, N.Y., gazes at a ring that may have belonged to his uncle, Marine Pfc. John Quinn Jr., outside a cave in Itoman, Okinawa, on Saturday.



Yukari Akatsuka

This dog tag belonging to Marine Pfc. John Quinn Jr. was found inside an Okinawa cave along with human remains and other items.

agreed to focus their efforts in that area.

The following day, they found another of Quinn’s dog tags, then a Marine Corps ring, a belt buckle, a Marine Corps button and bones and teeth. They paused digging and cordoned off the area to await Paleno’s arrival.

“Now, looking at the outside of that area, it looks like fragments of a skull right there,” Maschmeier said Saturday, describing the discovery as he prepared to reenter the cave. The volunteers also

found what looks like a pelvic bone.

“This right here is the fruits of repatriation, literally giving remains and personal effects back to the family,” Maschmeier said.

‘Nobody looked’

Airman 1st Class Collin Brady, 21, of the 18th Munitions Squadron, believes they have found Quinn’s final resting place.

“It was under a big ol’ rock,” he said. “Nobody ever looked under that rock, and it’s just kind of

amazing that we somehow pinpointed that location, and it’s even more amazing that Larry’s here, all the way from New York.”

Brady helped find Quinn’s dog tag and what could be his Marine Corps boot camp graduation ring.

As Paleno stood outside the cave holding his uncle’s dog tag, tears streamed down his face. Later that day, while recovering what they believe to be Quinn’s remains, Kuentai volunteers also found teeth they believe could belong to Hartman.

On Monday, Paleno accompanied Kuentai to the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum in Mabuni to turn over the recovered remains. He hopes they will be given to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to identify and return to the family for burial. Quinn still has two siblings who remember him well.

“We wanted to find him and bring him home and bury him with our family and we never thought that would be realized,” Paleno said. “But I have no doubt that that’s him and maybe that will happen someday. I’m so grateful.”

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Fort Campbell soldier dies during hiking accident in Tenn.

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

A 20-year-old soldier assigned to Fort Campbell, Ky., died Saturday after falling into a Tennessee river during a hike with fellow soldiers, base officials said Tuesday.

Spc. Jabori McGraw was a soldier with the Headquarters Battalion of 101st Division Artillery, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). The Clarksville Police Department said it received a call at about 3:45 p.m. Saturday from someone at Billy

Dunlop Park who said a friend was in the Red River and was no longer visible.

Local police, the Clarksville Fire Rescue and the Montgomery County EMS dive team responded to the scene and closed the park, police said.

They suspended the search overnight and returned at 9 a.m. Sunday.



McGraw

McGraw’s body was found about 40 minutes later, according to police. Foul play is not suspected.

“The entire division artillery team is saddened by the loss of an outstanding soldier. He was a valued team member who had the ability to light up any room he was in,” Col. Patrick Moffett, commander of 101st Division Artillery, said in a statement. “His commitment to getting better every day was respected by his subordinates, peers and leaders. Our

deepest condolences go out to his family. They are in our thoughts and prayers during this tragic time.”

McGraw was born in Illinois and enlisted in the Army in 2020 from St. Louis, Mo., as a signal support systems specialist, according to Fort Campbell. In July 2020, he attended boot camp at Fort Jackson, S.C., and then moved to Fort Gordon, Ga., for the Signal Advanced Individual Training.

Fort Campbell was his first duty

station. His awards and decorations include National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Army Service Ribbon.

Roughly 30,000 soldiers are assigned to Fort Campbell, which stretches across 106,700 acres at the Kentucky-Tennessee state line. It’s home to the 101st Airborne Division and 5th Special Forces Group.

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PACIFIC

Commander with UK roots reflects on queen’s service

By JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The commander of U.S. Forces Japan drew on personal ties to Great Britain when expressing condolences upon the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Ricky Rupp, who oversees U.S. military relations with Japan from his headquarters at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, recalled his birth and upbringing in England while remembering the queen’s service to her country.

“Queen Elizabeth II served as a world leader of unassailable character for more than 70 years demonstrating unwavering determi-

nation and resolve in pursuing global peace and prosperity,” Rupp said in a statement Tuesday.

Rupp was born in England to a British mother and graduated from an English secondary school, according to the official statement posted on USFJ’s official Facebook page and Twitter account.

“For me personally, I am especially touched by the outpouring of support to the Royal Family and the people of the United Kingdom,” he wrote.

Elizabeth died on Sept. 8 at Balmoral, her estate in Scotland, at age 96. She occupied the British throne for 70 years, the longest reign of any monarch in her nation’s history. She provided the

kingdom an inspirational figure from its lean years following World War II and its loss of empire, through the Cold War, scandals within the royal family and the onset of a digital age.

“Her steady hand bolstered the Alliance between our two great democracies and helped build a rules-based international order, rooted in close cooperation and shared democratic values,” Rupp wrote. “Queen Elizabeth served as Queen through good times and bad and was always a rock upon which people could lean on.”

Rupp’s grandfather served in the Royal Artillery in World War II, he wrote. His mother survived German bombings of her village

during the war.

As commander of USFJ, Rupp is the senior U.S. military representative in Japan.

To him fall questions about the U.S. military presence in Japan, plans for military exercises and combat readiness of the U.S. forces there and issues affecting day-to-day life of the 66,000 service members and civilian Defense Department employees and their 45,000 dependents, according to the USFJ website.

He also commands 5th Air Force, which encompasses units at Yokota, Misawa and Kadena air bases in Japan.

According to his official resume, Rupp has served at bases



U.S. Forces Japan commander Lt. Gen. Ricky Rupp

across the U.S., Japan, Germany and South Korea but not, so far, in the United Kingdom, where the Air Force has a sizable presence.

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EUROPE

Russians left a lot behind when they fled Izium

BY SAMUEL OAKFORD
AND ALEX HORTON
The Washington Post

The Ukrainian counteroffensive in northeast Ukraine has forced Russia to surrender a wide swath of territory that it spent months, and many lives, capturing.

Videos and photos posted on social media have provided a glimpse into what Russian troops left behind during their hasty retreat.

In videos verified by The Washington Post, Ukrainian troops have documented war machines in various states, from combat-ready tanks to vehicles in need of repair. In some cases, Ukrainian forces have obliterated Russian weapons, leaving smoldering vehicles to be discovered by the advancing forces. Russian forces may have also damaged their own weapons as they retreated.

Many of the discoveries were clustered around Izium, a strategic city southeast of Kharkiv positioned along transportation routes that had been key to Russian movements. The city also became an important intake for armored vehicles in need of maintenance, said Justin Bronk, a senior research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute.

“The abandonment started from the Russian side pretty quickly once it became clear that the highways and the railway connection north were cut off,” Bronk said.

Video filmed by approaching Ukrainian forces on the edge of Izium is notable for what it shows — and doesn’t show.

The state of the equipment at the site is unclear, though much of it appears to lack significant damage. “There are enough tanks for everyone,” someone can be heard saying. “Look how many there are.”

After Russia captured Izium, video and satellite imagery showed military vehicles at the same site — indicating it may have been used as an equipment hub.

In the video posted Sunday, several tanks and armored personnel carriers are dispersed throughout a wooded area. They appear to be assembled in a circular formation, allowing 360 degrees of visibility, said retired Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, a former commander of U.S. Army Europe. It’s possible Russian forces stopped for fuel or were waiting for a mission when they fled, Hodges said.

Hodges, who examined the video, said it appears that the Russians withdrew hastily, leaving



LEO CORREA/AP

A man drives his motorcycle past a Russian tank on the road in the recaptured area Izium, Ukraine, on Wednesday.

behind tanks that show no outward signs of being sabotaged to prevent their use by the Ukrainians. The Russians may have left on foot or in other vehicles in an attempt to keep a lower profile as they fled.

“If you get out of the tank to escape, it’s because you think the tank is a target,” Hodges said.

Vehicles abandoned in serviceable condition are a boon to Ukrainian forces, who have suffered their own losses with a much smaller inventory still reliant on Soviet-era systems. While their crews work quickly to repair their own stocks, Ukrainian forces can also absorb newer Russian vehicles into their ranks because their design is familiar and they use

ammunition already in circulation.

The equipment left behind in the video amounts to about a tank company, Hodges said, which is typically outfitted with about 10 or 11 tanks.

Several of them are variants of the T-80, a high-powered tank prone to breakdowns, Bronk said.

“Some of them are no doubt reasonably functional,” he said. “You would expect at a major staging point that there would be quite a lot of equipment that is there specifically because it was damaged or needed servicing.”

Another video, taken along a street in central Izium, shows a marooned 2S19 Msta self-powered howitzer. The system does

not have obvious signs of being disabled.

Other pictures taken in Izium show heavier damage to Russian military equipment, indicating they were hit in battle. One armored vehicle can be seen at a gas station in the city with bullet holes, burn marks and deflated tires.

Oryx, an open-source analyst site, has documented only five TOS-1As in Russian stocks that have been damaged, destroyed or captured.

As Ukrainian soldiers took stock of weaponry left behind in Izium, officials said they are still pushing farther into Russian-held areas. On Monday, the Ukrainian military said it had taken a further 20 settlements in 24 hours.

Retaken: Retreat marks largest military defeat for Russia in months

FROM PAGE 1

“The view is very shocking but it is not shocking for me,” Zelenskyy said in brief comments to the press, “because we began to see the same pictures from Bucha, from the first de-occupied territories ... the same destroyed buildings, killed people.”

After Russian forces withdrew from Bucha, on the outskirts of the capital of Kyiv, in the early weeks of the war, the bodies of civilians were found dumped in the streets, yards and mass graves. Many bore signs of torture. Moscow’s recent rout in the northeast was its largest military defeat since that withdrawal from the Kyiv area.

Prosecutors said they have found six bodies with traces of torture in recently retaken villages in the Kharkiv region.

“We have a terrible picture of what the occupiers did. ... Such cities as Balakliia, Izium are stand-

ing in the same row as Bucha, Borodyanka, Irpin,” said Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin, listing the names of places where the Ukrainians have alleged Russian forces committed atrocities.

Local authorities have made similar claims in other places formerly held by Russia, but it was not immediately possible to verify their information. They have so far not provided evidence of atrocities on the scale that was seen in Bucha.

The Ukrainian governor of the eastern Luhansk region, Serhiy Haidai, said Ukrainian forces were preparing to retake the region, most of which has been under Russian control since July and which borders the Kharkiv region. He told The Associated Press that Ukrainian guerrilla forces were flying Ukrainian flags in the cities of Svatove and Starobilsk.

But in Kreminna, another city

where Ukrainians raised their flag, Russians returned Wednesday and “tore down the (Ukrainian) flags and are demonstrably showing that they’re there,” Haidai said.

A separatist military leader confirmed the Ukrainian advance on the Luhansk region. Andrei Marochko, a local militia officer, said on Russian TV that the situation was “really difficult.”

“In some places, the contact line has come very close to the borders of the Luhansk People’s Republic,” Marochko said, referring to the independent state the separatists declared eight years ago.

In the wake of the recent gains, a new front line has started to emerge along the Oskil River that largely traces the eastern edge of the Kharkiv region, a Washington-based think tank said Wednesday.

“Russian troops are unlikely to be strong enough to prevent further Ukrainian advances along the

entire Oskil River because they do not appear to be receiving reinforcements, and Ukrainian troops will likely be able to exploit this weakness to resume the counteroffensive across the Oskil if they choose,” the Institute for the Study of War said.

The counteroffensive has also left more weapons in Ukrainian hands.

Russian forces likely left behind dozens of tanks, armored personnel carriers and other heavy weaponry as they fled Ukraine’s advance in the east of the country, a Ukrainian think tank said Wednesday.

The Center for Defense Strategies said one Russian unit that was around Izium left behind more than three dozen T-80 tanks and about as many infantry fighting vehicles known by the acronym BMP. Another unit left behind 47 tanks and 27 armored vehicles.

The center said Russian forces

tried to destroy some of the abandoned vehicles through artillery strikes as they fell back. Typically, armed forces destroy equipment left behind so their opponent can’t use it. However, the chaos of the Russian withdrawal apparently saw them leave untouched ammunition and weapons behind.

In other areas, Russia continued its attacks, causing the death toll to keep rising in a war that has dragged on for nearly seven months.

Russian shelling of seven Ukrainian regions over the past 24 hours killed at least seven civilians and wounded 22 more, Ukraine’s presidential office reported on Wednesday morning.

Two people were killed and three wounded after Russia attacked Mykolaiv with S-300 missiles overnight, said regional Gov. Vitaliy Kim. Settlements near the front line in Mykolaiv region remain under constant fire.

NATION

Package explodes on Boston campus; 1 hurt, FBI involved

Associated Press

A hard plastic case that exploded on the campus of Northeastern University in Boston causing minor injuries to a staff member contained a rambling note that railed against virtual reality and also referenced Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, a law enforcement official said Wednesday.

Investigators are still trying to identify the motive behind the Tuesday evening explosion and are working to understand why the package was specifically sent to Northeastern, the official said.

Investigators are also trying to determine the specific mechanism of the device and whether the package contained any gunpowder, the official added.

The official could not discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The official described the case as a "Pelican-style" case. Pelican makes hard cases designed to protect sensitive equipment.

A spokesperson for the FBI office in Boston declined to comment Wednesday, saying the investigation is "still very active and fluid."

Northeastern in a message posted on its website Wednesday said campus is safe.

"Events such as the incident that took place on our Boston campus last night can create or heighten anxiety for many of us," said the post, credited to Provost David Madigan and Chancellor Kenneth Henderson.

"We would like to underscore what was communicated to our community last night: Multiple law enforcement agencies have determined that the campus is safe and secure."



WCVB/AP

Police and emergency personnel respond Tuesday after a package exploded on the campus of Northeastern University in Boston. The college said a staff member suffered minor injuries.

The campus opened normally for classes and other activities Wednesday.

Counseling and other support services were made available for students, faculty and staff.

The package delivered to Holmes Hall detonated just after 7 p.m. Tuesday when a staff member opened it, the university said in a statement.

The staff member, a 45-year-old man, was taken to the hospital with minor injuries to his hand, police said.

Boston's bomb squad neutralized a second package near the

city's Museum of Fine Arts, which is near Northeastern's campus.

Holmes Hall is home to the university's creative writing program and its women's, gender and sexuality studies program.

Northeastern is a private university in downtown Boston with about 16,000 undergraduate students.

Tuesday's explosion marked one of the first big scares in Boston since 2013, when two bombs planted near the finish line of the Boston Marathon killed three spectators and wounded more than 260 others.

US: Russia spent \$300M to covertly affect world views

By Nomaan Merchant
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Russia has covertly spent more than \$300 million since 2014 to try to influence politicians and other officials in more than two dozen countries, the State Department alleges in a newly released cable.

The cable released Tuesday cites a new intelligence assessment of Russia's global covert efforts to support policies and parties sympathetic to Moscow. The cable does not name specific Russian targets but says the U.S. is providing classified information to select individual countries.

It's the latest effort by the Biden administration to declassify intelligence about Moscow's military and political aims, dating back to ultimately correct assessments that Russia would launch a new war against Ukraine. Many of President Joe Biden's top national security officials have extensive experience countering Moscow and served in government when Russian President Vladimir Putin launched wide-ranging campaigns to influence the 2016 and 2020 U.S. presidential elections.

A senior administration official declined to say how much money Russia is believed to have spent in Ukraine, where President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his top deputies have long accused Putin of meddling in domestic politics. The official noted allegations of Russian influence in recent elections in Albania, Bosnia and Montenegro, all

Eastern European countries that have faced historical pressure from Moscow.

Unlike declared efforts by foreign governments to lobby for preferred initiatives, Russia's covert influence involved using front organizations to funnel money to preferred causes or politicians, the cable alleges. That includes think tanks in Europe and state-owned enterprises in Central America, Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

The U.S. has in its history also covertly funded political groups and been responsible for efforts to topple or undermine foreign governments. The official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity under rules set by the administration, rejected comparisons between Russia's activities and current U.S. financing of media and political initiatives.

Putin was spending huge sums "in an attempt to manipulate democracies from the inside," the official said.

The State Department took the unusual step of releasing a diplomatic cable that was sent on Monday to many U.S. embassies and consulates abroad, many of them in Europe, Africa and South Asia, laying out the concerns.

The cable, which was marked "sensitive" and not intended for foreign audiences but was not classified, contained talking points that U.S. diplomats were instructed to raise with their host governments regarding alleged Russian interference.

Whistleblower: China, India had agents working for Twitter

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Twitter's former security chief told Congress on Tuesday there was "at least one agent" from China's intelligence service on Twitter's payroll and that the company knowingly allowed India to add agents to the company roster as well, potentially giving those nations access to sensitive data about users.

These were some of the troubling revelations from Peiter "Mudge" Zatkó, a respected cybersecurity expert and Twitter whistleblower who appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee to lay out his allegations against the company.

Zatkó told lawmakers that the social media platform is plagued by weak cyber defenses that make it vulnerable to exploitation by "teen-



Zatko

agers, thieves and spies" and put the privacy of its users at risk.

"I am here today because Twitter leadership is misleading the public, lawmakers, regulators and even its own board of directors," Zatkó said as he began his sworn testimony.

"They don't know what data they have, where it lives and where it came from and so, unsurprisingly, they can't protect it," Zatkó said. "It doesn't matter who has keys if there are no locks."

"Twitter leadership ignored its engineers," he said, in part because "their executive incentives led them to prioritize profit over security."

In a statement, Twitter said its hiring process is "independent of any foreign influence" and access to data is managed through a host of measures, including background checks, access controls, and monitoring and detection systems and processes.

One issue that didn't come up in the hearing was the question of whether Twitter is accurately counting its active users, an important metric for its advertisers. Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who is trying to get out of a \$44 billion deal to buy Twitter, has argued without evidence that many of Twitter's roughly 238 million daily users are fake or malicious accounts, aka "spam bots."

Even so, "that doesn't mean that Musk won't use Zatkó's allegation that Twitter was disinterested in

removing bots to try to bolster his argument for walking away from the deal," said Insider Intelligence analyst Jasmine Enberg.

The Delaware judge overseeing the case ruled last week that Musk can include new evidence related to Zatkó's allegations in the high-stakes trial, which is set to start Oct. 17. During the hearing, Musk tweeted a popcorn emoji, often used to suggest that one is sitting back in anticipation of unfolding drama.

Separately on Tuesday, Twitter's shareholders voted overwhelmingly to approve the deal, according to multiple media reports. Shareholders have been voting remotely on the issue for weeks. The vote was largely a formality, particularly given Musk's efforts to nullify the deal, although it does

clear a legal hurdle to closing the sale.

Zatkó's message echoed one brought to Congress against another social media giant last year. But unlike that Facebook whistleblower, Frances Haugen, Zatkó hasn't brought troves of internal documents to back up his claims.

Zatkó, 51, was the head of security for the influential platform until he was fired early this year. He filed a whistleblower complaint in July with Congress, the Justice Department, the Federal Trade Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Among his most serious accusations is that Twitter violated the terms of a 2011 FTC settlement by falsely claiming that it had put stronger measures in place to protect the security and privacy of its users.

NATION

Retired general wins NH GOP Senate primary

BY WILL WEISSERT
AND HOLLY RAMER
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — Retired Army Brig. Gen. Donald Bolduc won New Hampshire's Senate Republican primary on Wednesday and will face potentially vulnerable Democratic incumbent Maggie Hassan in November — setting up another test of whether a fierce conservative can appeal to more moderate general election voters.

Bolduc wasn't formally endorsed by former President Donald Trump but has said he believes Trump won the 2020 election and has espoused conspiracy theories about vaccines. The former president called him a "strong guy, tough guy."

That has some in Bolduc's own party questioning whether he can broaden his appeal beyond the GOP base in November enough to beat Hassan in a race that could help determine Senate control.

Primaries in New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Delaware on Tuesday capped the nation's primary season just eight weeks before Election Day, when majorities in both chambers of Congress, key governorships and scores of important state offices will be up for grabs.

Dozens of candidates around the country who were openly championed by Trump — or at least hewed closely to his brand — helped extend his hold on the national GOP. They notched pri-

mary wins up and down the ballot from Maryland to Arizona, Florida to Michigan. Some defeated Republican incumbents who had been open Trump antagonists.

The former president and the larger movement of Trumpism, which President Joe Biden and other top Democrats have decried as presenting a major threat to American democracy, didn't win every major race of the primary cycle. But those candidates who used the former president's support to win GOP nominations now will likely have to prove they can appeal to a broader swath of the electorate in general elections, where larger numbers of voters tend to be more moderate than those who turn out for primaries.

The results of Tuesday's primaries mean the general election for Senate in New Hampshire should provide another such test. Biden carried the state by more than 7 percentage points. Republican primary voters also picked conservative candidates this year in moderate or Democratic-leaning states including Massachusetts, potentially putting competitive races out of the party's reach.

Bolduc's victory likely reignites disappointment among some in the national party that Republican Gov. Chris Sununu, a relatively popular moderate who might have posed more of a threat to Hassan, chose instead to run for reelection. In his primary, Bolduc defeated New Hampshire state Senate President Chuck Morse, a mainstream Republican endorsed by Sununu, who called Morse "the candidate to beat Sen. Hassan this November and the candidate Sen. Hassan is most afraid to face."



Bolduc



MARIAM ZUHAIB/AP

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., speak during a news conference to discuss the introduction of the Protecting Pain-Capable Unborn Children from Late-Term Abortions Act on Capitol Hill on Tuesday.

GOP's Graham unveils nationwide ban on abortions after 15 weeks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Upending the political debate, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham introduced a nationwide abortion ban Tuesday, sending shockwaves through both parties and igniting fresh debate on a fraught issue weeks before the midterm elections that will determine control of Congress.

Graham's own Republican Party leaders did not immediately embrace his abortion ban bill, which would prohibit the procedure after 15 weeks of pregnancy with rare exceptions, and has almost no chance of becoming law in the Democratic-held Congress. Democrats torched it as an alarming signal of where "MAGA" Republicans are headed if they win control of the House and Senate in November.

"America's got to make some decisions," Graham said at a news conference at the Capitol.

The South Carolina Republican said that rather than shying away from the Supreme Court's ruling

this summer overturning *Roe v. Wade's* nearly 50-year right to abortion access, Republicans are preparing to fight to make a nationwide abortion ban federal law.

"Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no, we're going nowhere," the senator said while flanked by female advocates from the anti-abortion movement. "We welcome the debate. We welcome the vote in the United States Senate as to what America should look like in 2022."

Reaction was swift, fierce and unwavering from Democrats who viewed Graham's legislation as an extreme example of the far-right's hold on the GOP, and as a political gift of self-inflicted pain for Republican candidates now having to answer questions about an abortion ban heading toward the midterm elections.

"A nationwide abortion ban — that's the contrast between the two parties, plain and simple," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said.

Sen. Patty Murray, a Democrat

from Washington who is in her own fight for reelection, said Republicans "want to force" women to stay pregnant and deliver babies.

"To anyone who thought they were safe, here is the painful reality," she said. "Republicans are coming for your rights."

The sudden turn of events comes in a razor-tight election season as Republicans hoping to win control of Congress are struggling to recapture momentum, particularly after the Supreme Court's landmark decision sparked deep concerns among some voters, with signs of female voters peeling away from the GOP.

Graham's legislation elevates the abortion issue at a time when other Republicans would prefer to focus on inflation, border security and Biden's leadership.

The Republican bill would ban abortions nationwide after 15 weeks of pregnancy, except in cases of rape, incest or risk to the physical health of the mother.

Judge unseals additional portions of Mar-a-Lago search affidavit

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge Tuesday unsealed additional portions of an FBI affidavit laying out the basis for a search of former President Donald Trump's Florida home, showing that agents earlier obtained a hard drive after issuing a subpoena for surveillance footage recorded inside Mar-a-Lago.

A heavily redacted version of the affidavit was made public last month, but the Justice Department requested permission to show more of it after lawyers for

Trump revealed the existence of a June grand jury subpoena that sought video footage from cameras in the vicinity of the Mar-a-Lago storage room.

"Because those aspects of the grand jury's investigation have now been publicly revealed, there is no longer any reason to keep them sealed (i.e. redacted) in the filings in this matter," department lawyers wrote.

The newly visible portions of the FBI agent's affidavit show that the FBI on June 24 subpoenaed for the footage after a visit weeks earlier

to Mar-a-Lago in which agents observed 50 to 55 boxes of records in the storage room at the property. The Trump Organization provided a hard drive on July 6 in response to the subpoena, the affidavit says.

The footage could be an important piece of the investigation, including as agents evaluate whether anyone has sought to obstruct the probe. The Justice Department has said in a separate filing that it has "developed evidence that government records were likely concealed and removed

from the Storage Room and that efforts were likely taken to obstruct the government's investigation."

The Justice Department has been investigating the holding of top-secret information and other classified documents at Mar-a-Lago after Trump left the White House. FBI agents during their Aug. 8 search of the home and club said they recovered more than 11,000 documents and 1,800 other items, including roughly 100 with classification markings.

Separately Tuesday, the Justice Department again urged U.S. Dis-

trict Judge Aileen Cannon to lift her hold on core aspects of the investigation. Cannon last week granted the Trump team's request for an independent arbiter to review the seized documents and weed out from the investigation any records that may be covered by claims of executive or attorney-client privilege.

She also ordered the department to halt its review of the records pending any further court order or the completion of a review by the yet-to-be-named special master.

NATION

US sets up Afghan relief fund with frozen money

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. and Swiss governments and Afghan economics experts said Wednesday they will transfer \$3.5 billion in frozen funds from Afghanistan's central bank to use for the country's people as hunger grips every province there.

Notably, the Taliban government will not be a part of the new Afghan Fund, which will maintain its account with the Bank for International Settlements in Switzerland.

In the interim, Afghanistan's central bank, which in February had \$7 billion in frozen funds, "must demonstrate that it has the

expertise, capacity, and independence to responsibly perform the duties of a central bank," the U.S. Treasury and State departments said Wednesday in a joint statement. "Robust safeguards have been put in place to prevent the funds from being used for illicit activity."

International funding to Afghanistan was suspended and billions of dollars of the country's assets abroad, mostly in the United States, were frozen after the Taliban took control of the country in August 2021 following the U.S. military's withdrawal.

In February, President Joe Biden issued an executive order that called for banks to provide \$3.5 bil-

lion of the frozen money to a trust fund for distribution through humanitarian groups for Afghan relief and basic needs.

The other \$3.5 billion will stay in the U.S. to finance payments from lawsuits by U.S. victims of terrorism that are still working their way through the courts, prompted by claims brought by family members of people killed on Sept. 11, 2001.

"The Afghan Fund will help mitigate the economic challenges facing Afghanistan while protecting and preserving \$3.5 billion in reserves from Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), Afghanistan's central bank, for the benefit of the people of Afghanistan," Treasury Deputy

Secretary Wally Adeyemo said.

He said the Taliban's "repression and economic mismanagement" had exacerbated longstanding economic challenges for Afghanistan that had made the return of the funds untenable.

Human Rights Watch said in August that Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis cannot be effectively addressed unless the U.S. and other governments ease restrictions on the country's banking sector to allow economic activity and humanitarian aid.

Nearly half the Afghan population — 18.9 million people — is estimated to be acutely food insecure between June and November 2022, the World Food Programme

said. All 34 provinces in the country are facing some level of crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity.

Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman said the people of Afghanistan are facing humanitarian and economic crises born of "decades of conflict, severe drought, COVID-19, and endemic corruption."

"Today, the United States and its partners take an important, concrete step forward in ensuring that additional resources can be brought to bear to reduce suffering and improve economic stability for the people of Afghanistan while continuing to hold the Taliban accountable," Sherman said.

Driven by consumers, inflation more persistent

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. inflation is showing signs of entering a more stubborn phase that will likely require drastic action by the Federal Reserve, a shift that has panicked financial markets and heightens the risks of a recession.

Some of the longtime drivers of higher inflation — spiking gas prices, supply chain snarls, soaring used-car prices — are fading. Yet underlying measures of inflation are actually worsening.

The ongoing evolution of the forces behind an inflation rate that's near a four-decade high has made it harder for the Fed to wrestle it under control. Prices are no longer rising because a few categories have skyrocketed in cost. Instead, inflation has now spread more widely through the economy, fueled by a strong job market that is boosting paychecks, forcing companies to raise prices to cover higher labor costs and giving more consumers the wherewithal to spend.

On Tuesday, the government said inflation ticked up 0.1% from July to August and 8.3% from a year ago, which was down from June's four-decade high of 9.1%. And on Wednesday, the Labor Department reported that inflation at the wholesale level jumped 8.7% in August from a year earlier.

But excluding the volatile categories of food and energy, so-called core prices jumped by an unexpectedly sharp 0.6% from July to August, after a milder 0.3% rise the previous month. The Fed monitors core prices closely, and the latest figures heightened fears of an even more aggressive Fed and sent stocks plunging, with the Dow Jones collapsing more than 1,200 points.

The core price figures solidified worries that inflation has now spread into all corners of the economy.

"One of the most remarkable things is how broad-based the price



MARTA LAVANDIER/AP

Shoppers look for school supplies in South Miami, Fla., in July. Economists are saying strong consumer demand, spurred by rising wages, is fueling inflation. So-called core prices jumped by an unexpectedly sharp 0.6% from July to August, after a 0.3% rise the previous month, U.S. government data shows.

gains are," said Matthew Luzzetti, chief U.S. economist at Deutsche Bank. "The underlying trend in inflation certainly has not shown any progress toward moderating so far. And that should be a worry to the Fed because the price gains have become increasingly demand-driven, and therefore likely to be more persistent."

Demand-driven inflation is one way to say that consumers, who account for nearly 70% of economic growth, keep spending, even if they resent having to pay more. In part, that is because of widespread income gains and in part because many Americans still have more savings than they did before the pandemic, after having postponed spending on vacations, entertainment and restaurants.

When inflation is driven mainly by demand, it can require more drastic action from the Fed than

when it's driven mainly by supply shocks, such as an oil supply disruption, which can often resolve on their own.

Economists fear that the only way for the Fed to slow robust consumer demand is to raise interest rates so high as to sharply increase unemployment and potentially cause a recession. Typically, as fear of layoffs rises, not only do the jobless reduce spending. So, too, do the many people who fear losing their jobs.

Some economists now think the Fed will have to raise its benchmark short-term rate much higher, to 4.5% or above, by early next year, more than previous estimates of 4%. (The Fed's key rate is now in a range of 2.25% to 2.5%.) Higher rates from the Fed would, in turn, lead to higher costs for mortgages, auto loans and business loans. The Fed is widely expected to raise its benchmark short-term rate by a substantial

three-quarters of a point next week for a third consecutive time.

Higher prices have yet to cause much of what economists call "demand destruction" — a pullback in spending that could quell inflation. Though higher gas prices have caused Americans to drive less, there isn't much evidence of significant cutbacks elsewhere.

Restaurant prices, for example, jumped 0.9% in August and have risen 8% in the past year. But that hasn't noticeably discouraged people from going out. Restaurant traffic has surpassed pre-pandemic levels on Open Table, an app that tracks reservations, and was still increasing into September.

Overall, consumers have largely kept up their spending, even with rampant inflation, though perhaps through gritted teeth. In July, spending rose 0.2% after adjusting for higher prices.

TikTok search results riddled with bad info

Associated Press

TikTok may be the platform of choice for catchy videos, but anyone using it to learn about COVID-19, climate change or Russia's invasion of Ukraine is likely to encounter misleading information, according to a research report published Wednesday.

Researchers at NewsGuard searched for content about prominent news topics on TikTok and say they found that nearly 1 in 5 of the videos automatically suggested by the platform contained misinformation.

Searches for information about "mRNA vaccine," for instance, yielded five videos (out of the first 10) that contained misinformation, including baseless claims that the COVID-19 vaccine causes "permanent damage in children's critical organs." Researchers looking for information about abortion, the 2020 election, the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, climate change or Russia's invasion of Ukraine on TikTok found similarly misleading videos scattered among more accurate clips.

The amount of misinformation — and the ease with which it can be found — is especially troubling given TikTok's popularity with young people, according to Steven Brill, founder of NewsGuard, a firm that monitors misinformation. Brill questioned whether ByteDance, the Chinese firm that owns TikTok, is doing enough to stop misinformation or whether it deliberately allows misinformation to proliferate as a way to sow confusion in the U.S. and other Western democracies.

TikTok released a statement noting that its community guidelines prohibit harmful misinformation and that it works to promote authoritative content about important topics like COVID-19.

WORLD

Queen Elizabeth II's coffin at Parliament to lie in state

By MIKE CORDER
AND DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON — Queen Elizabeth II left Buckingham Palace on Wednesday, borne on a horse-drawn carriage and saluted by cannons and the tolling of Big Ben, in a solemn procession through the flag-draped, crowd-lined streets of London to Westminster Hall. There, Britain's longest-serving monarch will lie in state for the world to mourn.

Her son, King Charles III, and his siblings and sons marched behind the coffin, which was topped by a wreath of white roses and her crown resting on a purple velvet pillow.

The queen will lie in state for four days until her funeral Monday, with hundreds of thousands of people expected to file past. Eight pall bearers carried the oak and lead-lined coffin into Westminster Hall, placing it on a raised platform known as a catafalque.

The solemn procession from Buckingham Palace was designed to underscore the queen's seven decades as head of state as the national mourning process shifted to the grand boulevards and historic landmarks of the U.K. capital.

Thousands of people who had waited for hours along The Mall outside the palace and other locations to line the route held up



CHRIS J RATCLIFFE/AP

Britain's King Charles III, foreground center, and Princess Anne, foreground right, followed by from left, Prince William, Prince Harry, and Peter Phillips, the son of Princess Anne, walk behind the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II during a procession to Westminster Hall in London on Wednesday.

phones and cameras, and some wiped away tears, as the procession passed. Applause broke out as it went through Horse Guards Parade.

The coffin was draped in the Royal Standard and topped with the Imperial State Crown — adorned with almost 3,000 diamonds — and a bouquet of flowers

and plants including pine from the Balmoral Estate, where Elizabeth died last week.

An escort of two officers and 32 troops from the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards in red uniforms and bearskin hats walked on either side of the gun carriage. Big Ben tolled, a gun salute boomed from Hyde Park and the martial

strains of a military band accompanied the procession.

The 38-minute procession ended at Westminster Hall, where Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby led a service attended by Charles and other royals after the coffin was brought in.

The choir of Westminster Abbey and the Choir of His Majesty's Chapel Royal sang the words of a psalm.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you," Welby said as he read from the Book of John.

Thousands of people were standing or sitting in line along the banks of the River Thames waiting their turn to file past the coffin and pay their respects.

The crowds are the latest manifestation of a nationwide outpouring of grief and respect for the only monarch most Britons have ever known, who died at her beloved Balmoral summer retreat on Thursday at age 96, ending a 70-year reign.

Joan Bucklehurst, a 50-year-old retail worker from Cheshire in northwestern England, said the queen "meant so much for everybody."

"She was amazing, yeah," she added, choking up with emotion. "So, we had to be here. We've been

here a few times when there have been special occasions, but this one, I couldn't miss this."

Maj. Gen. Christopher Ghika, of the Household division, who organized the ceremonial aspects of the queen's funeral, said it was a sad day, "but it's our last opportunity to do our duty for the queen and it's our first opportunity to do it for the king, and that makes us all very proud."

London's Heathrow Airport halted flights to prevent overhead planes disturbing the procession.

The airport said in a statement that the changes would "ensure silence over central London as the ceremonial procession moves from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall."

Troops involved in the procession have been preparing since the queen died. So have the horses of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery.

Sgt. Tom Jenks, from the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, said that the horses have undergone special training, including how to handle weeping mourners, as well as flowers and flags being thrown onto streets as the procession passes by.

Since the early morning, people staked out prime viewing positions behind metal barriers along the Mall and other streets along the route.

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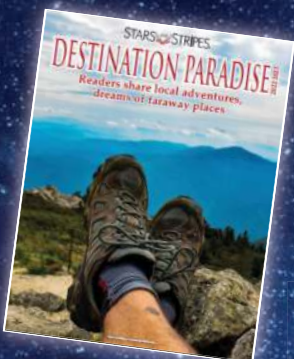
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WORLD

Armenia, Azerbaijan trade blame for new shelling across borders

Associated Press

YEREVAN, Armenia — Armenia and Azerbaijan accused each other of instigating new rounds of shelling across their borders Wednesday and reported that 155 troops from the two countries have died since hostilities reignited between the two longtime adversaries this week.

Armenia's Defense Ministry accused Azerbaijani forces of launching combat drones in the direction of the Armenian resort town of Jermuk overnight and renewing shelling with artillery and mortars in the morning in the direction of Jermuk and the village of Verin Shorzha.

The Azerbaijani military, in turn, charged that Armenian forces shelled its positions in the Kalbajar and Lachin districts of Azerbaijan, near the separatist Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said 105 of his country's have been killed since fighting

erupted early Tuesday, while Azerbaijan said it lost 50 troops.

The two ex-Soviet countries have been locked in a decades-old conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, which is part of Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a separatist war there ended in 1994.

During a six-week war in 2020, Azerbaijan reclaimed broad swaths of Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent territories held by Armenian forces. More than 6,600 people died in the fighting, which ended with a Russia-brokered peace deal. Moscow deployed about 2,000 troops to the region to serve as peacekeepers under the deal.

Russia moved quickly on Tuesday to negotiate an end to the latest hostilities, but a cease-fire it sought to broker has failed to hold. The two sides traded blame for violations of the cease-fire, while the international community urged calm.

"Despite the appeals of the inter-

national community and the reached cease-fire agreement, Armenian armed forces continue attacks and provocations in the state border using artillery and other heavy weapons," Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

It said two Azerbaijani civilians were injured by the Armenian shelling of the Kalbajar and Lachin districts.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said Wednesday that his government has asked Russia for military support under a friendship treaty between the countries, and also requested assistance from the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), a Moscow-dominated security alliance of ex-Soviet nations.

"Our allies are Russia and the CSTO," Pashinyan said, adding that the collective security pact states that an aggression against one member is an aggression against all.

As monkeypox cases drop in the West, still no vaccines for Africa

Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria — With monkeypox cases subsiding in Europe and parts of North America, many scientists say now is the time to prioritize stopping the virus in Africa.

In July, the U.N. health agency designated monkeypox as a global emergency and appealed to the world to support African countries so that the catastrophic vaccine inequity that plagued the outbreak of COVID-19 wouldn't be repeated.

But the global spike of attention has had little impact on the continent. No rich countries have shared vaccines or treatments with Africa, and some experts fear interest may soon evaporate.

"Nothing has changed for us here, the focus is all on monkeypox in the West," said Placide Mbala, a virologist who directs the global health research department at Congo's Institute of Biomedical Research.

Monkeypox has sickened people in parts of West and Central Africa since the 1970s, but it wasn't until the disease triggered

unusual outbreaks in Europe and North America that public health officials even thought to use vaccines.

As rich countries rushed to buy nearly all the world's supply of the most advanced shot against monkeypox, the World Health Organization said in June that it would create a vaccine-sharing mechanism to help needy countries get doses.

So far, that hasn't happened.

"Africa is still not benefiting from either monkeypox vaccines or the antiviral treatments," said Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO's Africa director, adding that only small amounts have been available for research purposes. Since 2000, Africa has reported about 1,000 to 2,000 suspected monkeypox cases every year. So far this year, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have identified about 3,000 suspected infections, including more than 100 deaths.

In recent weeks, monkeypox cases globally have fallen by more than a quarter, including by 55% in Europe, according to WHO.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Pro bull rider killed in domestic violence incident

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A pro bull rider was killed in Utah in what Salt Lake City police are calling a domestic violence homicide.

Demetrius Omar Lateef Allen, who went by the name Ouncie Mitchell as a pro bull rider, was found shot outside an apartment complex in Salt Lake City, police said in a news release. Allen, 27, was taken to a hospital, where he died.

Police arrested LaShawn Denise Bagley, a 21-year-old woman, on suspicion of murder.

Bagley and Allen had been in a relationship. Allen had come to Utah to attend the state fair and was staying with Bagley. The two got into a fight at a bar, and Allen went to Bagley's apartment to get his things, where he was shot, police said.

Arson investigated after fire at historic church

CA LOS ANGELES — An arson investigation is under way after fire destroyed a historic church in South Los Angeles, authorities said.

The blaze at Victory Baptist Church last weekend quickly grew to major emergency status, said Nicholas Prange, a spokesperson with the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Two firefighters were hospitalized with mild to moderate injuries after battling the flames, Prange said. One became trapped by a collapsing ceiling before being rescued, he said.

Founded in a local storefront on Easter Sunday in 1943, the church moved into its current building on McKinley Avenue a year later.

Man gets life for selling fentanyl in 11 fatal ODs

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A Minnesota man was sentenced to life in prison for selling fentanyl online that led to 11 fatal overdoses.

A federal jury in March convicted Aaron Broussard, 32, of Hopkins, of 17 counts including distribution of fentanyl resulting in death. Federal prosecutors said at trial that Broussard's customers thought they were buying a stimulant similar to Adderall.

Senior U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson told Broussard: "Your disregard for human life is terrifying," the Star Tribune reported.

Police: Woman shot by cops after dragging officer

MD TOWSON — Police in a Baltimore suburb shot a woman who dragged an off-duty officer with her car and later rammed into other vehicles, according to a police department spokeswoman.

The woman shot had injuries



WILFREDO LEE/AP

Casting a wide net

A fisherman casts a net for bait fish in the early morning hours off the shores of Surfside, Fla.

that weren't considered life-threatening, Baltimore County police spokeswoman Joy Lepola-Stewart said.

The woman drove off after hitting and dragging a Baltimore County police officer with her car, police said. The officer, whose injuries weren't believed to be life-threatening, had been working an off-duty job at a shopping center.

Later, several miles from where the officer was dragged, police shot the woman after she rammed her car into officers' vehicles and a bystander's vehicle, Lepola-Stewart said.

Corrections fined for violating outbreak rules

WA ABERDEEN — The Washington state Department of Corrections was fined more than \$84,000 for reportedly failing to follow safety rules meant to stop the spread of disease at its Aberdeen prison.

The determination came after state Department of Labor and Industries inspectors responded to complaints related to an April tuberculosis outbreak. That month, the state Department of Health recorded the largest outbreak of the bacterial disease in 20 years, including cases at Stafford Creek Corrections Center.

Stafford Creek workers allegedly did not receive initial or annual fit testing for N-95 respirators, according to L&I. Without the tests, the respirators may not have fit correctly, inhibiting the ability to protect from infection.

The fine would go into a workers' compensation fund to help injured workers and families of workers who die.

Police wound woman after shooting at complex

DE NEWARK — A woman suspected of shooting another woman at a Delaware apartment complex was critically wounded by police who confronted her, authorities said.

The armed woman was firing a gun when two officers encountered her at the apartment complex in Newark, the New Castle County police department said in a news release.

Both officers opened fire on the woman, hitting her in the chest, police said. She was taken to a hospital, where she was in critical condition, according to the release.

Investigators believe the woman had shot a 26-year-old woman during an argument. The other woman also was in critical condition at a hospital, police said.

State delays road project over farmer concerns

ND BISMARCK — A \$4.2 million project to install metal poles with reflective markers along two-lane highways across North Dakota was put on hold because of worries about how the new poles affected farmers driving large equipment.

The posts installed this summer along state highways with shoulders less than 8 feet wide will be removed as the Department of Transportation redesigns the project. State Sen. Janne Myrdahl, who complained about the problems the posts were causing farmers, said the hard metal posts will likely be replaced by flexible ones.

Northwest cherry harvest smallest in 14 years

OR PORTLAND — The Pacific Northwest cherry crop this year is the smallest in 14 years at least in part because of a spring snowstorm.

The smaller-than-usual fruit harvest happened largely because Oregon and Washington were hit with a severe winter storm on April 14, during the region's cherry blossom bloom, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported.

According to B.J. Thurlby, the

president of both the Washington State Fruit Commission and Northwest Cherries, this year's crop is the smallest since 2008.

Officials: Sergeant who led rogue cops sentenced

NJ NEWARK — A former police sergeant who authorities said led a group of officers who illegally stopped and searched numerous people and vehicles and stole thousands of dollars from them was sentenced to nearly three years in federal prison.

Michael Cheff, 51, an Oakland resident who served on the force in Paterson, was convicted in May of a civil rights violation and filing a false report. Five Paterson officers who have pleaded guilty to various charges stemming from the long-running corruption probe testified against Cheff.

The officers have said Cheff knew about the thefts that occurred from 2016 to 2018.

Cheff, who maintains his innocence, received a 33-month prison term, with three years of supervised release after he is freed. The five other officers received terms ranging from probation to 24 months in prison.

FACES

Iconic director Godard dead at 91

Jean-Luc Godard, the iconic “enfant terrible” of the French New Wave who revolutionized popular cinema in 1960 with his first feature, “Breathless,” and stood for years among the film world’s most influential directors, died Tuesday. He was 91.

Godard died peacefully and surrounded by loved ones at his home in the Swiss town of Rolle, on Lake Geneva, his family said in a statement. The statement gave assisted suicide, which is legal in Switzerland, as the cause of death.

A medical report recently revealed the director had “multiple invalidating pathologies,” according to the family statement.

Some of cinema’s greatest directors counted Godard’s work as an influence, including Quentin Tarantino, Bernardo Bertolucci, Brian De Palma and Jonathan Demme.

Also:
■ **Renowned jazz pianist Ramsey Lewis**, whose music entertained fans over a more than 60-year career that began with the Ramsey Lewis Trio and made him one of the country’s most successful jazz musicians, has died. He was 87. Lewis is revered in jazz circles for 1960s hits like “The In Crowd,” “Hang on Sloopy” and “Wade in the Water.” Lewis died Monday at his Chicago home.

■ **Rapper PnB Rock** was fatally shot during a robbery at a South Los Angeles restaurant. The Philadelphia artist, whose real name is Rakim Allen, was killed Monday at Roscoe’s Chicken and Waffles while eating with his girlfriend. Police Chief Michel Moore told the Los Angeles Times that police are investigating whether a social media post by the girlfriend prompted the attack.

Associated Press

Comic duo still as animated as ever

Key and Peele back together, as demons, in ‘Wendell & Wild’

By Jake Coyle
Associated Press

It’s been seven years since the last episode of “Key & Peele” aired, but Jordan Peele and Keegan-Michael Key are once again riffing together.

They’re sitting in a Toronto hotel the day before the premiere of Henry Selick’s stop-motion-animation marvel “Wendell & Wild” at the Toronto International Film Festival. Peele co-wrote and produced the film with the “Coraline” filmmaker, and in it, he and Key voice the titular demon brothers who manipulate a goth teenager (voiced by Lyric Ross) into summoning her dead parents to the land of the living.

In the film’s opening scene, Wendell and Wild operate a strange machine in a spooky netherworld, and yet, even in this dark, fantastical realm, the tempo of Peele and Key’s unique comic rhythm is unmistakable. In the recording booth voicing the scene, they drew from an old Second City improv game they used to do called Make-a-Machine where a string of people mime a different part of an assembly line.

“Let’s play it right now,” says Peele.

And in a moment, the cogs of one of the century’s greatest comic duos again whirls into motion. Key and Peele work in syncopated harmony, with a symphony of bleeps and blurps, while Selick and Ross look on uncertain of their role in this still finely-tuned comedy machine.



NETFLIX/AP

From left: Wendell, voiced by Keegan-Michael Key, and Wild, voiced by Jordan Peele, are shown in a scene from “Wendell & Wild.” Insets, from top: Key and Peele.

Eventually the gears slow. “It’s not the funniest improv game,” deadpans Peele.

“Wendell & Wild,” which Netflix will release in theaters Oct. 21 and begin streaming Oct. 28, is an event for a couple of reasons. It’s the first film by Selick, the celebrated animator of “The Nightmare Before Christmas,” since 2009’s “Coraline,” a 13-year spell during which he spent years on a Pixar film that was abruptly canceled. In the stop-motion animation world, “Wendell and Wild” also stands out for its bold, punkish Black protagonist.

But for many, the appeal of seeing Key and Peele reunited, even in demon form, is something special. Since “Key & Peele” concluded in 2015, Peele has, of course, embarked on an ambitious and acclaimed filmmaking career with a trilogy of mind-bending thrillers

in “Get Out,” “Us” and this year’s “Nope.” Key has greatly extended his acting career in film, television and on Broadway.

“I think people sort of get that when Key and Peele does something, it’s going to be very special. It’s going to be very intentional,” Peele says. “Certainly this is the first, but I do not think it will be the last by any means.”

With that, Peele and Key launch again into an impromptu bit, muttering a secret plan over frenetic phone calls into their hands and making mock Facetimes.

“It was like a blur,” Key says of the five seasons of “Key & Peele.” “There’s a general feeling that there was passion, that there was focus, that there was love. There was an alchemy to it. In some ways, it’s completely unexplainable. It’s ineffable. It just worked.” Says Peele: “It’s like a brother

thing. There is a familial connection that’s very strong. Nothing can replicate going through a period like that. Looking back on ‘Key and Peele,’ one of my favorite things is the idea that you get sent sketches and people say ‘There’s a Key and Peele’ for that.”

For “Wendell & Wild,” the two insisted on being together while recording much of the voice tracks, eager to return to the energy they had together on “Key & Peele.” (They also lent their voices to a pair of plush toys in “Toy Story 4.”)

“There’s at least three whole comedy albums worth of outtakes of these guys just riffing,” says Selick. “We weren’t going to stop because it was a miracle just to see them reconnect. It was like a masterclass. The best lines are things they just thought of spontaneously.”

New this week: Little Big Town, Marcus Mumford, ‘Goodnight Mommy’

Associated Press

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

Movies

■ Twin brothers go to their mother’s house for a stay but find something is off in “Goodnight Mommy,” an English language remake of a cult Austrian horror from 2014. Naomi Watts plays the mother, an actress whose face is wrapped in bandages — presumably recovering from plastic surgery. She’s also quite on edge and suspiciously cruel and the boys, Elias (Cameron Crovetti) and Lucas (Nicholas Crovetti), start worrying that it is not, in fact, their mother, but an imposter. Directed by Matt Sobel, it arrives on Prime

Video on Friday.

■ A year after “Official Competition” premiered to raves at the Venice Film Festival, it’s coming to a streaming service, AMC+, on Friday. The sharp Spanish-language satire skewering the movie business (and the art world in general) stars Penélope Cruz and Antonio Banderas as two egomaniacs who are hired by a billionaire to make a film together.

■ Over on Disney+, the original documentary “Mija” tells the story of Doris Muñoz and Jacks Haupt, the daughters of Mexican immigrants who are trying to make their way in the music business in the U.S. It’s the directorial debut of Isabel Castro, also a Mexican American, and will be available to watch on Friday.

— AP Film Writer
Lindsey Bahr

Music

■ After night must come light, right? Little Big Town’s album “Mr. Sun” drops Friday, the follow-up to the band’s last offering, “Nightfall.” Band member Karen Fairchild says: “‘Mr. Sun’ is focused on better days ahead, the value of friendships and family; it touches on heartbreak and letting go, but it’s full of sunshine and joy.” The 16-song album — with a member of the band writing or co-writing 13 of them — includes “Rich Man,” the hazy, addictive “All Summer” and “Hell Yeah.”

■ Singer-songwriter Michelle Branch will release her new album “The Trouble with Fever” despite facing her own personal troubles. The album, out Friday, was co-produced with her husband, Patrick Carney, drummer

for The Black Keys. Branch was arrested last month for allegedly slapping Carney, but prosecutors decided not to press charges.

■ Marcus Mumford releases his first solo album on Friday, but he’s tapped plenty of friends for help: Brandi Carlile, Phoebe Bridgers, Clairo, Monica Martin and Julia Michaels. The album, “(self-titled),” has produced the quiet yet powerful “Cannibal” (with a Steven Spielberg-directed video) and the superb “Grace,” a strummy cathartic tune.

■ Jessie Reyez had bad luck when she released her debut album, “Before Love Came To Kill Us.” It came out in late March 2020, along with the pandemic, which wiped out her buzz. This week, she’s hoping for better luck with “YESSIE,” led by the kiss-off single “Mutual Friend.” The Col-

ombian-Canadian artist has had an exciting year, touring with Billie Eilish and playing Coachella.

— AP Entertainment Writer
Mark Kennedy

Television

■ “The U.S. and the Holocaust” examines Nazi Germany’s Jewish genocide in the context of American society and the nation’s response. The three-part documentary looks at the 20th-century rise of Adolph Hitler and the Nazi party amid racism and antisemitism in the world, including in the U.S. Directed and produced by Ken Burns, Lynn Novick and Sarah Botstein and written by Geoffrey Ward, the six-hour series airs Sunday through Tuesday, on PBS and will be available on PBS.org.

— AP Television Writer
Lynn Elber



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OPINION

Ukraine’s wins make war more dangerous

By JAMES STAVRIDIS
Bloomberg Opinion

Ukrainian forces have reconquered over 3,000 square kilometers of territory over the past week — more than all the territory Russia had added to its occupation in the six monthssince the start of the war. The Ukrainian flag is suddenly flying again over numerous towns and villages, and the offensives in both the northeast and the south are pushing the Russians back. Abandoned Russian tanks and trucks are littering the roads. Is this a pivotal moment in the war? What is Vladimir Putin’s next move?

At a tactical level, the results on the battlefield are important but not definitive. While the Ukrainians have moved swiftly to bloody Russia’s nose, the Russians can simply fall back into defensive positions, consolidate their forces, and defend their gains in Donbas and the vital land bridge to Crimea that runs through Mariupol. As the Russians shift from offense to defense, their military position will get stronger — in military parlance, “defense is to offense as three is to one.”

Operationally, these advances in the Kharkiv region are likewise important, but not yet creating a true tipping point in the war. The Ukrainians have demonstrated two vital attributes in the current offensive. The first is the ability to conduct offensive operations on a multipolar set of axes, simultaneously controlling significant combat movements in the north, east and south — something the Russians have failed to do. They have also demonstrated excellent combined-arms operations, meaning they

have coordinated ground troops, artillery, tanks and close air support. Again, the Russian failures here are conspicuous.

In a strategic and psychological sense, the reconquests will have a significant impact on Ukraine and its allies. First, they will allow Kyiv to claim the ability to eventually expel Russia from all Ukrainian lands, including Crimea. While the odds of fully implementing such an ambitious objective are long, the goal will be more credible in the wake of these operations. The successes will also encourage Europe to stay the course on Russian sanctions in the face of a potential recession and energy shortages this winter. And in the U.S., they will bolster the Biden administration’s claims of a very successful strategy in checking Russian aggression.

But in Russia, they will move Putin closer to a series of more dramatic countermoves — all of which will make this already unstable situation even more dangerous.

The Russian president still has cards to play. Having now forced the Zaporizhzhia nuclear reactor into a cold shutdown (diminishing Ukrainian electricity by 20%), he will continue to use that important strategic terrain to launch attacks against the Ukrainians and defend the approaches to Crimea. More attacks to diminish critical infrastructure (electricity, gasoline, water, internet) may be coming. He could increase the efforts of the Russian air force to simply carpet-bomb Ukraine and demoralize the population — much as he did in Syria, virtually destroying city after city.

Putin may decide it’s time to use chemical weapons (especially if he can create a “false flag” scenario and blame it on the U.S. and

Queen Elizabeth’s life is part of a larger story

By ARTHUR I. CYR
Special to Stars and Stripes

The death of Queen Elizabeth II, preceded by husband Prince Philip last year, is generating worldwide condolences. They personified continuity of important institutions, and relationships, in a turbulent time. Most personally, they were married for 70 years.

Elizabeth was Queen for an equal period. Hers is now the longest reign in British history, surpassing runner-up Queen Victoria, who was on the throne for most of the age named after her, from 1837 to 1901.

Britain played a pivotal role in World War II, when the Anglo-American “Special Relationship” was truly forged. The partnership between President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill was the centerpiece.

Then-Princess Elizabeth worked as a truck driver and mechanic during the war — her idea. Keep in mind that relentless German bombing and later missile attacks made this work extremely dangerous as well as very difficult.

Ceremonies are important, and here the British excel, with an aptitude probably unequalled among industrialized nations. The important ceremonial functions address the collective emotions of the people at large regarding government.

Elizabeth played her unusually complicated role with dignified skill, from a young age. During World War II, she talked to the children of Britain over the radio emphasizing better days lay ahead.

The military cooperation that began in

earnest in World War I became solidified in World War II, and institutionalized several years thereafter in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. This historic association, established to contain and deter the Soviet Union, has outlived that conflict and is reenergized in consequence of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

The monarch does have residual ruling powers, including the formality of actually appointing a government, along with regular consultation by the prime minister. The role may be largely symbolic, but that can become important in a time of national crisis or tragedy, including war.

Britain’s government, following the June 2016 referendum vote to leave the European Union, embarked on a complicated, painful, seemingly endless effort to do so. Rather than the fairy tale world of royal relationships, travel and splendor, this bizarre ordeal became more like “Alice in Wonderland.”

Over four centuries ago, namesake Queen Elizabeth I was forcefully in charge of the British Isles. Those were brutal times, when losing a power struggle could cost your life.

That Elizabeth modernized Britain, managing Parliament with prudent skill. She stabilized politics following the tumultuous reign of her father Henry VIII. She confirmed influence in Europe, effectively balancing the nations of that continent.

Today, Queen and Parliament have subtly complementary roles. Walter Bagehot, longtime editor of the influential weekly magazine The Economist, provided insight-

(Ukraine). Additionally, he could pull back from the agreement allowing grain shipments, so painfully worked out between Russia and Ukraine with Turkey and the International Maritime Organization of the U.N.

His biggest problem is going to be manpower. Credible estimates of his losses, both killed and seriously wounded, are above 80,000. At some point soon, especially given reports of cratering morale among units in Ukraine, he may be forced to conscript more troops — a move that will be highly unpopular in Russia, where it is a crime to even call the conflict “a war.”

Although the Ukrainians should be proud of their operational skill, determination and combat prowess, their recent successes will — ironically — increase the potential for the war to expand. At the dark end of the spectrum, the use of tactical nuclear weapons — while highly unlikely — cannot be ruled out, and would probably bring NATO into the conflict with the creation of a no-fly zone.

Our job in the West is to put the right weapons in the hands of the Ukrainians so that they can achieve the best results on the battlefield and the strongest position at the negotiating table, which is probably still months away. But the danger of a widening conflict is rising, and we will clearly have a dangerous autumn ahead of us.

James Stavridis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A retired U.S. Navy admiral, former supreme allied commander of NATO and dean emeritus of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, he is vice chairman of global affairs at the Carlyle Group. He is the author most recently of “To Risk It All: Nine Conflicts and the Crucible of Decision.” This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

ful analysis of the government of Great Britain in a manner now universally accepted.

Fundamentally important is that the British, unlike the Americans, have no written constitution. Parliament is effectively supreme, though the nation in October 2009 did formally establish an American-style Supreme Court.

In the 1930s, King Edward VIII, Elizabeth’s uncle, generated great controversy when he wanted to marry Wallis Simpson, an expatriate American. In that different, earlier time, the fact that she was not British generated extensive public attention and debate. She also had been divorced twice. In general, notoriety followed her.

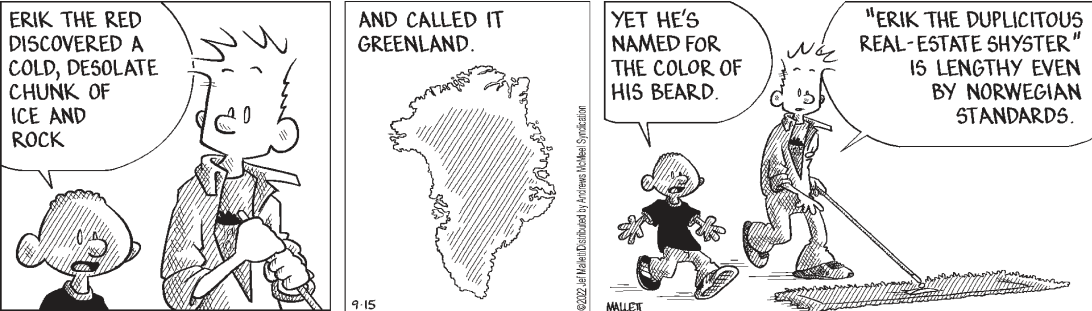
Vastly more important, Edward was attracted to Nazi Germany, as well as being highly erratic in behavior and unstable emotionally. Adolf Hitler and his associates at the top of the Nazi regime in Berlin considered Edward a vital strategic asset, generating domestic support and eventually helping control Britain in a conquered Europe.

Ultimately, Edward did abdicate and marry his American. After war began, his successor George VI, Elizabeth’s father, proved an influential, invaluable partner of Britain’s wartime government.

Undergirding all else, Britain is based on the rule of law. Elizabeth II personified that key component with special skill.

Learn more: Walter Bagehot “The English Constitution,” and film “The Darkest Hour.”

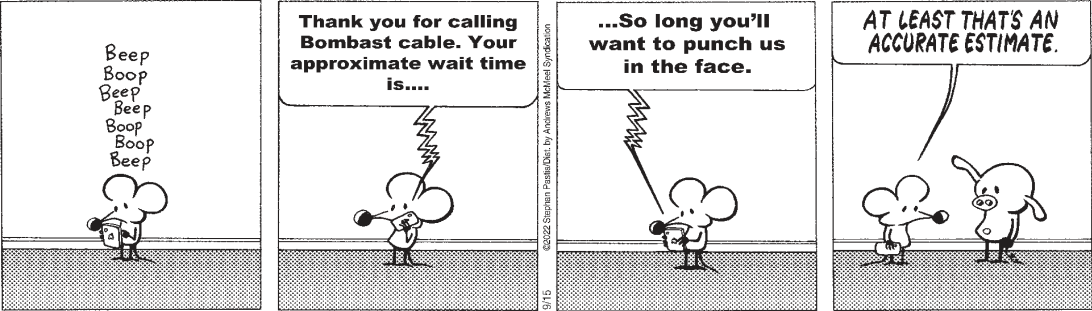
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



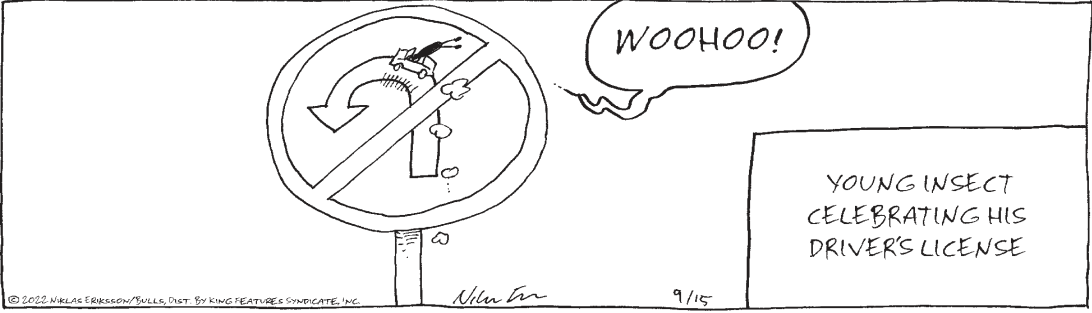
Non Sequitur



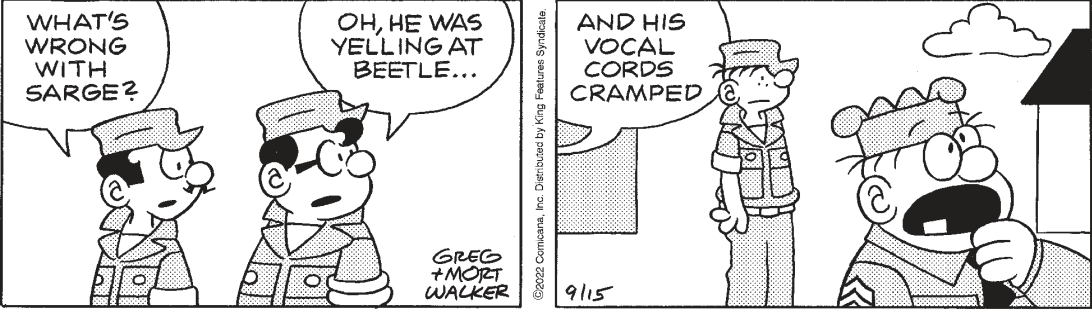
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
		18				19		20				
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46	47	48				49		50				
51					52		53				54	55
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- ACROSS
- 1 "Lion" star Patel

4 Obi

8 Banshee's cry

12 Hot temper

13 Nick and Nora's pet

14 Conceal

15 Pompeii volcano

17 Altar vows

18 Three, in Rome

19 Fairy tale maidens

21 Protein-rich grain

24 Nanny's charge

25 Boot brand

26 Eggy quaff

28 "Tiny Alice" playwright

32 Mr. Guinness

34 Online guffaw

36 The Emerald Isle

37 Name on a vacuum

39 Conk on the head

41 Kilmer of "The Doors"

42 Highland hat

44 Goodies

46 Weapons store

50 Entirely

51 Active sort

52 Birthing experts

56 Jai —

57 Soon, poetically
- 58 Ecol. watchdog

59 Apportion

60 Wimbledon units

61 Half dozen
- DOWN
- 22 Unsightly

23 ISP giant

27 Sailor

29 Clams and oysters, e.g.

30 Part of Q.E.D.

31 Congers

33 Exclusive group

35 Parcel of land

38 A Bobbsey twin

40 Seafood order

43 May honorees

45 Yale grad

46 Cain's dad

47 Actor's quest

48 Membership

49 Queue

53 Speck

54 Roof ornament

55 Jazz band instrument

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

9-15

CRYPTOQUIP

FZSX DRFFMJ SX XK YMJXKARO

FZRF S ZRQMA'F MQMA FKOC

DN CMRJMXF YROX. SF'X AK

LVCCN'X LVXSAMXX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CRAFTSWOMAN MAKES A HUGE MESS OF THE BRACELETS SHE'S WORKING ON, SHE BUNGLES BANGLES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals P

SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE FOOTBALL																																																																																																														
<div>AP Top 25</div> <div>The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Sep. 10, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:</div> <table><tr><th></th><th>Record</th><th>Pts</th><th>Prv</th></tr><tr><td>1. Georgia (53)</td><td>2-0</td><td>1561</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>2. Alabama (9)</td><td>2-0</td><td>1496</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>3. Ohio St. (1)</td><td>2-0</td><td>1475</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>4. Michigan</td><td>2-0</td><td>1359</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>5. Clemson</td><td>2-0</td><td>1285</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>6. Oklahoma</td><td>2-0</td><td>1209</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>7. Southern Cal</td><td>2-0</td><td>1139</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>8. Oklahoma St.</td><td>2-0</td><td>1004</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>9. Kentucky</td><td>2-0</td><td>992</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>10. Arkansas</td><td>2-0</td><td>938</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>11. Michigan St.</td><td>2-0</td><td>902</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>12. BYU</td><td>2-0</td><td>880</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>13. Miami</td><td>2-0</td><td>772</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>14. Utah</td><td>1-1</td><td>673</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>15. Tennessee</td><td>2-0</td><td>658</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>16. NC State</td><td>2-0</td><td>623</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>17. Baylor</td><td>1-1</td><td>562</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>18. Florida</td><td>1-1</td><td>484</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>19. Wake Forest</td><td>2-0</td><td>449</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>20. Mississippi</td><td>2-0</td><td>411</td><td>22</td></tr><tr><td>21. Texas</td><td>1-1</td><td>276</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>22. Penn St.</td><td>2-0</td><td>271</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>23. Pittsburgh</td><td>1-1</td><td>160</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>24. Texas A&M</td><td>1-1</td><td>145</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>25. Oregon</td><td>1-1</td><td>89</td><td>-</td></tr></table> <div>Others receiving votes: Marshall 85, Appalachian St. 80, Cincinnati 80, Kansas St. 77, North Carolina 71, Mississippi St. 43, Oregon St. 42, Florida St. 42, Minnesota 37, Washington St. 30, Notre Dame 23, Air Force 19, Texas Tech 17, Wisconsin 7, Auburn 4, Iowa St. 4, Purdue 1.</div>					Record	Pts	Prv	1. Georgia (53)	2-0	1561	2	2. Alabama (9)	2-0	1496	1	3. Ohio St. (1)	2-0	1475	3	4. Michigan	2-0	1359	4	5. Clemson	2-0	1285	5	6. Oklahoma	2-0	1209	7	7. Southern Cal	2-0	1139	10	8. Oklahoma St.	2-0	1004	11	9. Kentucky	2-0	992	20	10. Arkansas	2-0	938	16	11. Michigan St.	2-0	902	14	12. BYU	2-0	880	21	13. Miami	2-0	772	15	14. Utah	1-1	673	13	15. Tennessee	2-0	658	24	16. NC State	2-0	623	18	17. Baylor	1-1	562	9	18. Florida	1-1	484	12	19. Wake Forest	2-0	449	23	20. Mississippi	2-0	411	22	21. Texas	1-1	276	-	22. Penn St.	2-0	271	-	23. Pittsburgh	1-1	160	17	24. Texas A&M	1-1	145	6	25. Oregon	1-1	89	-	<div>Albany (NY) (0-2) at Fordham (2-0)</div> <div>Valparaiso (1-1) at Dartmouth (0-0).</div> <div>Rutgers (2-0) at Temple (1-1)</div> <div>Yale (0-0) at Holy Cross (2-0)</div> <div>Va. Lynchburg (0-1) at Delaware St. (1-1)</div> <div>Howard (0-3) vs. Morehouse (0-0) at East Rutherford, N.J.</div> <div>William & Mary (2-0) at Lafayette (1-1)</div> <div>Stony Brook (0-1) at Umass (0-2)</div> <div>St. Francis (Pa.) (0-2) at Wagner (0-2)</div> <div>Columbia (0-0) at Marist (0-1)</div> <div>NC Central (2-0) at New Hampshire (2-0)</div> <div>SMU (2-0) at Maryland (2-0)</div> <div>Maine (0-2) at Boston College (0-2)</div> <div>SOUTH</div> <div>Wofford (0-2) at Virginia Tech (1-1)</div> <div>Youngstown St. (2-0) at Kentucky (2-0)</div> <div>Georgia (2-0) at South Carolina (1-1)</div> <div>Princeton (0-0) at Stetson (2-0)</div> <div>Buffalo (0-2) at Coastal Carolina (2-0)</div> <div>Cornell (0-0) at VMI (1-1), 1:30 p.m.</div> <div>Grambling St. (1-1) at Jackson St. (2-0)</div> <div>Old Dominion (1-1) at Virginia (1-1)</div> <div>Hampton (2-0) at Norfolk St. (0-2)</div> <div>Austin Peay (2-1) at Alabama A&M (0-2)</div> <div>Georgia Southern (2-0) at UAB (1-1)</div> <div>Presbyterian (1-1) at W. Carolina (1-1)</div> <div>Troy (1-1) at Appalachian St. (1-1)</div> <div>Penn St. (2-0) at Auburn (2-0)</div> <div>Mississippi (2-0) at Georgia Tech (1-1)</div> <div>Louisiana-Monroe (1-1) at Alabama (2-0)</div> <div>Liberty (2-0) at Wake Forest (2-0)</div> <div>Gardner-Webb (1-1) at Elon (1-1)</div> <div>Charleston Southern (0-2) at E. Kentucky (1-1)</div> <div>Kentucky Christian (0-0) at Morehead St. (0-2)</div> <div>Mississippi St. (2-0) at LSU (1-1)</div> <div>Campbell (1-1) at East Carolina (1-1)</div> <div>NC A&T (0-2) at Duke (2-0)</div> <div>The Citadel (1-1) at Mercer (1-1)</div> <div>North Alabama (1-1) at Chattanooga (2-0)</div> <div>Akron (1-1) at Tennessee (2-0)</div> <div>St. Andrews (0-0) at Davidson (1-1)</div> <div>Samford (1-1) at Tennessee Tech (1-1)</div> <div>Northwestern St. (0-2) at Southern Miss. (0-2)</div> <div>CCSU (0-2) at SE Louisiana (0-2)</div> <div>Arkansas St. (1-1) at Memphis (1-1)</div> <div>Texas Tech (2-0) at NC State (2-0)</div> <div>Charlotte (0-3) at Georgia St. (0-2)</div> <div>Tennessee St. (0-2) at Middle Tennessee (1-1)</div> <div>Delta St. (0-0) at MVSU (0-2)</div> <div>Furman (1-1) at ETSU (1-1)</div> <div>UCF (1-1) at FAU (2-1)</div> <div>South Florida (1-1) at Florida (1-1)</div> <div>Louisiana Tech (1-1) at Clemson (2-0)</div> <div>Alcorn St. (0-2) at McNeese St. (0-2)</div> <div>MIDWEST</div> <div>Uconn (1-2) at Michigan (2-0)</div> <div>Miami (Ohio) (1-1) vs. Cincinnati (1-1) at Cincinnati</div> <div>Oklahoma (2-0) at Nebraska (1-2)</div> <div>Abilene Christian (2-0) at Missouri (1-1)</div> <div>LIU Brooklyn (0-2) at Kent St. (0-2)</div> <div>W. Kentucky (2-0) at Indiana (2-0)</div> <div>S. Illinois (0-2) at Northwestern (1-1)</div> <div>Montana (2-0) at Indiana St. (1-1)</div> <div>Kentucky St. (0-0) at Dayton (1-1)</div> <div>Bucknell (0-2) at Cent. Michigan (0-2)</div> <div>Murray St. (0-2) at Ball St. (0-2)</div> <div>Ohio (1-1) at Iowa St. (2-0)</div> <div>Cal Poly (1-1) at South Dakota (0-2)</div> <div>California (2-0) at Notre Dame (0-2)</div> <div>Nicholls (0-2) at SE Missouri (1-1)</div> <div>Tulane (2-0) at Kansas St. (2-0)</div> <div>Colorado (0-2) at Minnesota (2-0)</div> <div>New Mexico St. (0-3) at Wisconsin (1-1)</div> <div>Vanderbilt (2-1) at N. Illinois (1-1)</div> <div>S. Utah (1-1) at W. Illinois (0-2)</div> <div>Marshall (2-0) at Bowling Green (0-2)</div> <div>Sacramento St. (1-0) at N. Iowa (0-2)</div> <div>Keiser (0-0) at Lindenwood (Mo.) (1-0)</div> <div>Butler (2-0) at S. Dakota St. (1-1)</div> <div>Toledo (2-0) at Ohio St. (2-0)</div> <div>E. Illinois (0-2) at Illinois St. (1-1)</div> <div>Nevada (2-1) at Iowa (1-1)</div> <div>Pittsburgh (1-1) at W. Michigan (1-1)</div> <div>SOUTHWEST</div> <div>Texas State (1-1) at Baylor (1-1)</div> <div>Kansas (2-0) at Houston (1-1)</div> <div>Texas Southern (0-2) vs. Southern U. (1-1) at Arlington, Texas</div> <div>Jacksonville St. (3-0) at Tulsa (1-1)</div> <div>E. New Mexico (0-0) at Tarleton St. (1-1)</div> <div>N. Colorado (0-2) at Lamar (0-2)</div> <div>Incarnate Word (2-0) at Prairie View (1-1)</div> <div>Missouri St. (2-0) at Arkansas (2-0)</div> <div>Texas A&M Commerce (1-1) at Sam Houston St. (0-2)</div> <div>Ark.-Pine Bluff (2-0) at Oklahoma St. (2-0)</div> <div>Louisiana-Lafayette (2-0) at Rice (1-1)</div> <div>UTSA (1-1) at Texas (1-1)</div> <div>Miami (2-0) at Texas A&M (1-1)</div> <div>FAR WEST</div> <div>South Alabama (2-0) at UCLA (2-0)</div> <div>Cent. Arkansas (0-2) at Idaho St. (0-2)</div> <div>North Texas (2-1) at UNLV (1-1)</div> <div>Drake (0-2) at Idaho (0-2)</div> <div>BYU (2-0) at Oregon (1-1)</div> <div>UT Martin (1-1) at Boise St. (1-1)</div> <div>North Dakota (1-1) at N. Arizona (1-1)</div> <div>Colorado St. (0-2) at Washington St. (2-0)</div> <div>Michigan St. (2-0) at Washington (2-0)</div> <div>Oregon St. (2-0) vs. Montana St. (2-0) at Portland, Ore.</div> <div>Utah Tech (1-1) at Weber St. (2-0)</div> <div>UTEP (1-2) at New Mexico (1-1)</div> <div>San Diego (1-1) at UC Davis (0-2)</div> <div>San Diego St. (1-1) at Utah (1-1)</div> <div>Fresno St. (1-1) at Southern Cal (2-0)</div> <div>N. Dakota St. (2-0) at Arizona (1-1)</div> <div>E. Michigan (1-1) at Arizona St. (1-1)</div> <div>Sunday's game</div> <div>FAR WEST</div> <div>Duquesne (1-2) at Hawaii (0-3)</div>		
	Record	Pts	Prv																																																																																																											
1. Georgia (53)	2-0	1561	2																																																																																																											
2. Alabama (9)	2-0	1496	1																																																																																																											
3. Ohio St. (1)	2-0	1475	3																																																																																																											
4. Michigan	2-0	1359	4																																																																																																											
5. Clemson	2-0	1285	5																																																																																																											
6. Oklahoma	2-0	1209	7																																																																																																											
7. Southern Cal	2-0	1139	10																																																																																																											
8. Oklahoma St.	2-0	1004	11																																																																																																											
9. Kentucky	2-0	992	20																																																																																																											
10. Arkansas	2-0	938	16																																																																																																											
11. Michigan St.	2-0	902	14																																																																																																											
12. BYU	2-0	880	21																																																																																																											
13. Miami	2-0	772	15																																																																																																											
14. Utah	1-1	673	13																																																																																																											
15. Tennessee	2-0	658	24																																																																																																											
16. NC State	2-0	623	18																																																																																																											
17. Baylor	1-1	562	9																																																																																																											
18. Florida	1-1	484	12																																																																																																											
19. Wake Forest	2-0	449	23																																																																																																											
20. Mississippi	2-0	411	22																																																																																																											
21. Texas	1-1	276	-																																																																																																											
22. Penn St.	2-0	271	-																																																																																																											
23. Pittsburgh	1-1	160	17																																																																																																											
24. Texas A&M	1-1	145	6																																																																																																											
25. Oregon	1-1	89	-																																																																																																											
<div>Schedule</div> <div>Friday's games</div> <div>EAST</div> <div>Merrimack (1-1) at Harvard (0-0)</div> <div>SOUTH</div> <div>Florida St. (2-0) at Louisville (1-1)</div> <div>FAR WEST</div> <div>Air Force (2-0) at Wyoming (2-1)</div> <div>Saturday's games</div> <div>EAST</div> <div>Villanova (2-0) at Army (0-2)</div> <div>Richmond (1-1) at Lehigh (1-1)</div> <div>Sacred Heart (1-1) at Morgan St. (0-2)</div> <div>Purdue (1-1) at Syracuse (2-0)</div> <div>Bryant (0-2) at Brown (0-0)</div> <div>Colgate (1-1) at Penn (0-0)</div> <div>Towson (2-0) at West Virginia (0-2)</div> <div>Georgetown (1-1) at Monmouth (NJ) (0-2)</div> <div>Delaware (2-0) at Rhode Island (2-0)</div>																																																																																																														

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	1	0	0	1.000	31	10
Miami	1	0	0	1.000	20	7
N.Y. Jets	0	1	0	.000	9	24
New England	0	1	0	.000	7	20

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	0	0	1	.500	20	20
Indianapolis	0	0	1	.500	20	20
Jacksonville	0	1	0	.000	22	28
Tennessee	0	1	0	.000	20	21

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	1	0	0	1.000	24	9
Cleveland	1	0	0	1.000	26	24
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	23	20
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	20	23

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	1	0	0	1.000	44	21
L.A. Chargers	1	0	0	1.000	24	19
Denver	0	1	0	.000	16	17
Las Vegas	0	1	0	.000	19	24

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	1	0	0	1.000	21	20
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	38	35
Washington	1	0	0	1.000	28	22
Dallas	0	1	0	.000	3	19

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	27	26
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	19	3
Atlanta	0	1	0	.000	26	27
Carolina	0	1	0	.000	24	26

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	1	0	0	1.000	19	10
Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000	23	7
Detroit	0	1	0	.000	35	38
Green Bay	0	1	0	.000	7	23

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	1	0	0	1.000	17	16
Arizona	0	1	0	.000	21	44
L.A. Rams	0	1	0	.000	10	31
San Francisco	0	1	0	.000	10	19

Thursday's game

L.A. Chargers at Kansas City

Sunday's games

Carolina at N.Y. Giants

Indianapolis at Jacksonville

Miami at Baltimore

N.Y. Jets at Cleveland

New England at Pittsburgh

Tampa Bay at New Orleans

Washington at Detroit

Atlanta at L.A. Rams

Seattle at San Francisco

Arizona at Las Vegas

Cincinnati at Dallas

Houston at Denver

Chicago at Green Bay

Monday's games

Tennessee at Buffalo

Minnesota at Philadelphia

NFL Injury Report

NEW YORK — Injury report, as provided by the league (OUT: Player will not play; DOUBTFUL: Player is unlikely to play; QUESTIONABLE: Player is not certain to play; DNP: did not practice; LIMITED: limited participation; FULL: Full participation):

Thursday

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS at KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — LOS ANGELES: DNP: WR Keenan Allen (hamstring). TE Donald Parham Jr. (hamstring). LIMITED: CB J.C. Jackson (ankle). FULL: T Rashawn Slater (back), LB Drue Tranquill (back). KANSAS CITY: DNP: K Harrison Butker (left ankle). LIMITED: G Trey Smith (ankle). FULL: T Orlando Brown(knee), WR JuJu Smith-Schuster (shoulder), WR Justin Watson (chest), QB Patrick Mahomes (left wrist), S Justin Reid (hand), LB Willie Gay (knee).

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA Finals

(Best-of-5)

Las Vegas 2, Connecticut 0

Sunday's game: Las Vegas 67, Connecticut 64

Tuesday's game: Las Vegas 85, Connecticut 71

Thursday's game: Las Vegas at Connecticut

x-Sunday, Sept. 18: Las Vegas at Connecticut

x-Tuesday, Sept. 20: Connecticut at Las Vegas

DEALS																					
<div><div>Tuesday's transactions</div><div>BASEBALL</div><div>Major League Baseball American League</div><div>BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Announced RHP Rico Garcia has cleared waivers and assigned outright to Norfolk (IL).</div><div>HOUSTON ASTROS — Reinstated INF/OF Aledmys Diaz from the 10-day IL and LHP Blake Taylor from the 60-day IL and optioned him to Sugar Land. Optioned INF/OF J.J. Matijevic to Sugar Land (IL). Designated INF/OF Taylor Jones for assignment.</div><div>TAMPA BAY RAYS — Recalled RHP Yonny Chirinos, C Rene Pinto and LHP Josh Fleming from Durham (IL). Assigned RHP Cooper Criswell to Durham. Placed 2B Brandon Lowe on the 10-day IL, retroactive to Sept. 12.</div><div>TEXAS RANGERS — Reassigned RHP A.J. Alexy to Round Rock (PCL).</div><div>TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Recalled RHP Mitch White from Buffalo (IL).</div><div>National League</div><div>CINCINNATI REDS — Sent RHP Connor Overton to Louisville (IL) on a rehab assignment. Selected the contract of RHP Kyle Dowdy from Louisville.</div><div>LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Reinstated RHP Tommy Kahnle from the 60-day IL. Designated RHP Heath Hembree for assignment.</div><div>MIAMI MARLINS — Selected the contract of INF Jordan Groshans from Jacksonville (IL). Recalled RHP Andrew Nardi from Jacksonville. Placed OF Avisail Garcia on the 10-day IL. Assigned RHP Bryan Hoeting to Jacksonville. Optioned LHP Braxton Garrett to Jacksonville.</div><div>MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Sent RHP Trevor Gott and OF Jonathan Davis on rehab assignments to Nashville (IL).</div><div>NEW YORK METS — Sent RHP Drew Smith on a rehab assignment to Syracuse (IL).</div><div>PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Selected the contract of RHP Luis Ortiz from Indianapolis to serve as the 29th man for a double header. Recalled C/INF Zack Collins from Indianapolis. Optioned INF/OF Tucupita Marcano to Indianapolis. Designated INF/OF Bligh Madris for assignment. Sent RHP David Bednar to Indianapolis on a rehab assignment.</div><div>ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Sent LHP Steven Matz on a rehab assignment to Memphis (IL).</div><div>SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Recalled LHP Thomas Szapucki from Sacramento (PCL). Optioned RHP Zack Littell to Sacramento.</div><div>BASKETBALL</div><div>National Basketball Association</div><div>NBA — Suspended Phoenix Suns/Phoenix Mercury owner Robert Sarver one year and fined him \$10 million for workplace misconduct and organizational deficiencies.</div><div>PHILADELPHIA 76ERS — Signed F Montrezl Harrell.</div><div>FOOTBALL</div><div>National Football League</div><div>ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed G Koda Martin to the practice squad.</div><div>ATLANTA FALCONS — Promoted TE Anthony Firkser to the active roster from the practice squad.</div><div>BALTIMORE RAVENS — Placed CB Kyle Fuller and OT Ja'Wuan James on injured reserve.</div><div>CAROLINA PANTHERS — Released K Taylor Bertolet from the practice squad. Re-signed TE Josh Babicz to the practice squad. Placed WR Andre Roberts on injured reserve. Waived LB Isaiah Graham-Mobley from injured reserve with a settlement.</div><div>CHICAGO BEARS — Signed DB Harrison Hand to the practice squad.</div><div>CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed CB Thomas Graham Jr. to the active roster from Chicago's practice squad. Waived CB Herb Miller. Signed WR Chester Rogers to the practice squad.</div><div>DENVER BRONCOS — Signed TE Dominique Dafney to the practice squad. Released TE Dylan Parham from the practice squad.</div><div>GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed T Caleb Jones to the active roster from the practice squad. Placed LB Krys Barnes on injured reserve.</div><div>HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed DB Bopete Keyes to the practice squad.</div><div>INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Waived K Rodrigo Blankenship. Signed CB Darrell Baker, S Henry Black and Ks Chase McLaughlin and Lucas Havrisik to the practice squad. Released G Arlington Hambricht, S Will Redmond and CB Chris Wilcox from the practice squad. Signed CB Tony Brown to the active roster.</div><div>KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Promoted LBS Jack Cochrane and Elijah Lee to the active roster from the practice squad. Signed K Matt Ammendola, CB Dicaprio Bootle and WR Corey Coleman to the practice squad. Placed CB Trent McDuffie on injured reserve. Released S James Wiggins from the practice squad.</div><div>LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Signed OL Billy Price to the practice squad and CB Nickell Robey-Coleman to the active roster. Released DT Kyle Peko from the practice squad.</div><div>LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Waived DB Tevaughn Campbell from injured reserve.</div><div>LOS ANGELES RAMS — Signed LS Matt Overton to the practice squad. Placed DB Daniel Isom on the practice squad injured list and RB Kyren Williams on injured reserve.</div><div>NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed WR Lil'Jordan Humphrey to the active roster from the practice squad. Placed RB Ty Montgomery II on injured reserve. Signed OL Marcus Cannon to the practice squad.</div><div>NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Signed RB La-</div></div>											<div><div>tavius Murray and DB Tre Swilling to the practice squad. Released WR Dai'Jean Dixon.</div><div>NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed OL K.C. McDermott to the practice squad.</div><div>PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Placed DE Derek Barnett on injured reserve. Signed DE Janarius Robinson from the Minnesota practice squad.</div><div>PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed OLB Ryan Anderson and TE Rodney Williams to the practice squad. Released TE Justin Rigg and WR Jaquarii Roberson.</div><div>SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Placed RB Elijah Mitchell on injured reserve. Signed S Tashaun Gipson to the active roster from the practice squad. Signed C Keith Ismael to the practice squad. Released G Keaton Sutherland and WR Connor Wedington from the practice squad.</div><div>TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Released TE J.J. Howland from the practice squad.</div><div>TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed DB Nate Brooks to the practice squad. Placed DL Da'Shawn Hand and DB A.J. Moore on injured reserve.</div><div>WASHINGTON COMMANDERS — Signed DT Benning Potoa'e to the practice squad. Released S Ferrod Gardner from the practice squad.</div><div>HOCKEY</div><div>National Hockey League</div><div>DALLAS STARS — Signed Jim Nill to a one-year contract extension through 2024 as the general manager.</div><div>NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Signed D Thomas Hickey to a professional tryout (PTO) contract.</div><div>ST. LOUIS BLUES — Agreed to terms with C Jordan Kyrou on an eight-year contract extension.</div></div>										
PRO SOCCER																					
MLS																					
Eastern Conference																					
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA															
Philadelphia	18	4	9	63	68	22															
CF Montréal	17	9	5	56	58	49															
New York	14	9	8	50	47	37															
NYCFC	13	11	7	46	51	39															
Orlando City	12	11	6	42	36	45															
Cincinnati	10	8	12	42	54	49															
Columbus	9	7	14	41	40	35															
Inter Miami CF	11	13	6	39	38	50															
New England	9	11	11	38	44	47															
Atlanta	9	12	9	36	45	50															
Charlotte FC	11	17	2	35	35	46															
Chicago	9	14	8	35	33	42															
Toronto FC	9	15	7	34	49	57															
D.C. United	7	18	6	27	32	62															
Western Conference																					
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA															
LAFC	19	8	4	61	61	35															
Austin FC	15	9	6	51	60	45															
FC Dallas	13	8	10	49	45	34															
Nashville	12	9	10	46	49	38															
Minnesota	13	12	6	45	45	45															
Portland	11	8	12	45	50	47															
Real Salt Lake	11	9	10	43	38	38															
LA Galaxy	11	11	7	40	47	43															
Seattle	12	15	3	39	43	40															
Colorado	9	12	9	36	41	51															
Sporting KC	9	15	7	34	36	51															
Vancouver	9	14	7	34	33	54															
Houston	9	16	6	33	39	49															
San Jose	7	13	9	30	44	61															
Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.																					
Tuesday's games																					
CF Montréal 3, Chicago 2 Miami 2, Columbus 1 Los Angeles FC 1, Minnesota 1, tie Sporting Kansas City 3, D.C. United 0 Houston 3, New England 1																					
Wednesday's games																					
Atlanta at Orlando City Real Salt Lake at Austin FC San Jose at Colorado LA Galaxy at Vancouver																					
NWSL																					
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA															
Kansas City	9	4	5	32	25	23															
San Diego	9	6	4	31	29	19															
Portland	8	3	7	31	39	20															
Houston	8	5	6	30	32	24															
OL Reign	7	4	7	28	24	18															
Chicago	7	5	6	27	28	24															
Angel City	7	5	5	26	20	19															
North Carolina	6	7	4	22	38	31															
Orlando	5	7	6	21	20	35															
Washington	2	6	10	16	22	26															
Louisville	2	8	8	14	17	31															
Gotham FC	4	14	0	12	13	37															
Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.																					
Wednesday's games																					
Angel City at North Carolina Kansas City at Chicago																					
Friday's game																					
Orlando at Louisville																					

PRO SOCCER						
MLS						
Eastern Conference						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	18	4	9	63	68	22
CF Montréal	17	9	5	56	58	49
New York	14	9	8	50	47	37
NYCFC	13	11	7	46	51	39
Orlando City	12	11	6	42	36	45
Cincinnati	10	8	12	42	54	49
Columbus	9	7	14	41	40	35
Inter Miami CF	11	13	6	39	38	50
New England	9	11	11	38	44	47
Atlanta	9	12	9	36	45	50
Charlotte FC	11	17	2	35	35	46
Chicago	9	14	8	35	33	42
Toronto FC	9	15	7	34	49	57
D.C. United	7	18	6	27	32	62

Western Conference						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LAFC	19	8	4	61	61	35
Austin FC	15	9	6	51	60	45
FC Dallas	13	8	10	49	45	34
Nashville	12	9	10	46	49	38
Minnesota	13	12	6	45	45	45
Portland	11	8	12	45	50	47
Real Salt Lake	11	9	10	43	38	38
LA Galaxy	11	11	7	40	47	43
Seattle	12	15	3	39	43	40
Colorado	9	12	9	36	41	51
Sporting KC	9	15	7	34	36	51
Vancouver	9	14	7	34	33	54
Houston	9	16	6	33	39	49
San Jose	7	13	9	30	44	61

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

Tuesday's games

CF Montréal 3, Chicago 2

Miami 2, Columbus 1

Los Angeles FC 1, Minnesota 1, tie

Sporting Kansas City 3, D.C. United 0

Houston 3, New England 1

Wednesday's games

Atlanta at Orlando City

Real Salt Lake at Austin FC

San Jose at Colorado

LA Galaxy at Vancouver

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	9	4	5	32	25	23
San Diego	9	6	4	31	29	19
Portland	8	3	7	31	39	20
Houston	8	5	6	30	32	24
OL Reign	7	4	7	28	24	18
Chicago	7	5	6	27	28	24
Angel City	7	5	5	26	20	19
North Carolina	6	7	4	22	38	31
Orlando	5	7	6	21	20	35
Washington	2	6	10	16	22	26
Louisville	2	8	8	14	17	31
Gotham FC	4	14	0	12	13	37

Note:

Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday's games

Angel City at North Carolina

Kansas City at Chicago

Friday's game

Orlando at Louisville

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Big 12's also-rans taking some of spotlight

BY DAVE SKRETTA

Associated Press

Kansas improved to 2-0 for the first time in more than a decade by squeezing out a victory at West Virginia, a win highlighted by a clinching pick-six in overtime.

Iowa State also went on the road and ended a six-game skid against its biggest rival, Iowa.

There was Kansas State walloping ex-Big 12 rival Missouri to stay perfect through the first two games of the season, and Texas Tech, which beat then-No. 25 and future conference foe Houston to likewise stack two wins together.

Pretty salty stuff from what were supposed to be the Big 12 also-rans.

"We know this program has struggled to get wins," Jayhawks coach Lance Leipold said after the 55-42 win in Morgantown, their first there after six consecutive losses. "This is a group that's been bruised mentally a lot, and they're starting to gain some confidence and believe in one another. Confidence in the system and how we're going about it.

"This," Leipold said, "is one you hope we are going to build upon."

There are a lot of coaches feeling the same way this week.

Texas took then-No. 1 Alabama to the wire in a loss, even after losing its starting quarterback to injury, and Baylor fell to No. 12 BYU on the road in overtime. But even in defeat, they were strong efforts



KATHLEEN BATTEN/AP

Kansas wide receiver Luke Grimm, and tight end Mason Fairchild celebrate a touchdown in the Jayhawks' victory over West Virginia on Saturday.

by programs that, along with Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, were expected to be the cream of the Big 12 crop this season.

Yet it was the remaining schools in the conference that showed how deep the league might be.

Iowa State thought its breakthrough was going to come last season, when it returned most of the key players from a 9-3 team that had just won the Fiesta Bowl. But the Cyclones never quite got on track and won just seven games — disappointing by the standards Matt Campbell has brought to Ames — and the expectations

heading into this season were tempered. If a rout of Southeast Missouri State in their opener didn't raise them, the Cyclones' win in Iowa City might have done it.

They shut down an impotent Hawkeyes offense, then put together a 99-yard touchdown drive in the fourth quarter, before a few more defensive plays in the waning minutes preserved a 10-7 victory.

"It's a game of imperfection," said Campbell, whose team gets Ohio on Saturday before beginning Big 12 play. "For our kids to have the character and resiliency to keep playing, those are traits that will continue to serve us well."

The Wildcats didn't need a whole lot of resilience in the first meeting with Missouri since it bolted for the SEC — and left the Big 12 in a precarious lurch — prior to the 2012 season. In fact, the only resistance Kansas State faced all day came from the weather, which included torrential downpours and an hour-long delay for lightning in the first half.

Kansas State led 14-3 at that point. It was 20-3 at halftime. The margin of victory, 40-12, was enough to raise eyebrows around the country, though the folks that follow the Wildcats closely know that this could turn out to be a special season in Manhattan.

"We have a good football team, but we have a lot of guys with a chip on their shoulder," said Wild-



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Iowa State offensive lineman Trevor Downing (52) celebrates with the Cy-Hawk trophy after the win over Iowa on Saturday.

cats coach Chris Klieman, whose team plays Tulane on Saturday before a showdown with the Sooners. "We think we can be a really good team."

That same positive vibe is running through the Red Raiders, who have rallied around first-year coach Joey McGuire to beat Murray State and then knock off the Cougars in double overtime. Texas Tech got a 47-yard field goal

from Trey Wolff to force the extra sessions, then twice answered Houston scores with touchdowns to escape with the 33-30 win.

"Our team's No. 1 rule is don't beat yourself," McGuire said. "I thought that our guys really responded. If we stay on that side to where we're winning the penalty battle and winning the 'don't beat yourself,' we're going to win a lot of those games."

Offense or defense? Assistants can benefit doing both

BY STEVE MEGARGEE

Associated Press

Abdul Hodge was a three-time, all-Big Ten linebacker who played the position in the NFL and spent the last three years coaching future linebackers at South Dakota.

Yet the former Iowa star now is working on the other side of the ball as he returns to his alma mater and coaches the Hawkeyes' fullbacks and tight ends. Hodge compares the new assignment to learning a different language.

"Let's say you speak English, but you want to learn how to speak Spanish," Hodge said. "There are some Spanish words that sound a lot like words you know in English. The challenges are, well, here's the new language you're trying to learn. But you're able to reference it back to the things you know."

For instance, Hodge says his background helps him understand why an opposing defense is trying a particular strategy, giving him knowledge he can pass on to his fullbacks and tight ends.

The type of move that Hodge has made isn't particularly common.

A survey of sports information directors and a study of coaching rosters at all Power Five schools revealed six position coaches who



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Abdul Hodge, right, talks with tight end Sam LaPorta before Iowa's game against Iowa State on Saturday. Hodge, a former all-Big Ten linebacker, coached on defense until shifting to offense this season.

moved this season from offense to defense, or vice versa, though many others made similar switches years beforehand. Four were in the Big Ten, including two at one school.

Michigan's Ron Bellamy is coaching wide receivers after working with the Wolverines' safeties last season. Special teams coordinator Jay Harbaugh, who coached tight ends a year ago, is filling Bellamy's former role as safeties coach.

"It's really good from the stand-

point of, if you're a defensive coach, you really need to know how an offense would be attacking a defense," Wolverines coach Jim Harbaugh said. "And if you're an offensive coach, you really need to understand how defenses defend that same offense. That works both ways, the value to that coach and the value to the unit."

Bellamy was particularly suited to coach on both sides of the ball because he played both receiver and

defensive back at Michigan before focusing on offense. He coached defensive backs at the high school level early in his coaching career, making for an easier transition to his current assignment.

"It has helped me tremendously," Bellamy said. "When I'm coaching, I'm able to explain why defenses have certain coverages or blitz patterns more so than just saying what their coverages and blitzes are in a scheme."

The other Big Ten assistant to make the switch this year is Wisconsin offensive line coach Bob Bostad, who coached the Badgers' inside linebackers from 2017-21. Bostad's situation is a little different from the others.

He coached Wisconsin's offensive line from 2008-11 and was an NFL offensive line coach the next four seasons.

Bostad said he had an offer from a Big Ten school to coach on the offensive line for the 2017 season but opted for the familiarity of Wisconsin, which had an offensive line coach in place but needed someone to coach linebackers.

"This was a chance for me to learn the nuts and bolts of the other side," Bostad said. "It was tremendous."

When former Wisconsin offen-

sive line coach Joe Rudolph left for the same position at Virginia Tech, Bostad made the switch.

Bostad believes more coaches don't get experience working on both sides of the ball because "everything's becoming super-specialized."

Rutgers safeties coach Drew Lascari agrees.

Lascari coached quarterbacks at Rutgers for the final eight games in 2019 but moved to defense when Greg Schiano took over the program in 2020.

"What happens to a lot of coaches is they kind of get pegged into a role, like, 'He's a wide receivers guy. He's a running backs guy,'" Lascari said.

Although he acknowledged that his own move required plenty of study, Lascari says it has rejuvenated him. Lascari noted that Schiano sold him on the idea that it would provide long-term benefits.

"He kind of alluded to the fact that by having experience on both sides of the ball, it not only helps you as a football coach in the role you're in, but it also should help your career because it allows you to be a little bit more versatile when certain jobs become open or whatever the case may be," Lascari said.

ROUNDUP

LA wins NL West; Judge hits 2 HRs

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Last year, the Los Angeles Dodgers went all the way to the last day of the regular season, won a whopping 106 games, and still lost the NL West title to the San Francisco Giants.

This time, Clayton Kershaw and the Dodgers left no doubt.

Kershaw pitched seven dominant innings and the Dodgers won the NL West for the ninth time in 10 seasons, blanking the Arizona Diamondbacks 4-0 Tuesday night.

The Dodgers walked from the dugout when it was over to congratulate each other, much like they did after most of their wins in a runaway season, and posed for a team photo on the field.

Then, it was back to the clubhouse at Chase Field for a spirited, spraying celebration. Clearly, the near-miss last year, beaten by the Giants by a game for the division title, was on their minds.

“We weren’t defending National League West champions. That was first on our list,” manager Dave Roberts said.

“It’s something we should enjoy and be proud of, and get back to work (Wednesday), but it’s quite the accomplishment,” he said.

Freddie Freeman, Max Muncy and Joey Gallo homered as the Dodgers boosted the best record in the majors to 98-43. They lead second-place San Diego by a whopping 20½ games.

Yankees 7, Red Sox 6, (10): Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 56th and 57th home runs, Gleyber Torres had a go-ahead three-run double in the 10th inning and visiting New York held on to beat Boston.

Judge is four from tying the American League home run record Roger Maris set with the Yankees in 1961. He has 10th multi-homer games this season, one shy of the AL record Hank Greenberg set in 1938.

New York, which came from behind three times, reopened a six-game AL East lead, its largest since Sept. 1.

Torres broke a 4-4 tie in the 10th against Jeury’s Familia (2-3). Clay Holmes (6-3) was the winner.

Twins 6, Royals 3: Minnesota rookie Joe Ryan and reliever Jovani Moran combined to pitch no-hit ball until Bobby Witt Jr. doubled with one out in the ninth inning against visiting Kansas City.

Ryan was pulled after seven innings and 106 pitches, four shy of his big league high. There has never been a no-hitter at Target Field, and the crowd of 19,005 booed when Twins manager Rocco Baldelli sent Moran to the mound to start the eighth.

Moran worked a perfect eighth. The Royals hadn’t come close to a hit until Witt lined a 1-2 fastball for a clean drive to deep left for an RBI double, setting off more boos from the fans.

Carlos Correa, Jose Miranda and Gio Urshela hit home runs as Minnesota snapped a three-game skid.

Guardians 3, Angels 1: Los Angeles star Mike Trout’s home run streak ended at seven games, one shy of the major league record, and AL Central-leading Cleveland beat the visiting Angels.

Trout went 0-for-3 with three routine flyballs and a walk. The three-time AL MVP was chasing the mark of eight straight games with a home run, set by Pittsburgh’s Dale Long in 1956 and matched by Don Mattingly of the Yankees in 1987 and Seattle’s Ken Griffey Jr. in 1993.

Oscar Gonzalez’s two-run homer in the sixth



Ross D. FRANKLIN/AP

Los Angeles Dodgers celebrate in the locker room after a 4-0 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Tuesday. The Dodgers clinched the NL West.

broke a 1-all tie and gave the Guardians their fifth straight win.

Braves 5, Giants 1: Kyle Wright earned his major league-leading 18th victory, Dansby Swanson homered and drove in three runs and visiting Atlanta beat San Francisco to move within a half-game of the first-place New York Mets in the NL East.

Wright (18-5) struck out four while pitching into the sixth. The right-hander won his fifth straight decision.

Cubs 4, Mets 1: Jacob deGrom was out-pitched by Adrian Sampson and frustrated New York mustered little on offense against host Chicago.

Ian Happ homered deep into the second deck on a 99 mph heater from deGrom (5-2), and No. 9 batter David Bote added his second home run of the season for the Cubs.

Brewers 8, Cardinals 4: Andrew McCutchen homered and drove in three and visiting Milwaukee used eight pitchers to beat NL Central-leading St. Louis.

Down three starters to injuries, the taxed Brewers staff was stretched even further when starter Matt Bush left after just 15 pitches in what the club had already designated as a bullpen game.

Luis Perdomo (2-0), Brad Boxberger, Hoby Milner, Justin Topa, Taylor Rogers and Brent Suter combined to retire 20 of 22 batters from the third inning on.

Padres 2, Mariners 0: Yu Darvish limited Seattle to two hits in eight innings, Wil Myers provided the primary offensive highlight with an RBI double and visiting San Diego beat Seattle.

The Padres stayed two games ahead of Milwaukee in the chase for the final wild-card spot in the NL, while the Mariners dropped into a tie with Tampa Bay a half-game behind Toronto in the AL race for the top spot.

Orioles 4, Nationals 3: Ryan Mountcastle hit a tying homer and visiting Baltimore beat Washington.

The Orioles moved within five games of Tampa Bay for the final wild-card spot. The Nationals have lost four in a row to fall a season-high 44 games under .500 at a majors-worst 49-93.

Mountcastle led off the fifth with his 22nd homer, a shot to right-center off former Balti-

more prospect Hunter Harvey (1-1) to tie it at 3.

White Sox 4, Rockies 2: Eloy Jiménez hit a three-run homer and Miguel Cairo directed host Chicago to another victory, topping Colorado.

The White Sox improved to 10-4 since Cairo stepped in for manager Tony La Russa, who is awaiting clearance to return to the dugout after dealing with a heart issue.

Rangers 8, Athletics 7: Mark Mathias hit his second homer of the game, a solo shot with one out in the ninth, and host Texas overcame a five-run deficit to beat Oakland.

Mathias had three extra-base hits and drove in four runs. Adolis Garcia added a two-run homer and had three RBIs for the Rangers.

Astros 6, Tigers 3: Rookie Hunter Brown returned to his hometown to pitch six strong innings, leading visiting Houston past Detroit.

Brown (2-0), who allowed two runs on five hits, grew up in suburban Detroit and attended Wayne State, about a mile from Comerica Park.

Yordan Alvarez homered and scored three times to help the Astros improve to 6-0 against the Tigers this season.

Rays 4-2, Blue Jays 2-7: Pinch-hitter Whit Merrifield drove in two runs with a seventh-inning double, George Springer added a two-run homer and host Toronto beat Tampa Bay for a doubleheader split between AL wild-card contenders.

The Blue Jays (80-62) remained a half-game ahead of the Rays (79-62).

In the opener, Tampa Bay’s Jeffrey Springs (8-4) pitched six shutout innings to win for the fifth time in six decisions, Randy Arozarena drove in two runs and Díaz had three hits and scored twice.

Pirates 6-1, Reds 1-0: Kevin Newman hit an RBI single in the seventh inning, four pitchers combined on a one-hitter and visiting Pittsburgh beat Cincinnati for day-night doubleheader sweep.

Bryan Reynolds homered for the second straight game and drove in two runs as the Pirates won the opener.

Phillies 2, Marlins 1: Nick Maton hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning off Sandy Alcantara, leading visiting Philadelphia past Miami and tightening the Phillies’ grip on the second spot in the NL wild-card race.

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	86	56	.606	—
Toronto	80	62	.563	6
Tampa Bay	79	62	.560	6½
Baltimore	74	67	.525	11½
Boston	69	73	.486	17

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	75	65	.536	—
Chicago	73	69	.514	3
Minnesota	70	70	.500	5
Kansas City	57	85	.401	19
Detroit	54	88	.380	22

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	92	50	.648	—
Seattle	79	62	.560	12½
Texas	62	80	.437	30
Los Angeles	61	81	.430	31
Oakland	51	91	.359	41

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	89	54	.622	—
Atlanta	88	54	.620	½
Philadelphia	79	62	.560	9
Miami	58	84	.408	30½
Washington	49	93	.345	39½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	83	59	.585	—
Milwaukee	76	66	.535	7
Chicago	60	82	.423	23
Cincinnati	56	85	.397	26½
Pittsburgh	54	88	.380	29

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Los Angeles	98	43	.695	—
San Diego	78	64	.549	20½
San Francisco	68	74	.479	30½
Arizona	66	75	.468	32
Colorado	61	81	.430	37½

x-clinched division

Tuesday’s games

Tampa Bay 4, Toronto 2, 1st game
Toronto 7, Tampa Bay 2, 2nd game
Cleveland 3, L.A. Angels 1
Houston 6, Detroit 3
Baltimore 4, Washington 3
Minnesota 6, Kansas City 3
N.Y. Yankees 7, Boston 6, 10 innings
Chicago White Sox 4, Colorado 2
Texas 8, Oakland 7
San Diego 2, Seattle 0
Pittsburgh 6, Cincinnati 1, 1st game
Pittsburgh 1, Cincinnati 0, 2nd game
Philadelphia 2, Miami 1
Chicago Cubs 4, N.Y. Mets 1
Milwaukee 8, St. Louis 4
L.A. Dodgers 4, Arizona 0
Atlanta 5, San Francisco 1

Wednesday’s games

Houston at Detroit
L.A. Angels at Cleveland
Colorado at Chicago White Sox
San Diego at Seattle
Baltimore at Washington
Tampa Bay at Toronto
N.Y. Yankees at Boston
Kansas City at Minnesota
Oakland at Texas
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
Atlanta at San Francisco
Philadelphia at Miami
Chicago Cubs at N.Y. Mets
Milwaukee at St. Louis
L.A. Dodgers at Arizona

Thursday’s games

Chicago White Sox (Giolito 10-9) at Cleveland (McKenzie 10-11)
Tampa Bay (McClanahan 11-5) at Toronto (Gausman 12-9)
Oakland (Kaprielian 3-9) at Houston (McCullers Jr. 3-1)
Kansas City (Lynch 4-10) at Minnesota (Bundy 8-7)
Philadelphia (Syndergaard 9-9) at Miami (López 8-10)
Pittsburgh (Brubaker 3-11) at N.Y. Mets (Carrasco 14-6)
Cincinnati (Anderson 0-3) at St. Louis (Mikolas 11-11)
San Diego (Manaea 7-8) at Arizona (Bumgarner 6-14)

Friday’s games

Baltimore at Toronto
Chicago White Sox at Detroit
Kansas City at Boston
Minnesota at Cleveland
Texas at Tampa Bay
N.Y. Yankees at Milwaukee
Oakland at Houston
Seattle at L.A. Angels
Colorado at Chicago Cubs
Miami at Washington
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Mets
Philadelphia at Atlanta
Cincinnati at St. Louis
San Diego at Arizona
L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco

SOCCER/AUTO RACING



LM OTERO/AP

Forward Jesús Ferreira, right, is fourth in MLS with 18 goals. He was named to the US roster for upcoming World Cup warmup matches.

Sargent, Pepi, Ferreira on Cup warmups roster

By RONALD BLUM

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Josh Sargent is back on the U.S. roster for the first time in a year, picked at forward along with Ricardo Pepi and Jesús Ferreira for the Americans' final two World Cup warmup matches.

Defenders Sergiño Dest, Chris Richards and Sam Vines, and winger Gio Reyna also were among 26 players selected Wednesday by coach Gregg Berhalter after missing the four previous matches in May and June.

The 13th-ranked Americans play No. 23 Japan on Sept. 23 in Düsseldorf, Germany, and 53rd-ranked Saudi Arabia four days later in Murcia, Spain. Berhalter said he plans to announce his 26-man World Cup roster on Nov. 9, 12 days before the Americans' opener at the tournament in Qatar.

Six players from the late spring games were dropped: defenders George Bello, Erik Palmer-Brown and Antonee Robinson, midfielder Cristian Roldan, winger Tim Weah and forward Haji Wright.

Robinson, Roldan, Weah and goalkeeper Zack Steffen have been sidelined by injuries. Steffen withdrew from the spring roster for family reasons.

Among the notable omissions were defenders John Brooks, Tim Ream and Shaq Moore, midfielder/defender James Sands, midfielder Djordje Mihailovic and forwards Jordan Pefok and Brandon Vazquez.

Back in the World Cup after missing the 2018 tournament, the U.S. opens against 20th-ranked Wales on Nov. 21, plays No. 5 England in a Black Friday matchup four days later and closes group play on Nov. 29 against 21st-ranked Iran.

Sargent appeared in the first three qualifiers last September

but was dropped by the U.S. during a scoring slump at Norwich, which was relegated from the Premier League to England's second tier. He has revived his play this season, scoring five goals in his last five matches going into Wednesday night's game.

Ferreira is fourth in Major League Soccer with 18 goals for Dallas, but Pepi is scoreless in 30 games for club and country since he got two goals in a qualifier against Jamaica on Oct. 7. He had an assist last weekend in his debut for Groningen following a loan from Augsburg.

Injuries and lack of playing time remain a concern.

Central defender Miles Robinson will miss the tournament after tearing his left ACL on May 7. Weah has not played in the French league this season because of a foot injury. Steffen has been out since Aug. 20 due to a knee injury, and Roldan has been sidelined by a groin injury since Aug. 23. Left back Antonee Robinson hurt his right ankle on Sept. 3.

Goalkeeper Matt Turner has played just once this season at Arsenal, where he is Aaron Ramsdale's backup. Christian Pulisic has one start this season for Chelsea, and Luca de la Torre has played just 12 minutes over two games in his first season with Celta Vigo.

Reyna, coming back from leg injuries that decimated his 2021-22 season, has been limited to four second-half substitute appearances since April 8 and Dest to one since April 24.

Berhalter's roster will average 24 years, 201 days as of the start of training on Monday. Nine players have changed clubs in recent months. Eight players are from MLS, nine based in Europe and nine in England and Scotland.

Busch leaving Gibbs, Toyota to drive for Childress in '23

By JENNA FRYER

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kyle Busch will move to Richard Childress Racing next season, ending a 15-year career with Joe Gibbs Racing because the team could not come to terms with NASCAR's only active multiple Cup champion.

Busch will drive the No. 8 Chevrolet for Childress in an announcement made Tuesday at the NASCAR Hall of Fame. He wore the two Cup championship rings he won driving for Gibbs on his middle fingers.

"I'll be taking my talents to Welcome, N.C. to drive the No. 8 car starting in 2023," Busch said of moving to the team based about an hour north of Charlotte.

Tyler Reddick, who is currently competing for the Cup championship in the No. 8 Chevrolet, will remain under contract at RCR and drive for the team next season. Reddick in July told Childress he was moving to 23XI Racing in 2024.

Richard Childress said he informed Reddick he'd be out of the No. 8 next season one hour before Busch's announcement. Childress said he'd obtain a third charter for Reddick's car, but gave no other details except that Reddick's current crew chief will be paired with Busch next season.

When Childress joined Busch at the announcement, the Hall of Fame team owner presented Busch's 7-year-old son, Brexton, with a contract option to someday drive for RCR. But before that, Childress handed Busch his "signing bonus," which was a boxed watch.

Childress in 2011 tussled with Busch after a Truck Series race at Kansas Speedway. The car owner removed his watch and handed it to someone, saying "Hold my watch" before the altercation. Childress was fined \$150,000 by NASCAR afterward.

Childress and Busch, now 37 years old, long ago made amends, which helped make RCR a landing spot for Busch during his excruciatingly long free agency period. JGR learned longtime partner Mars Wrigley was leaving the sport at the end of 2022, and Gibbs had been searching for a deep-pocketed sponsor to keep Busch in the No. 18 Toyota.

Busch even said he'd drive for below his market value to get a deal done.

But as the year went on and no progress was made on Busch's 2023 plans, he was forced to look elsewhere for both his own Cup seat and a landing spot for Kyle Busch Motorsports, his Truck Series team. KBM will now be a Chevrolet organization, but Busch



TERRY RENNA/AP

Kyle Busch, left, jokes with team owner Joe Gibbs, right, in 2008. Busch will move to Richard Childress Racing next season.

said all details on KBM and how many trucks it fields next year is still being decided.

"Kyle has been a major part of our history and success here at Joe Gibbs Racing. We are thankful for all his contributions to our organization over the years," Joe Gibbs said in a statement. "When you look at all that he has accomplished already, it is truly remarkable, and we know someday we will be celebrating his Hall of Fame induction."

The move to RCR and rival Chevrolet is a tremendous blow to Toyota, which has been with Busch since he joined JGR and powered him to all but four of his 60 career Cup wins. Busch is also the winningest driver in the lower-level Xfinity Series and Truck Series, and his KBM truck team is a massive part of Toyota's dominance in that series.

But Toyota could do nothing to find Busch a slot in its small fleet — JGR and 23XI combine for a Cup Series low six full-time entries — and Busch was able to move to Chevrolet. The manufacturer lauded the driver it considers a future Hall of Famer for all that "one of the greatest drivers in NASCAR history" has accomplished for Toyota.

"We're disappointed and saddened that his future won't continue to be with Team Toyota," the manufacturer said in a statement. "Kyle has been an ambassador for Toyota since joining the program in 2008. He's gone on to accumulate some of the most prestigious milestones possible for the Toyota brand. He will undoubtedly hold

the record for the most wins in a Toyota across all three Championship Series for decades to come.

"But more than that, Kyle has been a friend, part of our family and has played a key role in the development of many of our drivers through his ownership of Kyle Busch Motorsports. We wish nothing but the best for Kyle and his entire family as he moves into the next chapter of his Hall of Fame career. We're thankful to have been along for the ride."

Childress said the atmosphere at his shop in Welcome has been electric since rumors started that Busch might move to the organization. He also said when he looks in Busch's eyes, he sees the same fiery look of competition he once saw in the late Dale Earnhardt.

Earnhardt won six of his seven Cup championships driving for Childress. RCR has not won a Cup title since Earnhardt, but has both Reddick and Austin Dillon, Childress' grandson, in this year's playoff field.

But RCR has not won a title since Earnhardt's final championship in 1994. Reddick, a two-race winner this season, is currently 11th in the playoff standings. Austin Dillon, who won the regular-season finale to snag the final playoff spot, is 14th in the standings as the Cup Series heads into Saturday night's elimination race at Bristol Motor Speedway.

It was Dillon, Childress said, who encouraged his grandfather to speak to Busch after Reddick blindsided RCR with his plans to leave in 2024. Busch goes into Bristol ranked 13th in the standings.

The move to RCR returns Busch to Chevrolet, the manufacturer he began with when he signed a development driver contract with Hendrick Motorsports when Busch was a teenager.

NFL

Chargers' Mack not satisfied after productive opener

By Joe Reedy
Associated Press

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Khalil Mack hasn't had much time to reflect on his Los Angeles Chargers debut, especially since they have a short week before facing the Kansas City Chiefs on Thursday night.

After putting in a performance that most players would consider a career game, Mack was left with one impression after watching the tape of last Sunday's 24-19 victory over the Las Vegas Raiders.

Disappointment.

"It wasn't good enough. I left a lot of stuff out there and I have to get it corrected," Mack said on Tuesday before the Chargers conducted a walkthrough session.

Mack was the third player in franchise history to record three sacks in an opener since 1982, joining Shawne Merriman and Rodney Harrison. He also added six tackles, seven QB pressures and a stop in the run game for a 1-yard loss, the only run stuff of the game for the Chargers defense.

Mack and Joey Bosa—who had a combined 4½ sacks and 16 QB pressures in the opener—are looking to create the same type of havoc against Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs. There were three plays against the Raiders where both Mack and Bosa were able to get into the backfield at the same time.

"It's great to talk ball on the sideline and just communicate about what we get and what each offensive tackle is giving us. So to bounce ideas off each other throughout the game is good," Mack said.

Defensive coordinator Renaldo Hill said Mack's attention to the run game was the biggest surprise that



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Los Angeles Chargers linebacker Khalil Mack, left, had three sacks, tying a team record, along with six tackles, seven QB pressures and a run stop for a 1-yard loss in a win over the Raiders on Sunday.

stood out during training camp.

"You think of his pass rush. But he's talking to Joey about setting the tempo in the run game, how those two will work together," Hill said.

Bosa has 2½ sacks in six meetings against Mahomes, including 1½ last year. Mack has faced Mahomes only once, a 2019 meeting in Chicago, but did record a sack.

While Mack is in a division with Carr, Mahomes and Russell Wilson as the quarterbacks, any sack is a special occasion.

"It's a game we get to play and have fun. They're all equal. You want to sack them all," Mack said.

Brandon Staley split last year's games against the Chiefs in his first season as Los Angeles' coach. It won a 30-24 meeting in Week 3 at Arrowhead Stadium last season before losing 34-28 in overtime in Week 15 at home.

With six new starters on defense this season—including Mack—Staley feels like he has a unit that can hold its own against Kansas City as the Chargers look for their first 2-0 start since 2012.

"You need a team to be able to defend an offense like this, and certainly a player like Patrick. Any time you are facing an offense that has weapons—running backs, receivers, tight ends—and that has an outstanding offensive line, you're going to need the same thing on defense, that same type of formula," Staley said. "What Khalil does is he gives you that chance up front, both in the run game and the pass rush, to be able to impact the game. You need a lot more people than just your starting 11 to be able to defend a team like this."



DARRYL WEBB/AP

Quarterback Patrick Mahomes is closing on 20,000 passing yards for his career, needing only 649 yards. He leads the Chiefs in their Thursday showdown in Kansas City with the Los Angeles Chargers.

Justice: Mahomes coming off sixth career game with at least 5 TD passes

FROM PAGE 24

and five touchdowns without an interception on Sunday in Arizona, a performance that was so nearly flawless that the Chiefs built a big enough lead that he could ride the bench at the end.

"That's just Pat. That's just who he is," Kansas City offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy said this week, after they had turned their attention from the 44-21 blitz of the Cardinals to a Thursday night showdown against the Los Angeles Chargers.

There was one point during the game when Mahomes, after throwing his fourth touchdown pass, put up four fingers at a woebegone defender, as if to say: "How 'bout that?" It was done in the heat of the moment, and Mahomes said Tuesday that he didn't even remember doing it. But it spoke volumes about his competitive fire.

"There's always that behind-the-scenes moment he's going to create that keeps him fired up and energized," Bieniemy said. "The kid is a tremendous football player. I love the energy and excitement he brings. And he's the ultimate competitor."

It's something that Chiefs coach Andy Reid identified a half-decade ago, when they traded up in the first round to make Mahomes their quarterback of the future. They were traits similar to those Reid saw while coaching Brett Favre in Green Bay, Donovan McNabb and Michael Vick in Philadelphia, and Alex Smith in Kansas City.

"The way he approaches football is important," Reid said. "If you ask him, family and football are right at the top of the things he does. Whether he does a commercial or whatever, he's going to put football at the front. It's not going to disrupt what he's doing. And as you know, he's extremely smart. His recall is exceptional. His attention goes with that."

"You tell him something once," Reid said, "and he's got it."

The same goes if you slight him once. He's going to remember it.

"I mean, you always feel like you have more to prove," Mahomes said. "I promise, Tom Brady's feeling like he has more to prove, and I think that just comes with any sport, any competitor. If you're not getting better, you're getting worse. And they build you up to tear you down, and you got to kind of know that. For me, it's all about, 'How can I make myself better?' Not what other people say. 'How can I make myself better so we can go out there and win football games?'"

That's rapidly becoming a difficult question to answer.

Mahomes is coming off his sixth career game with at least five TD passes, joining a club that includes Drew Brees, Peyton Manning, Dan Marino and Ben Roethlisberger.

Each of them played at least 240 games; Mahomes has played 64.

He's also closing on 20,000 yards for his career—he needs 649 more—a number that Mahomes could reasonably achieve in two games. That would mean reaching the threshold in 66 games, five fewer than the NFL record.

"I'm glad that he's on our side," Bieniemy said, "and just looking forward to watching him do work from here on out."

Notes: CB Trent McDuffie was placed on injured reserve with a hamstring injury, meaning he will be out at least four weeks. ... K Harrison Butker (ankle sprain) did not practice Tuesday and appears unlikely to play Thursday night. The Chiefs signed former Jets K Matt Ammendola to their practice squad to provide insurance. "We've got the Plan B. We're working on it," Reid said.

"There's always that behind-the-scenes moment he's going to create that keeps him fired up and energized."

Eric Bieniemy
Chiefs offensive coordinator

NFL

BY THE NUMBERS

Preseason rest meant Week 1 rust for top QBs

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

Preseason rest appeared to lead to a little bit of rust in Week 1 for several of the NFL's top quarterbacks.

More than one-third of the league's Week 1 starting quarterbacks didn't play a single snap in the preseason and most of those 11 QBs didn't play anywhere close to their usual form.

Whether the poor results were a result of rust or other factors isn't clear but the poor results are. The only QBs to rest the entire preseason and end up on the winning side in Week 1 were Minnesota's Kirk Cousins, Justin Herbert of the Chargers and Baltimore's Lamar Jackson.

Cousins and Herbert bested two other quarterbacks who rested

with the Vikings beating Aaron Rodgers and Green Bay and the Chargers knocking off Derek Carr and the Raiders.

The other resting QBs who lost in Week 1 were Matthew Stafford of the Rams, Arizona's Kyler Murray, Dallas' Dak Prescott, Denver's Russell Wilson, Cincinnati's Joe Burrow and Tennessee's Ryan Tannehill.

The 11 QBs combined for an 86.1 passer rating, 6.9 yards per attempt and a touchdown to interception ratio of 1.38. Those were steep drop-offs from 2021 numbers when those QBs posted a 100.4 rating, averaged 7.7 yards per attempt and had a 2.65 TD to INT ratio.

The rough openers from many of the league's top passers led to a downturn in scoring across the



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Los Angeles Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford, center, is tackled by Buffalo Bills defensive tackle Jordan Phillips, left, and defensive tackle DaQuan Jones. Counting Stafford, the 11 QBs who didn't play a preseason down combined for a mediocre 86.1 passer rating.

league with the 42.1 combined points per game in Week 1 down from 48 last season and the lowest for Week 1 since 2017, when teams combined for 40.4 points per game.

Super Bowl hangover

The Super Bowl teams from last season got off to a not-so-super start to 2022.

The defending champion Los Angeles Rams lost the opener 31-10 to Buffalo and the runner-up Cincinnati Bengals fell 23-20 in overtime to Pittsburgh.

It marked the first time since 1999 when Denver and Atlanta both lost the opener that the two Super Bowl teams began the next season 0-1.

The only other times that happened were: 1996 (Dallas and Pittsburgh), 1988 (Washington

and Denver) and 1985 (San Francisco and Miami).

Turnaround teams

There were six Week 1 matchups between teams that made the postseason in 2021 and teams that missed the playoffs last season.

Surprisingly, five of those non-playoff teams came out of Week 1 as winners with the New York Giants beating Tennessee, Minnesota topping Green Bay, the Chargers knocking off Las Vegas, Miami beating New England and Chicago toppling San Francisco.

Only Philadelphia ended up on the winning side in that group, beating Detroit 38-35.

The five wins by teams that didn't make the playoffs the previous seasons against returning playoff teams were the most in Week 1 since it happened seven

times in 2005.

Winning time

The Giants comeback win at Tennessee left New York in unfamiliar territory.

For the first time since the end of the 2016 season, the Giants have a winning record. They had lost the opener each season since then and never recovered as their 22-59 record (.272 winning percentage) was tied with the Jets for the worst in the NFL from 2017-21.

Cleveland also did something new, beating Carolina 26-24 to win the season opener for the first time since 2004. The Browns were 0-16-1 in Week 1 from 2005-21 — the longest Week 1 winless streak in NFL history.

Indianapolis ended an eight-year Week 1 losing streak with a 20-20 tie at Houston.



ABBIE PARR/AP

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers is sacked by Minnesota Vikings linebacker Danielle Hunter.

Negotiating NFL without agent still a tricky proposition

By KYLE HIGHTOWER
Associated Press

Lamar Jackson was still wearing his uniform when he walked into his postgame news conference minutes after the Baltimore Ravens earned a season-opening win over the New York Jets on Sunday.

He was coming off a three-touchdown game that had provided the bulk of Baltimore's points during its 24-9 victory.

But those weren't the only numbers he was asked about.

It didn't take long for Jackson's contract to become a topic, with questions about whether it was true he had turned down a \$250 million contract extension offer from the Ravens.

"Fully guaranteed? No, there's no truth to that," Jackson said with a smile before his barely two-minute-old news conference was abruptly ended by the Ravens' public relations staff.

Welcome to NFL life negotiating without an agent, a risk vs. reward proposition that requires a balancing act few remain willing

to take on.

In a league with more than 2,000 players, Jackson is one of only 17 currently acting as their own agent, according to the NFLPA. The list includes high-profile names such as Bobby Wagner, DeAndre Hopkins and Jacoby Brissett.

Former Super Bowl champions Richard Sherman, Russell Okung and Hall of Famer Edgerrin James have also done it in the past.

Yet, none of them has ever had the money at stake Jackson does this season once the 2018 first-round pick chose to play out the final year of his rookie contract after being unable to reach an extension. The 2019 NFL MVP is believed to be seeking a deal comparable to the \$230 million fully guaranteed contract Cleveland's Deshaun Watson received in March.

The idea of wading into the waters of self-representation with that kind of money in the balance is an unthinkable proposition to many in the industry, who believe players who operate without agents are hurt by not having a dedicated, full-time advocate nego-



ADAM HUNGER/AP

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson is one of only 17 players in the NFL currently acting as his own agent.

tiating on their behalf.

"I can think only in very rare situations is an athlete well equipped to handle second, third, fourth contracts on his own," said Darren Heitner, a sports law professor at the University of Florida and former agent.

"Certainly we've seen athletes be successful in doing so for their rookie deals because

at this point in time it's slotted money and there's very few terms in the contracts left to be negotiated."

That played into Jackson's decision not to hire an agent coming out of the University of Louisville.

"I'm comfortable, but it's probably different because it's your quarterback, and not an NFL agent, stuff like that," Jackson said of how his negotiations have gone thus far.

Simply saving money, choosing to play this chess game alone requires a player being willing to carve out the extra time off the field.

That's a lesson Arizona Cardinals offensive tackle D.J. Humphries learned when he negotiated an extension this offseason that will pay him more than \$30 million in guaranteed money over the next three years.

"Tough. I probably wouldn't do it again," Humphries said. "It was something I wanted to do. When I'm done (playing football), I want to be a businessman, so being able to do one of the biggest deals on my own for the first time, that was huge for me."

SPORTS



On the road again

After 15 years with Gibbs, Kyle Busch joins Childress in '23 » **Auto racing, Page 21**



PHOTOS BY DARRYL WEBB (ABOVE) AND MATT YORK (BELOW)/AP

Despite all his success, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes still feeds off any perceived slight to fuel him.

Chief justice

Kansas City QB Mahomes still thrives on proving naysayers wrong

BY DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

It's sometimes difficult to believe that Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, for all that he's accomplished during his young but brilliant NFL career, would carry such a considerable chip on his shoulder.

He thrives on the doubters. The naysayers. The critics who try to diminish everything he's done.

It was that way when he was coming out of high school, and Texas Tech was among the only schools that gave the baseball player a football scholarship. And coming out of Texas Tech, when so many NFL teams pegged him as a system quarterback who would flounder like so many other "Air Raid" products as a professional.

RUSTY QBS

Rested signal-callers had a rough start in Week One
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It was that way this past offseason, too, when detractors tried to argue that Mahomes would take a step back without the game-breaking ability of Tyreek Hill, who was shipped to the Dolphins for a package of draft picks.

So much for that.

Mahomes merely responded by throwing for 360 yards

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Dodgers win NL West; Judge hits 2 HRs » **MLB, Page 20**

