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STARS AND STRIPES

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Russia's illicit use of Starlink aids fight

BY ALEX HORTON,
SERHII KOROLCHUK
AND EVA DOU

The Washington Post

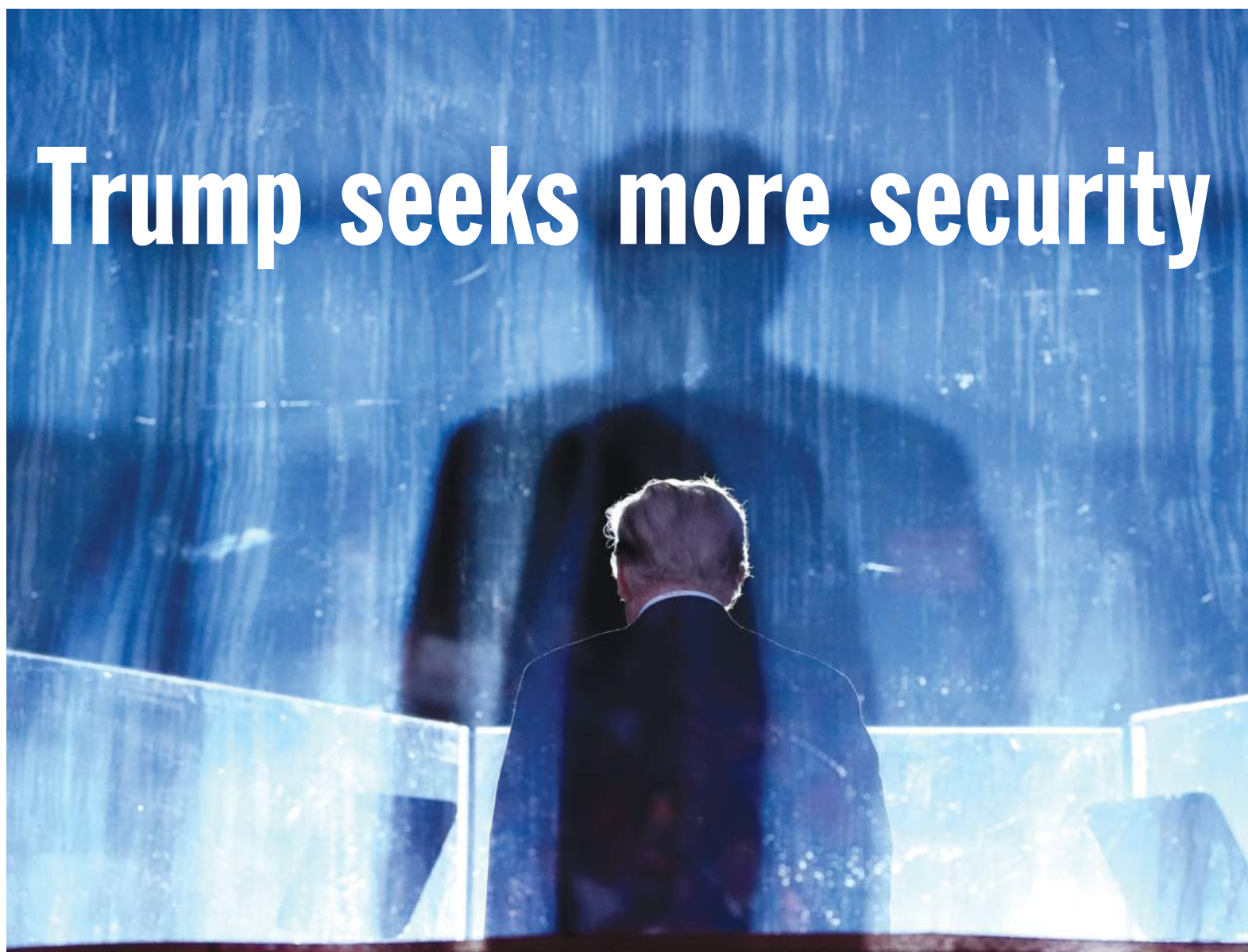
DONETSK REGION, Ukraine — Russian forces have become deadlier and more agile with the help of illicit Starlink terminals, allowing them to use satellite internet to enhance coordination during assaults, fly more drone sorties and batter Ukrainian troops with accurate artillery fire despite U.S. efforts to stop the flow of technology.

The terminals, which give commanders live battlefield views with drones and secure communication between soldiers, are subject to prohibitions that outlaw many U.S. electronics from reaching Moscow. Yet there is a burgeoning black market of Starlinks bringing the terminals to Russians on the front and their proliferation has been an important factor in Russia's recent gains during its offensive, Ukrainian soldiers said.

Tens of thousands of Starlink dishes form the backbone of Ukraine's military network, fueling devices vital to fighting a digital war — one of the few advantages Kyiv has against Moscow's bigger, if less modernized, force. Six Ukrainian soldiers and officers from different units across the Donetsk region told The Washington Post that Russia has closed the technology gap, making its forces more cohesive and boosting the number and precision of attacks.

The issue has renewed Ukrainian frustrations over Elon Musk, SpaceX's mercurial chief executive. Some of the soldiers criticized Musk by name, saying his company has not done enough to

SEE ILLICIT ON PAGE 5



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump departs after speaking at a campaign event at the Butler Farm Show, on Oct. 5, in Butler, Pa. Trump's campaign has requested added security, citing potential threats from Iran.

Iranian threats cited as reason for requested military planes, vehicles

BY JOSH DAWSEY
AND ISAAC ARNSDORF

The Washington Post

Donald Trump's campaign requested extra security, including transportation in military vehicles and aircraft, during the final weeks of the campaign, citing a potential threat from Iran.

The measures include expanded flight restrictions over his residences and rallies, ballistic glass pre-positioned in seven battleground states for the campaign's use and an array of military vehicles to transport Trump, according to emails reviewed by The Washington

Post and people familiar with the matter.

The requests are extraordinary and unprecedented — no nominee in recent history has been ferried around in military planes ahead of an election. But the requests came after Trump's campaign advisers received briefings in which the government said Iran is still actively plotting to kill him, according to the emails reviewed by The Post and the people familiar with the matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe sensitive discussions. Trump advisers have grown concerned about drones and missiles, according to the people.

In the emails over the past two weeks from campaign manager Susie Wiles to Ronald L. Rowe Jr., the head of the Secret Service, she expressed displeasure with the Secret Service and said the campaign recently had to cancel a public event at the last minute because of a "lack of personnel" from the Secret Service — instead only putting Trump in a small room with reporters. Wiles said Trump's campaign is being hampered in its planning because of threats and expects to hold far more events in the final weeks of the campaign.

SEE SECURITY ON PAGE 7

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Fisher-Price recalls over 2 million Snuga baby swings

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Fisher-Price is recalling parts of over 2 million infant swings across the U.S., Canada and Mexico due to a serious suffocation risk, following reports of five infant deaths.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission warned that all models of Fisher-Price's Snuga Swings should never be used for sleep or have bedding materials added.

The products' headrest and seat pad body support insert can in-

crease risks of suffocation, the notice published Thursday said.

There have been five reports of deaths involving infants between 1 to 3 months old when the product was used for sleep, according to the commission.

In most of those incidents, which took place from 2012 to 2022, bedding material was added to the product and the babies were unrestrained.

Consumers are urged to immediately cut off the headrest and re-

move the body-support insert before continuing to use the swing. New York-based Fisher-Price, a division of California toy giant Mattel, is providing a \$25 refund to consumers who remove and destroy those parts of the product.

Instructions can be found on Mattel's recall website.

In a statement, CPSC Commissioner Richard L. Trumka Jr. slammed Fisher-Price for what he called a "flawed" recall, saying the remedy provided by the company is

not enough.

The recall "is doomed to fail and will keep many babies in harm's way," Trumka stated. He criticized Fisher-Price for only recalling a portion of the product and offering consumers a fraction of the \$160 they originally spent.

"My advice: get your \$25 refund and then throw this product away; do not keep it in your homes because even after the so-called 'repair' this product will still be unsafe for infant sleep," Trumka added.

He also argued that Fisher-Price was repeating past failures — pointing to previous infant deaths related to products like the brand's "Rock 'n Play" and "Newborn-to-Toddler Rockers" devices.

The Fisher-Price Snuga Swings now under recall were sold at major retailers — including Amazon, Walmart, Toys R Us and Target — across North America between October 2010 and January 2024, according to the CPSC. About 2.1 million swings were sold in the U.S.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC

PacificAdvertising@stripes.com

+81 (42) 552.2511
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MILITARY

High praise for Army's new ride

Commander calls Infantry Squad Vehicle 'greatest thing' to come from exercise

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division are testing the Army's new Infantry Squad Vehicle during a two-week exercise in Hawaii that ends Thursday.

"It's probably the greatest thing that's come out of this exercise so far," Col. Matthew Leclair, commander of the 196th Infantry Brigade, said during an interview Sunday in the combat training command center at Schofield Barracks.

"It's fundamentally changed how fast we can get infantry from one location to the next," he said.

The 196th, headquartered at Fort Shafter, oversees training and readiness for U.S. Army Pacific troops and operates the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center's regional combat training centers.

The brigade was given 96 Infantry Squad Vehicles for validation during the exercise, a process that has already begun with the 101st Airborne Division, Leclair said.

Validation is when equipment is tested and evaluated to confirm it meets performance and safety standards before it is fully deployed across the force.

The ISV is manufactured by GM Defense, a subsidiary of General Motors. The firm was award-

ed an initial \$214 million contract in 2020 to develop a light and agile all-terrain vehicle that could carry nine soldiers.

It is based on the Chevrolet Colorado ZR2 Bison and powered by a 2.8-liter engine. It is small enough to be loaded into a Chinook or Stallion helicopter and light enough to be sling-loaded under a Black Hawk helicopter, according to an Army fact sheet.



Leclair

It took the soldiers only a couple of days to figure out how to use the new vehicle, Leclair said.

"It's really quiet," he said. "It's light. It goes forever on one tank of gas, like 400 kilometers. It doesn't require a ton of maintenance."

"For years, we've had the Humvees," he said. "For years, we've had these big trucks that we've loaded infantrymen into the back, 16 to 20 at a time. It's so loud you can hear it coming from a mile away. It takes hours to load everybody onto these trucks."

With ISVs, soldiers throw their rucksacks on top of the roll cage, pull a net over them and take off, Leclair said.

"You give three or four of these vehicles to a platoon, and they can



BRENDEN DELGADO/U.S. Army

Sgt. Daniel Allen, an infantryman with the 25th Infantry Division, poses in an Infantry Squad Vehicle at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, on Oct. 5 during a combat training exercise.

"It's fundamentally changed how fast we can get infantry from one location to the next."

Col. Matthew Leclair
commander of the 196th Infantry Brigade

be off and gone," he said.

The ISVs are part of the Army's "Transforming in Contact" initiative, which aims to rapidly put the newest technology into the hands of soldiers to make them more lethal, survivable and adaptable in any environment.

The concept is being tested using brigade combat teams with the

25th ID, 101st Airborne Division and the 10th Mountain Division, according to an Army fact sheet.

Now in its fourth year in Hawaii, the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center training focuses on one combat unit of the 25th Infantry Division, centering this time on the 2nd Light Brigade Combat Team.

The JPMRC possesses personnel and equipment capable of providing realistic combat training of the kind soldiers would get at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Johnson, La., or the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

This year's Hawaii exercise is in part assessing whether the light brigade combat team has the right equipment and whether the unit is structured appropriately, Leclair said.

"Are they more lethal based on the equipment that we gave them and are they more mobile based on the equipment we gave them?" he said.

Cities told over a month after Yokota spill likely tainted by toxins

BY SETH ROBSON
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Local authorities in cities surrounding this base in western Tokyo were not told for more than a month that thousands of gallons of water, likely tainted with toxic chemicals, spilled off the installation this summer.

A short burst of heavy rains on Aug. 30 caused approximately 12,640 gallons of water to overflow from Yokota's fire training area onto an asphalt surface and eventually into a stormwater drainage system, according to an email Thursday from Capt. Emma Quirk, spokeswoman for Yokota's 374th Airlift Wing.

The water probably contained residual amounts of aqueous film forming foam, she said. The foam is a firefighting material that con-

tains PFAS, a class of chemicals with suspected toxic properties.

The foam is no longer in use at Yokota and the Air Force has moved to replace fire-suppression systems at bases in Japan with materials other than PFAS.

PFAS, a manufactured compound in many household products, from stainproof and waterproof fabric to nonstick cookware, is linked to an increased risk of certain tumors of the liver, testicles, breasts and pancreas, according to the American Cancer Society.

"Many Tokyo residents are concerned about the health effects of PFOS ... and these concerns need to be alleviated as soon as possible," said a letter from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and six municipalities to Japan's defense ministry and North Kanto Defense Bureau dated Oct. 3.

The six municipalities are the ci-

ties of Akishima, Fussa, Hamura, Musashimurayama and Tachikawa and the town of Mizuho.

PFOS and PFOA are two components of PFAS considered toxic and sometimes called "forever chemicals." The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in June said no level of PFAS is safe in drinking water. The synthetic compounds accumulate in the body over time, according to the EPA.

The North Kanto Defense Bureau, an arm of Japan's Ministry of Defense, notified the municipalities about the spill on Oct. 3, according to a post on the metropolitan government's website the next day. The letter took issue with the delay in notifying local governments.

"More than a month has passed since the leak reported this time happened, and the fact that the in-

formation was not provided promptly leads to distrust of residents living near the base and it is extremely regrettable," the letter stated.

The letter didn't assign blame for the late notice. Neither the Air Force's 374th Airlift Wing nor Japan's Defense Ministry responded to phone messages and email queries Thursday about the delay.

The letter asked Japan's government for more information about the spill, including where the water flowed, why contaminated water was stored on base and what preventive measures will be taken.

They also asked Japan's government to take responsibility for any fallout from the spill and to cooperate with local officials if they see a need to conduct a survey on base, the letter stated.

Between 2010 and 2022, the U.S.

military reported seven PFAS-tainted spills or leaks to Japan's Ministry of Defense, which in turn notified local governments, the Tokyo Shimbun reported July 10.

About 167 gallons of liquid containing high levels of PFAS spilled at the Yokota Community Center's receiving dock on Jan. 25, 2023. The center houses the base commissary and exchange.

However, the spill did not escape the base, the newspaper reported, citing unnamed officials.

The assessment of the August incident is complex and ongoing, but Japan's government was notified once officials were certain the water flowed off base, Quirk said.

"Installation officials immediately began on-site assessments to track the route of the spill, volume of water and likely discharge points, and those studies continue," she said.

MILITARY

Taiwan: China uses 125 aircraft in exercises

BY JOHNSON LAI
AND HUIZHONG WU
Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — China employed 125 military aircraft in exercises aimed at Taiwan on Monday, a record for a single day, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said.

It said 90 of the aircraft, including warplanes, helicopters and drones, were spotted within Taiwan's air defense identification zone.

China launched large-scale military exercises on Monday aimed at warning against Taiwanese independence, it said.

China deployed an aircraft carrier, other ships and warplanes in the exercises surrounding Taiwan and its outlying islands, simulating the sealing off of key ports in a move that underscores the tense situation in the Taiwan Strait.

China's Defense Ministry said the drills were a response to the Taiwanese president's refusal to accept Beijing's demand that self-governed Taiwan acknowledge itself as a part of the People's Republic of China under the rule of the Communist Party.

The drills came four days after Taiwan celebrated the founding of

its government on its National Day, when Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said in a speech that China has no right to represent Taiwan and declared his commitment to "resist annexation or encroachment."

"Our military will definitely deal with the threat from China appropriately," Joseph Wu, secretary-general of Taiwan's security council, said at a forum in Taipei, Taiwan's capital. "Threatening other countries with force violates the basic spirit of the United Nations Charter to resolve disputes through peaceful means."

Taiwan's Presidential Office called on China to "cease military provocations that undermine regional peace and stability and stop threatening Taiwan's democracy and freedom."

A map aired on China's state broadcaster CCTV showed six large blocks encircling Taiwan indicating where the military drills were being held, along with circles drawn around Taiwan's outlying islands. China's Defense Ministry has not said how long the drills will last.

China deployed its Liaoning aircraft carrier for the drills, and CCTV showed a J-15 fighter jet taking off



TAIWAN COAST GUARD/AP

In this screen grab from video, a member of the Taiwan coast guard monitors a China coast guard boat as it passes near the coast of Matsu islands, Taiwan, on Monday.

from the deck of the carrier, though the exact location of the ship is unclear.

China's People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theater Command spokesperson Senior Capt. Li Xi said the navy, army air force and missile corps were all mobilized for the drills, which were an integrated operation. "This is a major warning to those who back Taiwan independence and a signifier of our determination to safeguard our national sov-

ereignty," Li said in a statement on the service's public media channel.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a daily briefing that China did not consider relations with Taiwan a diplomatic issue, in keeping with its refusal to recognize Taiwan as a sovereign state.

"I can tell you that Taiwan independence is as incompatible with peace in the Taiwan Strait as fire with water. Provocation by the Tai-

wan independence forces will surely be met with countermeasures," Mao said.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said it deployed warships to designated spots in the ocean to carry out surveillance and stand at ready. It also deployed mobile missile and radar groups on land to track the vessels at sea. It said as of Monday morning, they had tracked 25 Chinese warplanes and seven warships and four Chinese government ships, though it did not specify what types of ships they were.

The U.S., Taiwan's biggest unofficial ally, called China's response to Lai's speech unwarranted. "We call on (Beijing's government) to act with restraint and to avoid any further actions that may undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and in the broader region," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a statement.

China held similar large-scale exercises after Lai was inaugurated in May. Lai continues the eight-year rule of the Democratic Progressive Party that rejects China's demand that it recognize Taiwan as a part of China.

Tomb guard who went viral takes her final walk, aims for new role

BY ALEXANDER BANERJEE
Stars and Stripes

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier guard Spc. Jessica Kwiatkowski — the first female infantry soldier to earn a Tomb Badge — left behind a large legacy when she took her last walk on Oct. 4.

Kwiatkowski, who is with the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), was the subject of a viral video in 2023, when she was filmed continuing her march in the middle of a storm that involved winds of 60-85 mph. Kwiatkowski walked the mat even as the Tomb Plaza flooded with water and she lost her ability to see clearly.

The incident took place on July 29, 2023; Kwiatkowski earned the Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Identification Badge less than two months later.

Earning the badge requires five phases of testing, consistently maintaining a meticulous appearance and mastery of the various Tomb ceremonies, among other things. While other women have earned the badge, they came from other fields — Kwiatkowski was the first female infantry soldier to receive the award. Fewer than 16% of active-duty U.S. Army soldiers were women in 2022.

Kwiatkowski served at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier since November 2022 and completed more than 525 ceremonial



ELIZABETH FRASER/U.S. Army

U.S. Army Spc. Jessica Kwiatkowski conducts her last Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, on Oct. 4.

walks, 140 guard changes and countless public wreath laying ceremonies.

Upon completing her last walk, Kwiatkowski handed her rifle to Staff Sgt. William Matyas. According to a U.S. Army news release, Kwiatkowski whispered something to him briefly, rather than handing it off immediately.

Of the words exchanged, Kwiatkowski would only say, "When you pass the rifle off, it goes to a person who meant a lot to you during your time here, and that was him for me."

She then laid white roses at the unknown crypts.

Sergeant of the Guard Andrew Jay remarked on how far Kwiatkowski had come since joining the platoon, reminding her of how she initially struggled to maneuver the rifle. Kwiatkowski's family, attending the ceremony, expressed pride. Her mother held back tears throughout the event.

Kwiatkowski will now instruct incoming soldiers on Old Guard uniforms, with the aim of eventually becoming a drill sergeant. It's not easy to become one — drill sergeants represent the top 10% of all Army noncommissioned officers in their grade — but that is unlikely to deter Kwiatkowski.

South: North seeks to ruin parts of inter-Korean roads

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea said Monday it has detected signs that North Korea is preparing to destroy the northern parts of inter-Korean roads no longer in use, as the rivals are embroiled in soaring tensions over North Korea's claim that South Korea flew drones over its territory.

Destroying the roads would be in line with leader Kim Jong Un's push to cut off ties with South Korea, formally cement it as his country's principal enemy and abandon the North's decadeslong objective to seek a peaceful Korean unification.

In a highly derisive rhetoric, Kim's sister and senior official, Kim Yo Jong, called the South Korean military "dregs" and "mongrels tamed by Yankees." She said Monday that "the master of those dogs," an apparent reference to the U.S., must be held accountable for the alleged drone flights as well. South Korea and the U.S. had no immediate responses.

Earlier Monday, South Korea's military said that it was observing various activities in North Korea that appeared to be preparations for demolishing the roads, such as installing screens.

"They have installed screens on the roads and are working behind those screens, preparing to blow up the roads," Lee Sung Joon, spokesperson of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a briefing. He said the

demolitions could be carried out as early as Monday.

Lee said the South Korean military believes that North Korea may carry out other provocations like a space rocket launch, which the United Nations views as a disguised test of long-range missile technology.

It's not clear how much of the roads North Korea would destroy.

During the previous era of inter-Korean detente in the 2000s, the two Koreas reconnected two road routes and two rail tracks across their heavily fortified border. But their operations later were suspended one by one as the Koreas wrangled over North Korea's nuclear program and other issues.

Last week, North Korea said it would permanently block its border with South Korea and build front-line defense structures to cope with "confrontational hysteria" by South Korean and U.S. forces. South Korean officials said North Korea has planted mines and removed lamps along its sections of the inter-Korean roads and taken out ties on the northern side of the railways.

North Korea has accused South Korea of launching drones to drop propaganda leaflets over Pyongyang three times this month and threatened to respond with force if it happened again. South Korea has refused to confirm whether it sent drones but warned it would sternly punish North Korea if the safety of its citizens is threatened.

WAR IN UKRAINE

Russia says it captured southern Ukraine village

BY ILLIA NOVIKOV
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia said Monday that it has captured the village of Levadne in southern Ukraine as it probes for weaknesses along the war's roughly 600-mile front line, including in eastern areas that are the main focus of Moscow's military effort before winter arrives.

Ukrainian authorities, meanwhile, reported no nighttime Shahed drone attacks on the country for the first time in about six weeks, after saying five days ago they struck a Shahed storage facility in Russia's Krasnodar region where around 400 drones reportedly were being kept.

Levadne, in the Zaporizhzhia region, was seized by the Russians early on during the full-scale invasion, which began on Feb. 24, 2022, but was recaptured by Ukrainian forces during a counteroffensive in the summer of 2023.

Ukrainian officials made no comment about Levadne's possible capture, though they had previously noted that the Russian army was assembling troops there and was conducting local assaults at the end of last week.

Ukraine's troops are straining to hold back Russia's military might, especially in the eastern Donetsk region, and don't have the



Russian Defense Ministry Press Service via AP

A Russian sniper, in an undisclosed location, fires toward Ukrainian forces on Friday.

manpower or weaponry to launch their own offensive. Though Russia's gains have been incremental, its steady forward movement is slowly adding up as the Ukrainians are pushed backward.

Ukraine says it needs more Western help to have a chance of holding back Russia's invasion.

Russia illegally annexed four regions of Ukraine, including Zaporizhzhia, in September 2022. Russian President Vladimir Putin

has demanded the withdrawal of Ukrainian forces from all four regions as the main condition for a prospective peace deal — a demand Ukraine and the West have rejected.

Last week, the Ukrainian General Staff reported a direct hit on the Shahed drone warehouse inside Russia.

"The destruction of the Shahed drone storage base will significantly reduce the ability of Rus-

sian occupiers to terrorize peaceful residents of Ukrainian cities and villages," it said at the time.

Ukrainian officials are keen to show the West that they aren't giving up the fight against their much bigger neighbor. An incursion into Russia's Kursk border region has put Ukrainian troops on Russian soil for more than two months.

The Russians are managing to retake some territory in Kursk but the Ukrainians are capturing even

more, according to Oleksandr Kovalenko, a military analyst from Information Resistance, a Kyiv-based think tank.

He told The Associated Press that the onset of winter fog and rain will affect the use of drones — an important element in Ukraine's military strategy.

Ukraine has deployed sophisticated long-range drones to strike targets inside Russia, including airfields, oil refineries and ammunition depots.

The Ukrainian Main Directorate of Intelligence said Monday that it destroyed a Russian military transport aircraft, a Tu-134, at a military airfield in Russia's Orenburg region.

Russia, meanwhile, struck port infrastructure in the southern Ukrainian city of Odesa with a ballistic missile Monday, killing one person and wounding eight others, as well as damaging two merchant ships, officials said.

The attack damaged grain storage facilities, cargo cranes, administrative buildings, port equipment and vehicles, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister for Restoration Oleksii Kuleba said on his Telegram channel.

Recent attacks on Odesa port facilities appear intended to disrupt the country's exports of grains and other food staples.

Illicit: Issue renews Ukraine's frustration with Elon Musk

FROM PAGE 1

crack down on illicit use and casting doubt on his desire to fix the problem, saying he appears to have favorable views toward Russia.

SpaceX provided free Starlink connection to Ukraine after Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022 but then threatened to cut service following online spats with diplomats, citing the high costs. Musk relented under public pressure and then sent the bill to the Pentagon, the most recent totaling \$14.1 million for six months of service through next month.

Musk was also widely condemned in Ukraine following reports he denied Kyiv's request to allow Starlink access for sea drones in a planned 2022 attack on Russia's Black Sea Fleet. His biographer Walter Isaacson also wrote that Musk sought counsel from the Russian ambassador to the United States and was worried he would play a role in a destabilizing escalation.

Having access to reliable strong internet on the battlefield through Starlink transformed Ukrainian operations, changing what used to take precious minutes of radio chatter into seconds of taps and swipes on tablets brimming with

detailed maps and chat programs. The connectivity allowed leaders to guide assaults with live drone feeds, tweak artillery coordinates by viewing impacts and assess where enemies may be their most vulnerable to attack.

Russian troops had mostly relied on radios to communicate what they see and do during battles, a slow back-and-forth compared to fast internet, and they were much more rigid by comparison.

Except now Russians have mirrored Ukraine by using Starlink in similar ways, Ukrainian soldiers said.

Kyiv and Washington face difficulties solving the problem of Russian use of Starlink, analysts have said, especially in light of Moscow's success in sidestepping sanctions and the technical challenge of denying access to the Starlink network without affecting Ukrainian troops.

The U.S. and Ukrainian governments are working with SpaceX to "prevent Russia's illicit use of Starlink terminals in occupied Ukraine," including focus from the U.S. Treasury Department on "potential sanctions violations" related to the international smuggling effort, said Lt. Col. Charlie

Dietz, a Defense Department spokesman.

SpaceX referred to a post on X in February that said it deactivates terminals if used "by a sanctioned or unauthorized party."

Terminals everywhere

Before Starlink revolutionized the market, previous generations of field satellite terminals suffered from low speeds and high prices.

Now users can buy terminals for a few hundred dollars and pay monthly fees for service in more than 100 countries and territories, not including Russia, according to Starlink. Users point terminals at the sky and connect to broadband internet from one of the 7,000-plus satellites in low earth orbit.

The U.S. government increasingly relies on the service for its military operations. "That has been revolutionary for us," said Clare Hopper, head of the U.S. Space Force's Commercial Satellite Communications Office.

Starlink terminals have expanded across Russian positions all year, but only in the past few months have their effects been really felt, as Russian troops on the offensive use them to coordinate assaults. Ukrainian troops

flying reconnaissance drones near Novohrodivka, southeast of the strategic Donetsk city of Pokrovsk, described seeing Starlinks in the Russian lines starting last month.

"Before, the Russians couldn't control some of their movements, maneuvers, artillery, infantry," said a drone platoon commander with the 93rd Mechanized Brigade who provided just his first name, Eugene, in line with Ukrainian military protocol.

Intercepts of Russian radio transmission showed soldiers often reported incomplete or wrong information to commanders. That has changed, Eugene said, according to observations of enemy tactics.

"Now they will only improve, and unfortunately, that's what's happening across the board," he said.

'Gentlemen, I recommend!'

While Russian companies and individuals are not authorized to sell Starlink, a gray market has emerged, fueled by the high demand from military forces and private buyers.

The Post reviewed four of the many Russian sites offering direct sales for the "special military op-

eration," the Kremlin's euphemism for the war. Most sell through Telegram and start their journey in the Moscow area, before being funneled to the front.

One site offers a terminal and connection fees starting at just above \$1,000. Customer service is free, and each client receives recommendations "to minimize risks of blocking," the page notes, with glowing video testimonials from soldiers.

"We have been using Starlink for about a month. No complaints, the speed is good," one review said, showing a terminal covered in camouflage. "Technical support works great."

"The internet is flying, the men are happy," another said. "Gentlemen, I recommend!"

To activate a device, users need a foreign phone number, email and bank account to pay the monthly subscription fee, prompting suppliers to seek out people willing to lend their identities. Users in "client support" Telegram chats say it is easy to buy and register Starlink kits abroad. Most are obtained in Europe and transported through the United Arab Emirates.

One page warns not to activate the terminal in Russia.

NATION

Harris lays out plan to empower Black male voters

By WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President Kamala Harris is announcing a plan to give Black men more economic opportunities and other chances to thrive as she works to energize a key voting bloc that has Democrats concerned about a lack of enthusiasm.

Harris' plan includes providing forgivable business loans for Black entrepreneurs, creating more apprenticeships and studying sickle cell and other diseases that disproportionately affect African American men.

Harris already has said she supports legalizing marijuana and her plan calls for working to ensure that Black men have opportunities to participate as a "national cannabis industry takes shape." She also is calling for better regulating cryptocurrency to protect Black

men and others who invest in digital assets.

The vice president's so-called "opportunity agenda for Black men" is meant to invigorate African American males at a moment when there are fears some may sit out the election rather than vote for Harris or her opponent, Republican former President Donald Trump.

The vice president unveiled the plan Monday, ahead of an evening campaign rally in Erie, Pa., where she was to appear with Democratic Sen. John Fetterman. Her push comes after former President Barack Obama suggested last week that some Black men "aren't feeling the idea of having a woman as president."

The Harris campaign also has been working to increase support among other male voting blocs, including Hispanics, by founding



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris arrives to speak at a campaign rally at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., on Sunday.

the group "Hombres con Harris," Spanish for "Men with Harris." The latest policy rollout is notable because it comes with the stated purpose of motivating Black men to vote weeks before Election Day.

As her campaign has done with the "Hombres" group, Harris' team plans to organize gender-specific gatherings. Those include "Black Men Huddle Up" events in battleground states featuring

African American male celebrities for things like watch parties for NFL and NCAA football games. The campaign says it also plans new testimonial ads in battleground states that feature local Black male voices.

Cedric Richmond, co-chair of the Harris campaign and a former Louisiana congressman who is Black, said Harris wants to build an economy "where Black men

are equipped with the tools to thrive: to buy a home, provide for our families, start a business and build wealth."

Black Americans strongly supported Joe Biden when he beat Trump in 2020. Harris advisers say they are less worried about losing large percentages of Black male support to the former president than that some will choose not to turn out at all.

Trump urges 10K more border agents after derailing bipartisan border bill

By MEG KINNARD
AND NICHOLAS RICCARDI
Associated Press

PRESCOTT VALLEY, Ariz. — Former President Donald Trump on Sunday proposed hiring 10,000 additional Border Patrol agents and giving them a \$10,000 retention and signing bonus, after he derailed a bipartisan bill earlier this year that included funding for more border personnel.

Trump made his pledge during a rally in Prescott Valley, Ariz., roughly 260 miles north of the state's border with Mexico. He accepted an endorsement from the agents' union, the National Border Patrol Council, which is a long-time Trump backer that endorsed him during his prior two campaigns.

Trump has made illegal immigration the focus of his campaign and blamed Vice President Kamala Harris, his Democratic opponent, for a record spike in unauthorized crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border. He frequently denounces people entering the U.S. illegally as invaders and criminals, and he has vowed to stage the largest deportation operation in American history if he is elected president again.

He did defy the union earlier this year when he convinced Republicans to kill a bipartisan immigration bill that contained addi-



RODRIGO ABD/AP

A street vendor sells posters while supporters of Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump wait in a line to enter a campaign rally at the Findlay Toyota Arena, on Sunday, in Prescott Valley, Ariz.

tional border resources. According to the White House, the bill would have funded 1,500 personnel at U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which includes the Border Patrol.

Trump at the time said he did not want to give Democrats a political victory on his key issue. At the rally, Trump contended the legislation was "a horrible bill."

Trump and his allies routinely call Harris the "border czar," even though she's never had that title. President Joe Biden did ask Harris early in his administration to study the "root causes" of migration from Central America.

"If we allow Border Czar Harris to win this election, every city, every community in this great country is going to go to hell," union president Paul Perez said as he stood next to Trump on stage with a group of agents.

Matt Corridoni, a spokesperson for the Harris campaign, noted Trump's move against the border bill and his vows that Mexico would pay for his signature border wall, which ultimately was funded by the U.S. government.

"Trump doesn't care about solving problems, he only wants to run on one," Corridoni said in a statement.

Man with gun arrested near Trump rally in Calif.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A Nevada man with a shotgun, loaded handgun, ammunition and several fake passports in his vehicle was arrested at a security checkpoint outside Donald Trump's rally Saturday night in the Southern California desert, authorities said. He was released the same day on \$5,000 bail.

The suspect, a 49-year-old resident of Las Vegas, was driving an unregistered black SUV with a "homemade" license plate that was stopped by deputies assigned to the rally in Coachella, east of Los Angeles, Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco said at a news conference Sunday afternoon.

The driver claimed to be a journalist but it was unclear if he had the proper credentials. Deputies noticed the interior of the vehicle was "in disarray" and a search uncovered the weapons and ammo, along with multiple passports and driver licenses with different names, Bianco said.

The man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a loaded firearm and possession of a high-capacity magazine, the department said in a statement.

"This incident did not impact the safety of former President Trump or attendees of the event," the Saturday statement said. Trump had not yet arrived at the

rally at the time of the arrest, the sheriff said Sunday.

The suspect is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 2, 2025, according to online records.

Bianco declined to speculate about the suspect's motives or frame of mind. "We know we prevented something bad from happening, and it was irrelevant what that bad was going to be," Bianco said.

The man made it past an outer security boundary and was stopped at an inner perimeter patrolled by the sheriff's department, Bianco said. Another security checkpoint closer to the rally site was operated by the Secret Service.

"The U.S. Secret Service assesses that the incident did not impact protective operations and former President Trump was not in any danger," the U.S. Attorney's Office said in a statement Sunday. "While no federal arrest has been made at this time, the investigation is ongoing."

Trump's campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

Security is very tight at Trump rallies following two recent assassination attempts. Last month, a man was indicted on an attempted assassination charge after authorities said he staked out the former president and wrote of his desire to kill him.

NATION

Security: Lawmaker says no tie between Iran, shooters

FROM PAGE 1

She also wrote that the U.S. government has not been able to provide what the campaign views as an extensive enough plan to protect Trump. Rep. Michael Waltz, R-Fla., a Trump ally who is on the House Intelligence Committee and the Butler assassination inquiry, also wrote a letter to the Secret Service asking for military aircraft or additional protection for Trump's private plane, according to a copy of the letter reviewed by The Post.

Danielle Alvarez, a spokeswoman for Trump, declined to comment.

Secret Service officials did not answer specific questions about the discussions with the Trump campaign, but spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said in a statement that Trump is receiving "the highest levels of protection." In a letter to the campaign, Rowe said the government is assessing what can be provided.

"Assistance from the Department of Defense is regularly provided for the former president's protection, to include explosive ordnance disposal, canine units, and airlift transportation," Guglielmi said. The Secret Service is also imposing temporary flight restrictions "over the former president's residence and when he travels," he added. "Additionally, the former president is receiving the highest level of technical security assets which include unmanned aerial vehicles, counter unmanned aerial surveillance systems, ballistics and other advanced technology systems."

Senior U.S. officials said it was unlikely the Trump campaign would be provided military planes based on the current intelligence.

One official said the other requests are being considered, but there are limitations on how many places the Secret Service can have bullet-resistant glass positioned at one time, and that glass is already being provided for his rallies.

"We are doing everything we can do to take on the threats that are actionable and real," the official said.

The official said the U.S. government was frustrated by the Trump campaign releasing statements that they felt politicized the briefings the campaign was given on Iran.

Former U.S. officials said they were unaware of any presidential nominee getting a military jet. One person who has served under multiple Republican administrations in senior roles said it would be "extraordinary" for the Secret Service to grant such a request.

Trump's opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris, receives protection from the U.S. Marines as vice president and flies on Air Force Two, which is a military airplane.



JULIA DEMAREE NIKHINSON/AP

U.S. Secret Service agents stand around the stage as former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally at Riverfront Sports, on Wednesday, in Scranton, Pa.

The Republican nominee has already started traveling with additional planes, and officials are also taking the precaution of dividing his motorcade at times and putting Trump in nondescript planes that do not have his name on the side instead of his longtime 757 jet.

The requests escalate a months-long battle between Trump's team and the Secret Service, which has heightened after two assassination attempts on the former president. Granting such requests for a presidential candidate would be unprecedented, particularly a military plane to transport Trump. If the administration granted such assets, it would give Trump a distinct look in the final months that no challenger has ever had — and would remind voters visually, every day, that he is under threat.

Trump and his team have grown frustrated with the Secret Service in recent months, even as they praise Trump's own security detail. The Secret Service has repeatedly escalated Trump's security, but not to levels the campaign wants, the people said.

There is no evidence tying Iran to either of the recent assassination attempts, the people said, but the FBI has not ruled out the possibility of a connection. U.S. spies have determined that Iran's leaders are seeking to take revenge on U.S. officials including Trump whom they hold responsible for a strike that killed Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani in 2020, but Iran's ability to strike within the

United States is limited, according to people briefed on the intelligence.

The FBI declined to comment on ongoing investigations.

Trump has asked campaign advisers and U.S. government officials repeatedly whether Iran was behind the two gunmen who separately attempted to assassinate him on July 13 in Butler, Pa., and on Sept. 15 at Trump's golf course in West Palm Beach, Fla., according to people familiar with the briefing. Several of Trump's advisers have become convinced — even without evidence — that Iran was behind previous threats.

In June, undercover FBI agents met with a Pakistani man in Brooklyn who was seeking to hire hit men to assassinate an American politician on Iran's behalf, according to charges unsealed in August. The foiled plot prompted national security officials to alert the Secret Service about unspecified Iranian threats to Trump. Authorities arrested the Pakistani man, Asif Merchant, 46, on July 12, the day before Trump's Butler rally.

Investigators have not established a motive for the Butler shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, who opened fire from a nearby roof, grazing Trump's ear and killing one rallygoer before he was killed at the scene by a Secret Service countersniper. Crooks was a registered Republican, made a small donation to a liberal PAC, researched past assassinations and had photos of Trump and President Joe Biden on his phone.

People briefed on the Butler investigation said there is no evidence pointing to foreign ties.

The Trump campaign is also dealing with the fallout from Iranian hackers who stole sensitive campaign documents and tried to release them through the media or share them with the Biden campaign, according to federal prosecutors. An indictment released Sept. 27 of three Iranian nationals alleged a wide-ranging, years-long effort that included targeting one of Trump's lawyers, former CIA officials and a former U.S. ambassador. In recent days, more campaign employees have been told they were targeted by the Iranians.

Trump's late-September visit to a college-football game in Tuscaloosa, Ala., entailed the most protection he has had since leaving office, with bullet-resistant glass and 150 metal detectors deployed to the stadium, according to one of the people. For his return to Butler on Oct. 5, a row of shipping containers lined the perimeter of the venue to block the view from a passing road. The security forces on-site included drones, helicopters, undercover officers, snipers and tactical teams.

Iran makes no secret of its intention to seek to kill Trump, analysts noted. An animated video showing a drone firing on Trump playing golf has resurfaced recently. The video was posted to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's website on Jan. 14, 2022.

At the same time, notes former CIA official Norman Roule, "Iran is challenged by the fact that it lacks an extensive presence in the United States and is also under ex-

tensive scrutiny by U.S. law enforcement and intelligence services and their foreign partners."

Unable to easily insert their own personnel into the United States, the Iranians have had to resort to "third country nationals and criminals" to try to carry out assassinations, he said.

Iran has likely felt able to threaten the former president based in part, he said, "on the lack of serious consequences by the West for its lethal operations" against former U.S. officials, activists and journalists in the United States and Britain, Roule said.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., a member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee, said the available evidence on Crooks and the golf course suspect appears to more closely match the profile of homegrown violent extremists whom the FBI has identified as a rising domestic terrorism threat.

"There was intelligence about a potential threat from Iran, but the shooter on July 13th had no connection," Blumenthal said. "I'm aware of no evidence at this time that the apparent would-be assassin in Florida had any tie to any other country."

Iran's desire for revenge is not new. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told Congress in 2022 that his predecessor, Mike Pompeo, was still receiving round-the-clock government security.

Biden directed the National Security Council to warn Iran's government to stop plotting against Trump and former U.S. officials, adding that the United States would view any attempts on Trump's life as an act of war.

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NATION

Florida neighbors band together after a 1-2 punch

Hurricanes enhance community feeling

BY RUSS BYNUM
AND LAURA BARGFELD
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — When ankle-deep floodwaters from Hurricane Helene bubbled up through the floors of their home, Kat Robinson-Malone and her husband sent a late-night text message to their neighbors two doors down: “Hey, we’re coming.”

The couple waded through the flooded street to the elevated front porch of Chris and Kara Sundar, whose home was built on higher ground, and handed over their 8-year-old daughter and a gas-powered generator.

The Sundars’ lime-green house in southern Tampa also became a refuge for Brooke and Adam Carstensen, whose house next door to Robinson-Malone also flooded.

The three families met years earlier when their children became playmates, and the adults’ friendships deepened during the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. So when Helene and Hurricane Milton struck Florida within two weeks of each other, the neighbors closed ranks as one big extended family, cooking meals together, taking

turns watching children and cleaning out their damaged homes.

And as Milton threatened a direct strike on Tampa last week, the Malones, the Sundars and the Carstensen decided to evacuate together. They drove more than 450 miles in a caravan to metro Atlanta — seven adults, six children, four dogs and teenage Max Carstensen’s three pet rats.

“Everyone has, like, the chainsaw or a tarp,” Robinson-Malone said Sunday. “But really the most important thing for us was the community we built. And that made all the difference for the hurricane rescue and the recovery. And now, hopefully, the restoration.”

Recovery efforts continued Sunday in storm-battered communities in central Florida, where President Joe Biden surveyed the devastation. Biden said he was thankful the damage from Milton was not as severe as officials had anticipated. But he said it was still a “cataclysmic” event for people caught in the path of the hurricane, which has been blamed for at least 11 deaths.

The number of homes and businesses in Florida still without electricity dropped to about 500,000 on



REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP

A property owner peers into the second-floor unit where he lived with his wife while renting out the other units, on Manasota Key, in Englewood, Fla., after the passage of Hurricane Milton, on Sunday.

Sunday, according to Poweroutage.us. That was down from more than 3 million after Milton made landfall Wednesday as a Category 3 storm.

Fuel shortages also appeared to be easing as more gas stations opened, and lines at pumps in the Tampa area looked notably shorter. Gov. Ron DeSantis announced nine sites where people can get 10 gallons each for free.

While recovery efforts were gaining steam, a full rebound will take far longer.

DeSantis cautioned that debris removal could take up to a year, even as Florida shifts nearly 3,000 workers to the cleanup. He said Biden has approved 100% federal reimbursement for those efforts for 90 days.

National Weather Service meteorologist Paul Close said rivers will keep rising for the next several days and result in flooding, mostly around Tampa Bay and northward. Those areas got the most rain, which came on top of a wet summer that included several hurricanes.

Meanwhile, residents unable to move back into their damaged homes were making other arrangements.

Robinson-Malone and her husband, Brian, bought a camper trailer that’s parked in their driveway. They plan to live there while their gutted home is repaired and also improved to make it more resilient against hurricanes.

“These storms, they’re just going to keep happening,” she said. “And we want to be prepared for it.”

The Carstensen plan to demolish what’s left of their flooded, low-slung home, which was built in 1949, and replace it with a new house higher off the ground. For the time being they are staying with Brooke Carstensen’s mother.

Chris Sundar said he’s questioning his plan to remain in Tampa until his children have all graduated from high school a decade from now. His house remains the home base for the families’ kids, ages 8 to 13.

The Sundars lost both their vehicles when Helene’s storm surge flooded their garage, so they drove Robinson-Malone’s car when they evacuated to Georgia. Arriving, exhausted after the 14-hour trek, Chris Sundar said to Robinson-Malone: “This is where community shines or it falls apart.”

Decisive legislative majorities are in play in several states

Associated Press

SHAWNEE, Kan. — After introducing herself at their front doors, Vanessa Vaughn West began her pitch to voters with a question: What issues are important to you? She heard frustration about rising local property taxes, a desire for smaller government and questions about affordable housing.

West is a Democrat making her second run for a Kansas House seat representing a western Kansas City neighborhood where Republicans have held sway since the construction of homes began in the late 1990s.

Despite that history, West’s race against Republican state Rep. Angela Stiens is on the national Democratic Party’s radar, as is the Kansas Legislature. Democrats need to gain just two seats in the 125-member House or three in the 40-member Senate to break a supermajority that has enabled Republicans to override Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly’s vetoes of measures restricting abortion providers and transgender rights.

A similar battle is playing out in



JOHN HANNA/AP

Kansas state Rep. Jesse Borjon, R-Topeka, puts a campaign sign in the yard of a supporter, on Oct. 5, in Topeka.

North Carolina, where the flip of a single seat in either the House or Senate could cost Republicans a veto-proof majority that has repeatedly imposed its will over the objections of a Democratic governor. In Nevada, meanwhile, it’s Democrats who stand to gain a veto-proof majority over a Republican governor, if they can pick up just one more state

Senate seat without losing one in the Assembly.

Nationwide, more than 5,800 state legislative seats in 44 states are up for election this year. Groups aligned with Democrats and Republicans are expected to pour a couple hundred million dollars into the state legislative battles, focusing most intensely on states where control of a chamber is in play: Arizona, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. But they also are paying attention to states where there is little doubt about which party will prevail, because there is still plenty at stake.

The Associated Press identified 14 states where a swing of just three or fewer seats could determine whether a party holds a supermajority, meaning a margin so dominant that a party is able to enact laws despite a governor’s veto, convene special sessions or place constitutional amendments on the ballot without needing any support from lawmakers of an opposing party.

In Kansas, Stiens was appointed to fill a House vacancy this spring in

time to help override Kelly’s veto of a bill requiring abortion providers to ask patients why they want to end their pregnancies and submit that data to the state health department. The law isn’t being enforced amid legal challenges.

But West said the Legislature’s continued push for restrictions on abortion providers is one reason she is running against Stiens. West strongly supports abortion rights and residents in her home of Johnson County voted by nearly 69% in favor of abortion rights during a decisive 2022 statewide vote.

“This is why we need parity, right?” West said as she walked from home to home talking to prospective voters.

Though still leaning Republican and largely white, the Kansas City suburbs have become more racially diverse and friendlier to Democrats since former President Donald Trump’s victory in 2016. But national Democrats also are targeting a portion of southwestern Topeka, a longtime Republican area where GOP state Rep. Jesse Borjon is seek-

ing a third term against Democrat Jacquie Lightcap, a local school board member.

Campaigning door-to-door recently, Borjon emphasized his support for public schools and tax cuts enacted this year. His vote for eliminating the state income tax on Social Security benefits resonated with Bob Schmidt, a retired computer company executive who chatted with Borjon about rising property taxes. Regardless of party label, Schmidt said he wants a representative who will “maintain conservative values.”

Democrats need a gain of three or fewer seats this election to break Republican supermajorities in Florida, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska and North Carolina while a similar flip for Republicans could end Democratic supermajorities in Delaware and New York. Meanwhile, a gain of three or fewer seats could create new supermajorities for Republicans in Iowa and South Carolina and for Democrats in Colorado, Connecticut, Nevada and New Mexico.

NATION



WAYNE PARRY/AP

People walk past Gillian's Wonderland, the popular amusement park on the boardwalk in Ocean City, N.J., during its final day of operation before shutting down for good, on Sunday.

Historic Jersey Shore amusement park closes after generations of family thrills

By WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press

OCEAN CITY, N.J. — For generations of vacationers heading to Ocean City, the towering “Giant Wheel” was the first thing they saw from miles away.

The sight of the 140-foot-tall ride let them know they were getting close to the Jersey Shore town that calls itself “America’s Greatest Family Resort,” with its promise of kid-friendly beaches, seagulls and sea shells, and a bustling boardwalk full of pizza, ice cream and cotton candy.

And in the heart of it was Gillian’s Wonderland Pier, an amusement park that was the latest in nearly a century-long line of family-friendly amusement attractions.

But the rides were to fall silent and still Sunday night, as the park run by Ocean City’s mayor and nurtured by generations of his ancestors, closed down, the victim of financial woes made worse by the lingering aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic and Superstorm Sandy.

Gillian and his family have op-

erated amusement rides and attractions on the Ocean City Boardwalk for 94 years. The latest iteration of the park, Wonderland, opened in 1965.

“I tried my best to sustain Wonderland for as long as possible, through increasingly difficult challenges each year,” Mayor Jay Gillian wrote in August when he announced the park would close. “It’s been my life, my legacy and my family. But it’s no longer a viable business.”

Gillian did not respond to numerous requests for comment over the past week.

Sheryl Gross was at the park for its final day with her two children and five grandchildren, enjoying it one last time.

“I’ve been coming here forever,” she said. “My daughter is 43 and I’ve been coming here since she was 2 years old in a stroller. Now I’m here with my grandchildren.”

She remembers decades of bringing her family from Gloucester Township in the southern New Jersey suburbs of Philadelphia to create happy family memories at

Wonderland.

“Just the excitement on their faces when they get on the rides,” she said. “It really made it feel family-friendly. A lot of that is going to be lost now.”

There were long lines Sunday for the Giant Wheel, the log flume and other popular rides as people used the last of ride tickets many had bought earlier in the year, thinking Wonderland would go on forever.

A local nonprofit group, Friends of OCNJ History and Culture, is raising money to try and save the amusement park, possibly under a new owner who might be more amenable to buying it with some financial assistance.

Bill Merritt, one of the nonprofit’s leaders, said the group has raised over \$1 million to help meet what could be a \$20-million price tag for the property.

“Ocean City will be fundamentally different without this attraction,” he said.

“This town relies on being family-friendly. The park has rides targeted at kids; it’s called ‘Wonderland’ for a reason.”

Study of links in society, economy earn Nobel prize

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — The Nobel prize in economics was awarded Monday to Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson for research that explains why societies with poor rule of law and exploitative institutions do not generate sustainable growth.

The three economists “have demonstrated the importance of societal institutions for a country’s prosperity,” the Nobel committee of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said at the announcement in Stockholm.

Acemoglu and Johnson work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology while Robinson conducts his research at the University of Chicago.

“Reducing the vast differences in income between countries is one of our time’s greatest challenges. The laureates have demonstrated the importance of societal institutions for achieving this,” Jakob Svensson, Chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences, said.

He said their research has provided “a much deeper understanding of the root causes of why countries fail or succeed.”

Reached by the academy in Athens, Greece, where he is due to speak at a conference, the Turkish-born Acemoglu, 57, said he was surprised and shocked by the award. Acemoglu said the research honored by the prize underscores the value of democratic institutions.

“I think broadly speaking the work that we have done favors democracy,” he said in a telephone call with the Nobel committee and reporters in Stockholm.

But he added that “democracy is not a panacea. Introducing democracy is very hard. When you introduce elections, that sometimes creates conflict.”

In an interview, Robinson said he doubts that China can sustain its economic prosperity as long as it keeps a repressive political system.

“There’s many examples in world history of societies like that that do well for 40, 50 years,” Robinson said by phone. “What you see is that’s never sustainable. ... The Soviet Union did well for 50 or 60 years. Argentina was one of the richest countries in the world at the time of the First World War. What our theory predicts is that’s a transitory situation.”

Robinson said many societies have successfully made the transition to what he, Acemoglu and Johnson call an “inclusive society.”

“Look at the United States,” Robinson said. “This was a country of slavery, of privilege, where women were not allowed to take part in the economy or vote. ... Every country that is currently relatively inclusive and open made that transition.”

Acemoglu and Robinson wrote the 2012 bestseller “Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty,” which argued that manmade problems were responsible for keeping countries poor.

In their work, the winners looked, for instance, at the city of Nogales, which straddles the U.S.-Mexico border.

Despite sharing the same geography, climate, many of the same ancestors and a common culture, life is very different on either side of the border. In Nogales, Ariz., residents are relatively well-off and live long lives; most children graduate from high school. In Mexico’s Nogales, Sonora, residents are much poorer and organized crime and corruption abound.

The difference, the economists found, is a U.S. system that protects property rights and gives citizens a say in their government.

News outlets press commission to unseal plea deal for 9/11 mastermind

Associated Press

FORT MEADE, Md. — A lawyer for news organizations urged the U.S. military commission at Guantanamo Bay to unseal the plea deal struck with accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and two others, saying the public has a constitutional right and compelling need to follow one of the “most-disputed, debated, argued-about prosecutions that have happened in this country.”

The plea agreement was reached in August by the three accused, their U.S. government prosecutors and the Guantanamo commission’s top official, but it was abruptly revoked by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin days after it became public. It has become one of the most fiercely debated chapters in more than a decade of military hearings related to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, which killed nearly 3,000 people and triggered long-running U.S. military inva-

sions abroad.

The plea agreement would have spared Mohammed and two co-defendants the risk of the death penalty, in exchange for their guilty pleas in the al-Qaida attacks.

After news of the deal broke, however, top Republican lawmakers denounced it and the White House expressed concerns. Families of the victims variously expressed shock and approval of the plea deal, which was aimed at re-

solving more than a decade of pre-trial hearings in a legally troubled case for the government.

Austin said in revoking the military commission’s approval of the plea bargain that he had decided responsibility for any such grave decision should rest with him as secretary of defense. Mohammed and the two co-defendants have filed challenges, saying Austin’s action was illegal and that the actions by the Biden administration, lawmakers and others amounted

to undue outside influence in the case.

Seven news organizations — Fox News, NBC, NPR, The Associated Press, The New York Times, The Washington Post and Univision — challenged the sealing of the plea deal.

Friday’s hearing highlighted the ad hoc nature of the military commission, which U.S. leaders created to try accused violent extremists in the wake of the 2001 attacks.

NATION

Mechanical SpaceX arms catch returning booster

By **MARCIA DUNN**
Associated Press

SpaceX pulled off the boldest test flight yet of its enormous Starship rocket on Sunday, catching the returning booster back at the launch pad with mechanical arms.

A jubilant Elon Musk called it “science fiction without the fiction part.”

Towering almost 400 feet, the empty Starship blasted off at sunrise from the southern tip of Texas near the Mexican border. It arced over the Gulf of Mexico like the four Starships before it that ended up being destroyed, either soon after liftoff or while ditching into the sea. The previous one in June had been the most successful until Sunday’s demo, completing its flight without exploding.

This time, Musk, SpaceX’s CEO and founder, upped the challenge for the rocket that he plans to use to send people back to the moon and on to Mars.

At the flight director’s command, the first-stage booster flew back to the launch pad where it had blasted off seven minutes earlier. The launch tower’s monstrous metal arms, dubbed chopsticks, caught the descending 232-foot stainless steel booster and gripped it tightly, dangling it well above the ground.

“The tower has caught the rock-

et!!” Musk announced via X. “Big step towards making life multiplanetary was made today.”

Company employees screamed in joy, jumping and pumping their fists into the air. NASA joined in the celebration, with Administrator Bill Nelson sending congratulations.

Continued testing of Starship will prepare the nation for landing astronauts at the moon’s south pole, Nelson noted. NASA’s new Artemis program is the follow-up to Apollo, which put 12 men on the moon more than a half-century ago.

“Folks, this is a day for the engineering history books,” SpaceX engineering manager Kate Tice said from SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, Calif.

“Even in this day and age, what we just saw is magic,” added company spokesman Dan Huot from near the launch and landing site. “I am shaking right now.”

It was up to the flight director to decide, in real time with a manual control, whether to attempt the landing. SpaceX said both the booster and launch tower had to be in good, stable condition. Otherwise, it was going to end up in the gulf like the previous ones. Everything was judged to be ready for the catch.

The retro-looking spacecraft

launched by the booster continued around the world, soaring more than 130 miles high. An hour after liftoff, it made a controlled landing in the Indian Ocean, adding to the day’s achievement. Cameras on a nearby buoy showed flames shooting up from the water as the spacecraft impacted precisely at the targeted spot and sank, as planned.

“What a day,” Huot said. “Let’s get ready for the next one.”

The June flight came up short at the end after pieces came off. SpaceX upgraded the software and reworked the heat shield, improving the thermal tiles.

SpaceX has been recovering the first-stage boosters of its smaller Falcon 9 rockets for nine years, after delivering satellites and crews to orbit from Florida or California. But they land on floating ocean platforms or on concrete slabs several miles from their launch pads — not on them.

Recycling Falcon boosters has sped up the launch rate and saved SpaceX millions. Musk intends to do the same for Starship, the biggest and most powerful rocket ever built with 33 methane-fuel engines on the booster alone.

Musk said the captured Starship booster looked to be in good shape, with just a little warping of some of the outer engines.



ERIC GAY/AP

SpaceX’s mega rocket booster returns to the launch pad to be captured during a test flight Sunday, in Boca Chica, Texas.

Prison firm spent millions settling Tenn. mistreatment claims

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The leading private prison company in the U.S. has spent more than \$4.4 million to settle dozens of complaints alleging mistreatment — including at least 22 inmate deaths — at its Tennessee prisons and jails since 2016.

More than \$1.1 million of those payouts involved Tennessee’s largest prison, the long-scrutinized Trousdale Turner Correctional Center, which is now under federal investigation.

Details of nearly 80 settlements provided to The Associat-

ed Press through public records requests allege brutal beatings, medical neglect and cruelty at CoreCivic’s four prisons and two jails in Tennessee.

In one case, a Trousdale inmate who feared for his life beat his cellmate, Terry Childress, to death to get transferred to a different prison, the federal lawsuit says.

No guards came to Childress’ aid at the chronically understaffed facility, the suit claims. Childress’ family received a \$135,000 settlement.

The family’s attorney, Daniel

Horwitz, was ordered by a judge to stop publicly disparaging CoreCivic and to take down tweets calling it a “death factory.” He is suing over the gag order.

The U.S. Department of Justice recently announced an investigation of Trousdale, noting that reports of violence have been endemic since its 2016 opening. The investigation comes after years of well-documented “reports of physical assaults, sexual assaults, murders and unchecked flow of contraband and severe staffing shortages,” U.S. Attorney Henry Leventis has

said.

“It does certainly appear as though settling lawsuits is a cost of doing business, rather than an alarm, a wake-up call, a siren,” said Mary Price, general counsel of Families Against Mandatory Minimums, which advocated for the Trousdale investigation.

CoreCivic, headquartered in Brentwood, Tenn., has a value of \$1.44 billion as measured by market capitalization.

Surviving inmates or grieving families have often fought for years to reach settlements. Some advocated publicly for their cas-

es, speaking to news outlets and participating in demonstrations. But accepting a settlement generally required quieting down. And, typical of settlements across industries, CoreCivic did not admit any wrongdoing.

The largest settlement was for \$900,000 over a South Central Correctional Facility inmate’s suicide where staff falsified records. Three others were for about \$300,000 apiece.

But those payouts were the exception. Half the settlements were for \$12,500 or less. Some involved no money at all.

Students burned after having to bear crawl on hot track in Texas

The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer

A Texas teacher was placed on leave after school officials said students were burned during a punishment, news outlets reported.

Thirteen cheerleaders suffered from first and second-degree burns after officials said their coach punished them by

making them do “bear crawls” and “crab walks” on a hot outdoor track, according to KLBK.

The cheerleaders were students at Evans Middle School in Lubbock, KCBD reported. The track was hot because of high temperatures that day, according to South Plains Live.

The eighth graders told

KLBK they were punished because they performed a cheer at a football game that the coach didn’t want them to do.

“I had asked [my daughter], ‘Are you OK? How was school?’ She put her stuff down in the car, went to sit down and said, ‘Mom, you want to know how my day was in cheer?’ I said,

‘Yeah.’ She told me that they got a punishment, and shows me her hands,” Angel Thompson, a mom of one of the students, told the news outlet.

The teacher involved has been placed on administrative leave, according to South Plains Live.

“We want to express our deep

concern and regret for the pain and distress this has caused the students and their families. No child should ever be subjected to harm in a learning environment, and we are fully committed to ensuring that incidents like this do not happen again,” Lubbock ISD said in a statement, according to KCBD.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Wife-carrying contest brings competitive duos

ME NEWRY — An annual event involving dirt, beer and cash once again drew dozens of eager competitors to a ski resort in Maine.

More than 30 couples competed in the North American Wife Carrying Championship, a 278-yard race during which contestants splash through water, leap over logs and trudge through mud — all while carrying their partner like a sack of potatoes.

The sport's origin story isn't exactly politically correct. It's based on a 19th-century Finnish legend involving a man known as "Ronkainen the Robber," whose gang was known to pillage villages and carry away the women, according to one of the explanations included on the website wife-carrying.org.

Traditionally, the Finnish event featured male competitors carrying a woman. Competing couples didn't have to be married, nor did they have to be a man and woman.

The champion leaves with the weight of the "wife" in beer and five times the "wife's" weight in cash. To estimate the amount they win, the winning "wife" is put on one side of a see-saw-like scale that organizers balance out on the other side with cases of beer.



ROBERT F. BUKATY / AP

Nic Vinsonhale carries Tara Rogowski while competing in the North American Wife Carrying Championship, Saturday at Sunday River ski resort in Newry, Maine.

Hot-air balloon strikes and collapses radio tower

NM ALBUQUERQUE — A hot-air balloon struck and collapsed a radio tower in Albuquerque during the city's famous festival — the second time in 20 years that a balloon has come into contact with that tower.

There were no reports of injuries, said Kevin Carhart, a spokesperson for the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office. The balloon, which had three people on board, landed safely in a field after it struck the tower.

The tower transmits radio signal for KKOB-AM.

The Aerostar International Inc. S-57A balloon took off from a park as part of the 52nd annual Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, said the Federal Aviation Administration, which is investigating.

AI helps scientists track 'twangy' whales' vocals

DC WASHINGTON — Since 2014, scientists have listened to a unique whale vocalization they call a "biotwang." The call, which sounds a bit like squeaking metal, was first detected by an autonomous sea glider near the Mariana Archipelago. In 2018, researchers realized that the sound came from groups of Bryde's whales, baleen whales that thrive in warm oceans.

Long-term passive recording at the sea bottom had the potential to answer that question — if re-

searchers could locate biotwang sounds among almost 200,000 hours of recordings.

So the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration used Google-developed tools in the hopes that artificial intelligence and machine learning might be able to sift through 500 terabytes of data.

The majority of biotwangs were detected off the Mariana Archipelago and nearby Wake Island, suggesting the calls are specific to a population of Bryde's whales that pass through the area during twice-annual migrations between breeding and feeding grounds.

Woman tried to smuggle turtles by kayak from US

VT BURLINGTON — A woman from China pleaded guilty to attempting to smuggle 29 eastern box turtles, a protected species, across a Vermont lake into Canada by kayak.

Wan Yee Ng, 41, was arrested at an Airbnb in Canaan as she was about to get into an inflatable kayak with a duffel bag on Lake Wallace, according to a Border Patrol agent's affidavit filed in federal court.

Agents had been notified by Royal Canadian Mounted Police that two other people, including a man who was believed to be her husband, had started to paddle an inflatable watercraft from the Canadian side of the lake toward the United States, according to

court documents.

The agents searched her heavy duffel bag and found 29 live eastern box turtles individually wrapped in socks, the affidavit stated. Eastern box turtles are known to be sold on the Chinese black market for \$1,000 each, the affidavit stated.

2 arrested in deadly attack on homeless man

NY NEW YORK — Two men were arrested on manslaughter charges in the beating death of a homeless man who was accosted while sleeping in a supermarket parking lot in Brooklyn, police said.

Police said Cos Jervis Jonas Ajpuac, 38, and another man were pummeled with metal pipes and a baseball bat around 7 p.m. Sept. 18, police said. Ajpuac succumbed to his injuries Oct. 2. The other man, a 42-year-old, survived.

The assailants "just attacked them while they were sleeping," store security worker Stephen DeGrasse told the Daily News, saying he had seen security footage of the beating.

There was no immediate information from police about what sparked the attack.

Pilot's wife safely lands plane during emergency

CA BAKERSFIELD — The wife of a pilot who suffered a medical emergency

took over flying and managed to safely land the plane in California, authorities said.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported that real estate broker Eliot Alper was flying a twin-engine Beechcraft King Air 90 with his wife, Yvonne Kinane-Wells, from Henderson, Nev., on their way to Monterey, Calif., on Oct. 4 when he was incapacitated because of a medical emergency.

Kinane-Wells took control and landed the plane with help from air traffic controllers at Meadows Field Airport in Bakersfield, the newspaper reported.

The newspaper reported that Alper later died.

Car dropping off shooting victim struck 3 nurses

PA PHILADELPHIA — A vehicle fleeing a Philadelphia hospital after dropping off a gunshot victim struck three nurses who were trying to treat the patient, injuring one critically, authorities said.

The silver Jeep Cherokee had just dropped off the man in the ambulance bay at Penn Presbyterian Hospital about 4:30 a.m. Saturday when it hit the three male nurses as it fled, police said.

One 36-year-old nurse was listed in critical condition with facial injuries and internal bleeding.

A 37-year-old nurse with head injuries and a 51-year-old nurse with head and back injuries were listed in stable condition, police

said.

The 28-year-old shooting victim arrived with multiple gunshot wounds and may have sustained a head injury in the hit-and-run, police said.

Bear makes surprise visit to governor's estate

CT HARTFORD — Witnesses could bear-ly believe the surprise visitor that appeared at the Connecticut governor's estate.

A black bear scaled the fence Saturday as human passers-by did a double-take.

"It was definitely like: 'Is this real?'" Joanna M. Kornafel recalled.

She and her family were traveling in their car near the governor's residence in Hartford when traffic slowed, and the reason soon became clear: The bear was crossing the street.

Then, as Kornafel's husband drove and she grabbed her phone to take photos, the animal strode up the driveway to the 19th-century estate and scrambled up the tall metal gate. She photographed the bear standing on its hind legs on the gate, with its front paws on an adjacent pillar and its snout nosing about a globe-shaped light.

Gov. Ned Lamont's office said no one was home at the time, and the bear evidently just wandered off.

MIDEAST

Netanyahu mulls plan to starve out Hamas in northern Gaza

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is examining a plan to seal off humanitarian aid to northern Gaza in an attempt to starve out Hamas militants, a plan that, if implemented, could trap without food or water hundreds of thousands of Palestinians unwilling or unable to leave their homes.

Israel has issued many evacuation orders for the north throughout the yearlong war, the most recent of which was Sunday. The plan proposed to Netanyahu and the Israeli parliament by a group of retired generals would escalate the pres-

sure, giving Palestinians a week to leave the northern third of the Gaza Strip, including Gaza City, before declaring it a closed military zone.

Those who remain would be considered combatants — meaning military regulations would allow troops to kill them — and denied food, water, medicine and fuel, according to a copy of the plan given to The Associated Press by its chief architect, who says the plan is the only way to break Hamas in the north and pressure it to release the remaining hostages.

The plan calls for Israel to maintain control over the north for an indefinite period to attempt to create

a new administration without Hamas, splitting the Gaza Strip in two.

There has been no decision by the government to fully carry out the so-called “Generals’ Plan,” and it is unclear how strongly it’s being considered.

When asked if the evacuation orders in northern Gaza marked the first stages of the “Generals’ Plan,” Israeli military spokesperson Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani said no.

“We have not received a plan like that,” he said.

But one official with knowledge of the matter said parts of the plan are already being implemented, without specifying which parts. A

second official, who is Israeli, said Netanyahu “had read and studied” the plan, “like many plans that have reached him throughout the war,” but didn’t say whether any of it had been adopted. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, because the plan isn’t supposed to be discussed publicly.

On Sunday, Israel launched an offensive against Hamas fighters in the Jabaliya refugee camp north of the city. The amount of aid reaching the north has declined significantly since Oct. 1, according to the U.N.

The U.S. State Department spokesperson has said Washington is against any plan that would bring

direct Israeli occupation in Gaza.

Human rights groups say the plan would likely starve civilians and that it flies in the face of international law, which prohibits using food as a weapon and forcible transfers. Accusations that Israel is intentionally limiting food to Gaza are central to the genocide case brought against it at the International Court of Justice, charges Israel denies.

A coalition of Israeli NGOs on Monday urged the international community to act, noting that “there are alarming signs that the Israeli military is beginning to quietly implement” the plan.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market

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WORLD

Kenya relocates 50 elephants, a sign poaching under control

Associated Press

MWEA, Kenya — As a helicopter hovers close to an elephant, trying to be as steady as possible, an experienced veterinarian cautiously takes aim.

A tranquilizer dart whooshes in the air, and within minutes the giant mammal surrenders to a deep slumber as teams of wildlife experts rush to measure its vitals and ensure it's OK.

Kenya is suffering from a problem, albeit a good one: the elephant population in the 16-square-mile Mwea National Reserve, east of the capital Nairobi, has flour-

ished from its maximum capacity of 50 to a whopping 156, overwhelming the ecosystem and requiring the relocation of about 100 of the largest land animals. It hosted 49 elephants in 1979.

According to the Kenya Wildlife Service Director General Erustus Kanga, the overpopulation in Mwea highlighted the success of conservation efforts over the last three decades.

"This shows that poaching has been low and the elephants have been able to thrive," Kanga said.

Experts started relocating 50 elephants last week to the expan-

sive 301-square-mile Aberdare National Park, located in central Kenya.

As of Monday, 44 elephants had been moved from Mwea to Aberdare, with six others scheduled for Tuesday.

Tourism Minister Rebecca Miano oversaw the translocation of five of the elephants on Monday, saying: "This will go down in history as a record, as it is the biggest exercise of its kind. It is the first time we are witnessing the translocation of 50 elephants at a go."

A second phase to relocate 50



BRIAN INGANGA/AP

Kenya Wildlife Service rangers and capture team cool down a sedated elephant at Mwea National Park, east of the capital Nairobi, Kenya, on Monday.

other elephants is planned, but the date has not been disclosed.

The project has cost at least 12 million Kenyan shillings (\$93,000), the wildlife agency said.

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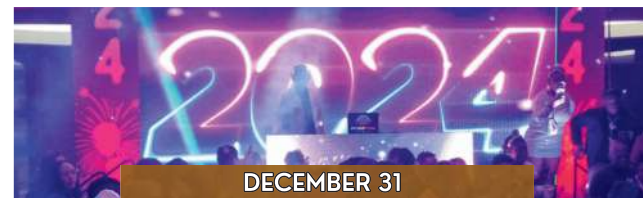
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FACES

Superpower: Raw honesty

Actor Christopher Reeve's children sought to be as vulnerable as possible in new documentary

By **BROOKE LEFFERTS**
Associated Press

Christopher Reeve's children say they made a point to include all the complexities of their father's life — his strengths and weaknesses — in the new documentary "Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story" — because that's what he would have wanted.

The film includes family home videos, mixed with interviews and movie clips of Reeve, who famously played Superman in four films, in addition to other acting and directing roles later in his career. Reeve's three children, Matthew, Alexandra and Will Reeve, say there were no restrictions on topics or video used in their father's story.

"He wouldn't have wanted to be viewed through rose-colored glasses. He would want art and cinema and factual, comprehensive storytelling, and that's what he got," Reeve's youngest son, Will, told The Associated Press. "It's important to us to be honest and raw and vulnerable and give a 360-degree view of a very human

life, of a very human family."

Reeve — an avid athlete, sailor, skier and horseman — was nearly killed in a 1995 horse-riding accident that left him paralyzed for the rest of his life. He used his platform to become an advocate for people with disabilities, starting a foundation in his name.

Directors Ian Bonhôte and Peter Ettedgui were able to access some never-before-seen home movies of the Reeve family before and after the accident. "When we started to make the film, one of the things they were adamant (about) is that they will share everything. They will share the archive, but they will share their emotional states ... everything," Bonhôte said. "That was the first time they were going to do it, and they were going to go all out."

Reeve had recorded audio of his memoir before he died in 2005, so his narration is used in parts, adding to the film's intimacy. The actor became a father to Matthew and Alexandra with his first partner, Gae Exton, and the family was living in the U.K. before Reeve decided he needed a break



WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP photos

Above, left to right: Director Peter Ettedgui, Will Reeve and director Ian Bonhôte pose during the filming of the documentary "Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story." The actor's two other children, Matthew Reeve and Alexandra Reeve Givens, were also involved.

and moved back to the U.S. alone. Exton, who is interviewed in the film, shares compelling memories of that time, and Matthew and Alexandra admit their father was not around regularly during their childhood.

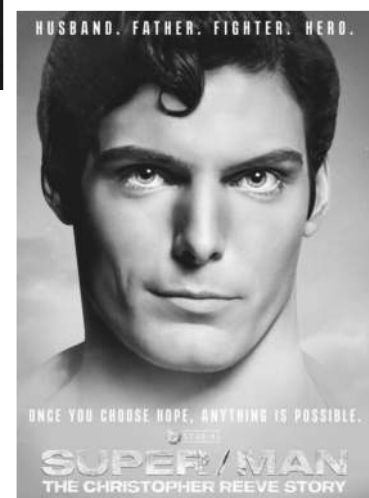
Other interviews include Susan Sarandon and Glenn Close, who befriended Reeve after he graduated from The Juilliard School and started taking on acting roles in New York.

Reeve's kids say the process of going through their archives and being interviewed for the film gave them a new perspective and appreciation of their dad. Will Reeve was only 12 when his father died. His mother, Dana, was diagnosed with cancer and died less

than 18 months later. Now an ABC News correspondent, Reeve says he was fortunate to have had family and close friends help raise him and considers himself "pretty well-adjusted."

"There's a scenario in which things could have turned out differently," Will Reeve said. "But because of the values instilled in us by our parents, because of the way that they let us into their lives, the good and the bad, the joyous and the tragic ... that prepared us for life's difficulties and life's joys."

One thing that impressed the directors most in their research was Reeve's commitment to help others even after he was physically limited in his own life. After be-



coming a quadriplegic, Reeve and his family were shocked at the lack of resources for people with disabilities and started the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation to help improve quality of life and fund research for a cure for people with spinal cord injuries.

The film was widely released Oct. 11 to coincide with the 20th anniversary of Reeve's death this month.

'Terrifier 3' trounces 'Joker' sequel; Trump film 'The Apprentice' fizzles

By **JAKE COYLE**
Associated Press

The choices at movie theaters over the weekend included Joaquin Phoenix as the Joker, a film about Donald Trump, a "Saturday Night Live" origin story and even Pharrell Williams as a Lego. In the end, all were trounced by an ax-wielding clown.

"Terrifier 3," a gory, low-budget slasher from the small distributor Cineverse, topped the weekend box office with \$18.3 million, according to estimates Sunday. The film, a sequel to 2022's "Terrifier 2" (\$15 million worldwide in ticket sales), brings back the murderous Art the Clown (David Howard Thornton) and lets him loose, as Santa, at a Christmas party.

The disastrous news continues for "Joker: Folie à Deux." After Todd Phillips' "Joker" sequel, starring Phoenix and Lady Gaga, got off to a much-diminished start last weekend, the film fell a staggering 81% in its second weekend, bringing in just \$7.1 million.

For a superhero film, such a drop has little precedent. Disappointments like "The Marvels," "The Flash" and "Shazam! Fury of the Gods" all managed better second weekends. Such a mass rejection by audiences and critics

is particularly unusual for a follow-up to a massive hit like 2019's "Joker." That film, also from Phillips and Phoenix, grossed more than \$1 billion worldwide against a \$60 million budget.

The sequel was pricier, costing about \$200 million to make. That means "Joker: Folie à Deux" is headed for certain box-office disaster. It's collected \$165.3 million globally.

"The Wild Robot," the acclaimed Universal Pictures and DreamWorks animated movie, took second place in its third weekend with \$13.4 million. The film, with Lupita Nyong'o voicing the robot protagonist, has made \$83.7 million domestically and \$148 million worldwide.

The young Donald Trump film "The Apprentice" opened in a distant 10th place, managing a paltry \$1.6 million in ticket sales. While expectations weren't much higher, audiences still showed little enthusiasm for an election-year origin story of the Republican nominee.

"The Apprentice," starring Sebastian Stan as Trump under the mentorship of Roy Cohn (Jeremy Strong), will depend on continued awards conversation for Strong and Stan to make a significant mark in theaters before voters turn out at the polls.



CINEVERSE ENTERTAINMENT/AP

David Howard Thornton plays a murderous ax-wielding clown in "Terrifier 3," which was an unexpected No. 1 at the box office over the weekend, making \$18.3 million.

Jason Reitman's "Saturday Night," about the backstage drama at the NBC sketch comedy show's debut 50 years ago, failed to ignite its nationwide expansion. The film, with an ensemble cast led by Gabriel LaBelle's Lorne Michaels, collected \$3.4 million.

"Piece by Piece," a Pharrell Williams documentary-biopic hybrid animated in Lego form, opened with \$3.8 million. The debut, while low for a Lego animated movie, was very high for a documentary. The film, which was modestly budgeted at \$16 million, is also likely to end up the year's highest-grossing documentary — if "Piece by Piece" can be called that.

'Game of Thrones' items fetch more than \$21M

"Game of Thrones" fans came out in droves to bid on hundreds of costumes, props and other items from the series in an auction that raked in more than \$21 million.

From Oct. 10-12, the Heritage Auctions event in Dallas featured more than 900 lots including suits of armor, swords and weapons, jewelry and several other items of significance from the HBO series.

The top-dollar item was the very thing the characters in the series vied for throughout its eight-season run: the Iron Throne. After a six-minute bidding war, the throne sold for \$1.49 million.

The replica was made of plastic and molded from the original screen-used version, then finished off with metallic paint and jewel embellishments. In the series, the throne was forged with dragon breath that melted the swords of a thousand vanquished challengers.

Heritage Auctions said in a statement Sunday that the event brought in \$21.1 million from more than 4,500 bidders.

From The Associated Press

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Laura Law, Chief Operating Officer
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EDITORIAL

Robert H. Reid, Editor in Chief
 reid.robert@stripes.com

Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
 moores.sean@stripes.com

Ann Pinson, Digital Managing Editor
 pinson.ann@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Erik Slavín, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
 slavin.erik@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
 kidd.aaron@stripes.com

+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

Washington

Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief
 cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com
 (+1)(202)886-0033

Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast

David Schultz, District Manager
 schultz.david@stripes.com
 xsscirculation@stripes.com
 +49(0)152.5672.5036; DSN (314)583-9111

Europe

Carlo Aquino, Circulation Manager
 aquino.carlo@stripes.com
 memberservices@stripes.com

+49(0)631.3615.9136; DSN (314)583.9136

Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com
 +81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

Washington

tel: (+1)202.886.0003
 633 3rd St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

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OPINION

The political system works, and that's the problem

By DAVID MILLS

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The American political system works. Of course it works. That's what a system — a thing that once set up keeps running — does.

But it doesn't necessarily work the way we want it to. It doesn't inevitably advance the common good or make America a better nation. It doesn't consider such things. It can as easily make the world worse as make it better.

This explains something of America's current pain and fear for the future and the polarization that follows them. The system just keeps running, and we get what we get. And what we get, we may not want.

Witness, I submit, the present presidential campaign.

The two candidates

We Americans have been raised to believe that we can trust the system and things will work out well enough. Look at all the relieved editorials when Donald Trump's attempts to overthrow the 2020 election failed because all the courts said no.

But it doesn't always work, and it can fail very, very badly, and in a way that could be permanent. We can't trust it the way we thought we could. Look at the two candidates.

You probably really like one and really dislike the other. You may well think one will save America and the other will destroy it. Most Americans will agree that something went really wrong to give us either Trump or Kamala Harris. I take that as the consensus view that the system crashed.

How did we get Trump, the least likely president in American history? In 2015, he decided to run for the Republican nomination, in what might have been a publicity stunt or a lark or a chance to get the adulation he needs. For reasons unknown — but which if known would probably be discouraging — he jumped to an

early lead in the polls.

Then he came in a close second to Ted Cruz in the Iowa caucuses, and the political media duly certified him as a serious candidate. The juggernaut was rolling. (In a move that the nation should have taken as a warning, Trump tweeted, "Ted Cruz didn't win Iowa, he stole it.")

Think for a second about why the Iowa caucuses have such importance, when they mean little. The caucuses only choose delegates who then choose the state's party's delegates to the party's national convention. It shouldn't have the effect it does.

It's an artifact of the past and a product of the candidates' and the media's need to have a political event. (I remember watching the preposterously dramatic Wolf Blitzer a few months ago.) Completely irrational, unrepresentative of America, but it can make or damage a candidate. That's the system working.

Trump was on a roll. The other candidates could have stopped him, but they were all playing the angles, trying to figure out how to edge out the others and make themselves the sole alternative to Trump, while also not alienating his supporters. No one stepped aside, so Trump trod on all of them.

Then, of course, being politicians, they all made their peace with Trump, and in the political world making peace means pretending you like him and think highly of him. It means becoming a cheerleader because your path to power runs through him. That is the system too.

Trump and Harris win

In the 2016 election, Trump had the luck to face Hillary Clinton, who was not the nation's most likable candidate and one who thought she had states like Pennsylvania in the bag and didn't campaign hard enough to actually win them. Trump drew the political equivalent of an inside straight and found himself the presi-

dent of the United States. The system worked, as a system. As a system producing a virtuous and competent leader, not so much.

And how did we get Harris? Ambitious and gifted at politics, she'd made her way to the Senate, but success in California does not necessarily mean success anywhere else. Naturally enough, she ran for the Democratic nomination for president, and bombed.

Almost no one seemed to like her as a possible leader. She looked like a senator for life.

The Democratic establishment threw the nomination to Joe Biden, as it had to Clinton, to make sure Bernie Sanders didn't get it. (I think Bernie would have beaten Trump in 2016, because he would have appealed to some of the same economically marginalized voters.)

Biden needed a vice president who would satisfy Democratic constituencies and — he's been in politics too long to take any risks — too unpopular to threaten his run for reelection. And there was Harris, the sidelineable vice president from central casting.

Then, as Biden's mental problems got worse to the point they couldn't be hidden anymore — problems Harris certainly knew about — and the party leaders decided to move him out, their only choice for a candidate was the vice president. If Biden hadn't debated, he'd still be the candidate.

Americans agree

That's the way the system works. And except for those who don't think much of either candidate, almost every American thinks it worked as badly as it could this year, producing candidates one of whom wasn't just bad but dangerous.

Americans disagree about who's the danger, but they agree that the election will make or break our nation. And that's the way the system works.

David Mills is a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette columnist.

A perfect moment to honor Hiroshima testimonies

By JAMES HOHMANN

The Washington Post

OSLO, Norway
 Alfred Nobel ushered in the era of high explosives by inventing dynamite and blasting caps, but he never conceived the destructive power that would be wrought by nuclear weapons. He died in 1896, bequeathing his fortune for the Nobel Prizes, 49 years before the start of the atomic age. The bomb dropped on Hiroshima, 79 years ago, packed an explosive yield equivalent to more than 15,000 tons of TNT. In the early 1960s, the Soviets tested a 50-megaton hydrogen bomb — 3,300 times more powerful than the "Little Boy" that killed an estimated 140,000 people in Hiroshima by the end of 1945, including the initial blast and the radioactive fallout.

The Japanese survivors of the infernos in Hiroshima and Nagasaki formed an organization in 1956 called Nihon Hidankyo that has collected thousands of eyewitness accounts to teach the world about the civilization-destroying potential of nuclear weapons. Its advocacy has helped foster the international norm to stigmatize the use of nuclear weapons as morally unacceptable. For its efforts, it won a well-deserved Nobel Peace Prize on Friday.

The committee's choice serves as a warning to the global community, which is sliding toward complacency. As much as the world fixates on the dangers of artificial intelligence and the possibility of machine consciousness,

the most likely way that mankind will be wiped off the face of the Earth on any given day remains nuclear conflagration — accidental or intentional. That threat is growing.

"This taboo against the use of nuclear weapons is under pressure," Jorgen Watne Frydnes, chairman of the committee, said during a news conference Friday at the Norwegian Nobel Institute. "Many people see the dark skies on the horizon. ... All words or deeds to reduce the nuclear taboo are dangerous to humanity."

Top of mind are Russian President Vladimir Putin's threats to use nuclear weapons against Ukraine. Moscow changed its nuclear doctrine last month to say that any nation's conventional attack on Russian territory that is supported by a nuclear power will be considered a joint attack. He's trying to scare Europe and the United States into limiting Ukraine's ability to use weapons provided by the West. Eager to undermine Ukraine, former President Donald Trump keeps claiming President Joe Biden is going to get us into World War III — which happens to be exactly what Putin wants him to say.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials fear Iran might make a last dash to build a nuclear bomb in response to its conventional losses to Israel.

China has been expanding its nuclear arsenal, growing it from 410 warheads last year to 500 as of January. A June report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute warned that China might have as many inter-

continental ballistic missiles as the U.S. or Russia by 2030. Its more erratic neighbor, North Korea, has also been expanding its arsenal. In response to all this, the United States plans to spend an estimated \$1.7 trillion to modernize and revamp its nuclear arsenal over the next 30 years. No serious arms control negotiations are underway.

There was heavy anticipation inside the grand ballroom where the announcement gets made every year. As everyone waited, a young committee staff member clutched tightly with both hands a manila folder that contained printouts about the winner. At the end of the event, organizers released a dove from a window to symbolize peace.

Frydnes, 39, is the youngest chairman of the committee that awards the prize. Every survivor of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is at least twice his age. It won't be too long before we lose the last of these witnesses. The Japanese testimonials help us "to describe the indescribable, to think the unthinkable and to somehow grasp the incomprehensible pain and suffering caused by nuclear weapons," Frydnes said.

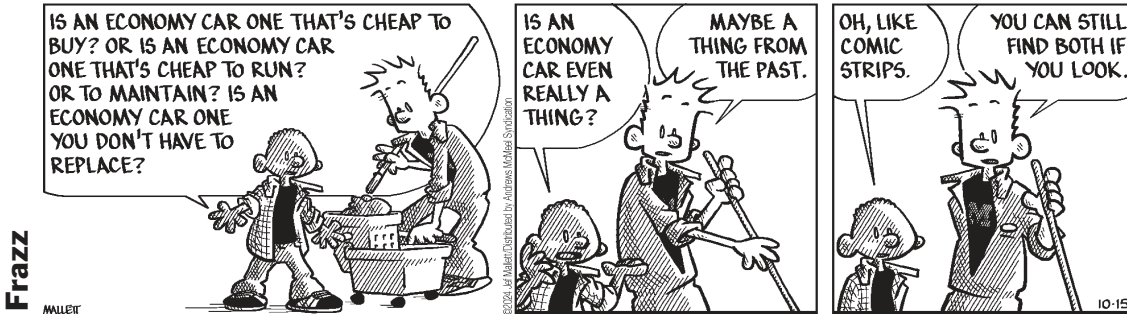
In lieu of first-person testimonials, societies — both open and closed — must find new ways to impress upon younger generations, especially up-and-coming decision-makers, the awesome and awful power of these bombs to unleash Armageddon.

James Hohmann is a Washington Post editorial writer and columnist specializing in domestic policy and politics.

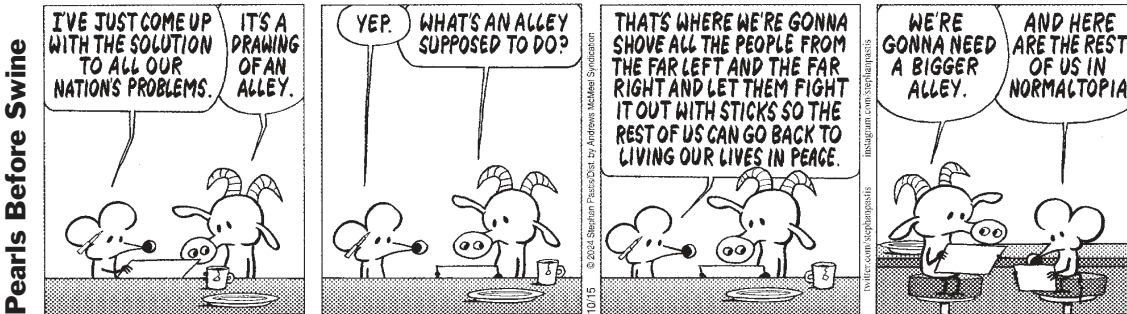
Bizarro



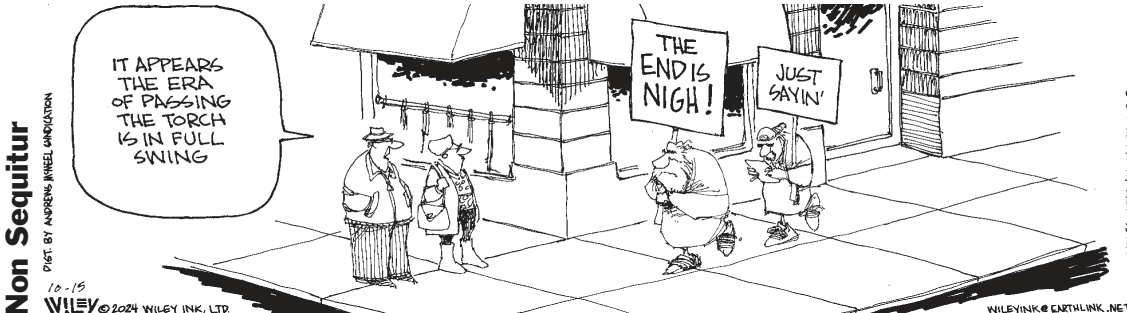
Loose Parts



Frazz



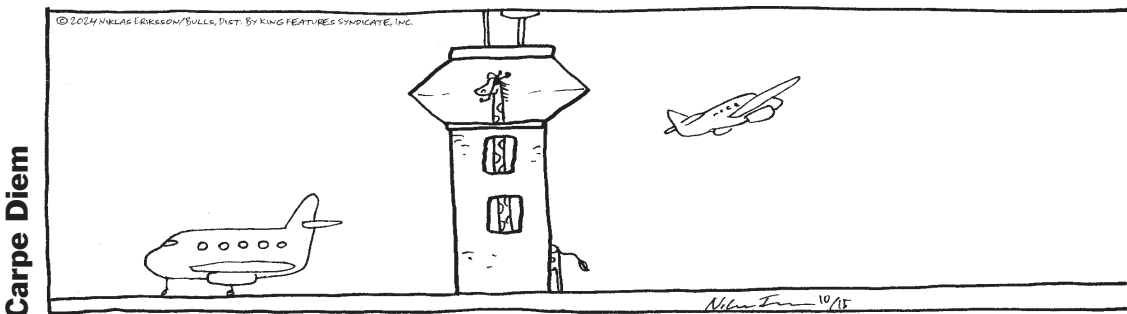
Pearls Before Swine



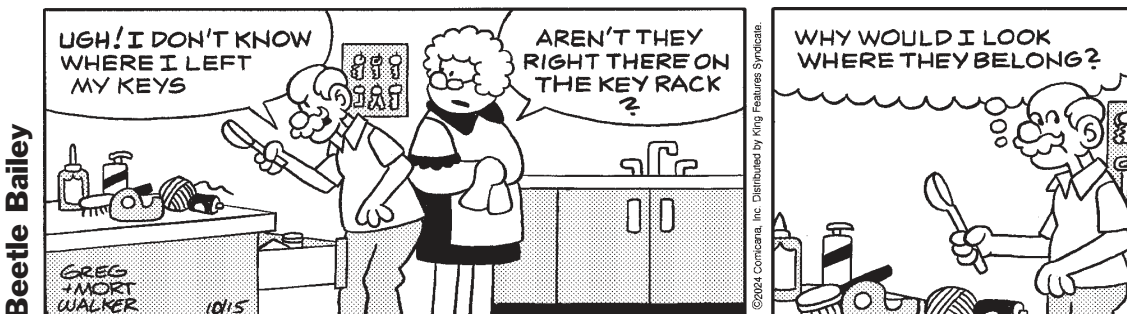
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey

Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

ACROSS

- 1 Corn seasoning
- 5 Invoice fig.
- 8 Shredded cabbage dish
- 12 Coffin stand
- 13 Fan's cry
- 14 Casual shirt
- 15 Ruse
- 17 Castle
- 18 Passing craze
- 19 Jots down
- 21 Grown-up
- 24 Subsequently
- 25 Richard of "Chicago"
- 26 Lawyer's business
- 30 Docs' org.
- 31 — Ste. Marie
- 32 Chap
- 33 Start of summer or winter
- 35 Simple
- 36 Melody
- 37 Dessert wines
- 38 Natural gift
- 41 Press for payment
- 42 Concept
- 43 Dante's love
- 48 Byway
- 49 Sphere
- 50 Galley supply
- 51 Catch sight of
- 52 Ballot markings
- 53 Flightless birds

DOWN

- 1 Govt. loan agcy.
- 2 Vacuum's lack
- 3 Allow
- 4 Tiny amount
- 5 Desertlike
- 6 PC alternative
- 7 2022 film starring Brendan Fraser
- 8 Quick run
- 9 Booty
- 10 Lip balm ingredient
- 11 Stir-fry pans
- 16 — Tuesday
- 20 Geom. shape
- 21 Turkish officials
- 22 Trial version
- 23 Caspian Sea feeder

- 24 Disarming event?
- 26 Container for art supplies
- 27 Disney exec Robert
- 28 Brusque
- 29 Checks out
- 31 Dazzle
- 34 Firm
- 35 Fifth president
- 37 Impose
- 38 Ersatz swing
- 39 Big fusses
- 40 Vault
- 41 Ointment amounts
- 44 Before
- 45 "— Spartacus!"
- 46 French vineyard
- 47 Spiritual leader?

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

10-15

CRYPTOQUIP

RK O HPDERSL RH HGSIRODDF
 OGGPRWISE IP DSOE TRDRIOLF
 LOREH, RH VS IVS JPTTOWEP
 RW JVRSK?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN WEB-FOOTED SEABIRDS BECOME GOOD BUDDIES, I SUPPOSE ONE MIGHT CALL THEM GULL-FRIENDS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals S

SCOREBOARD/WNBA

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

The AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Oct. 12, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Prv
1.	Texas (56)	6-0	1544	1
2.	Oregon (6)	6-0	1493	3
3.	Penn St.	6-0	1380	4
4.	Ohio St.	5-1	1357	2
5.	Georgia	5-1	1300	5
6.	Miami	6-0	1232	6
7.	Alabama	5-1	1127	7
8.	LSU	5-1	994	13
9.	Iowa St.	6-0	982	11
10.	Clemson	5-1	980	10
11.	Tennessee	5-1	959	8
12.	Notre Dame	5-1	914	11
13.	BYU	6-0	889	14
14.	Texas A&M	5-1	744	15
15.	Boise St.	5-1	597	17
16.	Indiana	6-0	580	18
17.	Kansas St.	5-1	567	18
18.	Mississippi	5-2	511	9
19.	Missouri	5-1	409	21
20.	Pittsburgh	6-0	397	22
21.	SMU	5-1	260	25
22.	Illinois	5-1	249	23
23.	Army	6-0	137	—
24.	Michigan	4-2	133	24
25.	Navy	5-0	84	—

Others receiving votes: Vanderbilt 68, Nebraska 62, Arizona St. 39, Oklahoma 36, Washington St. 32, Iowa 29, Texas Tech 18, Syracuse 13, Arkansas 13, Utah 7, Louisville 6, Southern Cal 5, Liberty 2, UNLV 1.

USA Today Top 25

The US LBM Coaches Poll Top 25 with team's records through Saturday in parentheses, total points based on 25 for first place through one point for 25th, ranking in last week's poll and first-place votes received:

Rank	Team	Points	Prv	1st
1.	Texas (6-0)	1,348	1	52
2.	Oregon (6-0)	1,298	3	2
3.	Penn State (6-0)	1,197	5	0
4.	Georgia (5-1)	1,169	4	0
5.	Ohio State (5-1)	1,123	2	0
6.	Miami (Fla.) (6-0)	1,083	6	0
7.	Alabama (5-1)	989	7	0
8.	LSU (5-1)	895	10	0
9.	Clemson (5-1)	888	11	0
10.	Tennessee (5-1)	878	9	0
11.	Notre Dame (5-1)	821	12	0
12.	Iowa State (6-0)	808	13	0
13.	Brigham Young (6-0)	674	15	0
14.	Texas A&M (5-1)	622	14	0
15.	Mississippi (5-2)	523	8	0
16.	Missouri (5-1)	510	18	0
17.	Kansas State (5-1)	462	19	0
18.	Indiana (6-0)	454	20	0
19.	Boise State (5-1)	364	22	0
20.	Pittsburgh (6-0)	333	24	0
21.	Illinois (5-1)	231	23	0
22.	Michigan (4-2)	221	21	0
23.	SMU (5-1)	183	25	0
24.	Army (6-0)	98	—	0
25.	Nebraska (5-1)	87	—	0

Dropped out: No. 16 Oklahoma (4-2); No. 17 Utah (4-2).

Others receiving votes: Oklahoma (4-2) 81; Arizona State (5-1) 44; Navy (5-0) 37; Utah (4-2) 31; Vanderbilt (4-2) 22; Syracuse (5-1) 13; Iowa (4-2) 12; UNLV (5-1) 12; Liberty (5-0) 9; Texas Tech (5-1) 9; Washington State (5-1) 8; Louisville (4-2) 4; Memphis (5-1) 4; James Madison (5-1) 3; Tulane (4-2) 2.

DEALS

Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball American League

DETROIT TIGERS — Activated LFs Akil Baddoo and Ryan Vilade, LHP Bryan Sammons, SSS Eddy Leonard and Ryan Kreidler, RHPs Cassey Mize, Alex Lange, Wilmer Flores, Kenta Maeda, Matt Manning, Mason Englert and Ricky Vanasco and 1B Bligh Madris.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Activated RHP Brent Honeywell and CF Kevin Kiermaier.

NEW YORK METS — Activated 2B Jeff McNeil.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

DETROIT RED WINGS — Placed G Ville Husso on waivers.

MINNESOTA WILD — Recalled C Travis Boyd from Iowa (AHL). Reassigned G Jesper Wallstedt to AHL.

MONTREAL CANADIENS — Waived C Alex Barre-Boulet for the purpose of a loan to Laval (AHL).

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA playoffs

(x-if necessary)
WNBA Finals
(Best-of-five)

No. 2 Minnesota 1, No. 1 New York 1
Minnesota 95, New York 93, OT
Sunday: New York 80, Minnesota 66
Wednesday: at Minnesota
Friday: at Minnesota
x-Sunday, Oct. 20: at New York

PRO SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	21	4	8	71	73	47
Columbus	18	6	9	63	69	38
Cincinnati	17	11	5	56	56	47
Orlando City	15	11	7	52	58	48
NYCFC	14	11	8	50	54	47
Charlotte FC	13	11	9	48	43	37
New York	11	8	14	47	53	47
D.C. United	10	13	10	40	52	67
CF Montréal	10	13	10	40	46	64
Toronto FC	11	19	4	37	40	61
Philadelphia	9	14	10	37	61	53
Atlanta	9	14	10	37	44	48
Nashville	8	16	9	33	35	54
New England	9	20	4	31	35	68
Chicago	7	17	9	30	40	59

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LA Galaxy	19	7	7	64	68	48
LAFc	18	8	7	61	60	42
Seattle	16	9	8	56	50	34
Real Salt Lake	15	7	11	56	63	47
Houston	14	10	9	51	45	38
Colorado	15	13	5	50	59	57
Minnesota	14	12	7	49	54	48
Vancouver	13	12	8	47	51	47
Portland	12	11	10	46	64	55
Austin FC	10	14	9	39	36	46
FC Dallas	10	15	8	38	52	55
St Louis City	8	12	13	37	49	59
Sporting KC	8	18	7	31	50	64
San Jose	6	24	3	21	40	75

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

Saturday, Oct. 12

Columbus 4, New England 0

Sunday's game

Los Angeles FC 2, Vancouver 1

Saturday's games

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

NWSL

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Orlando	17	1	6	57	42	15
Washington	16	6	2	50	48	28
Gotham FC	15	4	5	50	34	18
Kansas City	14	3	7	49	50	29
North Carolina	12	9	3	39	34	26
Chicago	10	12	2	32	30	33
Portland	9	11	4	31	34	34
Bay FC	9	14	1	28	27	39
Louisville	6	11	7	25	31	36
Utah Royals FC	7	14	3	24	20	35
Angel City	7	12	5	23	28	38
San Diego	5	12	7	22	20	30
Seattle	5	14	5	20	23	40
Houston	5	14	5	20	17	37

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

Friday, Oct. 11

Portland 2, Orlando 0

Saturday, Oct. 12

Gotham FC 2, Chicago 0

Angel City 1, North Carolina 1, tie

Kansas City 1, Bay FC 0

Sunday's games

Utah Royals FC 3, Seattle 0

Washington 4, Louisville 1

Houston 2, San Diego 0

Friday's game

Houston at Seattle

Saturday's games

San Diego at Kansas City

Portland at Louisville

North Carolina at Bay FC

Sunday, Oct. 20

Orlando at Gotham FC

Chicago at Washington

Utah Royals FC at Angel City

AUTO RACING

Bank of America Roval 400

NASCAR Cup Series

Sunday
At Charlotte Motor Speedway Road Course

Concord, N.C.

Lap length: 2.28 miles

(Start position in parentheses)

- (6) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 109 laps, 48 points.
- (12) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 109, 35.
- (10) William Byron, Chevrolet, 109, 34.
- (5) Austin Cindric, Ford, 109, 39.
- (7) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 109, 48.
- (3) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 109, 0.
- (1) Shane Van Gisbergen, Chevrolet, 109, 0.
- (4) Joey Logano, Ford, 109, 47.
- (9) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 109, 35.
- (14) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 109, 40.
- (2) Tyler Reddick, Toyota, 109, 36.
- (20) Carson Hocevar, Chevrolet, 109, 25.
- (11) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 109, 27.
- (18) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 109, 24.
- (21) Michael McDowell, Ford, 109, 26.
- (24) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 109, 21.
- (29) Chris Buescher, Ford, 109, 20.
- (15) Todd Gilliland, Ford, 109, 19.
- (23) Zane Smith, Chevrolet, 109, 18.
- (26) Harrison Burton, Ford, 109, 17.
- (30) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 109, 16.
- (23) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 109, 16.
- (27) Daniel Hemric, Chevrolet, 109, 13.
- (34) Ryan Preece, Ford, 109, 12.
- (33) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 109, 11.
- (31) Kaz Grala, Ford, 109, 10.
- (16) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 109, 9.
- (38) Josh Billicki, Ford, 109, 0.
- (13) Daniel Suárez, Chevrolet, 108, 7.

- (32) Noah Gragson, Ford, 108, 6.
- (22) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 107, 5.
- (37) Erik Jones, Toyota, accident, 56, 4.
- (35) John H. Nemechek, Toyota, accident, 55, 3.
- (19) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, engine, 54, 6.
- (25) Chase Briscoe, Ford, accident, 41, 1.
- (28) Corey LaJoie, Ford, engine, 3, 1.
- (17) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, disqualified, 109, 1.

Race statistics

Average speed of race winner: 82.817 mph.

Time of race: 3 hours, 0 minutes, 3 seconds.

Margin of victory: 1.511 seconds.

Caution flags: 5 for 13 laps.

Lead changes: 7 among 6 drivers.

Lap leaders: S.Van Gisbergen 0-21; T.Reddick 22-27; K.Larson 28-47; A.Bowman 48-52; A.Allmendinger 53-66; K.Larson 67-75; C.Bell 76; K.Larson 77-109.

Leaders summary (driver, times led, laps led): K.Larson, 3 times for 62 laps; S.Van Gisbergen, 1 time for 21 laps; A.Allmendinger, 1 time for 14 laps; T.Reddick, 1 time for 6 laps; A.Bowman, 1 time for 5 laps; C.Bell, 1 time for 1 lap.

Wins: K.Larson, 6; W.Byron, 3; C.Bell, 3; D.Hamlin, 3; R.Blaney, 2; T.Reddick, 2; J.Logano, 2; C.Elliott, 1; A.Bowman, 1; A.Cindric, 1; D.Suárez, 1; C.Briscoe, 1; B.Keselowski, 1; H.Burton, 1; C.Buescher, 1; R.Chastain, 1; R.Stenhouse, 1; A.Dillon, 1.

Top 16 in points: 1. W.Byron, 3156; 2. K.Larson, 3153; 3. C.Bell, 3140; 4. R.Blaney, 3113; 5. C.Elliott, 3109; 6. D.Hamlin, 3102; 7. T.Reddick, 3099; 8. J.Logano, 3095; 9. A.Bowman, 3075; 10. A.Cindric, 3071; 11. D.Suárez, 3048; 12. C.Briscoe, 3030; 13. T.Gibbs, 2150; 14. M.Truex, 2146; 15. B.Keselowski, 2120; 16. H.Burton, 2065.

GOLF

Black Desert Championship

PGA Tour

Sunday
At Black Desert Golf Course

Ivins, Utah

Purse: \$7.5 million

Yardage: 7,371; Par: 71

Final Round

M. McCarty, \$1,350,000	62-68-64-67-261	-23
Stephan Jaeger, \$817,500	65-63-68-68-264	-20
Lucas Glover, \$442,500	69-66-68-62-265	-19
Kevin Streelman, \$442,500	64-69-63-69-265	-19
Matti Schmid, \$307,500	70-67-67-62-266	-18
Harris English, \$262,500	66-64-66-71-267	-17
Joe Highsmith, \$262,500	66-68-62-71-267	-17
Nick Hardy, \$219,375	66-71-66-65-268	-16
Lee Hodges, \$219,375	66-65-70-67-268	-16
Henrik Norlander, \$219,375	62-68-70-68-268	-16
Nicolas Echavarria, \$137,625	66-69-67-67-269	-15
Ben Griffin, \$137,625	67-66-69-67-269	-15
Beau Hossler, \$137,625	66-67-66-70-269	-15
Seamus Power, \$137,625	72-64-68-65-269	-15
Patrick Rodgers, \$137,625	68-69-67-65-269	-15
Greyson Sigg, \$137,625	67-68-67-66-269	-15
Tom Whitney, \$137,625	68-68-68-65-269	-15
Carson Young, \$137,625	65-67-69-68-269	-15
Carl Yuan, \$137,625	67-67-66-69-269	-15
Max McGreevy, \$137,625	68-68-64-69-269	-15
Joseph Bramlett, \$81,750	65-68-68-69-270	-14
Wesley Bryan, \$81,750	72-65-67-66-270	-14
Rico Hoey, \$81,750	66-69-68-67-270	-14
Chad Ramey, \$81,750	69-66-64-71-270	-14
Tyler Duncan, \$52,913	66-67-72-66-271	-13
Doug Ghim, \$52,913	65-70-66-70-271	-13
Ryo Hisatsune, \$52,913	67-70-67-67-271	-13
Kurt Kitayama, \$52,913	65-70-64-72-271	-13

AUTO RACING/NHL

Larson dominates, Bowman gets DQ

BY JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — When rain disrupted Kyle Larson's bid to complete both the Indianapolis 500 and the Coca-Cola 600 on the same day — leaving him unable to turn a single lap at Charlotte Motor Speedway — he returned to the track determined to put on a show.

"I don't want to say it's a chip, but I think the fact that he didn't get to race here and Indy didn't turn out too good, that was the extra motivation," team owner Rick Hendrick said.

Larson raced to his Cup Series-high sixth victory of the season Sunday to easily advance to the third round of NASCAR's playoffs, winning on The Roval — the hybrid road course/oval at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

"I think after some of the comments he made after the Indy-Charlotte experience, he did put a lot of weight on his shoulders, almost feeling like he let his team and fan-

base down," crew chief Cliff Daniels said. "I don't necessarily think that was fair for him to put on his shoulders, but I know that he did. He's putting in the work, the intensity, and the determination to be as strong as everybody."

Larson led a race-high 62 laps in the No. 5 Chevrolet to win in a runaway. He beat longtime rival and title contender Christopher Bell by 1.511 seconds.

"It was good to have a little bit of a stress-free weekend," said Larson, who was taking his family to Cabo for a quick getaway before the third round of the playoffs begin next weekend in Las Vegas.

He noted he went to Paris in the middle of the season, Italy during the Olympic break, and typically wins a race before a vacation.

"I think every vacation I've taken this year, I think I've won the race leading into it," Larson said. "So I should start taking vacation every week. I shouldn't have to argue. I shouldn't have to prove a point. It's my life and we perform at a high level, so whatever."

It was Larson's second victory of the playoffs, but he's the first championship-eligible driver to win in the round of 12. The elimination race cut the field from 12 drivers to eight, and among those knocked out of title contention was Hendrick driver Alex Bowman, who was disqualified for failing the post-race inspection.

Bowman's disqualification was for not meeting minimum weight, NASCAR said. It knocked him out of the playoffs and moved Joey Logano back into title contention.

Logano finished eighth and had been eliminated until Bowman's disqualification.

"We are working to understand the decision Monday about whether to submit an appeal," Hendrick Motorsports said.

Eliminated from title contention after the Bowman disqualification was Bowman, Team Penske driver Austin Cindric, Daniel Suarez of Trackhouse Racing and Chase Briscoe of Stewart-Haas Racing.



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Kyle Larson leads the field on a restart during a NASCAR Cup Series race at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Sunday.

Three of the four Hendrick drivers — Larson, William Byron and Chase Elliott — have advanced into the round of eight.

Joining them for the next three-race series are reigning Cup champion Ryan Blaney of Penske, Joe Gibbs Racing drivers Denny Hamlin and Bell in Toyotas, and Tyler Reddick, the regular-season champion who squeezed through for 23XI Racing.

Bell finished second and was followed by Byron, Cindric, Elliott, defending race winner AJ Allmendinger and Shane Van Gisbergen.

NHL ROUNDUP

Connor lifts Jets with OT power-play goal

Associated Press

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — Kyle Connor scored a power-play goal 51 seconds into overtime and the Winnipeg Jets beat the Minnesota Wild 2-1 on Sunday for their third straight win.

Mark Scheifele had a goal and an assist in his 800th NHL game and Connor Hellebuyck stopped 26 shots as the Jets won their second straight in overtime.

Jake Middleton scored for Minnesota, and Filip Gustavsson finished with 33 saves.

Wild defenseman Zach Bogosian was called for holding Scheifele's stick with 6 seconds remaining in regulation, sending Winnipeg into overtime with the man advantage.

Scheifele scored his 301st career goal and extended his point streak to three games with four goals and two assists.

Stars 2, Kraken 0: Sam Steel and Wyatt Johnston scored 14 seconds apart late in the first period, Casey DeSmith made 25 saves for his 11th career shutout in his debut with his new team and Dallas beat visiting Seattle.

It was the second shutout in two nights for the Stars as No. 1 goalie Jake Oettinger blanked the New York Islanders on Saturday night.

Steel was alone at the back post to poke a cross-ice pass from Colin Blackwell behind Philipp Grubauer with 3:43 remaining in the first. Johnston snapped a wrister home stick side at 13 seconds later following a drop pass from Jamie Benn.

Grubauer finished with 21 saves.

Flames 4, Oilers 1: Rasmus Andersson had a goal and two assists, and visiting Calgary beat winless Edmonton to remain undefeated.

Anthony Mantha, Justin Kirkland and Connor Zary also scored for the Flames, who improved to 3-0-0. Dan Vladar stopped 24 shots.

Jeff Skinner scored for the Oilers, who are 0-3-0 after beginning last season at 2-9-1 before rebounding to make it all the way to Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Final.

Edmonton has been outscored 15-3 in its first three games, all at home.

Stuart Skinner had 25 saves for Edmonton.

Golden Knights 3, Ducks 1: Brett Howden,



FRED GREENSLADE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The Winnipeg Jets' Kyle Connor gets the puck past Minnesota Wild goaltender Filip Gustavsson for the winning goal during overtime Sunday in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Tomas Hertl and Pavel Dorofeyev each scored a goal and host Vegas beat Anaheim.

Ilya Samsonov had 22 saves for Vegas.

Troy Terry scored the lone goal for the Ducks and James Reimer made 29 saves.

Vegas improved to 3-0-0 in its first three games for the fifth time since it joined the NHL in 2017. The Knights also improved to 24-7-1 all-time against the Ducks, including a 14-3-0 mark in Vegas.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	3	2	1	0	4	8	5
Montreal	3	2	1	0	4	9	7
Boston	3	2	1	0	4	12	11
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	0	2	4	1
Detroit	2	1	1	0	2	6	6
Ottawa	2	1	1	0	2	4	5
Florida	3	1	2	0	2	9	12
Buffalo	4	1	3	0	2	8	12

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	4	3	1	0	6	14	9
N.Y. Rangers	2	1	0	1	3	11	6
Columbus	2	1	1	0	2	8	7
Philadelphia	2	1	1	0	2	6	8
Pittsburgh	3	1	2	0	2	8	13
N.Y. Islanders	2	0	1	1	1	4	8
Washington	1	0	1	0	0	3	5
Carolina	1	0	1	0	0	1	4

Western Conference

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	3	3	0	0	6	9	3
Winnipeg	3	3	0	0	6	10	2
Utah	3	3	0	0	6	16	11
St. Louis	3	2	1	0	4	11	10
Minnesota	3	1	0	2	4	8	9
Chicago	3	1	1	1	3	8	9
Nashville	2	0	2	0	0	3	7
Colorado	2	0	2	0	0	8	14

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	3	3	0	0	6	15	8
Calgary	3	3	0	0	6	16	9
Los Angeles	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Anaheim	2	1	1	0	2	3	3
Vancouver	2	0	0	2	2	7	9
Seattle	3	1	2	0	2	7	9
San Jose	2	0	1	1	1	4	7
Edmonton	3	0	3	0	0	3	15

Sunday's games

Winnipeg 2, Minnesota 1, OT
Dallas 2, Seattle 0
Calgary 4, Edmonton 1
Vegas 3, Anaheim 1

Monday's games

Florida at Boston
Los Angeles at Ottawa
Utah at New Jersey
Detroit at N.Y. Rangers
Pittsburgh at Montreal
N.Y. Islanders at Colorado

Tuesday's games

Florida at Columbus
New Jersey at Carolina
Vancouver at Tampa Bay
Vegas at Washington
Minnesota at St. Louis
San Jose at Dallas
Seattle at Nashville
Chicago at Calgary
Philadelphia at Edmonton

NFL/NBA

Hutchinson has surgery on leg fractures

By SCHUYLER DIXON
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Detroit Lions defensive end Aidan Hutchinson had successful surgery to repair a fractured tibia and fibula that he sustained against the Dallas Cowboys, the team announced Monday while saying there's no timeline for his return to play.

The Lions' star pass rusher was carted off the field Sunday in the third quarter of Detroit's 47-9 win over Dallas.

Hutchinson had the surgery at Baylor White Medical Center in the Dallas area. He was set to return to Detroit this week and expected to make a full recovery.

"It's really tough and he's a guy who's part of the heartbeat of this team," Lions quarterback Jared Goff said after the game. "He will be fine, you know, he's going to come back eventually whenever that may be but knowing him he will be fine and he will bounce back."

Hutchinson's leg appeared to snap above the ankle when it collided with the left leg of teammate Alim McNeill as Hutchinson was pulling Dallas QB Dak Prescott down for a sack.

"I haven't seen it myself so I couldn't really tell," McNeill said. "I

didn't know if it was him or not, but I did feel somebody like leg-whip me, and then I see Hutch down. That's wild to see. I hate that for him."

The Lions were leading 34-6 at the time of the injury to Hutchinson, who entered the game as the NFL leader in sacks with 6½.

There was a delay of about 10 minutes as medical personnel tended to Hutchinson while players from both teams made a large circle around the second overall pick in the 2022 draft.

After Hutchinson was loaded onto a cart with a cast on his leg, teammates and Dallas players reached over to pat the 24-year-old. Hutchinson had the third Detroit sack of the game.

"That's hard for everybody when you're standing there and that's one of yours and something like that happens," coach Dan Campbell said. "If you dwell on that too much and you start playing a little timid, that's when you get hurt. So guys snapped right back in and they lived in the moment where we're on."

Prescott, who landed on top of Hutchinson's left leg after the injury occurred, sustained a similar injury to his right leg on the same field in Week 5 in 2020, ending his season.

Dallas' star quarterback was



JEROME MIRON/AP

Detroit Lions defensive end Aidan Hutchinson is tended to by team staff after suffering a leg injury in the second half on Sunday against the Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, Texas. Hutchinson will be out indefinitely.

among the players who tried to offer Hutchinson words of encouragement as he was taken off the field.

"It's just something that I felt in

the moment," Prescott said. "I'll probably get his number from one of the Michigan guys in the locker room and reach out again. ... When

you're in that, it's blurry. So I don't even know if he heard them. Don't care if he heard them. I understand where he was."

Carter, Billups enter Hall with first 3-timer West

By BRIAN MAHONEY
Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The stage was filled with Lakers greats when Jerry West made history Sunday night by becoming the first three-time inductee to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

When one of them had his turn to speak, he could barely get the words out trying to say what West meant to him.

"He's a friend and a mentor, and I owe him more than he could ever understand," Michael Cooper said while choking back tears.

No wonder Jonnie West said of his father, who died in June at 86: "Jerry West was beloved by pretty much everyone in basketball."

Cooper was enshrined as part of the 13-member class led by Vince Carter and Chauncey Billups. Carter is the only player to appear in four decades and his 22 seasons are an NBA record.

Even as he prepared to call it quits in 2020 at 43, Carter was having trouble using the word "retire." That changed, he said, after a conversation with Kobe Bryant during his final season in which Bryant assured him that life after playing was wonderful. Shortly after, Carter came to terms saying he was retiring.

"Because Kobe Bryant allowed me to see it was OK," Carter said.

The class also included high-scoring Phoenix star Walter Davis and former Knicks champion Dick Barnett, with Seimone Augustus and Michele Timms making it from the WNBA. Doug Collins and



Vince Carter, left, talks about his mother during his enshrinement in the Basketball Hall of Fame on Sunday. Carter is the only player to appear in four different decades. Chauncey Billups, right, nicknamed "Mr. Big Shot," was also inducted.



JESSICA HILL/AP

Pacers owner Herb Simon were inducted as contributors, along with amateur-level coaches Bo Ryan, Harley Redin and Charles Smith.

This honor for West was for his work as a contributor, largely recognizing the eight championships he helped the Lakers win as an executive.

"Contributor to the game of basketball, that is you in every single sense and that will live on forever," Jonnie West said, with Lakers Hall of Famers such as Magic Johnson and James Worthy joining Cooper, with coach Pat Riley nearby.

West had already been inducted for his playing career with the Lakers that began in 1960, and then again in 2010 as a member of the 1960 U.S. team that won an Olympic gold medal at the very start of one

of basketball's most unparalleled careers.

"The Logo. The icon of our game," said Cooper, who had Riley and Johnson back on stage chanting "Cooop!" along with fans when he returned for his own enshrinement.

West loved to find players for the Lakers and mentor them once they were there, from a No. 60 pick and defensive specialist out of New Mexico like Cooper, to a high school teenager like Bryant.

Boosted by West's acquisition of Bryant and signing of Shaquille O'Neal in 1996, the Lakers won three straight championships from 2000-02. Billups led the Detroit Pistons to an upset of the Lakers in the 2004 NBA Finals and was voted series MVP as the point guard on a team that included Ben Wallace, Rasheed Wallace, Richard

Hamilton and Tayshaun Prince.

"We affectionately called ourselves the best five alive and nobody was going to tell us any different," Billups said.

Billups had a rough start to his career, lasting just half a season in Boston before the Celtics traded the No. 3 pick in the 1997 draft. He didn't last much longer in Toronto or Denver but eventually found his spot in Detroit, where the No. 1 jersey of the player nicknamed "Mr. Big Shot" hangs in the rafters.

"I never thought I needed a second home but in Detroit I have one," Billups said.

Carter ended up with plenty in his career, which he said included 261 teammates. It started as the high-flying phenom in Toronto in 1999, where he joined his cousin and now fellow Hall of Famer, Tracy McGrady. It was only shortly before that they learned they were related, and Carter said when McGrady called to tell him that news, he said: "Cuz, I'm going to make sure the Raptors draft you. I got you."

"Here we are today," Carter added.

His dunks, whether in Slam Dunk contests, Olympics or just regular-season games, made Carter must-see TV early in his career. He relished remaining a productive player many teams and many years later, when he was no longer quite the high flyer.

He thanked the fans who watched him for all the years, both the ones who cheered and the ones who booed.

"Man, it's been an honor to fly in arenas for your entertainment," Carter said.

NFL

ROUNDUP

Hurts, Eagles hold off the Browns

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Perhaps indignant that Eagles fans had chanted for his firing, Nick Sirianni could not button up his mouth in the final seconds. Philadelphia's coach — already a habitual trash-talking offender — put a finger to his right ear and chirped at fans in the first rows at the Linc.

Yes, after the Eagles eked out a four-point win against the dysfunctional Browns, Sirianni felt the need to talk smack, providing social media and tabloid fodder about a coach whose job security is up for daily debate and who — even in victory — won't win any popularity contests in Philadelphia.

"Just excited to get the win," Sirianni said. "Appreciate the Linc support."

He had to appreciate the Eagles' offense a bit more.

Jalen Hurts threw for 264 yards and two touchdowns, including a go-ahead 45-yard toss to DeVonta Smith in the fourth quarter, and Philadelphia beat Cleveland 20-16 on Sunday.

Hurts also threw a 22-yard TD to A.J. Brown, who returned along with Smith after both wide receivers missed time with injuries. The Eagles can't afford to lose either for any more lengthy stretches if they want to make a deep postseason run.

Coming off a bye, the already maddening Eagles (3-2) had to tough one out against the Browns (1-5) in front of a mostly listless crowd. Before Smith's TD, Eagles fans only showed some fire when they chanted for Sirianni to get fired.

Colts 20, Titans 17: Joe Flacco threw for 189 yards and two touchdowns, leading visiting Indianapolis to a win over Tennessee.

The veteran now is 1-1 in his second straight start for the Colts (3-3) who got a much-needed split of back-to-back road games inside the AFC South with second-year quarterback Anthony Richardson scratched again with an injured right hip.

Packers 34, Cardinals 13: Romeo Doubs returned from a one-game suspension and caught two of Jordan Love's four touchdown passes in host Green Bay's victory over mistake-prone Arizona.

Doubs scored his first two touchdowns of the season — a 10-yard score to open the second quarter and a 20-yard reception in the third quarter. Doubs, who caught three passes for 49 yards, missed the Packers' 24-19 win over the Los Angeles Rams for conduct detrimental to the team after missing two practices.

Love also threw touchdown



MATT SLOCUM / AP

Eagles wide receiver A.J. Brown, left, celebrates his touchdown with quarterback Jalen Hurts during the first half against the Browns on Sunday. Brown returned from injury and had six catches for 116 yards.

passes of 5 yards to Jayden Reed and 44 yards to Christian Watson while going 22-for-32 — completing throws to nine players — for 258 yards with one interception. His four touchdown passes matched a career high.

Texans 41, Patriots 21: C.J. Stroud threw three touchdown passes and visiting Houston spoiled the first start of rookie quarterback Drake Maye, breezing past New England.

Joe Mixon rushed for 102 yards and caught a TD pass from Stroud. Stefon Diggs had six catches for 77 yards and a score for the AFC South-leading Texans (5-1), and Tank Dell had seven receptions for 57 yards and a TD.

The Patriots (1-5) got a boost from Maye, the No. 3 overall pick in the NFL Draft. Taking over for veteran Jacoby Brissett, he finished 20-for-33 for 243 yards and three touchdowns.

Buccaneers 51, Saints 27: Baker Mayfield overcame three turnovers with 325 yards and four touchdowns passing, and visiting Tampa Bay defeated New Orleans in what they hoped would be a morale boost to their many fans who endured Hurricane Milton earlier in the week.

The result blemished rookie quarterback Spencer Rattler's first NFL start for New Orleans, which has lost four straight after opening the season with a pair of lopsided victories.

Trailing by three after a wild, high-scoring first half in which Tampa Bay (4-2) lost an early

17-0 lead, the Bucs pulled ahead for good on Godwin's second touchdown of the game — a 55-yarder on a short catch and long run during which three Saints missed tackle attempts.

Chargers 23, Broncos 16: Justin Herbert directed a clock-chewing, methodical Los Angeles offense that capitalized on the departure of star cornerback Patrick Surtain II to beat host Denver.

Chargers coach Jim Harbaugh missed the start of the game while being evaluated by medical personnel, but returned to the sideline in the first quarter and coached the remainder of the game. He told a CBS sideline reporter he was dealing with a heart arrhythmia.

The Chargers (3-2) looked for much of the afternoon as though they'd hand the Broncos (3-3) their first home shutout in their 65-year history. But after two turnovers and five punts, Bo Nix directed the Broncos on a 95-yard scoring drive capped by his 2-yard pass to fellow Oregon alum Troy Franklin early in the fourth quarter.

Steelers 32, Raiders 13: Najee Harris finally found his form after a slow start to the season, rushing for 106 yards and a touchdown to lift visiting Pittsburgh to a victory over Las Vegas.

Harris exceeded 100 yards for the first time since ending last season with back-to-back such performances. He rushed for 1,000 yards in each of his first

three seasons but entered this game averaging 3.3 yards per carry this year.

Quarterback Justin Fields added 59 yards on the ground and two TDs, though he passed for just 145 yards.

Falcons 38, Panthers 20: Bijan Robinson ran for 95 yards and two touchdowns, Tyler Allgeier added 105 yards rushing and a score and visiting Atlanta defeated Carolina for its third win over an NFC South foe in three weeks.

Kirk Cousins completed 19 of 30 passes for 225 yards and threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Drake London.

Carolina's Andy Dalton finished 26-for-38 for 221 yards with two touchdown passes and two fourth-quarter interceptions for the Panthers (1-5), who have lost three straight.

Bengals 17, Giants 7: Joe Burrow scored on a career-long 47-yard run on the opening possession, and visiting Cincinnati's defense carried it to a much-needed victory over New York.

Evan McPherson made a go-ahead 37-yard field goal in the third quarter. And Chase Brown scored on a 30-yard run with 1:52 to play to give the Bengals (2-4) some hope after a dismal start.

Rookie Tyrone Tracy ran for a 1-yard touchdown for the Giants (2-4), who are winless at home in three games and have scored one touchdown. They failed to take advantage of a Bengals defense that came in ranked 31st in the league in scoring.

Scoreboard

American Conference

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	3	2	0	.600	142	106
Miami	2	3	0	.400	60	113
N.Y. Jets	2	3	0	.400	93	85
New England	1	5	0	.167	83	143
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	5	1	0	.833	143	135
Indianapolis	3	3	0	.500	139	139
Tennessee	1	4	0	.200	96	110
Jacksonville	1	5	0	.167	113	178
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	4	2	0	.667	177	149
Pittsburgh	4	2	0	.667	124	86
Cincinnati	2	4	0	.333	157	152
Cleveland	1	5	0	.167	95	141
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	5	0	0	1.000	118	85
L.A. Chargers	3	2	0	.600	91	66
Denver	3	3	0	.500	112	96
Las Vegas	2	4	0	.333	109	163

National Conference

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	4	2	0	.667	178	145
Philadelphia	3	2	0	.600	106	112
Dallas	3	3	0	.500	126	168
N.Y. Giants	2	4	0	.333	96	121
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	4	2	0	.667	149	135
Tampa Bay	4	2	0	.667	178	141
New Orleans	2	4	0	.333	167	147
Carolina	1	5	0	.167	103	203
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	5	0	0	1.000	139	76
Detroit	4	1	0	.800	151	91
Chicago	4	2	0	.667	148	101
Green Bay	4	2	0	.667	162	121
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	3	3	0	.500	162	130
Seattle	3	3	0	.500	146	150
Arizona	2	4	0	.333	133	163
L.A. Rams	1	4	0	.200	94	139

Thursday's game

San Francisco 36, Seattle 24

Sunday's games

Chicago 35, Jacksonville 16
 Baltimore 30, Washington 23
 Green Bay 34, Arizona 13
 Houston 41, New England 21
 Indianapolis 20, Tennessee 17
 Philadelphia 20, Cleveland 16
 Tampa Bay 51, New Orleans 27
 L.A. Chargers 23, Denver 16
 Pittsburgh 32, Las Vegas 13
 Atlanta 38, Carolina 20
 Detroit 47, Dallas 9
 Cincinnati 17, N.Y. Giants 7

Monday's game

Buffalo at N.Y. Jets
Open: Kansas City, Miami, L.A. Rams, Minnesota

Thursday, Oct. 17

Denver at New Orleans

Sunday, Oct. 20

New England vs Jacksonville at London
 Cincinnati at Cleveland
 Detroit at Minnesota
 Houston at Green Bay
 Miami at Indianapolis
 Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants
 Seattle at Atlanta
 Tennessee at Buffalo
 Carolina at Washington
 Las Vegas at L.A. Rams
 Kansas City at San Francisco
 N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh
Open: Chicago, Dallas

Monday, Oct. 21

Baltimore at Tampa Bay
 L.A. Chargers at Arizona

Thursday, Oct. 24

Minnesota at L.A. Rams

Sunday, Oct. 27

Atlanta at Tampa Bay
 Arizona at Miami
 Baltimore at Cleveland
 Chicago at Washington
 Green Bay at Jacksonville
 Indianapolis at Houston
 N.Y. Jets at New England
 Tennessee at Detroit
 New Orleans at L.A. Chargers
 Buffalo at Seattle
 Carolina at Denver
 Kansas City at Las Vegas
 Philadelphia at Cincinnati
 Dallas at San Francisco

NFL



Nick Wass/AP

Washington Commanders quarterback Jayden Daniels, left, talks with Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson after their game Sunday in Baltimore. The Ravens won 30-23 in a marquee matchup of quarterbacks.

Jackson outduels Daniels as Ravens top Commanders

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Lamar Jackson threw nine passes to Zay Flowers in the first half and never went to him again. Mark Andrews rebounded from a ball bouncing off his hands for an interception to catch his first touchdown pass of the season. And Derrick Henry was Derrick Henry.

The result was a dominant offensive performance as Jackson outshined rookie Jayden Daniels in a showdown between two of the NFL's best quarterbacks with 323 yards passing and 40 more rushing, and the Baltimore Ravens beat the Washington Commanders 30-23 on Sunday for their fourth consecutive victory.

"Just a pick-your-poison offense," Jackson said.

Henry ran for 132 yards and his NFL-leading eighth and ninth TDs, Flowers set a career high with 132 yards receiving and Jackson moved into second on the career rushing list among QBs. Baltimore (4-2) mixed and matched the pass and run to near perfection.

"Guys are going to get their touches and get the ball and good things will happen, and that's what happened today," said Andrews, who tied Todd Heap for the

most TD catches since the team moved to Baltimore with the 41st of his career. "We're extremely versatile in what we're doing, and we're going to take this game, get better from it week by week and become the machine that we can be."

Daniels connected with Terry McLaurin on two TD passes, but did not get nearly enough help from the backfield in a matchup of the two top rushing offenses in the league. With Brian Robinson Jr. out because of a knee injury, Washington (4-2) got just 52 yards on the ground.

"B-Rob is a great player, but it's next man up," Daniels said. "We have to go out there and do our job."

The Commanders' defense struggled to contain Jackson and Henry, allowing Baltimore to rack up 484 yards, and their winning streak ended at four with a loss at the hands of an opponent that is starting to look like the legitimate Super Bowl contender it was expected to be.

"We got so many guys that can make plays, a lot of guys are getting the chances, getting the ball and being able to showcase their talents," said Henry, who became the first player to rush for a TD in each of his first six games since

LaDainian Tomlinson in 2005. "That's what you want as an offense."

The masterclass by the Ravens included scoring drives of 93 and 94 yards, the second of which became the difference in the game when Henry scored from 7 yards out late in the third quarter.

"Those two drives were much needed," Flowers said. "I feel like we needed those drives to set the tone that this offense is going to keep going all game and we're just going to keep scoring, either running or passing."

Struggles defending against the pass continued, with Daniels going 24-for-35 for 269 yards, but again Baltimore was able to outscore its problems. Coach John Harbaugh called it the ultimate team win.

"All three phases contributed to the win when they had to," Harbaugh said. "Guys answered today in a lot of ways."

Asked afterward if he thought the game showed the Ravens have the best offense in football, Jackson shrugged off that notion because there's still a lot of season to go.

"We're just proving we can win games," said Jackson, who completed 20 of his 26 passes. "There's always room for improvement."

Goff, Lions deliver Cowboys another lopsided home loss

BY SCHUYLER DIXON
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Jared Goff's completion streak ended on his first throw.

By then, the Detroit Lions had already started throwing shade about the hotly disputed 2-point conversion from their loss at the Dallas Cowboys nine months earlier.

Goff went on to throw for 315 yards and three touchdowns, David Montgomery ran for two scores and Detroit blew out Dallas 47-9 on Sunday, handing the Cowboys a fourth consecutive lopsided loss at home.

Still, it wasn't much of a celebration for the Lions (4-1), who lost pass rusher Aidan Hutchinson in the third quarter to a serious left tibia injury that was to require surgery before he could go home.

The injury happened when Hutchinson was sacking Dak Prescott and his leg appeared to snap above the ankle when it collided with the leg of teammate Alim McNeill.

"He's a guy who's part of the heartbeat of this team, he's a leader, does everything right," Goff said. "And to have him go down like that, and be visibly upset is tough for all of us. But knowing him, he will be fine. He will bounce back."

Prescott threw two interceptions in the worst home loss since 1988 for the Cowboys (3-3), who became the first team since at least 2000 to trail by 14 or more more points at halftime in four consecutive games on their home field, playoffs included.

Detroit led 27-6 at the break, putting the combined total of the Dallas halftime deficit at AT&T Stadium at 110-35 going back to a wild-card playoff loss to Green Bay in January.

The current skid followed a 16-game home winning streak that

was second-longest in franchise history, and the 167 points allowed by Dallas are the third most in a four-game home stretch in NFL history.

"I'm not a guy to hit the panic button," Prescott said. "You never prepare for that or think that can happen the way it did today, here at home, again. Now dropping three at home, a place that we've been great."

Goff set an NFL single-game record by going 18-for-18 in the Lions' 42-29 victory over Seattle before their bye week. Goff's overall streak of 19 completions — six shy of the league record — ended when he couldn't connect with running back Jahmyr Gibbs on Detroit's second offensive play.

On Detroit's first play, coach Dan Campbell threw some shade at officials who penalized a potential winning 2-point pass in the Lions' 20-19 loss at the Cowboys last December.

Dan Skipper reported as eligible for a vanilla 5-yard run by Montgomery. He was the tackle officials said reported as eligible when Taylor Decker caught the 2-point pass from Goff nine months ago.

The Lions were certain Decker had declared himself eligible, but it didn't matter. The loss cost the Lions a shot at the top seed in the NFC, and they lost the conference championship game in San Francisco.

With the Lions leading 34-9 in the third quarter, Decker was again declared eligible on first down from the 2. Goff threw to him in the end zone, but Damone Clark broke up the pass.

"Yeah, we were joking we might throw two to two tackles," Goff said after the Lions scored at least 40 points in consecutive games for the first time since 1962. "Tried to fit that into Decker, and couldn't make it work."



LM OTERO/AP

Detroit Lions quarterback Jared Goff celebrates a touchdown in front of the Dallas Cowboys' Donovan Wilson in Arlington, Texas, on Sunday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Relevant: Academies can't give out NIL funds

FROM PAGE 24

Monken recalled. "This is how we build our team here, and it's how college football teams over the course of the history of college football have built their teams: recruit high school players, you retain them in your program, you develop them and hope you can put a team together that can win. That's just how we've got to do it here."

It's working.

Army is tied for the fewest turnovers in the 133-team Football Bowl Subdivision with one, while Navy has just two. They're each in the top 30 in total offense and top 10 on fourth-down conversions, Army has the 10th-best defense and Navy is tied for No. 1 in red zone efficiency.

"We still have yet to play our best game," Army defensive lineman and senior captain Cody Winokur said. "Not patting ourselves on the back too much and saying, 'Oh look at us, look what we've done' and more looking how we can get better, how we can continue to strive and be a better team as the season goes on and play our best football the second half of the year."

Army is already bowl eligible and Navy is just one win away from being eligible, which is a major turnaround from last season, when they were 6-6 and 5-7 and had the 113th- and 125th-ranked offenses, respectively.

While still using the triple-option offense that is largely a football relic outside the academies, Navy has thrown the ball 68 times this season and embraced a style Newberry said has opened the eyes of many players who ordinarily would not have considered going there. That's still the second-fewest passing attempts in the FBS, and Army has the fewest with 46 to go along with the third-highest time of possession.

"I guess some people may find

that unappealing or boring, but what's boring about winning?" Monken said. "That's what you're trying to do is win."

Navy was picked to finish 11th in the 14-team American Athletic Conference and Army fifth.

"Our whole entire careers we've been doubted," senior full-back and Navy captain Daba Fofana said. "Coming to an academy, we always have a chip on our shoulder."

Navy and Army broke into the AP Top 25 this week, with Army checking in at No. 23 after beating UAB 44-10. Navy is No. 25 after a week off.

There is a chance the two could meet in the AAC title game in December, eight days before facing off in the annual Army-Navy game in Landover, Md. Propositioned with that possibility, Monken joked, "Does Navy even have a football team this year?" before saying, "We're not athletic enough, fast enough, big enough to look ahead to anybody."

His players have bought into that mentality.

"We listen to Coach Monken all the time and say, 'Do your job and follow the plan,'" senior receiver Casey Reynolds said. "He said if we do that, then everything we want will be right in front of us."

Navy could be 6-0 and ranked when facing Notre Dame on Oct. 29 at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., and Army could be 9-0 going into its game against the Fighting Irish on Nov. 23 at Yankee Stadium in New York. While Fofana acknowledged players' minds drift to the future, he believes he and Ramos and the rest of the leaders do a good job of not getting ahead of themselves.

"There's a thousand different possibilities of how the season ends," Ramos said. "We're not worried about any of that. We're focused on the next game ahead of us."



DOUG MURRAY/AP

Army wide receiver Casey Reynolds (87), celebrating a touchdown catch against Florida Atlantic, says the Black Knights listen to coach Jeff Monken all the time and say, "Do your job and follow the plan."



LYDIA ELY/AP

Oregon tight end Terrance Ferguson, left, picks up yardage against Ohio State as safety Sonny Styles chases during Saturday's game in Eugene, Ore. The Ducks moved up to No. 2 in the latest AP Top 25.

Oregon, Penn State move behind No. 1 Texas in poll

BY ERIC OLSON

Associated Press

Oregon and Penn State each moved up a spot in The Associated Press college football poll on Sunday following thrilling wins in high-profile games, and Top 25 newcomers Navy and Army are in the rankings together for the first time since 1960.

Texas strengthened its hold on No. 1 with its 31-point victory over Oklahoma. The Longhorns received 56 of 62 first-place votes, four more than last week and their most since they were a unanimous No. 1 in October 2008.

This weekend wasn't as crazy as the week before, when four of the top 11 teams were upset and only two teams held their spots in the ensuing rankings shuffle.

That's not to say Week 7 was devoid of excitement.

Oregon's 32-31 home win over Ohio State featured seven lead changes and moved the Ducks to No. 2 with the other six first-place votes. It's their highest ranking since they ended the 2014 season at No. 2 after losing to the Buckeyes in the inaugural College Football Playoff championship game.

Penn State rose to No. 3 with a 33-30 overtime win at Southern California, the Nittany Lions' highest ranking in seven years.

Penn State-USC was one of four games involving AP Top 25 teams that went to OT on Saturday, including three in the top 10.

Ohio State dropped two spots to No. 4 and Georgia remained No. 5.

Miami, Alabama, LSU, Iowa State and Clemson rounded out the top 10.

Army, which beat UAB 44-10, and Navy, which was idle, broke through for their first simultaneous rankings since Oct. 3, 1960.

Their coinciding appearance that season lasted just one week. Army was 3-0 and ranked No. 18 before dropping two straight games and finishing 6-3-1. Navy had entered the rankings a week earlier, at No. 17, and ended the season 9-2 and ranked No. 4.

Army (6-0) and Navy (5-0) have not each been unbeaten at this point in a season since 1945, weeks after World War II ended and in the era when service academies were powerhouses of the sport.

Poll points

LSU and Mississippi were the biggest movers in the wake of the Tigers' 29-26 overtime win. The Tigers went from No. 13 to No. 8, their first top-10 appearance since they were No. 5 in the 2023 preseason poll. Mississippi, which lost for the second time in three games, dropped from No. 9 all the way to No. 18.

No. 9 Iowa State, 6-0 for the first time since 1938, has its highest ranking since September 2021.

Tennessee had been in the top 10 in four straight polls before slipping to No. 11 following its 23-17 overtime win over Florida.

The Southeastern Conference holds down eight spots in the AP Top 25. The Big Ten continues to have three teams in the top five —

Oregon, Penn State and Ohio State — and six in the Top 25.

In-and-out

Army and Navy are the only teams making their season debuts in the poll.

Utah, which has lost two straight, dropped out following its 27-19 loss at Arizona State.

Oklahoma, which had been No. 18 before its loss to Texas, is out of the AP Top 25 for the first time since the end of the 2022 season.

Ranked vs. ranked

■ No. 5 Georgia at No. 1 Texas. This will be the third top-five matchup in four weeks following Georgia-Alabama and Ohio State-Oregon. The Bulldogs hope things go better than they did against 'Bama. It's only the fifth Georgia-Texas meeting since 1949 and first since the Longhorns won 28-21 in the 2019 Sugar Bowl.

■ No. 7 Alabama at No. 11 Tennessee. Some of the shine has come off this matchup with Alabama's loss to Vanderbilt and its struggle against South Carolina and Tennessee's loss to Arkansas and overtime grind against Florida.

■ No. 24 Michigan at No. 22 Illinois. This is the first time since 2001 that both are in the AP Top 25 entering their game. Some fans might wonder why either team is ranked this time. Two-loss Michigan, coming off an open date, has been dreadful on offense. The one-loss Illini held off lowly Purdue 50-49 in overtime at home.

MLB PLAYOFFS

Dodgers overwhelm Mets in NLCS opener

LA ties postseason record of 33 consecutive scoreless innings

By BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — After spending the first seven years of his big league career back East, Jack Flaherty came home. He joined a winning team in the Los Angeles Dodgers and helped make a bit of playoff history.

Flaherty combined on a three-hitter and Los Angeles Dodgers pitchers tied the postseason record of 33 consecutive scoreless innings by routing the New York Mets 9-0 Sunday night in the NL Championship Series opener.

“I saw some family out there when I was warming up and I had gone to games here with them before, so it just kind of lets you relax a little bit,” he said. “Felt I tried to do too much the last couple times out in some big games. Just allowed me to be myself and just go out and pitch and trust my stuff and trust the guys behind me.”

Los Angeles knocked out a wild Kodai Senga in the second inning, built a six-run lead by the fourth and matched the scoreless record set by Baltimore Orioles pitchers over the first four games of the 1966 World Series against the Dodgers.

Backed by chants of “MVP! MVP!”, Shohei Ohtani was 2-for-4 with a walk while scoring two runs and driving in another.

Mookie Betts added a three-run double in the eighth in the largest shutout victory margin in Dodgers postseason history, also the Mets’ most one-sided postseason shutout defeat.

“Our energy all started with Jack,” Betts said. “Jack really gave

Scoreboard

Playoffs

x-if necessary
LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
(Best-of-seven)
American League
Cleveland vs. New York

Monday: at New York
Tuesday: Cleveland (Bibee 12-8) at New York (Cole 8-5), **AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m.**
Wednesday **CET, 8:30 a.m.** Wednesday **JKT**
Thursday: New York (Schmidt 5-5) at Cleveland (TBD), **AFN-Sports, 11 p.m.**
Thursday **CET, 6 a.m.** Friday **JKT**
Friday: New York (Gil 15-7) at Cleveland (TBD)

x-Saturday: at Cleveland
x-Monday, Oct. 21: at New York
x-Tuesday, Oct. 22: at New York

National League
Los Angeles 1, New York 0
Sunday: Los Angeles 9, New York 0
Monday: at Los Angeles
Wednesday: at New York, **AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.** Thursday **CET, 9 a.m.** Thursday **JKT**
Thursday: at New York, **AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m.** Friday **CET, 9:30 a.m.** Friday **JKT, joined in progress**
x-Friday: at New York
x-Sunday, Oct. 20: at Los Angeles
x-Monday, Oct. 21: at Los Angeles

it to us today.”

Flaherty allowed two hits over seven innings in the Dodgers’ first scoreless postseason start of seven-plus innings since Clayton Kershaw’s eight innings in the 2020 NL Wild Card Series.

“It was just a pitching clinic,” Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. “I thought he did a great job of filling up the strike zone with his complete mix. Once we caught a lead, he did a great job of just going after those guys and attacking. For us to get seven innings in a long series was huge.”

Flaherty left to a standing ovation from the sellout crowd of 53,503. The 28-year-old right-hander from near-



GREGORY BULL/AP

The Dodgers’ Shohei Ohtani scores on a single by Freddie Freeman past New York Mets catcher Francisco Alvarez during the fourth inning of Game 1 of the NLCS on Sunday in Los Angeles.

by Burbank returned home from Detroit at the July 30 trade deadline and has been a steadying presence in a rotation hard-hit by injuries.

“He’s got an aura about him,” Dodgers catcher Will Smith said. “He’s super competitive, super focused.”

Flaherty got a hug from Roberts and then the pitcher hugged his mother who sat behind home plate. Some of his buddies from their Little League days in the San Fernando Valley were on hand, too.

“This game is a lot of fun and I’ve been lucky to do it since I was a little kid,” Flaherty said. “As high pressure as they get, I just tell the guys it’s going to be fun. We’ve got to remem-

ber that sometimes.”

Flaherty retired his first nine batters, extending the Dodgers’ streak of consecutive hitters retired to 28, before walking Francisco Lindor leading off the fourth. New York’s only hits off him were a pair of singles by Jesse Winker and Jose Iglesias in the fifth. Flaherty struck out six.

“He was getting ahead with his fastball and then the slider, the breaking ball, the slow curve kept us off-balance, but he was getting ahead and making pitches,” rookie Mets manager Carlos Mendoza said. “He tried to make us chase, which we did the first time through the order. Then he was just on.”

Lindor was 0-for-3 with a walk and a strikeout and Pete Alonso went hitless in three at-bats with a walk and a strikeout.

Los Angeles opened its pursuit of a record 25th NL pennant by chasing Senga after 1½ innings of his just third overall start in a year decimated by injuries. The Japanese right-hander walked four of his first eight batters, including three in a row in a 14-pitch span in the first inning.

“He didn’t have it,” Mendoza said. “He didn’t have the life on his fastball and a lot of balls out of hand, non-competitive pitches, especially the split. You could tell that the way that they were taking those pitches they were balls out of the hand.”

Guardians ready for rowdy gauntlet of Yankee Stadium

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Andrés Giménez is ready for the rowdy gauntlet of Yankee Stadium.

“It’s a mindset,” the Cleveland second baseman said through a translator ahead of Monday night’s AL Championship Series opener. “It’s just this sense of belief we can do it because we know we can play baseball the right way.”

In the ALCS for the first time since 2016, Cleveland sent Alex Cobb to the mound against the Yankees’ Carlos Rodón in the start of the best-of-seven matchup for a World Series berth against the Los Angeles Dodgers or New York Mets.

Cleveland seeks its seventh AL pennant and first since 2016, trying to win its third World Series championship after 1920 and 1948. The Yankees are trying for their 41st pennant and 28th title, a heady his-



GODOFREDO VÁSQUEZ/AP

Cleveland Guardians pitcher Tim Herrin throws during a workout Sunday at Yankee Stadium in New York ahead of Game 1 of the ALCS.

tory that leaves any year without a ring condemned as catastrophic.

“What makes the Yankees the Yankees is winning and winning a World Series,” said New York

shortstop Anthony Volpe, who grew up a Yankees fan in Manhattan and New Jersey. “I had a way better view now than I did when I was a fan. There was sometimes

where we were like basically sitting with our backs against the upper deck top row and it felt like the stadium was going to come down shaking.”

AL Central champion Cleveland beat Detroit in a five-game Division Series and the AL East-winning Yankees defeated Kansas City 3-1. While the Mets, Yankees and Dodgers are 1-2-3 in payroll at \$266 million and up, the Guardians are 23rd at \$109 million.

“We’re confident in who we are,” Guardians first-year manager Stephen Vogt said. “All we can control is us.”

Gerrit Cole, Clarke Schmidt and Luis Gil will follow Rodón in the Yankees rotation and Tanner Bibee will start Game 2 for the Guardians.

A chill in the air led some players to wear ski caps for Sunday’s workout.

“I’m sure Yankee Stadium is going to be rocking (Monday) night,”

Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. “It looks like cooler weather is moving in for these first two games, so it’s going to have that October feel to it.”

Cleveland was hoping for a more civil outcome this time around than in some of their recent trips to the Bronx. Fans in the right-field bleachers pelted Guardians outfielders with bottles, cans and debris moments after New York rallied for a 5-4 win in April 2022, a weekend in which Cleveland’s Myles Straw called Yankees supporters the “worst fan base on the planet.”

Two years ago, the Guardians’ Josh Naylor angered Yankees fans with his rock-the-baby celebration of a home run off Cole in Game 4 of a Division Series won by the Yankees in five games.

“The reception a couple months ago was pretty good, so I’m sure it will be the same,” Vogt said.

SPORTS



Series-opening blowout

Dodgers hammer Mets in first game of NLCS » **MLB playoffs, page 23**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



ADAM HUNGER/AP

Army quarterback Bryson Daily dives into the end zone for a touchdown against Rice earlier this season in West Point, N.Y. The Black Knights are 6-0 and ranked No. 23 this week.



DANIEL KUCIN JR./AP

Senior fullback Daba Fofana and the Midshipmen are ranked No. 25. Fofana says academy players "always have a chip on our shoulder."

Ranked and relevant

Not since 1960 have Army, Navy been in Top 25 at same time

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

Until this year, Army and Navy had not each started the college football season 5-0 in nearly eight decades.

That was the fall of 1945, weeks after World War II ended, back in the heyday when service academies were powerhouses in the sport. Army, led by Heisman Trophy winner Felix "Doc" Blanchard, was declared the national champion that year by The Associated Press, the second of back-to-back titles.

Now, the two programs are both ranked in the AP Top 25 poll for the first time since 1960.

The Black Knights (6-0, No. 23) at West Point and Midshipmen (5-0, No. 25) in

Annapolis have put their teams back on the map with these unbeaten starts thanks to old-school approaches built around fundamental play and eschewing some of the game's modern elements on and off the field.

"You want to be relevant," Navy coach Brian Newberry said. "This is a humble group. It's a hungry group. It's still a group that has a chip on its shoulder, which I love, but we want to be significant in the landscape of college football here."

Newberry and Jeff Monken at Army have coached their programs back to prominence as most others around the NCAA rely on the transfer portal to upgrade their rosters and can use name, image and likeness money to attract talent. Army, Navy and Air Force (1-5) are not

permitted to give out NIL funds, which in addition to the military obligations of attending makes recruiting even more challenging.

"It's different because these are guys you've worked with, gone to class with, have done all these military trainings with," said Navy linebacker Colin Ramos, a senior captain. "There aren't 50 new guys on the team each year."

Monken, in his 11th season, said it is no different now than when he took the job, even though the business of college sports has changed drastically around him.

"We weren't given NIL money then, and there wasn't any transfer portal,"

SEE RELEVANT ON PAGE 22

Ravens win QB duel, put away Commanders » NFL, Page 21



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