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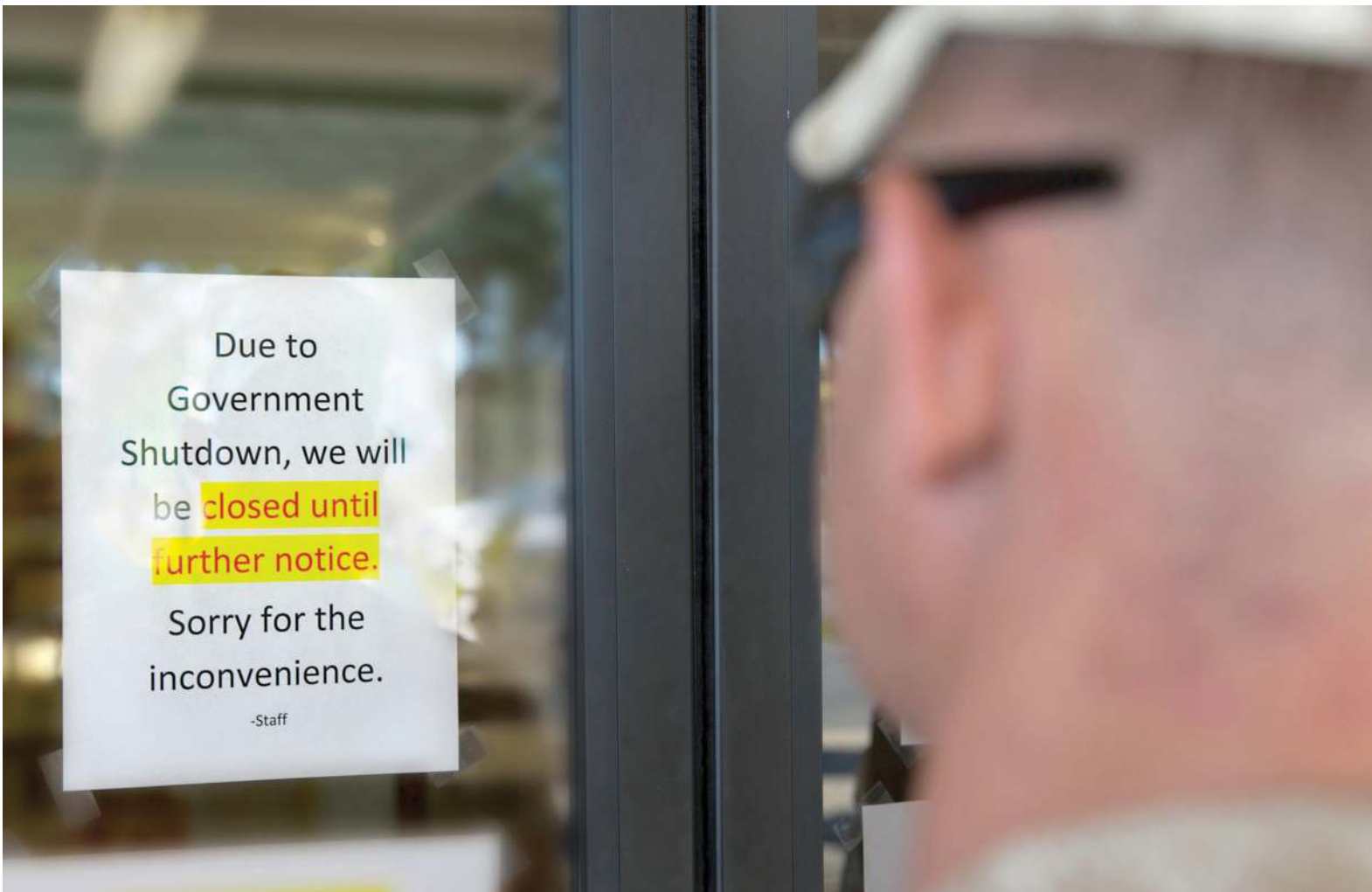
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# STARS AND STRIPES

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RYAN O'HARE/U.S. Marine Corps

Service members are greeted by locked doors at the Harriotte B. Smith Library aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., due to a government shutdown in 2013. The federal government is potentially headed for another shutdown on Sunday.

## 'Extremely disruptive'

### DOD official says shutdown would be 'horrible' for US, help Russia and China

By DOUG G. WARE  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A government shutdown would harm U.S. defenses, hurt troops and be welcomed by Russia and China, a top Pentagon official said Tuesday.

"It's just horrible. There's really nothing good you can say about it," said William LaPlante, the Pentagon's undersecretary of defense for acquisitions and sustainment.

LaPlante, who is a leader in

matters such as military contracts, materiel readiness, the acquisition workforce and the defense industrial base, made his remarks during a discussion with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank that focuses on national security.

The federal government will shut down Sunday unless Congress passes funding for fiscal 2024 or at least agrees to a continuing resolution, which is a stopgap

**RELATED**

Congress is starkly divided on path to averting shutdown  
Page 8

measure that keeps things operating for a short time at existing funding levels. But a small group of hard-line Republicans in the House are stalling the budget

process over a variety of issues such as aid to Ukraine and former President Donald Trump's legal troubles.

If Congress doesn't agree to a funding plan and there is a shutdown, it would affect all government agencies including the U.S. military. All active-duty troops and "essential" civilian defense workers would have to keep working, but they wouldn't be paid un-

**SEE SHUTDOWN ON PAGE 8**

## US soldier King is in American custody

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, MATTHEW LEE AND LOLITA C. BALDOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. soldier who sprinted into North Korea across the heavily fortified border between the Koreas two months ago was released into American custody, the White House announced Wednesday.

Earlier, North Korea had said it would expel Pvt. Travis King — though some had expected the North to drag out his detention in hopes of squeezing concessions from Washington at a time of high tensions between the two countries.

"U.S. officials have secured the return of Private King Travis King from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea," White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said in a statement. "We appreciate the dedication of the interagency team that has worked tirelessly out of concern for Private King's well-being."

Officials said they did not know exactly why North Korea decided to expel King, but said they suspected that Pyongyang determined that as a low-ranking service member he had no real value in terms of either leverage or information. One official, who was not authorized to comment and requested anonymity, said the North Koreans may have decided that King was more trouble to keep than to simply release him.

Swedish officials took King to



King

**SEE KING ON PAGE 7**

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Target to close 9 stores, citing safety concerns

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Target said Tuesday that it will close nine stores in four states, including one in New York City's East Harlem neighborhood, and three in the San Francisco Bay Area, saying that theft and organized retail crime have threatened the safety of its workers and customers.

The closings, which will be effective Oct. 21, also include three stores in Portland, Ore., and two in Seattle. Target said that it still will have a combined 150 stores open

in the markets where the closures are taking place. It said it will offer affected workers the opportunity to transfer to other stores.

The Minneapolis retailer said the decision to close the stores was difficult.

"We know that our stores serve an important role in their communities, but we can only be successful if the working and shopping environment is safe for all," Target said in a statement.

Target said it has invested heavily in strategies to prevent

theft, such as adding more security workers, using third-party guard services and installing theft-deterrent tools, like locking up merchandise. It also has trained store leaders and security-team members to protect themselves and de-escalate potential safety issues.

But it noted that it still faced "fundamental challenges" to operate the stores safely — and the business performance at the locations slated for closure was unsustainable.

### EXCHANGE RATES

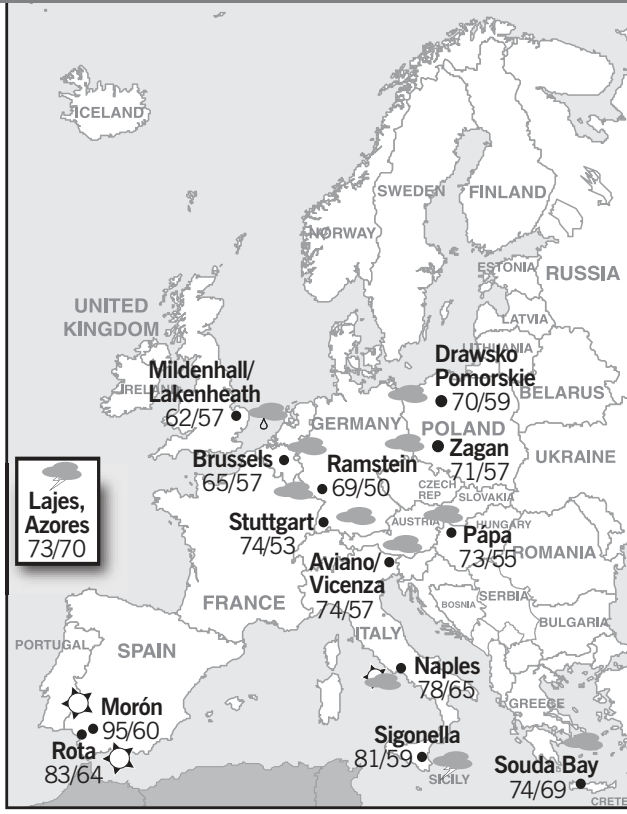
Military rates		So. Korea (Won)	
Euro costs (Sept. 28)	\$1.03		1355.01
British pound (Sept. 28)	\$1.19	Switzerland (Franc)	.9183
Japanese yen (Sept. 28)	145.00	Thailand (Baht)	36.62
South Korean won (Sept. 28)	1318.00	Turkey (NewLira)	27.3075
Commercial rates		(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
Bahrain (Dinar)	.3769	<b>INTEREST RATES</b>	
Britain (Pound)	1.2143	Prime rate	8.50
Canada (Dollar)	1.3511	Interest Rates Discount rate	6.00
China (Yuan)	7.3111	Federal funds market rate	5.33
Denmark (Krone)	7.0867	3-month bill	5.50
Egypt (Pound)	30.8985	30-year bond	4.69
Euro	.9504		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8207		
Hungary (Forint)	372.16		
Israel (Shekel)	3.8464		
Japan (Yen)	149.39		
Kuwait (Dinar)	.3092		
Norway (Krone)	10.7763		
Philippines (Peso)	56.98		
Poland (Zloty)	4.40		
Saudi Arab (Riyal)	3.7510		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3716		

### WEATHER OUTLOOK

#### THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



#### THURSDAY IN EUROPE



#### FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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## MILITARY

# DOJ seeks to reinstate Bergdahl's conviction

## Prosecutors argue a judge wrongly dismissed the sentence earlier this year

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

Federal prosecutors asked a judge to reinstate the 2017 court-martial conviction of former Army soldier and Taliban captive Bowe Bergdahl, arguing a civilian federal judge wrongly dismissed the sentence earlier this year.

Justice Department prosecutors asked U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton to “leave intact” Bergdahl’s November 2017 sentence, charging in recent court filings that Walton’s July decision to vacate the conviction relied on incorrect analysis of another case regarding a Guantanamo Bay detainee. The judge dismissed Bergdahl’s convictions on charges of desertion and misbehavior before the enemy — to which the former soldier had pleaded guilty — based on the failure of the military judge in Bergdahl’s case to disclose that he had applied for a job as a federal immigration judge just before the court-martial.

Walton, a judge with the U.S. District Court for Washington, issued a 63-page opinion July 25 that vacated decisions made by the military judge, then-Army Col. Jeffrey R. Nance, during the court-martial, including the sentence he imposed after a weeklong sentencing trial at Fort Bragg — now Fort Liberty — in North Carolina. Nance sentenced Bergdahl

to a dishonorable discharge, loss of pay and reduction in rank from E-5 sergeant to E-1 private, sparing him any jail time.



Bergdahl

Walton ruled “a reasonable person” would question Nance’s impartiality, given he was seeking a new civilian judgeship in the executive branch after his retirement from the military. Nance now holds that job in the Charlotte, N.C., Immigration Court. Walton left open the possibility that Bergdahl could be retried on the charges. But if a new trial was held, the former soldier could not face a penalty stiffer than his original sentence.

Bergdahl was a 23-year-old Army private when he walked off his post in eastern Afghanistan in 2009 and was captured and held for about five years by Taliban-linked militants in Pakistan.

He was later released to the United States in a controversial prisoner exchange for five Taliban commanders who had been held in the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. Bergdahl testified he had aimed to walk to a larger military post to report problems that he perceived in his unit. Testimony at his trial showed

U.S. soldiers spent weeks searching for him after his disappearance, and several American troops were severely wounded trying to find him.

The Army charged Bergdahl with “misbehavior before the enemy by endangering the safety of a command, unit or place” and “desertion with intent to shirk important or hazardous duty” in March 2015. Bergdahl’s case became especially politicized when former President Donald Trump, a candidate at the time, routinely mocked the soldier, labeling him “a traitor” during campaign speeches. Trump, as president, blasted Nance’s decision not to imprison Bergdahl as “a complete and total disgrace” within hours of the decision.

The Justice Department in the recent court filings argued Walton’s decision to vacate the sentence from Nance was based on wrongly equating the Bergdahl case to a 2019 decision in the case of a Guantanamo Bay detainee accused of masterminding the 2000 USS Cole attack.

In that case, four years of orders by a judge were vacated because he failed to disclose he had applied for a job as a civilian immigration judge. The proceedings in that case were different than Bergdahl’s case, prosecutors argued, pointing out the decision in the

Guantanamo case came long before a trial.

The prosecutors also argued Nance’s sentence appeared to consider Trump’s repeated attacks on Bergdahl, showing the judge was not attempting to curry favor with the president, whose attorney general would later appoint Nance to the immigration court. Nance could have sentenced Bergdahl to life imprisonment, and military prosecutors had sought a 14-year confinement.

“Here, the plaintiff received a sentence largely consistent with what he requested following his own guilty plea,” the Justice Department prosecutors wrote in August. “Indeed, plaintiff requested his sentence of a dishonorable discharge.”

If Walton declines to reinstate Bergdahl’s sentence, the judge should allow a new court-martial in the case given the “Army’s and the public’s interest in the administration of justice, especially ‘given the government’s strong evidence in support of the plaintiff’s charges ...; the seriousness of the charges ...; and the extensive casualties that resulted from the plaintiff’s actions,’” the prosecutors wrote.

In a countermotion, Bergdahl’s lawyers asked Walton to go further and dismiss the conviction “with prejudice,” meaning it

could not be retried in a new court-martial. Bergdahl “has been punished enough through nationwide adverse publicity and the sheer time the entire case has consumed since his five years in brutal Taliban captivity,” his attorneys wrote in a Sept. 22 court filing.

They argued Walton should grant the dismissal with prejudice to ensure the appearance of fairness because Nance repeatedly declined to throw out the case over Trump’s comments, which Bergdahl’s attorneys argued amounted to unlawful command influence. Nance’s decision could have been tainted by his plans to apply for the federal judgeship, Bergdahl’s lawyers argued.

“All this, along with the unprecedented actions of the nation’s highest elected official [Trump], and the passage of over two years since the plaintiff became a civilian, six years since his trial, nine years since the wheels of military justice began to turn, and over 14 years since the charged offenses, furnish a compelling basis for dismissing the charges with prejudice,” Bergdahl’s attorneys wrote.

It was unclear Tuesday when Walton could rule on Bergdahl’s case.

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# Italian frigate to deploy with USS Dwight D. Eisenhower

By ALISON BATH  
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — One of Italy’s stealthiest and most powerful warships is preparing to deploy this fall with the Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group in the Mediterranean Sea, Italian navy officials said.

The Carlo Bergamini-class frigate ITS Virginio Fasan first will join the Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group already on patrol in the Mediterranean in the next couple of weeks, Cmdr. Alessandro Consoli, commanding officer of Fasan, said Friday.

The frigate will then deploy with the Eisenhower group when it arrives in the region, said Consoli, who did not indicate exactly when that would occur.

The U.S. Navy hasn’t formally announced what carrier would relieve the Ford, which has been on duty mostly in the Mediterranean in the U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility since May.

Such deployments typically range from six to nine months. Sixth Fleet received but did not answer questions Tuesday about



PHOTOS BY ALISON BATH/Stars and Stripes

**The Italian frigate ITS Virginio Fasan moored in the Port of Naples on Friday. The ship was in Naples for public tours before upcoming deployments with two U.S. Navy carrier strike groups.**

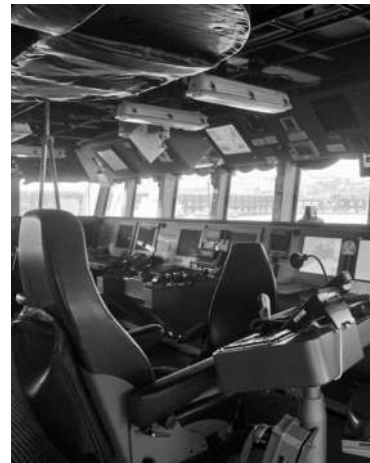
Eisenhower’s potential deployment.

But Fasan joined Eisenhower in a 24-day training exercise to certify the carrier for deployment, the Navy said in a July 25 statement.

Last month, Eisenhower trained as if it were off the coast of Italy during Large Scale Exercise, global drills that included 25,000 sailors and Marines, Breaking De-

fense reported at the time.

If deployed to 6th Fleet, Eisenhower would be the fourth carrier sent to the region since December 2021, when Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered USS Harry S. Truman to remain in the Mediterranean as Russia massed troops and advanced weaponry along the eastern, northern and southern borders of Ukraine.



**The bridge of the stealth Italian frigate ITS Virginio Fasan.**

Austin extended that directive in April 2022, following Russia’s full-scale invasion on Feb. 24 of that year. The aircraft carrier USS George H. W. Bush relieved Truman the following August.

Fasan also has operated with Bush during its deployment in the Mediterranean, the Navy said in its July statement.

The frigate, which has a crew of about 141 and can embark two helicopters, operated in Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 from

February to March 2021, according to an Italian navy handout.

Fasan is the first of its class designed with stealth capabilities that greatly reduce its infrared and radar presence. The ship also carries a multifunctional active radar, passive and active sonar scanners and a towed radar system, according to the handout.

Its armament includes two anti-surface and anti-air guns, two machine guns, an anti-air missile system with Aster 15 and Aster 30 missiles and two torpedo launchers.

In all, the Italian navy has seven of the frigates, which were designed in collaboration with France. Some of the frigates, like the Fasan, are anti-submarine warfare variants.

The ships were made by the Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri, a division of which also is building the Navy’s Constellation-class frigates.

Construction on the first of those ships, the \$1.3 billion Constellation, started in August 2022.

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## MILITARY

# Jill Biden unveils art display by military kids

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Visitors to the White House have something new to feast their eyes on, and perhaps learn from, too.

Jill Biden unveiled a new display, The Military Children's Corner, in the East Wing hallway on Tuesday, featuring artwork by children from military families. It is part of her White House initiative, called Joining Forces, to support military and veteran families, caregivers and survivors.

The White House said the first lady hopes it will help the public learn about the 4 million kids whose parents are active-duty service members, National Guard or reservists, or veterans.

The first lady was one of those kids; she's the daughter of a Navy signalman. Two of her grandchildren also were tied to the military through their father, Beau, who served in the Delaware Army National Guard. He died of brain cancer in 2015 at age 46.

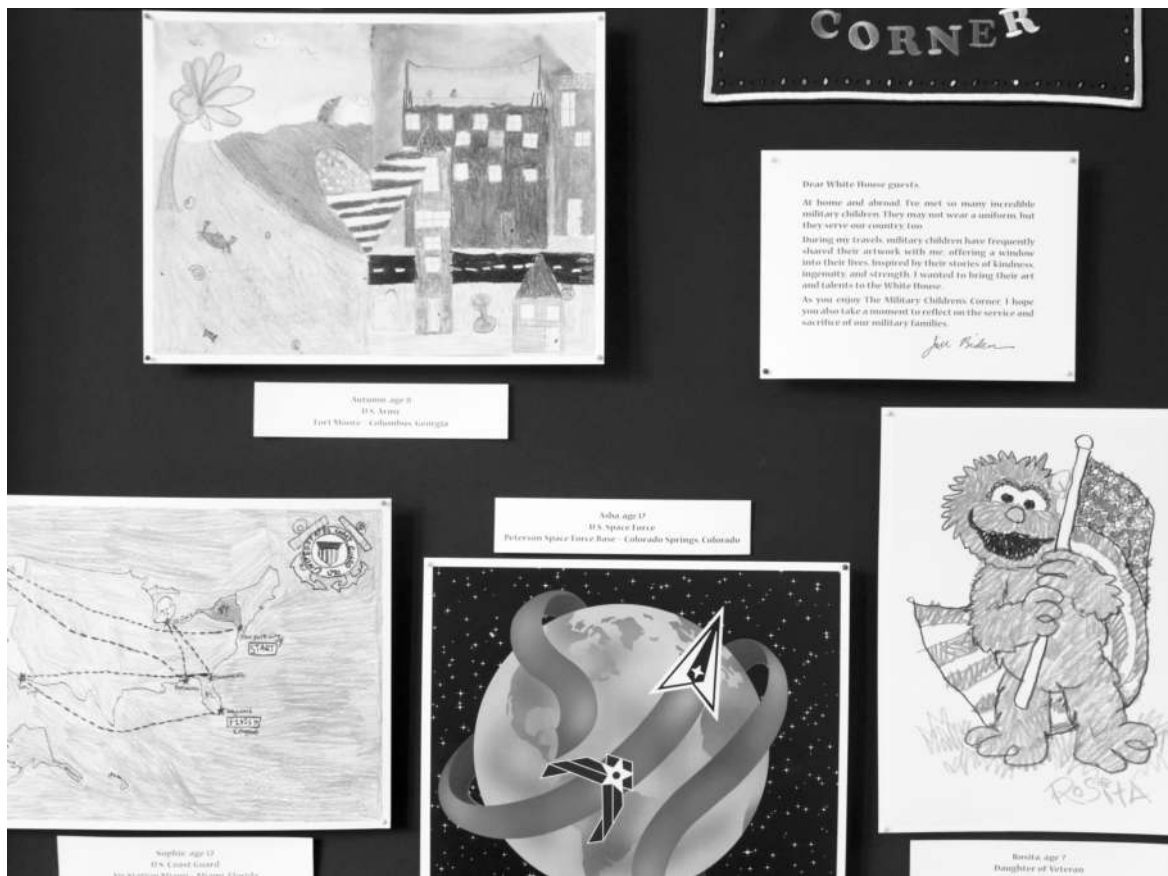
"They may not wear a uniform, but they serve our country,

too," Biden said in a written statement, adding that art by the military children she has met in recent years was like a "window into their own lives."

"Inspired by their stories of kindness, ingenuity and strength, I wanted to bring their art and talents to the White House," she said. "As visitors enjoy The Military Children's Corner, I hope they also take a moment to reflect on the service and sacrifice of our military families."

The initial display, located along the East Colonnade, features work by 11 artists, ranging in age from 8-19 and living at U.S. military installations in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Missouri and Japan. It is among the first displays that tourists and other visitors entering the White House through the East Wing entrance will see. The artwork will be updated quarterly.

The display also features art by Rosita, of Sesame Street, whose father, Ricardo, is a veteran who uses a wheelchair after he was injured during military service.



Artwork by military children decorates a display in the East Colonnade of the East Wing at the White House on Tuesday in Washington.

## Colleagues remember airman killed in Germany crash

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Colleagues of Senior Airman Christopher Lee Rocha who spoke at his memorial service Tuesday recalled him as a man who demonstrated an uncanny compassion for others, whether he knew them or not.

An alarm monitor for the 569th U.S. Forces Police Squadron at Vogelweh Air Station, Rocha died Sept. 4 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Maryland, where he had been transferred after a head-on collision Aug. 18 near Ramstein Air Base.

The cause of the crash is still

under investigation, officials with the 86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein said Tuesday.

The 24-year-old from El Paso, Texas, had been selected for promotion to staff sergeant. The hourlong service, which was held at the Vogelweh chapel, was live-streamed for his family in the U.S.

Airman 1st Class Cameron Thompson recounted a story from a night he and Rocha were working the gate in family hous-

ing at Vogelweh. They noticed a man stumbling from a taxi up the access road.

Although it was Thompson's turn to scan IDs, Rocha came with him to make sure everything was OK, he said. Rocha took the time to ask the man how his night was going and learned that he was going through a divorce.

He assured him that it was going to be all right and offered words of comfort, Thompson said.

"If you think there is someone who needs help, like that man did that night, be like Rocha," he said.

Senior Airman Mathew Sayer

said Rocha was the first person he grew close to when he arrived at Ramstein. Rocha often cheered him up during those tough early months, when Sayer said he hated his room, the area, even Ikea.

"We're going to miss the smile, the adventures, the goofy personality," he said.

Base defenders from the 569th and 86th Security Forces Squadron, as well as German police who work with base security personnel, filled the rows of pews in the Vogelweh Chapel to pay tribute. Rocha was honored with a 21-gun salute and a moment of silence.

Lt. Col. Brian Gilliam, the

569th commander, described Rocha as "a caring soul."

In addition to his capacity for empathy, Rocha was praised for the dedication he showed to his craft and his co-workers.

"He shined a positive light on myself and our entire flight," Thompson said. "No matter what he was going through ... he never, ever failed to come to work without a huge smile and ready to attack the night."

Rocha is survived by his parents, his wife, a grandmother and four brothers.

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## Soldier sentenced to prison for crash that killed another soldier

BY GARY WARNER  
Stars and Stripes

A soldier at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson has been sentenced to 18 months in prison for a drunken-driving crash that killed a member of his unit who had enlisted less than a year earlier, the Army said Monday.

Pfc. Andy Ramos, 19, faced a court-martial Sept. 2 at the Alaska base for driving while drunk May 28 with a car filled with soldiers, resulting in a crash that killed Pfc. Arath Esau Martinez-Arguelles, 20, of Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Ramos and Martinez-Arguelles served together in the 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) at Elmendorf-Richardson, which is near Anchorage. Martinez-Arguelles, a mechanic, enlisted in June 2022 and had been with the unit in Alaska since March. Ramos was a combat engineer.

Ramos pleaded guilty to negligent homicide and driving a vehicle while intoxicated resulting in personal injury. As part of the proceedings, Ramos accepted a plea agreement that includes his demotion to private

and a dishonorable discharge upon his release from confinement, Army spokesman John Pennell said.

An Army investigation found Ramos and other soldiers had been drinking on base May 28, the Sunday of the three-day Memorial Day weekend.

Five soldiers got into a vehicle with Ramos driving. The group traveled south toward Anchorage at what witnesses told investigators was "excessive speed." At a bridge over Ship Creek, Ramos lost control of the vehicle, striking a bridge abutment. The car spun into oncom-

ing traffic, where it slammed into a pickup truck driven by a soldier traveling with his wife and child.

The force of the collision ejected Martinez-Arguelles from the vehicle, according to reports of the accident. Emergency responders transported him to the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Others injured in the crash were transferred to three area hospitals and treated for injuries. Pennell said he did not know the severity of the injuries of others in the two vehicles.

Ramos was tested for drunken driving after the crash and registered a blood-alcohol level above the .08 legal limit.

Army prosecutors charged Ramos killed Martinez-Arguelles by driving "at an excessive speed while drunk." Ramos was also accused of attempting to coerce other soldiers in his vehicle to lie to authorities and say one of them was driving at the time of the crash.

Pennell said officials did not know yet where Ramos will serve his sentence.

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# MILITARY

## EUCOM head: Drones yield 'huge results' for Ukraine

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

The war in Ukraine is showing how small investments in cheap drones can have an outsized effect on the battlefield, the top U.S. military commander in Europe said Wednesday.

Ukrainian forces have added a new dimension to their fighting with "first person" and "one-way attack" drones that have delivered "huge results on the battlefield," U.S. European Command's Gen. Christopher Cavoli said from his headquarters in Belgium, where he serves in his role as NATO supreme allied commander.

"One of the biggest results (a simple drone) is it gives people a feeling of insecurity on the other side," Cavoli said. "It's not just that you got hit with the drone, it's that you kind of didn't hear it coming. And every time you hear a buzzing sound in the air, it fills you with dread."

The result is "a paralytic effect" on the adversary, he said.

Cavoli's comments came during a discussion at a security forum hosted by the Center for European Policy Analysis.

Numerous allied teams have been assembled to learn from Russia's full-scale invasion, which



Gen. Christopher Cavoli, NATO's supreme allied commander in Europe, talks with Catherine Sendak of the Center for European Policy Analysis on Wednesday.

was launched in February 2022.

The U.S. training of Ukrainian forces at various bases in Europe also works in reverse, with American personnel learning firsthand from the combatants themselves, Cavoli said. Electronic warfare is an area where Cavoli said allies

are gaining new insights, but he declined to go into detail for security reasons.

"There are disruptive technologies out there, and we're studying those closely, and we hope to adopt some of them ourselves," he said.

The grinding trench warfare not seen in Europe for many decades has left both Russia and Ukraine looking to friendly nations to supply them with weapons such as artillery shells and ammunition.

U.S. officials, including President Joe Biden, have acknowl-

edged that the enormous amount of military aid to Ukraine has strained weapons stocks, highlighting the need to strengthen the industrial base.

"As soon as you get past the first couple of months of a war and it begins to protract, it becomes a competition of production," Cavoli said. "So, the industrial bases of our nations are something that we're all studying even harder."

Meanwhile, a key development in NATO is the establishment of a new generation of regional defense plans, agreed to by member countries at the alliance's July summit in Vilnius.

The next step will be building the necessary force structure to fully implement the strategy, Cavoli said.

Common during the Cold War, territorial defense plans fell by the wayside in the years that followed. But Russia's unprovoked invasions of Ukraine in 2014 and 2022 refocused NATO on its original purpose of territorial defense.

"It'll be a challenge to build out that force structure," Cavoli said. "But nevertheless, at least we have the blueprint."

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## PACIFIC

# ‘Rocky Horror’ at roller derby

## Teams do the time warp again at recent match on Yokota base

By KELLY AGEE  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Roller derby teams from the Tokyo area recently did the time warp, dancing in costumes and skates for a “Rocky Horror”-themed roller derby match at this airlift hub in western Tokyo.

The Fuji Horror Roller Derby Show drew nearly three dozen skaters to the Samurai Fitness Center for an hourlong competition Sunday afternoon. The event took inspiration from “The Rocky Horror Picture Show,” a cult classic musical-horror-comedy film released in 1975. It marked its 48th anniversary on Tuesday.

“It makes you feel more comfortable when the teams are dressed up and expressing themselves,” Jay Hudson, of the Zama Killer Katanas, said at the event. “I like to see people genuinely be interested in going all out and enjoying themselves while they’re doing something competitive like this.”

Members of teams from area U.S. military — the Katanas from Camp Zama; the Fuji Flatliners from Yokota; and the Sushi Rollers from Yokosuka Naval Base — broke up to form two squads, the Black and the White, for the event. They were joined by local Japa-

nese teams the Samurai Cats and the Samurai Warriors.

Some competitors dressed as characters from “Rocky Horror.”

Adrianna Seda of the Fuji Flatliners — derby name “Booking Betty” — said her team came up with the theme.

“Since October is going to be so busy and we can’t really do Halloween, we decided to hold the Fuji horror derby show,” she said. “It just worked. Several of us are really big fans of the production.”

“Rocky Horror” debuted in 1973 as a stage production at The Royal Court Theatre Upstairs in London. The film debuted two years later.

A flop at first, it was relaunched three years later as a midnight movie in New York City.

During these showings, audience members dressed up as characters from the film and acted out the scenes in theaters as the movie played. Audiences shouted call-backs, popular responses to scenes in the movie, and sang and danced in the aisles to well-worn musical numbers, including “The Time Warp.”

“Rocky Horror” remains the longest-running theatrical release in film history.

On Sunday, Diana Ulloa-



PHOTOS BY KELLY AGEE/Stars and Stripes

Jay Hudson, center, of the Zama Killer Katanas, blocks opposing players during a “Rocky Horror”-themed roller derby matchup at the Samurai Fitness Center on Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Sunday.

Montes, from the Zama team, dressed in a maid outfit as Magenta, played in the movie by Patricia Quinn.

“This event was the first event that I was like, I absolutely need to dress up for this,” she said.

Ulloa-Montes — derby name “Bend and Snap” — frequented midnight “Rocky Horror” showings in college.

“It was rated R because you had a man who had relations with a man and a woman,” she said. “If released today, I don’t think it would receive an R rating, though today there is still a lot of stigmas against queer people. And I think ‘Rocky Horror Picture Show’ has a cult following because it allows people to be seen.”

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Alex Miller, left and Hudson, both of the Zama Killer Katanas, do “The Time Warp” during a “Rocky Horror”-themed roller derby competition.

## DODEA awards \$125M contract to update Okinawa school

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP MCTUREOUS, Okinawa — A Tokyo construction firm won a \$125 million contract last month to update a Defense Department school on Okinawa based on a state-of-the-art design.

Nishimatsu Construction Co. Ltd. will start renovations and new construction for Bechtel Elementary on Marine Corps base Camp McTureous sometime this fall, Miranda Ferguson, spokeswoman for Department of Defense Education Activity-Pacific, said by email Tuesday.

The project, expected to take three years, will make Bechtel the island’s fifth “21st Century school,” after Bob Hope and Kadena elementary schools on Kadena Air Base and Killin and Zuke-ran schools on Camp Foster, she said.

As part of a decade-old building



DODEA

An artist’s rendering of Bechtel Elementary, a Department of Defense Education Activity school on Okinawa that’s receiving a facelift.

campaign, DODEA has built and renovated schools according to the same concept at several other bases in the Pacific and Europe.

The refurbished Bechtel will feature collaborative common areas and new furnishings, hallmarks of the 21st Century initia-

tive, as well as playground equipment upgrades.

The 21st Century school design is meant to prepare students for the tech-focused jobs of the future. They feature classrooms without walls called “neighborhoods,” collaborative teaching and data-dri-

ven instruction.

“The reconstruction and reimagining of Bechtel Elementary School shows a steadfast commitment to the development and well-being of our military families here on Okinawa,” Maj. Gen. Stephen Liszewski, commander of Marine Corps Installations Pacific, said in a DODEA news release Sept. 8. “This is more than a construction project; it’s a symbol of our dedication to building a brighter future for the generations that will follow in our footsteps.”

Nishimatsu received the contract Aug. 30 for approximately 81,000 square feet of new construction and to renovate 68,094 square feet of existing space, according to the release. Artist renderings show a modern façade, colorful assembly areas and warm, open classrooms, marked by carpets and comfortable furniture.

DODEA opted for a partial

demolition and renovation instead of a complete overhaul of the school to meet budget and time constraints, Ferguson said.

Completely demolishing the school would have added a year to the project.

Bechtel, founded in 1987, serves approximately 400 students from kindergarten through fifth grade, provides preschool services for children with disabilities, Ferguson said. The students come from Camps Courtney and McTureous and nearby off-base residences.

Students in grades one through five have been attending class at Ryukyu Middle School on Kadena since the school year began in August, Ferguson said. Kindergarteners, preschoolers with disabilities and Sure Start students are attending Kadena Elementary.

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MILITARY

# Daughter now has Marine's WWII words

## Late veteran's family grateful to receive diary 81 years later

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
Stars and Stripes

The diary of a Marine who recorded his first eight months of World War II in the Pacific before fighting in some of its bloodiest battles is back with his family after it surfaced 81 years later.

Charlie Kitts, 70, of Acworth, Ga., was going through his late uncle's personal effects in 2021 when he discovered the worn, government-issued book, he said.

Petty Officer 1st Class Vincent Kitts served in the Navy during WWII, survived the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941, and the sinking of the USS Astoria off Guadalcanal eight months later.

His nephew knew he had a treasure on his hands, but was dismayed to see someone else's name, Leo McDermott, scrawled on the inside cover. The discovery started Charlie Kitts on a two-year quest to find McDermott's family and give his diary to them.

The book arrived Aug. 8 at the home of McDermott's daughter, Patti McDermott Dorschied, in Fairhaven, Mass., 81 years and a day after the Marines went ashore on Guadalcanal.

"I tell you, the way it came together, it was kind of like Leo was involved to make it happen," Kitts said.

Vincent Kitts moved to St. Louis after the war and became a union millwright maintaining factory equipment, his nephew said. He died in 1997 at age 77.

His personal papers bounced around between family members before finally landing with his nephew in 2018. It took three years for Charlie Kitts to peer into the box collecting dust in the garage.

"When I saw the diary, my first thought was, 'Oh, Uncle Vincent

left the diary,' and then, of course, I opened it," he said. "There was a level of disappointment, but at the same time it was, 'I wonder how he got it. I wonder who Leo was.'"

### Bloody engagements

Sgt. Leo "Bull" McDermott served with K Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, of the storied 1st Marine Division, known as "The Old Breed," Dorschied, 68, said by phone Sept. 6.

She said her father survived one bloody engagement after another, from the Battle of the Tenaru on Guadalcanal, where he received multiple shrapnel wounds, to Cape Gloucester, Peleliu and Okinawa.

McDermott returned home to Fairhaven and worked for the U.S. Postal Service, Dorschied said. He died in 1999 at age 76.

Their descendants said they don't know how Leo and Vincent crossed paths or if they even knew each other. Vincent may have picked up the small leatherbound book after landing on Guadalcanal or he may have found it on one of the Navy transport ships.

The diary begins Jan. 5, 1942, nearly a month after the Pearl Harbor attack, and ends just before McDermott's division landed on Guadalcanal. He described leaving to join the Marines, boot camp and boarding a transport ship. Some of the diary's 32 inscribed pages are difficult to read. "Arrived Parris Island 2:30 Wednesday afternoon," says the entry for Jan. 7. "Got one shot today. Blood tests and vaccinations. One guy passed out at the sight of blood."

On July 7, McDermott described sleeping on the unnamed ship's deck, a common practice for surviving a nighttime torpedo at-



Charlie Kitts

**Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Vincent Kitts survived the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941, and the sinking of the USS Astoria off Guadalcanal eight months later. McDermott's diary was among his possessions when he died in 1997 at age 77.**

tack. "Cold as all hell today," he wrote. "Damn near froze to death. Didn't sleep a wink. Too dumb to give in."

On Aug. 6, the eve of the Guadalcanal landing, the Marine described receiving ammunition.

"160 rounds. Plenty heavy," he wrote. "Sang all night. Look out [Japanese]. Here we come!"

His final entry came the next day.

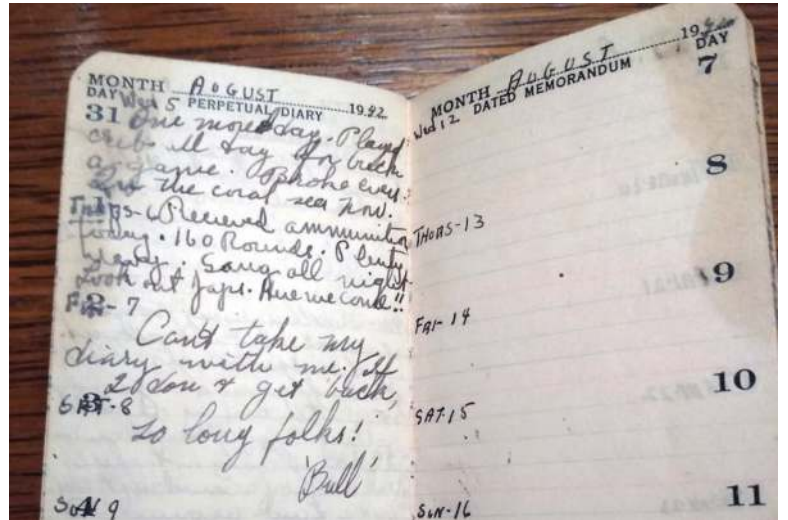
"Can't take my diary with me," he wrote. "If I don't get back, so long folks!"

### 'Incredible gift'

Charlie Kitts found McDermott's family by calling Brad Fish, a former Marine and veterans service officer in Fairhaven.

Someone in Fish's office remembered the McDermott family, so Fish took a drive, he said by phone Sept. 6. A few minutes later, he was face-to-face with Dorschied.

"He gave me Charlie's number



Patti McDermott Dorschied

**The final entry in the wartime diary of Marine Sgt. Leo "Bull" McDermott was written Aug. 7, 1942, the same day Marines of the 1st Division landed on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.**



Patti McDermott Dorschied

**The diary of McDermott, above, arrived at the home of his daughter, Patti McDermott Dorschied, in Fairhaven, Mass., on Aug. 8, 81 years after Marines of the 1st Division went ashore on Guadalcanal.**

in case I wanted to get in touch with him, which I did after sitting here for a half an hour, shaking," Dorschied recalled.

Kitts mailed the diary that day, he said. It now sits on Dorschied's mantel next to a picture of her father.

She is planning to donate it and another diary her father kept, along with photos of Vincent and Leo, to the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Military Museum in New

Bedford, Mass.

Dorschied said she still talks to her new friend Charlie Kitts often. She is thankful to the man she calls Uncle Vincent for rescuing her father's diary and preserving it all these years.

"It's an incredible gift," she said. "My dad's come home again to me."

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# King: Officials say soldier freed because he was of no benefit to N. Korea

FROM PAGE 1

the Chinese border, where he was met by the U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns, the Swedish ambassador to China, and at least one U.S. Defense Department official. Biden administration officials insisted they provided no concessions to North Korea to secure the soldier's release.

"We thank the government of Sweden for its diplomatic role serving as the protecting power for the United States in the DPRK and the government of the People's Republic of China for its assistance in facilitating the transit of Private King," Sullivan added.

King was being flown to a U.S. military base in South Korea before being returned to the U.S.

King's expulsion almost certainly does not end his troubles or ensure the sort of celebratory homecoming that has accompanied the releases of other detained Americans.

And there remain unanswered questions about the episode, including why King went to North Korea in the first place. His fate also remains uncertain, having been declared AWOL by the U.S. government. That can mean punishment by time in military jail, forfeiture of pay or a dishonorable

discharge.

In the near term, officials said that their focus would be on helping King reintegrate into U.S. society upon his return, including helping him address mental and emotional concerns, according to a senior Biden administration officials who briefed reporters on the transfer.

The soldier was in "good spirits and good health" upon his release, according to one senior administration official. He was to be taken to Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, and was expected to arrive overnight, officials said.

King, who had served in South Korea, ran into North Korea while on a civilian tour of a border village on July 18, becoming the first American confirmed to be detained in the North in nearly five years. At the time he crossed the border, King was supposed to be heading to Fort Bliss, Texas, following his release from prison in South Korea on an assault conviction.

The White House did not address the North Korean state media reports that King, who is Black, fled because of his dismay about racial discrimination and inequality in the military and U.S.

society. One senior administration official said that King was "very happy" to be on his way back to the United States.

King, who is from Wisconsin, was among about 28,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea as deterrence against potential aggression from North Korea. U.S. officials had expressed concern about King's well-being, citing the North's harsh treatment of some American detainees in the past.

Both Koreas ban anyone from crossing their heavily fortified shared border without special permissions.

## NATION

# House's McCarthy back to square one

## Senate pushing ahead to avert shutdown as deadline looms

BY LISA MASCARO  
AND STEPHEN GROVES  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As the Senate marches ahead with a bipartisan approach to prevent a government shutdown, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy is back to square one — asking his hard-right Republicans to do what they have said they would never do: approve their own temporary House measure to keep the government open.

The Republican speaker laid out his strategy Wednesday behind closed doors, urging his unruly Republican majority to work together. He set up a test vote Friday, one day before Saturday's shutdown deadline, on a far-right bill. It would slash federal spending by 8% from many agencies and toughen border security but has been rejected by President Joe Biden, Democrats and his own right-flank Republicans.

"I want to solve the problem," McCarthy told reporters afterward at the Capitol.

But pressed on how he would pass a partisan Republican spending plan that even his own right flank doesn't want, McCarthy had few answers.

He rejected outright the Senate's bipartisan bill, which would fund the government to Nov. 17, adding \$6 billion for Ukraine and \$6 billion for U.S. disaster relief while talks continue. Instead, he insisted, as he often does, that he would never quit trying.



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

**Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., walks to the Senate chamber on Tuesday.**

Congress is at a crossroads days before a disruptive federal shutdown that would halt paychecks for millions of federal workers and the military, close down many federal offices, and leave Americans who rely on the government in ways large and small in the lurch.

As the Senate pushes ahead in bipartisan fashion, McCarthy is demanding that Biden meet to discuss border security measures. But the beleaguered speaker has little leverage left with the White House without the power of his House majority behind him and after he walked away from the debt deal he and Biden reached earlier this year that is now law.

On the other side of the Capitol, Senate Majority Leader Chuck



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

**House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., joined by Rep. August Pfluger, R-Texas, and other GOP members, talks to reporters just after voting to advance appropriations bills on the House floor, at the Capitol in Washington, on Tuesday.**

Schumer opened the chamber warning of the right-wing extremes that "seem to exult in shutting down government."

Schumer said: "A reckless shutdown will serve no purpose."

The Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell was in rare agreement with the Democratic leader, urging his House colleagues to consider the Senate's stopgap approach that keeps funding at current levels, along with bolstered money for Ukraine and U.S. disaster relief, and move off the shutdown strategy.

"We can take the standard approach and fund the government

for six weeks at the current rate of operations or we can shut the government down in exchange for zero meaningful progress on policy," McConnell said.

McConnell said he, too, would like to do something about the "Democrats' reckless spending" and boost border security. But "these important discussions cannot progress" if the functions of government "end up being taken hostage."

With the Senate expected to spend the rest of this week working to pass its bill over the objections of Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., and others on the right flank who

want to halt aid to Ukraine and push for steeper spending cuts, all action in Congress is crushing toward a last minute deadline.

The federal government would begin to shut down if funding is not secured by Sunday, Oct. 1, which is the start of the new fiscal year.

While the White House has said it's up to McCarthy and the House Republicans to "fix" the problem they have created, Biden's chief rival in the 2024 election, Donald Trump, is urging the right flank to fight for steep spending cuts. If Republicans don't get what they want, Trump the former president says, they should "shut it down."

## Shutdown: Officials fear Ukrainian operations will be affected eventually

FROM PAGE 1

til the shutdown is resolved.

LaPlante, who has been in his Pentagon post for about 18 months, said a shutdown would affect the military in much deeper — and perhaps unexpected — ways.

"I have some testing we want to do next week on an item for Ukraine and unless we can get some type of a waiver, it's not going to happen. And people are not going to be able to travel, so it's extremely disruptive," he said. "The message it sends to the government workforce, you know, we're sending people home who are engineers, are acquisition professionals, are sustainers, are contracting officers — we're just sending them home and saying, 'You are not essential.'"

Last week, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin exempted Ukraine-related operations from being af-

ected by a shutdown, meaning essential activities related to helping Ukrainians defend their country against Russia will be protected. That includes sending weapons shipments to Ukraine. However, Pentagon officials, including LaPlante, have said U.S. assistance to the Eastern European nation will almost certainly be affected in peripheral ways.

The Defense Department said Monday, for example, that some civilian workers who are involved with Ukraine — but are not considered essential — would be furloughed. The Pentagon said that would trickle down eventually to affect Ukrainian operations.

In its National Defense Strategy last year, the Defense Department identified Russia as an ongoing concern, but it named China as the No. 1 "pacing challenge" for the U.S. in the world — particularly with Beijing expanding its reach

and influence and its constant eye on unifying with Taiwan, which it considers a breakaway territory. To support the strategy, the Pentagon has put a priority on policies and operations intended to keep China in check, but most of those items would likely also become casualties of a shutdown.

"Can you imagine if the Chinese did something like this? Where their government would shut down every few years, and they would freeze their budget, not start up things for six months," LaPlante asked. "[The United States] would not view that badly."

Anything less than full funding for 2024, the Pentagon has said, would have a negative impact on national security and U.S. defenses around the world. That's because a continuing resolution, or CR, would keep the department from funding anything beyond the short term. LaPlante said the dif-

ference between a shutdown and a CR is like choosing between "real bad" and "so bad."

"Any increases in production aren't going to happen [with a CR]," he said, citing the effects of past shutdowns. "In the past, this affected [guided multiple launch rocket systems], it actually affected Patriot [air-defense systems]. That's a CR."

LaPlante added: "Testing will stop. ... In 2013 [during a shutdown] ... production lines stopped, F-35s stopped, munitions stopped."

The House was expected to vote Tuesday on a package of bills to fund parts of the government, but it's unclear if there will be enough votes to pass them, according to The Associated Press. The news outlet also reported the Senate is preemptively working on a bipartisan stopgap funding plan to avoid a shutdown.

Hundreds of thousands of active-duty troops in the U.S. and more than 170,000 abroad would not be paid during a shutdown, according to the Pentagon.

"Extreme House Republicans are playing partisan games with peoples' lives and marching our country toward a government shutdown that would have damaging impacts across the country — including undermining our national security and forcing service members across the country and around the world to work without pay," the White House said in a statement Tuesday. "House Republicans have turned their backs on the bipartisan budget deal that two-thirds of them voted for just a few months ago and have instead proposed devastating cuts to programs that millions of hardworking Americans count on."

## NATION



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Joe Biden speaks to striking United Auto Workers on the picket line outside the Willow Run Redistribution Center, UAW Local 174, on Tuesday in Van Buren Township, Mich.

## Biden backs striking auto workers in unusual move for a president

Associated Press

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, Mich. — President Joe Biden grabbed a bullhorn on the picket line Tuesday and urged striking auto workers to “stick with it” in an unparalleled show of support for organized labor by a modern president.

Donning a union ballcap and exchanging fist bumps, Biden told United Auto Workers strikers that “you deserve the significant raise you need” as he stopped in the Detroit area just a day ahead of a planned visit by former President Donald Trump, the frontrunner for the Republican nomination in next year’s election.

“No deal, no wheels!” workers chanted as Biden arrived at a General Motors parts distribution warehouse, one of several facilities that has been targeted in a widening strike now in its 12th day. “No pay, no parts!”

Despite concerns that a prolonged strike could undermine the economy, particularly in the crucial battleground state of Michigan, the Democratic president encouraged workers to keep fighting for better wages at a time when

car companies have seen rising profits.

Asked if UAW members deserved a 40% raise, one of their demands over the course of negotiations, Biden said: “Yes. I think they should be able to bargain for that.”

He’s repeatedly argued that auto companies have not gone far enough to meet union demands, especially after making concessions in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

“The fact of the matter is that you guys, the UAW, you saved the automobile industry back in 2008 ... you made a lot of sacrifices. You gave up a lot. And the companies were in trouble. Now they’re doing incredibly well and guess what? You should be doing incredibly well.”

The White House said Biden was the first modern president to visit a picket line, a sign of how far he’s willing to go to cultivate union support as he runs for reelection.

Lawmakers often appear at strikes to show solidarity with unions, and Biden joined picket lines with casino workers in Las Vegas and auto workers in Kansas

City while seeking the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

But sitting presidents, who have to balance the rights of workers with disruptions to the economy, supply chains and other facets of everyday life, have stayed out of the strike fray — until Biden.

Unimpressed, Trump called Biden’s visit “nothing more than a PR stunt from Crooked Joe Biden to distract and gaslight the American people from his disastrous Bidenomics policies that have led to so much economic misery across the country.”

The president spent less than half an hour at the Willow Run parts distribution warehouse, where he was joined by UAW President Shawn Fain, who rode with Biden in the presidential limousine to the picket line.

“Thank you, Mr. President, for coming to stand up with us in our generation-defining moment,” said Fain, who described the union as engaged in a “kind of war” against “corporate greed.”

“We do the heavy lifting. We do the real work,” Fain said. “Not the CEOs.”

# NY Judge rules Trump defrauded banks, insurers

By MICHAEL R. SISAK  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A judge ruled Tuesday that Donald Trump committed fraud for years while building the real estate empire that catapulted him to fame and the White House, and he ordered some of the former president’s companies removed from his control and dissolved.

Judge Arthur Engoron, ruling in a civil lawsuit brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James, found that Trump and his company deceived banks, insurers and others by massively overvaluing his assets and exaggerating his net worth on paperwork used in making deals and securing loans.

Engoron ordered that some of Trump’s business licenses be rescinded as punishment, making it difficult or impossible for them to do business in New York, and said he would continue to have an independent monitor oversee Trump Organization operations.

If not successfully appealed, the order would strip Trump of his authority to make strategic and financial decisions over some of his key properties in the state.

Trump, in a series of statements, railed against the decision, calling it “un-American” and part of an ongoing plot to damage his campaign to return to the White House.

“My Civil rights have been violated, and some Appellate Court, whether federal or state, must reverse this horrible, un-American decision,” he wrote on his Truth Social site. He insisted his company had “done a magnificent job for New York State” and “done business perfectly,” calling it “A very sad Day for the New York State System of Justice!”

Trump’s lawyer, Christopher Kise, said they would appeal, call-

ing the decision “completely disconnected from the facts and governing law.”

Engoron’s ruling, days before the start of a non-jury trial in James’ lawsuit, is the strongest repudiation yet of Trump’s carefully coiffed image as a wealthy and shrewd real estate mogul turned political powerhouse.

Beyond mere bragging about his riches, Trump, his company and key executives repeatedly lied about them on his annual financial statements, reaping rewards such as favorable loan terms and lower insurance costs, Engoron found.

Those tactics crossed a line and violated the law, the judge said, rejecting Trump’s contention that a disclaimer on the financial statements absolved him of any wrongdoing.

“In defendants’ world: rent regulated apartments are worth the same as unregulated apartments; restricted land is worth the same as unrestricted land; restrictions can evaporate into thin air; a disclaimer by one party casting responsibility on another party exonerates the other party’s lies,” Engoron wrote in his 35-page ruling. “That is a fantasy world, not the real world.”

Manhattan prosecutors had looked into bringing criminal charges over the same conduct but declined to do so, leaving James to sue Trump and seek penalties that aim to disrupt his and his family’s ability to do business.

Engoron’s ruling, in a phase of the case known as summary judgment, resolves the key claim in James’ lawsuit, but several others remain. He’ll decide on those claims and James’ request for \$250 million in penalties at a trial starting Oct. 2. Trump’s lawyers have asked an appeals court for a delay.

## New Jersey’s Menendez pleads not guilty in bribery case

Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to federal charges accusing him of pocketing bribes of cash and gold bars in exchange for wielding his political influence to secretly advance Egyptian interests and do favors for local businessmen.

Menendez made his initial court appearance in Manhattan’s feder-

al court days after prosecutors unsealed an indictment alleging vast corruption by the Democrat, who was forced to step down as chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee after being indicted.

Menendez was ordered released on a \$100,000 bond, and he must surrender any personal passports but will be allowed to keep an official passport that

would allow him to travel outside the U.S. for government business. The judge ordered him not to have any contact with his co-defendants except for his wife.

A defiant Menendez has said allegations that he abused his power to line his pockets are baseless. He has said he is confident he will be exonerated and has no intention of leaving the Senate.

Still, calls for Menendez to re-

sign continued to mount on Wednesday with Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Senate Democrat, saying “he should step down.” More than half of Senate Democrats have now said that Menendez should resign, including fellow New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, who said the indictment includes “shocking allegations of corruption and specific, disturbing details of wrongdoing.”

It’s the second corruption case in a decade against Menendez, whose last trial involving different allegations ended with jurors failing to reach a verdict in 2017.

Authorities say they found nearly \$500,000 in cash, much of it hidden in clothing and closets, as well as more than \$100,000 in gold bars in a search of the New Jersey home Menendez, 69, shares with his wife.

## NATION

# Amazon sued by FTC, states over price allegations

By HALELUYA HADERO  
Associated Press

U.S. regulators and 17 states are suing Amazon over allegations it abuses its position in the marketplace to inflate prices on and off its platform, overcharge sellers and stifle competition.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday in federal court in Amazon's home state of Washington, is the result of a yearslong investigation into the company's businesses and one of the most significant legal challenges brought against it in its nearly 30-year history.

The Federal Trade Commission and states that joined the lawsuit allege Amazon is violating federal and state antitrust laws. They are asking the court to issue a permanent injunction that they say would prohibit Amazon from engaging in its unlawful conduct and loosen its "monopolistic control to restore competition."

The complaint accuses the company of engaging in anti-competitive practices through measures that deter sellers from offering lower prices for products on non-Amazon sites, an argument mirroring allegations made in a separate lawsuit filed last year by the state of California.

The lawsuit says Amazon buries listings offered at lower prices on other sites. At the same time, it also charges sellers high fees, forcing merchants to raise their prices on the platform, as well as on other e-commerce sites in order to keep their products competitive on Amazon.

"The complaint sets forth detailed allegations noting how Amazon is now exploiting its monopoly power to enrich itself while raising prices and degrading service for the tens of millions of American families who shop on its platform and the hundreds of thousands of businesses that rely

on Amazon to reach them," FTC Chairman Lina Khan said in a prepared statement.

Seattle-based Amazon.com Inc. said the FTC is "wrong on the facts and the law" and had departed from its role of protecting consumers and competition.

"If the FTC gets its way, the result would be fewer products to choose from, higher prices, slower deliveries for consumers, and reduced options for small businesses — the opposite of what antitrust law is designed to do," Amazon General Counsel David Zapolsky said in a prepared statement.

The lawsuit also accuses Amazon of degrading customers' experience by replacing relevant search results with paid advertisements, favoring its own brands over other products it knows to be of better quality, and charging heavy fees that force sellers to pay nearly half of their total revenues to Amazon. According to the anti-monopoly organization Institute for Local Self-Reliance, the cut sellers give to Amazon from their revenue is up from 35% in 2020 and 19% in 2014.

The lawsuit also says Amazon compels sellers to use its logistics service, Fulfillment by Amazon, in order to make their products eligible for Amazon Prime, even though many of them would rather use alternative fulfillment services to get orders to customers.

Some estimates show Amazon controls about 40% of the e-commerce market. A majority of the sales on its platform are facilitated by independent sellers consisting of small- and medium-sized businesses and individuals. In return for the access it provides to its platform, Amazon rakes in billions through referral fees and other services like advertising, which makes products sold by sellers more visible on the platform.



RICHARD VOGEL/AP

Actor and producer Tangareen Thomas, center, takes a selfie with Actor Jon Cryer, left and WGA supporter Soloman Ghirmai, right, joining SAG-AFTRA picketers outside the gates of Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank, Calif., on Tuesday.

## Late-night TV shows announce return after writers' strike ends

By MARK KENNEDY  
AND ANDREW DALTON  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — TV's late-high hosts planned to return to their evening sketches and monologues by next week, reinstating the flow of topical humor silenced for five months by the newly-ended Hollywood's writers strike.

Bill Maher led the charge back to work by announcing early Wednesday that his HBO show "Real Time with Bill Maher" would be back on the air Friday.

By mid-morning, the hosts of NBC's "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" and "Late Night with Seth Meyers," ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live," and "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" on CBS had announced they'd also return, all by Monday.

"Last Week Tonight" with John Oliver was slated to return to the air Sunday.

Fallon, Meyers, Kimmel, Colbert and Oliver had spent the latter part of the strike teaming up for a popular podcast called "Strike Force Five" — named af-

ter their personal text chain and with all proceeds benefiting their out-of-work writers. On Instagram on Wednesday, they announced "their mission complete."

The plans for some late-night shows were not immediately clear, like "Saturday Night Live" and Comedy Central's "Daily Show," which had been using guest hosts when the strike hit.

Scripted shows will take longer to return, with actors still on strike and no negotiations yet on the horizon.

On Tuesday night, board members from the writers union approved a contract agreement with studios, bringing the industry at least partly back from a historic halt in production that stretched nearly five months.

Maher had delayed returning to his talk show during the ongoing strike by writers and actors, a decision that followed similar pauses by "The Drew Barrymore Show," "The Talk" and "The Jennifer Hudson Show."

The three-year agreement with

studios, producers and streaming services includes significant wins in the main areas writers had fought for — compensation, length of employment, size of staffs and control of artificial intelligence — matching or nearly equaling what they had sought at the outset of the strike.

The union had sought minimum increases in pay and future residual earnings from shows and will get a raise of between 3.5% and 5% in those areas — more than the studios had offered.

The guild also negotiated new residual payments based on the popularity of streaming shows, where writers will get bonuses for being a part of the most popular shows on Netflix, Max and other services, a proposal studios initially rejected.

Many writers on picket lines had complained that they weren't properly paid for helping create heavily watched properties.

On artificial intelligence, the writers got the regulation and control of the emerging technology they had sought.

## Crowds of masked teens ransack Philly stores; arrests made

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Groups of teenagers swarmed into stores in several areas of Philadelphia in an apparently coordinated effort, stuffing plastic bags with merchandise and fleeing, authorities said. Police arrested 15 to 20 people.

The flash mob-style ransacking Tuesday night at stores including Foot Locker, Lululemon and Ap-

ple came after a peaceful protest over a judge's decision to dismiss murder and other charges against a Philadelphia police officer who shot and killed a driver, Eddie Izzary, through a rolled-up window.

Those doing the ransacking were not affiliated with the protest, Interim Police Commissioner John Stanford said at a news conference, calling the group "a

bunch of criminal opportunists."

Video on social media showed masked people in hoodies running out of Lululemon with merchandise and police officers grabbing several and tackling them to the sidewalk. Photos of a sporting goods store at a mall showed mannequins and sneakers scattered on the sidewalk.

The thefts and unrest stretched from downtown to Northeast and

West Philadelphia, leaving smashed display windows and broken storefront coverings.

"This destructive and illegal behavior cannot and will not be tolerated in our city," Mayor Jim Kenney, a Democrat, said on social media, calling it a "sickening display of opportunistic criminal activity."

His administration is working with police to assess "which areas

of the city may need increased coverage or additional resources," he said.

People appeared to have organized efforts on social media, Stanford said. Police are investigating "that there was possibly a caravan of a number of different vehicles that were going from location to location" and that a couple of people in the caravan were in custody.

## NATION

# Lahaina family finds heirlooms, devastation

BY AUDREY McAVOY  
AND GENE JOHNSON  
*Associated Press*

LAHAINA, Hawaii — Leola Vierra stepped gingerly among the hardened pools of melted metal, charred wood and broken glass that are almost all that remain of the home where she lived for nearly 50 years.

Sifting through the rubble, she found two cow-patterned vessels, part of her extensive collection of bovine figurines. Nearby, her son discovered the blackened remnants of his late grandfather's pistol from his days as a Lahaina policeman from the late 1940s to 1970s.

There was no sign of the beloved cat, Kitty Kai, that used to greet her when she came home from work and church.

"I'm so sad — devastated," she said. "This was my home."

Vierra, her husband and two adult children returned to the property Tuesday for the first time since the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century whipped through on Aug. 8, obliterating the historic town of Lahaina and killing at least 97 people. They were among the first small group of residents to be allowed back into the burn zone to see where their homes once stood.

They wore boots, white coveralls, face masks and gloves to protect them from toxic ash and other



MENGSHIN LIN/AP

**Leola Vierra holds a planter that was part of her collection found in the rubble of her porch Tuesday, in Lahaina, Hawaii.**

dangers, but their visit was cut short after about 15 minutes when workers showed up and cordoned off the property with yellow caution tape.

A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency official informed them over the phone that a crew did a "last quality assurance

check" on Saturday afternoon and didn't like not knowing what was underneath the crumpled remnants of the roof.

A team would return Wednesday morning and the agency would call with an update, the official said.

Afterward, the family milled

about on the sidewalk and looked toward the property. Vierra's son, Mika, said they would come back when they get clearance so they can look around some more.

The four-bedroom house, which Vierra designed, was in the hills overlooking the ocean on Maui's coast. It had a pool, which now sits

half full, and an outdoor kitchen — she called it the cabana — which is gone.

The family ran four stores that catered to tourists, selling aloha shirts and muumuus along with leis that Vierra's husband, Mike Vierra, would make from plumeria blossoms he picked in their yard. Three of the stores burned down. Of the family's dozen plumeria trees, three survived.

Three small banyan trees — one planted for each of her three children — also appeared to have survived and even showed signs of new growth.

Officials opened the first area for reentry — a section of about two dozen parcels in the north of Lahaina — on Monday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Residents and property owners could obtain passes to enter the burn zone.

The Vierras have been staying at a resort hotel, like thousands of other survivors whom the government has put up in temporary housing across Maui. They waited until Tuesday so that Mika could join them after arriving from Utah, where he works in sales.

Mika drove to the property with his parents straight from the airport. He said he and his sister have decided to rebuild when the cleanup is done, whenever that is.

"We'll be sure to rebuild something nice where our old house used to be," he said.

## 3 astronauts return home after year in space; US record set

*Associated Press*

A NASA astronaut and two Russian cosmonauts returned to Earth on Wednesday after being stuck in space for just over a year. American Frank Rubio set a record for the longest U.S. spaceflight — a result of the extended stay.

The trio landed in a remote area of Kazakhstan, descending in a Soyuz capsule that was rushed up as a replacement after their original ride was hit by space junk and lost all its coolant while docked to the International Space Station.

What should have been a 180-day mission turned into a 371-day stay. Rubio spent more than two weeks longer in space than Mark Vande Hei, who held NASA's previous endurance record for a single spaceflight.

Russia holds the world record of 437 days, set in the mid-1990s.

The Soyuz capsule that brought Rubio and cosmonauts Sergey Prokopyev and Dmitri Petelin back was a replacement launched

in February. Russian engineers suspect a piece of space junk pierced the radiator of their original capsule late last year, midway through what should have been a six-month mission. Engineers worried that without cooling, the capsule's electronics and any occupants could overheat to dangerous levels, so the craft returned empty.

There wasn't another Soyuz to launch a fresh crew until this month. Their replacements finally arrived nearly two weeks ago.

"No one deserves to go home to their families more than you," the space station's new commander, Denmark's Andreas Mogensen, said earlier this week.

Prokopyev told ground controllers throughout the descent that all three were feeling good. They experienced more than four times the force of gravity as their capsule streaked through the atmosphere and came to a touchdown in the barren Kazakh steppes.



DMITRI LOVETSKY, POOL/AP

**NASA astronaut Frank Rubio, left, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Sergey Prokopyev at the Baikonur cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, last year.**

"It's good to be home," Rubio said after being pulled from the capsule.

Rubio, 47, an Army doctor and helicopter pilot, said last week that he never would have agreed to a full year in space if asked at the outset. He ended up missing important family milestones including the oldest of his four children finishing her first year at the U.S. Naval Academy and another heading off to West Point.

## JPMorgan to pay \$75M in Epstein settlement

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — JPMorgan Chase agreed Tuesday to pay \$75 million to the U.S. Virgin Islands to settle claims that the bank enabled the sex trafficking acts committed by financier Jeffrey Epstein.

JPMorgan said that \$55 million of the settlement will go toward local charities that provide assistance to victims of domestic abuse and trafficking and other crimes, as well as to enhance the capabilities of local law enforcement. Of that amount, \$10 million will be used to create a fund to provide mental health services for Epstein's survivors, according to the Virgin Islands Department of Justice.

The Virgin Islands, where Epstein had an estate, sued JPMorgan last year, saying its investigation has revealed that the financial services giant enabled Epstein's recruiters to pay victims and was "indispensable to the operation and concealment of the Epstein trafficking enterprise."

It had been seeking penalties and disgorgement of at least \$190

million, in addition to other damages.

In effect, the Virgin Islands had argued that JPMorgan had been complicit in Epstein's behavior and did not raise any red flags to law enforcement or bank regulators about Epstein being a "high risk" customer and making repeated large cash withdrawals.

The settlement averts a trial that had been set to start next month.

The bank also said it reached a confidential legal settlement with James "Jes" Staley, the former top JPMorgan executive who managed the Epstein account before leaving the bank. JPMorgan sued Staley earlier this year, alleging that he covered up or minimized Epstein's wrongdoing in order to maintain the lucrative account.

JPMorgan had already agreed to pay \$290 million in June in a class-action lawsuit that involved victims of Epstein's trafficking crimes.

Epstein died by suicide in a federal jail in 2019.

# EUROPE

## Russia accuses Ukraine allies of helping Black Sea Fleet attack

By ILLIA NOVIKOV  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia on Wednesday accused Ukraine’s Western allies of helping plan and conduct last week’s missile strike on the Black Sea Fleet’s headquarters in annexed Crimea.

“There is no doubt that the attack had been planned in advance using Western intelligence means, NATO satellite assets and reconnaissance planes and was implemented upon the advice of American and British security agencies and in close coordination with them,” Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said at a briefing.

Moscow has repeatedly claimed that the U.S. and its NATO allies have effectively become involved in the conflict by supplying weapons to Ukraine and providing it with intelligence information and helping plan attacks on Russian facilities.

The accusation came the day after video appeared to show the

fleet’s commander, Adm. Viktor Sokolov, was still alive despite Ukraine’s claims — without providing supporting evidence — that he was among 34 officers killed in Friday’s strike on the port city of Sevastopol.

The Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014, has been a frequent target since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of Ukraine 20 months ago. Crimea has served as the key hub supporting the invasion and has increasingly come under fire by Ukraine.

Ukraine said the strike that put a large hole in the main building of the headquarters had wounded 105 people, though those claims could not independently be verified.

Russia initially said one serviceman was killed but quickly retracted that statement and said the person was missing.

Moscow has provided no updates on any casualties.

The Kremlin did not comment Tuesday on Sokolov’s status but posted video showing him among other senior officers attending a video conference with Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu. Sokolov did not speak in the clip.

When asked about Sokolov on Wednesday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov noted that he took part in Tuesday’s video call with Shoigu but refrained from further comment.

Ukraine’s Special Operation Forces posted a statement Tuesday saying its sources claimed Sokolov was among the dead, many of whom had not yet been identified. It said it was trying to verify the claim after the video surfaced.

Sokolov was shown speaking to journalists about the Black Fleet’s operations in a video posted Wednesday on a news channel linked to the Russian Defense Ministry. It wasn’t clear when the video was recorded. The video didn’t contain any mention of the Ukrainian attack on fleet head-



ALEX BABENKO/AP

A Ukrainian serviceman known as “Beha” of “Code 9.2” drone attaches grenade to his drone before flying over Russian positions at the frontline near Klishchiivka, Donetsk region, Ukraine, on Sunday.

quarters.

Zakharova’s statements follow comments made Tuesday by Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy head of Russia’s Security Council, who said the arrival of American-made

Abrams tanks in Ukraine and a U.S. promise to supply an unspecified number of long-range ATACMS missiles would push NATO closer to a direct conflict with Russia.

## Azerbaijan arrests ex-head of separatist government after offensive

Associated Press

YEREVAN, Armenia — Azerbaijan said Wednesday it has detained the former head of Nagorno-Karabakh’s separatist government as he tried to cross into Armenia following Azerbaijan’s 24-hour blitz last week to reclaim control of the enclave.

The arrest of Ruben Vardanyan was announced by Azerbaijan’s border guard service. It appears to reflect Azerbaijan’s intention to quickly and forcefully enforce its grip on the region after the mili-

tary offensive that also saw an exodus of tens of thousands of ethnic Armenians — more than a third of its population.

Vardanyan, a billionaire businessman who made his fortune in Russia where he owned a major investment bank, moved to Nagorno-Karabakh in 2022 and served as the head the regional government for several months before stepping down earlier this year.

Azerbaijan’s Health Ministry said earlier Wednesday that a total of 192 Azerbaijani troops were

killed and 511 were wounded during the offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh. One Azeri civilian also died in the hostilities.

Nagorno-Karabakh officials said earlier that at least 200 people on their side, including 10 civilians, were killed and over 400 were wounded in the fighting.

Nagorno-Karabakh’s separatist authorities agreed to lay down arms and start talks on the region’s “reintegration” in Azerbaijan. The two rounds of those negotiations have been held, but no de-

tails have been made available yet.

Nagorno-Karabakh is a region of Azerbaijan that came under the control of ethnic Armenian forces, backed by the Armenian military, in separatist fighting that ended in 1994.

During a six-week war in 2020, Azerbaijan took back parts of Nagorno-Karabakh along with surrounding territory that Armenian forces had claimed during the earlier conflict.

In December, Azerbaijan im-

posed a blockade of the only road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia, alleging that the Armenian government was using the road for mineral extraction and illicit weapons shipments to the region’s separatist forces.

Armenia charged that the closure denied basic food and fuel supplies to Nagorno-Karabakh’s approximately 120,000 people. Azerbaijan rejected the accusation, arguing the region could receive supplies through the Azerbaijani city of Aghdam.

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WORLD

# Fireworks at Iraq wedding cause fire that leads to scores of deaths

Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — A raging fire seemingly caused by fireworks set off to celebrate a Christian wedding consumed a hall packed with guests in northern Iraq, killing around 100 people and injuring 150 others as authorities warned Wednesday the death toll could still rise.

Authorities said that flammable building materials also contributed to the latest disaster to hit Iraq's dwindling Christian minority. In the fire's chaotic aftermath, officials offered conflicting death tolls and security officials said they had detained staff at the wedding hall as part of their investigation.

The fire happened in the Hamdaniya area of Iraq's Nineveh province, authorities said.

That's a predominantly Christian area just outside of the city of Mosul, some 205 miles northwest of Baghdad.

There was no official word on



FARID ABDULWAHED/AP

People gather at the site of a fatal fire, in the district of Hamdaniya, Nineveh province, Iraq, Wednesday.

the cause of the blaze, but the Kurdish television news channel Rudaw aired footage showing pyrotechnics shooting flames up from the floor of the event and setting a chandelier aflame.

Multiple witnesses, including 50-year-old wedding attendee Faten Youssef, said the fire started

as the bride and groom began their slow dance. The flames raced through plastic decorations and the ceiling started collapsing, she said.

"Flames started falling on us," Youssef told The Associated Press. "Things were falling down and blocked the way to the exit."

# UN asked to declare 'gender apartheid' as mental health worsens among Afghan women

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N.'s most powerful body must support governments seeking to legally declare the intensifying crackdown by Afghanistan's Taliban rulers on women and girls "gender apartheid," the head of the U.N. agency promoting gender equality said Tuesday.

Sima Bahous, executive director of UN Women, told the Security Council that more than 50 increasingly dire Taliban edicts are being enforced with more severity, including by male family members. That is exacerbating mental health issues and suicidal thoughts especially among young women and is shrinking women's decision-making even in their own homes.

"They tell us that they are prisoners living in darkness, confined to their homes without hope or future," she said.

Under international law, apartheid is defined as a system of legalized racial segregation that

originated in South Africa. But a growing consensus among international experts says apartheid can also apply to gender in cases like that of Afghanistan, where women and girls face systematic discrimination.

There is no existing international law to respond to "mass, state-sponsored gender oppression," Bahous said. But she said the Taliban's "systemic and planned assault on women's rights ... must be named, defined and proscribed in our global norms so that we can respond appropriately."

On Wednesday, Zabihullah Mujahid, the main spokesman for the Taliban government, slammed the council meeting for focusing on domestic Afghan matters of "women's education and their work" instead of issues such as security, peace and stability.

He said the U.N. gathering should have discussed "the recognition of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" as the Taliban call their government.



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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Inmate opposes being 'test' for execution

**AL** MONTGOMERY — An Alabama inmate would be the test subject for the “experimental” execution method of nitrogen hypoxia, his lawyers argued, as they asked judges to deny the state’s request to carry out his death sentence using the new method.

In a Friday court filing, attorneys for Kenneth Eugene Smith asked the Alabama Supreme Court to reject the state attorney general’s request to set an execution date for Smith using the proposed new execution method. Nitrogen gas is authorized as an execution method in three states but it has never been used to put an inmate to death.

Under the proposed method, hypoxia would be caused by forcing the inmate to breathe only nitrogen, depriving them of oxygen needed to maintain bodily functions and causing them to die.

The lawyers said Smith “already has been put through one failed execution attempt” in November when the state tried to put him to death via lethal injection. The Alabama Department of Corrections called off the execution when the execution team could not get the required two intravenous lines connected to Smith.



RICHARD VOGEL/AP

## Tornado-damaged Pfizer plant restarts production

**NC** ROCKY MOUNT — A major Pfizer pharmaceutical plant in North Carolina that makes critical supplies for U.S. hospitals has restarted production about 10 weeks after it was heavily damaged by a tornado, the company announced Monday.

Getting a majority of manufacturing lines at the Rocky Mount facility back up and running is a “proud achievement,” Pfizer said in a statement. Full production across the facility’s three manufacturing sites is expected by the end of the year.

Parts of the massive plant’s roofs were ripped open and pallets of medicine tossed around when the tornado touched down on July 19. But most of the damage was to a storage facility for raw materials, packaging supplies and finished medicines, rather than its medicine production areas, Pfizer said. No employees were hurt.

## Amazon opening 2 operations facilities

**VA** RICHMOND — Two new Amazon operations facilities are coming to Virginia Beach, expected to eventually employ over 1,000 people, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced Monday.

The retailer will establish a robotics fulfillment center expected to launch in 2025 and a delivery station expected to be running in time for the 2024 holiday season, the Republican governor’s office

## Time for lunch

**Western Lowland gorilla Angela, 4, rolls around and snacks on some treats given to her in celebration of World Gorilla Day at the Los Angeles Zoo on Sunday. Inaugurated in 2017, World Gorilla Day offers people the ability to celebrate gorillas worldwide.**

said in a news release.

The new facilities will be Amazon’s 14th fulfillment and sorting center in Virginia and the 17th delivery station. The company, which has a headquarters in Arlington, has invested more than \$109 billion in Virginia since 2010, including infrastructure and employee compensation, Youngkin’s office said.

## Utility to return \$115M to electricity customers

**NM** SANTA FE — New Mexico utility regulators have again approved a settlement calling for monthly credits averaging about \$9.28 per customer from the state’s largest electricity utility over the course of a year.

The agreement announced Thursday by the state Public Regulation Commission aims to return to customers \$115 million collected by Public Service Co. of New Mexico for operations at the San Juan Generating Station — even after the last of four units of the massive coal-fired plant closed last September.

The pact still needs to be reviewed by the state Supreme Court, which last week sent back to the commission an agreement reached in August between the utility, New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez and several envi-

ronmental and consumer advocacy organizations.

## Salt water wedge threatens drinking water

**LA** BATON ROUGE — Salt water from the Gulf of Mexico is creeping up the drought-stricken Mississippi River and threatening drinking water supplies in some Louisiana communities, including New Orleans, prompting the state’s governor to warn Friday he may request federal help.

Gov. John Bel Edwards said during a news conference that he is just a couple days away from requesting an emergency declaration from the federal government to get more agencies to address the issue and authorize the state “to take emergency protective measures with some level of reimbursement available.”

The southeastern corner of the state, Plaquemines Parish, is already under a drinking water advisory due to high salt levels in the water. Bottled water is being distributed to residents.

## Judge strikes down law banning gun magazines

**CA** SACRAMENTO — California cannot ban gun owners from having detachable magazines that hold more than 10

rounds, a federal judge ruled Friday. The decision from U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez won’t take effect immediately. California Attorney General Rob Bonta, a Democrat, has already filed a notice to appeal the ruling. The ban is likely to remain in effect while the case is still pending.

This is the second time Benitez has struck down California’s law banning certain types of magazines. The first time he struck it down — way back in 2017 — an appeals court ended up reversing his decision.

## Hundreds of state prison employees arrested

**GA** ATLANTA — At least 360 employees of Georgia’s state prison system have been arrested on accusations of smuggling contraband into prisons since 2018, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported, with 25 more employees fired for smuggling allegations but not arrested.

The newspaper finds that nearly 8 in 10 of Georgia Department of Corrections employees arrested were women, with nearly half of them 30 years or younger, when ages could be verified.

Those figures reflect in part a prison system that struggles to recruit employees, often hiring young women with no law enfor-

cement experience. Despite recent salary increases, correctional officers in Georgia are paid less than those in many other states.

Corrections Commissioner Tyrone Oliver said he has taken steps to identify corrupt staff since being named to the post in December. “Once we know that they may be compromised, and we get that information, we deal with it and we get them out of there,” he said.

## 8 injured when flight hits severe turbulence

**FL** FORT LAUDERDALE — A JetBlue flight from Ecuador to Fort Lauderdale hit extreme turbulence while approaching the Florida airport Monday, injuring seven passengers and a crew member, the airline said in a statement.

JetBlue flight 1256 had traveled from Guayaquil, Ecuador, and was headed to Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport for a landing shortly after 5 a.m. when it “experienced sudden severe turbulence as it neared Florida,” the statement said.

The injured were taken by paramedics to the hospital for treatment and evaluation, the statement said. The airline said it could not comment on the severity of the injuries.

FACES

# 2 Chainz time

Rapper has new album with Lil Wayne, will host 'Amazon Music Live' season

BY GARY GERARD HAMILTON  
Associated Press

It's no secret that rap superstar 2 Chainz considers Lil Wayne an inspiration, and now that admiration for the "Tha Carter" series icon has translated into another official joint album that he says will be out before 2023 ends.

"We have two videos shot, photoshoot shot, (the) album's mixed and getting mastered, so it'll be coming sooner than later, and I'm really excited about it," said 2 Chainz, while promoting the new season of Amazon Music Live. "It's rapping at a high level — steel sharpens steel. And he's one of the people that I enjoy working with the most."

The long-awaited album, expected to be titled "COLLEGROVE 2," has been teased since 2020 as the sequel to their 2016 collaboration. 2 Chainz is credited as the main artist on that project although Wayne appeared on eight of the 12 songs, due to Weezy's contractual issues at the time. While much of the album is shrouded in secrecy, various reports say features will include Benny the Butcher and Usher, who recently popped up in social media videos with the pair in what looked like the filming of a music video.

2 Chainz, whose most recent studio project was 2022's "Dope Don't Sell Itself," said Wayne left most of the direction of their upcoming album to his leadership.

"We worked together on every song and we over-recorded. But he kind of laid that responsibility in my lap. He's creative. He's coming up with concepts and ideas. And then, I'm someone that does the same thing on the mar-

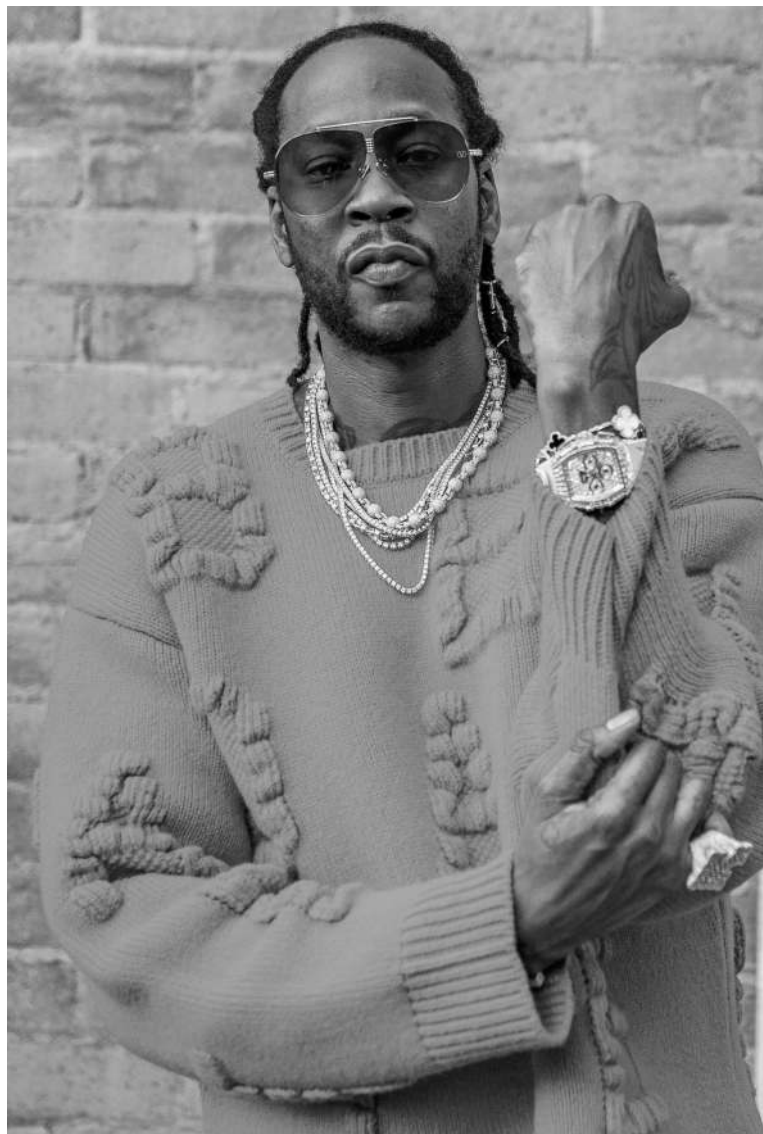
keting side, putting together the right set of songs that fit the particular concept I'm trying to convey," said the Grammy winner. "I think we work well in that extent to where he trusts my opinion and how I'm handling everything. And he's going to bring the A-game to work every day."

Known for hits such as "It's a Vibe" feat. Ty Dolla \$ign, Trey Songz and Jhene Aiko, "No Lie" with Drake and "I'm Different," mainstream rap fans were first introduced to Chainz, then going by Tity Boy, when he was in the group Playaz Circle with Dolla Boy. Lil Wayne was featured on their 2007 hit "Duffle Bag Boy," which reached No. 15 on Billboard's Hot 100.

In addition to the mixtape, Chainz and Wayne have contributed to a number of songs on each other's albums, as well as Juicy J's smash record "Bandz A Make Her Dance," Chance the Rapper's "No Problem" and a version of Young Dolph's "Preach."

The Georgia native also said he's bringing his best when hosting this new season of "Amazon Music Live," the concert series livestreamed from Los Angeles by Amazon Music. The "Good Drank" rapper says the second season will feature performances from Ed Sheeran, Latin superstar Feid and rap heavyweight Lil Durk, with more to be announced later.

"We're taking it up a notch with some more exciting acts from different genres," said Chainz, who also served as the inaugural host. "Connecting sports and music, fusing that together which we already know has a strong correlation, it just feels good to be in the middle of all this. To be the host ...



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

Grammy-winning rapper 2 Chainz, shown Nov. 4, says his official studio album with Lil Wayne, expected to be titled "COLLEGROVE 2," will be out by the end of 2023.

it comes kind of natural to me."

Amazon Music Live premiered after the Sept. 21 NFL game and will follow Thursday Night Football weekly on Prime Video and on the Amazon Music channel on the streaming platform Twitch. Last season's guests included Lil Baby, Megan Thee Stallion, Kane Brown, Lil Wayne, A\$AP Rocky, Anitta and 21 Savage.

2 Chainz, who recently assisted DJ Khaled in opening for Beyoncé's Los Angeles tour stop this month, says although he considers himself to be a master performer, he's always paying close attention to the artists who grace the Ama-

zon Music Live stage.

"A lot of preparation goes into it," said 2 Chainz of the performances. "Just seeing how people approach this platform is always interesting for me. I'm still a student."

The "Birthday Song" artist also hosts Vice TV's "Most Expensivest" series, which follows him as he checks out uber-priced items.

2 Chainz says his album with Wayne is "right on time" as the music world has been celebrating the 50th anniversary of hip-hop.

However, with much of the fanfare going toward The Bronx, hip-hop's birthplace, and New York

City's early rap years, some fans and artists think Southern Rap hasn't gotten its due, even though it's been the genre's dominant geographical nucleus for the past two decades.

2 Chainz says the impact and influence of the South in the overall story can't be denied.

"If we dive in a little deeper, we'll realize that the South has had a real hold on it for the last 20 (years), with Houston acts, New Orleans acts, Florida acts, Georgia acts, the Carolinas — you name it," he said. "Whoever telling the story is going to make the story sound beneficial to (them)."

# Gary Sinise to receive honorary AARP award

Associated Press

Gary Sinise will receive an honorary AARP Award for his work through his foundation that supports military members and first responders.

The organization announced Tuesday that Sinise will receive the honorary AARP Purpose Prize awards during a ceremony on Oct. 25. The Emmy and Tony award winner will be recognized for his work through his Gary Sinise Foundation.

Sinise's foundation — which launched in 2011 — honors mili-

tary members, veterans, first responders, their families and those in need.

Some of his charitable efforts include building adapted homes for severely wounded veterans and first responders, uplifting military members and families through entertainment, mental wellness programs and financial support in crucial moments.

Sinise co-starred in "Apollo 13" and "Forrest Gump," playing a seriously wounded Vietnam War veteran, and led the cast of "NCIS: NY" for nine seasons.



AP

Gary Sinise will receive an honorary AARP Award for his work through his foundation that supports initiatives toward military members.

# Hulu to stream '80s TV series 'Moonlighting'

The popular '80s ABC dramedy series "Moonlighting" is finally making its streaming debut, Oct.10 on Hulu.

The program, which premiered in 1985, starred seasoned actor Cybill Shepherd and up-and-comer Bruce Willis. For his breakout role in the show, the "Die Hard" actor nabbed a Primetime Emmy for lead actor in a drama series in 1987.

"Moonlighting" ran for five seasons, from 1985 to '89, and garnered 41 Primetime Emmy Awards nominations, winning six.

Popular guest stars included Mark Harmon, Whoopi Goldberg, Peter Bogdanovich, John Goodman and Demi Moore.

The series is centered on Mad-die Hayes (Shepherd), a former fashion model who loses all her money to an embezzling investment adviser. He did leave her with some failing businesses, one of which is a detective agency, which she names Blue Moon. She initially contemplates selling the business but decides to keep it after being quickly charmed by the agency's employees (Willis as David Addison, Allyce Beasley and Curtis Armstrong). She also finds the agency's cases intriguing.

All episodes of the program will be available in remastered HD quality.

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## OPINION

## House Freedom Caucus akin to 1960s radicals

BY JONAH GOLDBERG

Tribune Content Agency

This week, yet another government shutdown appears inevitable because a sizable chunk of the House Freedom Caucus believes, in the words of Otter in "Animal House," that "this situation absolutely requires a really futile and stupid gesture be done on somebody's part."

What situation?

Before we get to that, it's important to understand that any situation will do when you're determined to deliver a stupid and futile gesture.

In America, the term "counterculture" is so associated with hippies, beatniks, bohemians and the like, it might seem odd to think of self-described conservatives as counterculture types. But the evidence is all over the place — from the loopy conspiratorialism and secession talk to the bizarre, albeit selective, defenses of lawlessness and even violence — that a lot of right-wingers have shed the pretense of actual conservatism in favor of a permanent pose of performative radicalism from the right.

On the fringes of the House Republican conference, you can find this kind of nuttiness aplenty. But, collectively, this countercultural impulse manifests itself most relevantly in an almost Freudian compulsion to lose.

Which brings us to the situation. Earlier this year, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy managed to work out a modestly successful deal with Democrats that extended the debt ceiling until 2025. Given his incredibly narrow, four-seat majority and the fractious nature of his coalition, this was hailed at the time as a considerable win for McCarthy and the Republicans, allegedly proving the GOP could be a governing party.

And that was the problem for the radicals. When you've convinced yourself that

the "system," "establishment" or "regime" is irretrievably corrupt or some kind of existential enemy — a common conviction among numerous countercultures for millennia — any form of deal is seen as evidence that you've "sold out." The only way to irrefutably demonstrate that you didn't compromise your principles — whatever those might be — is to lose. Martyrs are pure. Dealmakers are collaborators.

So the rabble-rousing core of the Freedom Caucus declared that it got rolled in the debt ceiling fight and vowed to use the budget "process" (for want of a better word) to force spending cuts from, well, everyone. They claim McCarthy made them promises he didn't keep — which might be true. They insist government borrowing and spending are out of control and must be dealt with — which is certainly true. Something has to be done.

Fair enough. But what?

Their answer is to force a shutdown of the government.

The only problem? This is perhaps the most predictable script of the modern political era. To the shock of no one, voters don't like government shutdowns, and, mirabile dictu, the party that forces a shutdown gets blamed for shutting down the government while the other party — which in this case happens to control both the Senate and the White House — gets to score easy points.

And then, eventually, a deal is worked out, but only after enough damage is self-inflicted. It's akin to declaring, "Do what I demand or I will repeatedly smash my hand with this hammer until you relent."

Or maybe it's like 1960s student radicals

occupying the Berkeley or Kenyon cafeteria demanding better library hours, more parking and a complete withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam. Or maybe it's in the Leninist spirit of "the worse, the better." After all, people who make a living from catastrophizing like catastrophes. As McCarthy said Monday, "It's almost like they want to walk you into a shutdown and then blame you for the shutdown."

That seems to be where their dashboard saint, Donald Trump, is coming from. Over the weekend, he reiterated that the GOP should behave as if it has all the leverage. On social media, he posted, "UNLESS YOU GET EVERYTHING, SHUT IT DOWN!" Of course, Trump wants to use a government shutdown to "defund" the federal prosecutions against

him and "other patriots." Even if you thought this radical asininity were a great idea, the idea that it could make it through a Democratic-controlled Senate and past the president's veto is a childish fantasy.

But even the comparatively more modest demands being made by the holdouts are unlikely to clear those hurdles, which, again, is why it's all so futile and stupid. These antics will fail, but not before harming the reelection chances of many Republicans, including 18 from districts Joe Biden won. Indeed, the most committed radicals come from extremely safe seats, which they're not scared of losing. As for losing control of the House, that would just prove how principled they are.

Jonah Goldberg is editor-in-chief of The Dispatch and the host of The Remnant podcast.

## Shutdown bad for US government's youth movement

BY MAX STIER

Bloomberg Opinion

One of the longer-term consequences of the looming government shutdown isn't getting the attention it deserves: The youngest potential recruits are receiving yet another reminder of the challenges of public service, and at a time when they are desperately needed.

Now that the aging leadership of America has emerged as a top issue for voters, it's time to acknowledge a problem as vast as the federal government itself.

About 31% of the country's 2 million full-time federal employees will be eligible to retire at the end of 2025, and 47% will be eligible by the end of 2030. Meanwhile, the government is way behind the private sector in attracting young employees.

Just 7% of full-time federal workers are under 30 — compared with about 20% in the U.S. labor force. And in the federal information technology workforce, an area of great need, there are almost 14 times more employees over age 50 than under 30.

There are numerous existing obstacles that already stand in the way of getting a federal job, and these hurdles will be greatly compounded if Congress fails to fund the government with the annual appropriations bills by the Oct. 1 deadline. Hundreds of thousands of employees will be told to stay home, while

more than a million civil servants will be required to work, all without a paycheck. Many government services and programs, along with recruiting and hiring, will grind to a halt. This is hardly a glowing advertisement for making government cool again.

There are many reasons young people do not consider public service: the federal government's brand is suffering and trust in our leaders is low; job opportunities can be hard to find; and jobseekers must navigate an arcane and lengthy hiring process.

It takes the government an average of 98 days to bring new talent on board — more than double the time of the private sector. The government has a rigid, 20th-century personnel system that does not fit in with the mobile and agile model expected by today's younger generation; its pay system is based on a 1949 law that makes it hard to compete with the private sector.

Federal agencies need to make it easier for students and entry-level talent to find — and be found — for jobs by creating a federal internship and fellowship database, streamlining the application process, ensuring that hiring platforms are easily accessible and mobile-friendly, and that diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility become a central part of workforce strategy.

Other needed improvements include ensuring internships are paid and easing agen-

cies' ability to convert intern jobs into full-time positions. Congress should lift the caps on agencies' expedited hiring authority for students and recent graduates and hold agencies responsible for recruiting on campuses.

A career counselor at Ohio State University told my organization that a shutdown will keep federal recruiters away from career fairs, employer information sessions and campus recruitment events. "All of our students who have been planning to apply their education to public service careers will have to explore alternative career paths to fulfill their goals or risk adding months to an already prolonged job-search process," she said.

Every organization can benefit from an infusion of young, diverse talent to bring in enthusiasm, fresh ideas and skills, and that is especially true for a federal government that has an urgent need for employees with capabilities in such fields as cybersecurity, technology, engineering, finance, health care and much more.

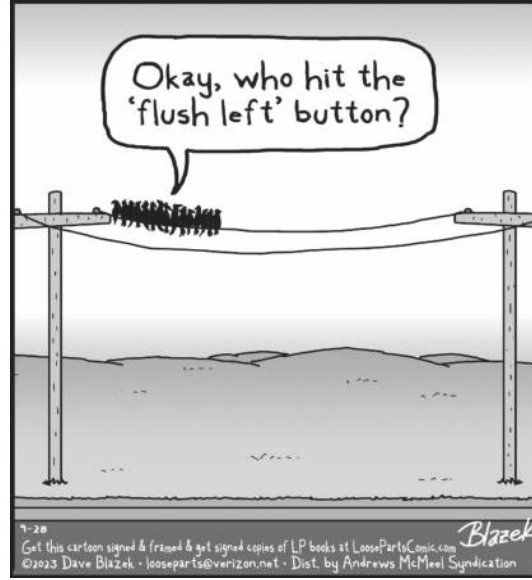
A recent poll found that just 14% of Generation Z aspires to work in government. A shutdown certainly will not improve that number, and the fallout could well last long after Congress resolves the current funding crisis.

Max Stier is the president and chief executive officer of the nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

Grid for Eugene Sheffer Crossword with numbers 1-56 indicating starting positions for across and down words.

ACROSS

- 1 Barber's tool
5 Poetry contest
9 Wee dollop
12 Lotion ingredient
13 — Brasi ("The Godfather" enforcer)
14 Eggs
15 Lizzie Borden's hometown
17 Victory
18 Shoelace hole
19 Gives temporarily
21 "Perfect" singer Sheeran
22 Parody
24 Klutzes
27 High school subj.
28 Siestas
31 401(k) alternative
32 "— you there?"
33 Country music's Greenwood
34 Happy melody
36 Scepter
37 Linen source
38 Hopping mad
40 Chicago transport
41 Forbidden
43 Purplish shades
47 "I — Rock"
48 Cascade
51 Sinbad's bird
52 Work on proofs
53 Drifting ice

DOWN

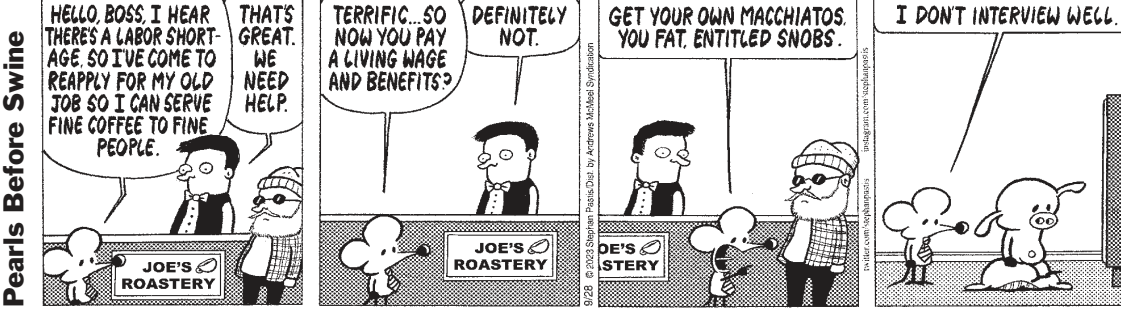
- 23 Multicolored
24 Corn product
25 Onassis nickname
26 Plan B
27 Mumbai dress
29 Soup legume
30 Kinsey study
35 Uncle, to Pedro
37 Plumps up, as pillows
39 O, for one
40 Listening device
41 Like limes
42 Book after Joel
43 Citi Field team
44 Low-lying area
45 Carolina college
46 Winter coaster
49 Nabokov novel
50 Bit of advice

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Answer grid for the previous puzzle with words like FUR, OLAF, GULF, ORO, PALE, USEFULLY, IWON, ASWIRL, CRAFTS, XI, ETTU, ATA, SET, SELLS, PARM, SIR, SLOT, TUTE, MIG, YUP, FANG, BOT, BRUNEI, ELAPSE, DELI, JOYFULLY, ABLE, OPE, PEAR, YAYS, ETS, EDGE.

CRYPTOQUIP

ACYB UDGNT DWJ UYNN
KPDGXZ PJZXDWZQLNJ MDP
DRJPZJJQWK BCJ ZXDPB DM
PQTQWK AYRJZ? ZGPM LDYPTZ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WERE TALKING ABOUT A SERGEANT, HE WOULD BE THE TOP-KICK OF DISCUSSION.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals G



# SCOREBOARD/WNBA

## PRO FOOTBALL

### NFL

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	3	0	0	1.000	130	71
Buffalo	2	1	0	.667	91	35
N.Y. Jets	1	2	0	.333	42	61
New England	1	2	0	.333	52	59

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	2	1	0	.667	74	70
Houston	1	2	0	.333	66	73
Jacksonville	1	2	0	.333	57	75
Tennessee	1	2	0	.333	45	67

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	2	1	0	.667	71	55
Cleveland	2	1	0	.667	73	32
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	.667	56	70
Cincinnati	1	2	0	.333	46	67

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	2	1	0	.667	78	40
L.A. Chargers	1	2	0	.333	86	87
Las Vegas	1	2	0	.333	45	77
Denver	0	3	0	.000	69	122

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	3	0	0	1.000	84	59
Dallas	2	1	0	.667	86	38
Washington	2	1	0	.667	58	86
N.Y. Giants	1	2	0	.333	43	98

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	2	1	0	.667	55	54
New Orleans	2	1	0	.667	53	50
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	.667	58	59
Carolina	0	3	0	.000	54	81

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	2	1	0	.667	72	63
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	80	62
Chicago	0	3	0	.000	47	106
Minnesota	0	3	0	.000	69	82

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	3	0	0	1.000	90	42
Seattle	2	1	0	.667	87	88
Arizona	1	2	0	.333	72	67
L.A. Rams	1	2	0	.333	69	62

#### Monday, Sept. 25

Philadelphia 25, Tampa Bay 11  
Cincinnati 19, L.A. Rams 16

#### Thursday's game

Detroit at Green Bay

#### Sunday's games

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

#### Monday's game

Seattle at N.Y. Giants

#### NFL injury report

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

#### Week 4

#### Thursday

**DETROIT LIONS at GREEN BAY PACKERS** — DETROIT: DNP: FB Jason Cabinda (knee), T Matt Nelson (ankle), G Halapoulivaati Vaitai (knee). LIMITED: T Taylor Decker (ankle), G Jonah Jackson (thigh), S Kerby Joseph (hip), RB David Montgomery (thigh), CB Emmanuel Moseley (knee, hamstring). FULL: C Frank Ragnow (NIR-resting player/toe). **GREEN BAY:** DNP: S Zayne Anderson (hamstring), T David Bakhtiari (NIR-resting player, knee), LB DeVondre Campbell (ankle), G Elgton Jenkins (knee). LIMITED: CB Jaire Alexander (back), LB Rashan Gary (knee), RB Aaron Jones (hamstring), T Zach Tom (knee), CB Carrington Valentine (biceps), WR Christian Watson (hamstring).

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

### Schedule

#### Thursday's games SOUTH

Middle Tennessee (1-3) at W. Kentucky (2-2)  
**SOUTHWEST**  
Temple (2-2) at Tulsa (2-2)  
Jacksonville St. (3-1) at Sam Houston St. (0-3)

#### Friday's games EAST

Columbia (1-1) at Princeton (1-1)  
**SOUTH**  
Louisville (4-0) at NC State (3-1)  
**SOUTHWEST**  
Louisiana Tech (2-3) at UTEP (1-4)  
**FAR WEST**  
Utah (4-0) at Oregon St. (3-1)  
Cincinnati (2-2) at BYU (3-1)

## TENNIS

### Ningbo Open

**Tuesday**  
At Ningbo Tennis Center  
Ningbo, China  
Purse: \$259,303  
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor  
**Women's Singles Round of 32**  
Valeria Savinykh, Russia, def. Varvara Gracheva (5), Russia, 7-5, 7-5.  
Kamilla Rakhimova, Russia, def. Arantxa Rus (6), Netherlands, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-3.  
Sorana Cirstea (3), Romania, def. Claire Liu, United States, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.  
Tamara Korpatsch, Germany, def. Jodie Anna Burrage, Britain, 6-2, 7-6 (1).  
Diana Shnaider, Russia, def. Zhuoxuan Bai, China, 6-4, 1-6, 6-2.  
Nadia Podoroska, Argentina, def. Wang Xiyu, China, 7-6 (3), 6-4.  
Katerina Siniakova, Czech Republic, def. Elizabeth Mandlik, United States, 6-0, 6-4.  
Ons Jabeur (1), Tunisia, def. Diane Parry, France, 7-6 (3), 7-5.

### Chengdu Open

**Tuesday**  
At Chengdu Center  
Chengdu, China  
Purse: \$1,152,085  
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor  
**Men's Singles Championship**  
Alexander Zverev (1), Germany, def. Roman Safiullin, Russia, 6-7 (2), 7-6 (5), 6-3.  
**Men's Doubles Championship**  
Fabien Reboul and Sadio Doumbia (1), France, def. Rafael Matos, Brazil, and Francisco Cabral (2), Portugal, 4-6, 7-5, 10-7.

### Zhuhai Championships

**Tuesday**  
At Hengqin International Tennis Center  
Zhuhai, China  
Purse: \$981,785  
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor  
**Men's Singles Championship**  
Karen Khachanov (1), Russia, def. Yoshihito Nishioka (8), Japan, 7-6 (2), 6-1.  
**Men's Doubles Championship**  
Michael Venus, New Zealand, and Jamie Murray (2), Britain, def. Nathaniel Lammons and Jackson Withrow (3), United States, 6-4, 6-4.

### Pan Pacific Open

**Tuesday**  
At Utsubo Tennis Center  
Tokyo  
Purse: \$780,637  
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor  
**Women's Singles Round of 32**  
Ekaterina Alexandrova, Russia, def. Anna Kalinskaya, Russia, 6-7 (7), 6-1, 7-5.  
Linda Noskova, Czech Republic, def. Himenno Sakatsume, Japan, 6-2, 7-5.  
Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, def. Donna Vekic, Croatia, 6-1, 6-1.  
Despina Papamichail, Greece, def. Sakura Hosogi, Japan, 7-6 (3), 7-5.  
Veronika Kudermetova (8), Russia, def. Harriet Dart, Britain, 6-3, 7-6 (4).  
Daria Kasatkina (6), Russia, def. Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.  
Misaki Doi, Japan, def. Petra Martic, Croatia, 7-5, 6-2.

## PRO BASKETBALL

### WNBA playoffs

#### (x-if necessary) First Round (Best-of-three)

**No. 1 Las Vegas 2, No. 3 Chicago Sky 0**  
Las Vegas 87, Chicago 59  
Las Vegas 92, Chicago 70  
**No. 2 New York 2, No. 7 Washington 0**  
New York 90, Washington 75  
New York 90, Washington 85, OT  
**No. 3 Connecticut 2, No. 6 Minnesota 1**  
Connecticut 90, Minnesota 60  
Minnesota 82, Connecticut 75  
Connecticut 90, Minnesota 75  
**No. 4 Dallas 2, No. 5 Atlanta 0**  
Dallas 94, Atlanta 82  
Dallas 101, Atlanta 74

#### Semifinals (Best-of-five)

**No. 3 Connecticut 1, No. 2 New York 1**  
Connecticut 78, New York 63  
**Tuesday:** New York 84, Connecticut 77  
**Friday:** at Connecticut  
**Sunday:** at Connecticut  
**x-Tuesday, Oct. 3:** at New York  
**No. 1 Las Vegas 2, No. 4 Dallas 0**  
Las Vegas 97, Dallas 83  
**Tuesday:** Las Vegas 91, Dallas 84  
**Friday:** at Dallas  
**x-Sunday:** at Dallas  
**x-Tuesday, Oct. 3:** at Las Vegas

## PRO SOCCER

### MLS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Cincinnati	18	4	8	62	50	33
Orlando City	14	7	9	51	46	37
Columbus	14	9	7	49	61	42
Philadelphia	14	8	7	49	51	35
Atlanta	13	8	10	49	61	47
New England	13	6	10	49	49	36
Nashville	12	9	8	44	36	28
CF Montréal	11	15	4	37	30	45
NYCFC	8	10	13	37	33	36
D.C. United	9	13	9	36	41	44
New York	8	12	10	34	30	37
Chicago	8	12	10	34	34	47
Charlotte FC	7	10	12	33	36	48
Inter Miami CF	9	15	5	32	37	45
Toronto FC	4	16	10	22	24	48

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Saint Louis SC	16	10	5	53	58	39
LAFC	12	9	9	45	44	34
Seattle	12	9	9	45	37	31
Houston	12	11	7	43	42	35
Real Salt Lake	12	11	7	43	42	45
Portland	11	11	9	42	41	48
Vancouver	11	10	8	41	47	43
San Jose	10	10	11	41	36	40
FC Dallas	10	10	9	39	34	33
Sporting KC	10	13	8	38	41	44
Minnesota	9	11	10	37	38	40
Austin FC	9	13	8	35	43	49
LA Galaxy	8	11	10	34	42	51
Colorado	4	15	10	22	21	45

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

#### Wednesday's games

FC Dallas at Philadelphia  
Vancouver at Colorado

#### Saturday's games

Philadelphia at Columbus  
New York City FC at Miami  
Charlotte FC at New England  
Chicago at New York  
CF Montréal at Orlando City  
Cincinnati at Toronto FC  
FC Dallas at Houston  
San Jose at Minnesota  
Seattle at Nashville  
Sporting Kansas City at Saint Louis City SC

Austin FC at Colorado  
Portland at LA Galaxy  
D.C. United at Vancouver

#### Sunday's game

Real Salt Lake at Los Angeles FC

#### Wednesday, Oct. 4

Toronto FC at Charlotte FC  
New York at Cincinnati  
Houston at CF Montréal  
Columbus at New England  
Atlanta at Philadelphia  
D.C. United at Austin FC  
Miami at Chicago  
Colorado at FC Dallas  
Orlando City at Nashville  
Minnesota at Los Angeles FC  
LA Galaxy at Seattle  
Saint Louis City SC at Vancouver

#### Saturday, Oct. 7

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

## NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Portland	9	5	5	32	40	25
San Diego	9	7	3	30	27	22
Gotham FC	8	5	6	30	23	19
North Carolina	8	7	4	28	27	21
OL Reign	8	8	3	27	25	23
Washington	6	5	8	26	24	27
Orlando	8	10	1	25	23	25
Angel City	6	6	7	25	24	27
Louisville	5	5	9	24	22	19
Houston	5	6	8	23	13	15
Kansas City	7	11	1	21	21	29
Chicago	6	10	3	21	24	41

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

#### Saturday's games

Kansas City at Washington  
Louisville at Chicago  
San Diego at Portland

#### Sunday's games

Houston at Gotham FC  
North Carolina at OL Reign

#### Monday's game

Orlando at Angel City

## DEALS

### Tuesday's transactions

#### BASEBALL Major League Baseball American League

**BOSTON RED SOX** — Sent RHP Kyle Baraclough outright to Worcester (IL).  
**CHICAGO WHITE SOX** — Placed OF Luis Robert Jr. on the 10-day IL. Selected the contract of OF Tyler Naquin from Charlotte (IL). Transferred RHP Jimmy Lambert from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL.  
**LOS ANGELES ANGELS** — Placed LHP Patrick Sandoval on the 15-day IL. Recalled LHP Kolton Ingram from Salt Lake (PCL).  
**MINNESOTA TWINS** — Reinstated RHP Brock Stewart from the 60-day IL. Designated RHP Dylan Floro for assignment.

**OAKLAND ATHLETICS** — Reinstated OF J.J. Bleday from the 10-day IL. Optioned INF Kevin Smith to Las Vegas (PCL).  
**TORONTO BLUE JAYS** — Reinstated INF Brandon Belt from the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Jay Jackson from Buffalo (IL). Optioned INF Spencer Horwitz and RHP Nate Pearson to the Florida Complex League (FCL).

#### National League

**LOS ANGELES DODGERS** — Reinstated RHP Wander Suero from the 15-day IL and optioned him to Oklahoma City (PCL).  
**MIAMI MARLINS** — Placed LHP Tanner Scott on the paternity list. Sent RHP Chi Chi Gonzalez outright to Jacksonville (IL). Reinstated RHP Huascar Brazoban from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Jeff Lindgren to Jacksonville (IL).  
**MILWAUKEE BREWERS** — Placed RHP Trevor Megill on the paternity list. Recalled RHP Colin Rea from Nashville (IL).  
**PITTSBURGH PIRATES** — Recalled INF Nick Gonzalez from Indianapolis (IL). Optioned INF Arika Williams to Indianapolis.

**SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS** — Placed RHP Jakob Junis on the 15-day IL. Recalled C Joey Bart from Sacramento (PCL).

#### BASKETBALL National Basketball Association

**MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES** — Reinstated F Matt Ryan to a two-way contract.  
**PHILADELPHIA 76ERS** — Signed F Kelly Oubre Jr. Waived F Marcus Bagley.

#### FOOTBALL National Football League

**ARIZONA CARDINALS** — Promoted DL Roy Lopez from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed LB Davion Taylor and DL Jacob Slade to the practice squad. Released CB Quavian White from the practice squad.  
**ATLANTA FALCONS** — Placed LB Troy Anderson on injured reserve. Signed OL Storm Norton.  
**BALTIMORE RAVENS** — Signed OLB Kyle Van Noy and WRs Tarik Black and Dontay Demus to the practice squad. Released G Kyle Fuller and TE Ben Mason from the practice squad.  
**CLEVELAND BROWNS** — Signed RB Deon Jackson and TE Devin Asiasi to the practice squad. Released DT Trysten Hill and RB Hassan Hall from the practice squad.  
**LOS ANGELES CHARGERS** — Promoted WR Simi Fehoko from the practice squad to the active roster. Placed WR Mike Williams on injured reserve.

**MINNESOTA VIKINGS** — Released RB Myles Gaskin.  
**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** — Placed DL Daniel Ekuale on injured reserve. Released DB William Hooper from the practice squad.  
**NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** — Signed QB Jake Luton.  
**SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** — Signed RB Jeremy McNichols to the practice squad. Released TE Troy Fumagalli from the practice squad.

**SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** — Waived WR Ra'Shaun Henry from injured reserve.  
**TENNESSEE TITANS** — Promoted T Justin Murray from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed LB Otis Reese and WR Shi Smith to the practice squad. Placed S Mike Brown and RB Julius Chestnut on injured reserve.

#### HOCKEY National Hockey League

**NASHVILLE PREDATORS** — Assigned F Kalan Lind to Red Deer (WHL), F Austin Roest to Everett (WHL) and F Joey Willis to Saginaw (OHL). D Dylan MacKinnon to Halifax (QMJHL) and D Graham Sward to Wenatchee (WHL) and G Austin Elliott to Saskatoon (WHL) and G Owen Flores to Niagara (OHL).  
**NEW JERSEY DEVILS** — Assigned F Cam Squires to Cape Breton (QMJHL) and F Cole Brown to Brantford (OHL).

**PHILADELPHIA FLYERS** — Signed G Carson Bjarnason to a three-year, entry-level contract.  
**WINNIPEG JETS** — Released LW C.J. Seuss and D Jimm Olinny from professional tryout contracts (PTO).

#### SOCCER Major League Soccer

**MLS** — Fined CF Montreal D Joel Waterman an undisclosed amount for failing to leave the field in a timely manner during a September 23 match against Atlanta United. Fined Sporting Kansas City M Johnny Russell an undisclosed amount for failing to leave the field in a timely manner during a September 23 match against Houston Dynamo FC. Fined Miami CF M Facundo Farias an undisclosed amount for violating the simulation-embellishment policy during a September 23 match against Orlando City SC.

#### COLLEGE

**RHODE ISLAND** — Named Emma Hartan assistant women's gymnastics coach.

# Liberty's Stewart wins MVP

By DOUG FEINBERG  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Breanna Stewart was honored to win one of the closest MVP races in the history of the WNBA.

The New York Liberty star took the league's Most Valuable Player award for the second time in her career Tuesday, edging Alyssa Thomas and A'ja Wilson. There were only 13 points separating Stewart from second-place finisher Thomas of Connecticut and last year's MVP, Wilson of Las Vegas.



Stewart

"It's been an unbelievable season for the WNBA, AT and A'ja had amazing seasons, it just shows we're reaching new heights," Stewart said. "That greatness shines in many different ways. That this race was so tight is kind of crazy, but I'm happy to be standing up here today."

Stewart received 446 points (20 first-place votes, 23 second-place votes and 17 third-place votes). Thomas had 439 points (23, 12 and 25). Wilson received 433 points (17, 25, 17 and 1).

A lot has changed since Stewart last won the award in 2018. She's married, has a daughter, Ruby, recovered from a ruptured Achilles tendon injury. She also made the difficult choice to leave Seattle and come to New York as a free agent.

# RYDER CUP/COLLEGE FOOTBALL



ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

Team USA players and captains pose with the trophy after winning the Ryder Cup on Sept. 26, 2021 at Whistling Straits Golf Course in Sheboygan, Wis. The Americans will try to win on foreign soil for the first time in 30 years when the matches start Friday at Marco Simone, outside Rome.

## US tries to end 30-year slide on European soil

By DOUG FERGUSON  
Associated Press

The Americans never felt more confident. The Europeans rarely felt so annoyed.

A two-year wait can feel even longer when it comes to the pride and passion only the Ryder Cup can deliver in golf. Both sides were eager for the next Ryder Cup outside Rome, for different reasons.

Team USA was fresh off its most lopsided victory over Europe at Whistling Straits and had reason to believe it would turn the series back in its favor with such a young, powerful squad. Jordan Spieth was already looking ahead as he celebrated that autumn evening in Wisconsin.

"If we play like we did this week, the score will look the same over there," he said.

Tommy Fleetwood of England recalled how much it burned to see the Americans celebrate, speaking as if he could still smell the smoke from Xander Schauffele's victory cigar mixed with the spray of champagne.

"All of us stood there and thought, 'We want to get our chance back,'" Fleetwood said. "The flight on the way home, we were all a little tender and hungover, but we were already planning what we can do better at the next Ryder Cup to bring it back."

The 44th Ryder Cup starts Friday at Marco Simone between two teams that don't look the same from two years ago.

Some of that is a product of age — Europe had four players in their 40s. A lot of it is a product of eight players from the last Ryder Cup who defected to Saudi-funded LIV Golf, which kept Europeans off their team and set the bar extremely high for any Americans to return.

Brooks Koepka is the only LIV Golf player to make

it back, and it took a PGA Championship title and a runner-up in the Masters for that to happen.

What hasn't changed is the history against the Americans.

Five players on the U.S. team, including world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler, were not even born the last time the Americans won a Ryder Cup on European soil. That was in 1993 at The Belfry, when Ryder Cup rookie Davis Love III made the cup-clinching putt. Love is now a 59-year-old assistant captain.

"It's really wild," Scheffler said of the six straight road losses with teams that were stacked with Hall of Fame players like Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, and major champions like Love, Spieth and Dustin Johnson. "Such great players. Just proves how difficult it is. But we've got a lot of fresh blood on the team this year. Only a handful of guys have played over there. I like our chances. Ignorance is bliss."

Scottie Scheffler

US golfer; No. 1 in world rankings

Even so, it's tough to ignore 30 years of history, which suggests this is more than a coincidence or one team making a few more putts.

Europe prefers to set up the golf course to its strengths — thick rough to put a premium on accuracy, slightly slower greens to allow for more aggressive putts.

And then there's the small matter of fans. The gallery was one-sided at Whistling Straits because of travel restrictions still in place from the COVID-19 pandemic. The volume at the Ryder Cup is unlike anything in golf, from the first tee to the 18th green, from the opening match on Friday morning to the final singles match on Sunday afternoon. It never ends.

"Just the mere fact that when you come to a hostile, foreign environment, it's hard," U.S. captain Zach Johnson said. "I don't know why we haven't (won)."

## Michigan St. fires Tucker for cause

By LARRY LAGE  
Associated Press

Michigan State fired Mel Tucker on Wednesday, saying the suspended football coach failed to present adequate reasons why he should not be fired for cause after having what he described as consensual phone sex with an activist and rape survivor.

The school said it terminated what's left of Tucker's \$95 million, 10-year contract for acknowledging actions that subjected the institution to ridicule, breaching his contract and moral turpitude.

Brenda Tracy, the activist and rape survivor, said Tucker sexually harassed her during the phone call in April 2022. Several months later, Tracy filed a complaint with the school's Title IX office.

Michigan State informed the 51-year-old Tucker that it planned to fire him Sept. 18 and gave him a week to respond, which he did Monday.

"Simply put, Mr. Tucker's response does not provide any information that refutes or undermines the multiple grounds for termination for cause set forth in the notice," athletic director Alan Haller said. "Instead, his 25-page response, which includes a 12-page letter from his attorney and a 13-page 'expert report,' provides a litany of excuses for his inappropriate behavior while expressly admitting to the problematic conduct outlined in the notice."

Messages seeking comment were left with Tucker's attorney and agent. He has acknowledged having phone sex with her, but said it was consensual.

Michigan State's investigation was completed in July and a hearing scheduled for next week.

Attorney Jennifer Belveal said the school knew Tucker acknowledged during the investigation in March that he had had phone sex with Tracy.

"The notice, which is entirely

premised on information you knew at least seven months ago, if not earlier, now affirms Tucker's belief that the investigation was never interested in the truth," she wrote.

She denied in a statement that Tucker's actions were acts of moral turpitude — "by any stretch of the imagination" — at the university that operates in the shadow of Larry Nassar's sexual abuse of more than 100 athletes.

Belveal also cited Tucker's "serious medical condition" in stating that the embattled coach reserves his right to fully respond to the university's planned firing when he's medically cleared.

Tucker asked for a medical leave for "a serious health condition" while he was suspended and the school denied the request, saying it was "unnecessary," according to his attorney.

The school told Tucker he would be fired for cause and without compensation for misconduct with Tracy, whom it considers a vendor because she was once paid to speak with the team, and gave him seven days to respond.

Tucker signed a \$95 million, 10-year contract in November 2021. If the school gets its way, he will lose about \$80 million he was due to make through Jan. 15, 2032.

Tracy's allegations were made public by USA Today earlier this month, and on the same day the report was published, Tucker was suspended.

Tucker, who said he has been estranged from his wife for years and has two children, said the allegations against him are "completely false."

He was 20-14 in three-plus seasons at Michigan State, which he led to 11 wins in 2021, and his career record as a college football head coach is 25-21.

The Spartans (2-2, 0-1 Big Ten) play at Iowa (3-1, 0-1) on Saturday, and will be led by interim coach Harlon Barnett for a third game.



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Michigan State fired football coach Mel Tucker on Wednesday. He was 20-14 in three-plus seasons as coach of the Spartans, and his career record as a college football head coach is 25-21.

## NFL

## INSIDE THE NUMBERS

# Dolphins set several records, miss others

If Miami hadn't opted to take a knee late, it could've set mark for points in a game

By JOSH DUBOW  
Associated Press

The records kept getting set almost as fast as the Miami Dolphins scored last week against the Denver Broncos.

The first team ever with 10 touchdowns from scrimmage, the first to gain at least 350 yards through the air and on the ground, a record-tying two players with four touchdowns.

Miami missed other notable marks in the 70-20 victory thanks in part to mercy by the coaching staff and a statistical quirk.

With a chance to become the first team since 1966 to top the 70-point mark in a game, coach Mike McDaniel had Mike White take a knee on fourth down from the Denver 27 with 33 seconds left.

That's in stark contrast to the decision Washington coach Otto Graham made the last time a team scored 70 points in a game.

Graham sent out kicker Charlie Gogolak for a 29-yard field goal in the closing seconds of a 72-41 victory over the Giants on Nov. 27, 1966. Had McDaniel done the same, the Dolphins could have set the mark for points in a regular-season game.

The overall record is 73 by Chicago in the NFL title game victory over Washington in 1940. The only other team to score 70 was the Rams in 1950 against Baltimore.

The kneel-down also cost Miami a chance to have the most yards

per play in a game in the last 50 years. The Dolphins finished at 10.23 after taking a 1-yard loss, slightly behind the 10.3 for Kansas City in a 38-31 loss to the Jets on Dec. 3, 2017.

The Dolphins finished with 350 yards rushing and 376 yards passing for 726 in the game. Officially, the only team to gain more was the Rams with 735 against the New York Yanks in 1951.

But as the Pro Football Journal discovered, that total doesn't include a 13-yard sack taken by Norm Van Brocklin that under current scoring rules would have left the Rams with 722 total yards.

Because sack yards weren't deducted from total yards until 1952, the NFL and its official stats keeper, the Elias Sports Bureau, consider the 735 to be the record.

That doesn't diminish what the Dolphins accomplished on a day when Tua Tagovailoa had more TD passes (four) than incompletions (three), Tyreek Hill had his 33rd TD of at least 40 yards, and Raheem Mostert and De'Von Achane became the second set of teammates each to score four TDs in the same game. Priest Holmes and Derrick Blaylock did it for Kansas City on Oct. 24, 2004, against Atlanta.

## The need for speed

Any talk about what fuels the Dolphins' success has to include speed as a prominent factor.

Miami features several of the



REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP

Miami Dolphins defensive tackle Christian Wilkins lifts running back De'Von Achane after Achane scored a touchdown during the second half of Sunday's 70-20 rout of the Denver Broncos. Achane had four TDs.

fastest players in the NFL and that shows up in the NFL's NextGen player tracking stats.

The Dolphins feature the five fastest speeds for ball carriers this season, led by Achane's 21.93 mph on his 67-yard touchdown run against the Dolphins. That's followed by Hill's 21.66 mph on a 47-yard TD catch in Week 1, Mostert's 21.62 mph on a 43-yard TD run in Week 2, Hill's 21.52 mph on a 35-yard TD catch in Week 1 and Achane's 21.5 mph on a 3-yard TD run on Sunday.

The fastest non-Dolphins player this season was Green

Bay's Aaron Jones, recorded at 21.48 mph on a 35-yard TD catch in Week 1 against Chicago.

## Just for kicks

Indianapolis' Matt Gay highlighted a record-setting week for kickers across the NFL.

Gay became the first kicker to make four field goals from at least 50 yards in the same game, including the winning 53-yarder in overtime to beat the Ravens.

There were 11 more field goals made last week from at least 50 yards, breaking the record for the most in a week set in Week 15 last

season when there were 14.

Matt Prater was good from even longer with a 62-yarder in Arizona's win over Dallas for his third career field goal of at least 60 yards. He is tied with Greg Zuerlein for the second-most ever, one shy of Brett Maher's record.

Houston got its first win of the season in a large part because of the kicking game. The Texans scored on a blocked field-goal return and kickoff return in the win over the Jaguars, becoming the first team in 13 years to do that in the same game. New England did it against Miami on Oct. 3, 2010.

# Jets sign veteran Siemian to their practice squad

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.  
Associated Press

The New York Jets signed veteran quarterback Trevor Siemian to the practice squad Tuesday, giving them an experienced backup to embattled starter Zach Wilson.

The team announced the move after Siemian, 31, passed a physical at the Jets' practice facility in Florham Park, N.J.

Wilson has struggled since taking over for Aaron Rodgers, who tore his left Achilles tendon four snaps into his debut with New York. Wilson has two touchdown passes and four interceptions with a 52.4 percent completion rate and is averaging just 5.6 yards per pass.

Several names had been mentioned as potential pickups for the Jets. Former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick wrote a letter to New York general manager Joe Douglas asking the team to consider signing him to the practice squad.

The letter, dated Sept. 21, was released on social media by rapper J. Cole. A person



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Veteran quarterback Trevor Siemian, who was released by the Bengals before the season, signed Tuesday with the Jets.

close to Kaepernick, speaking on condition of anonymity because it's a private matter, confirmed to the AP the legitimacy of the letter. It was not immediately known, however, if Douglas or someone in the Jets organization received or saw the letter.

"I would be honored and extremely

grateful for the opportunity to come in and lead the practice squad," Kaepernick wrote in the two-page letter. "I would do this with the sole mission of getting your defense ready each week."

Kaepernick last played in the NFL with the 49ers on Jan. 1, 2017, after he began kneeling on the sideline at games during the national anthem to protest social injustice and police brutality. He said in the letter he has been working out five days a week during the past six years and remains confident in his abilities.

After the Jets' 15-10 loss to the New England Patriots on Sunday dropped them to 1-2, coach Robert Saleh insisted the team was sticking with Wilson because "right now, he's who gives us the best chance to win."

That didn't sit well with fans — including Pro Football Hall of Famer Joe Namath, who said during an interview on "The Michael Kay Show" on 98.7 ESPN New York on Monday that "I've seen enough of Zach Wilson."

During his weekly appearance on "The Pat McAfee Show" on Tuesday, Rodgers said the Jets "need to hold our poise," referring to some sideline blowups between a few players and coaches during the game Sunday.

He said the offense needs to "grow up a little bit" and also implored fans to not lose faith in the team this early in the season.

"Let's just take a couple of breaths and I'm not going to say we need to relax," a smiling Rodgers said, referring to one of his often-quoted lines when he was in Green Bay.

Saleh reiterated the team's commitment to Wilson on Monday, saying he's "our unquestioned quarterback."

That remains the case, but Siemian at least gives Saleh and the Jets another option if Wilson continues to falter, beginning with their next game Sunday night at home against Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs.

# NFL

## Weekly statistics

### AFC individual leaders

Quarterbacks					
	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Tagovailoa, Mia	101	72	1024	8	2
Herbert, LAC	121	90	939	6	0
Stroud, Hou	121	78	906	4	0
Mahomes, KC	113	74	803	7	2
Wilson, Den	104	68	791	6	2
Mac.Jones, NE	125	81	748	5	2
Lawrence, Jac	113	73	736	3	2
J.Allen, Buf	110	80	728	5	4
Garoppolo, Las	94	64	709	5	6
Pickett, Pit	104	62	689	4	3

Rushers					
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Cook, Buf	44	267	6.1	36	0
Mostert, Mia	41	240	5.9	43t	6
Moss, Ind	48	210	4.4	24	1
Achane, Mia	19	208	10.9	67t	2
Etienne, Jac	49	205	4.2	26t	1
Jackson, Bal	32	193	6.0	16	2
Mixon, Cin	45	180	4.0	22	1
Chubb, Cle	28	170	6.1	20	0
Henry, Ten	51	163	3.2	23	1
J.Ford, Cle	41	160	3.9	69	1

Receivers					
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
T.Hill, Mia	25	412	16.5	54t	4
K.Allen, LAC	32	402	12.6	42	2
Adams, Las	25	322	12.9	32t	3
Diggs, Buf	25	279	11.2	30	1
N.Collins, Hou	15	260	17.3	32	1
Dell, Hou	15	251	16.7	68t	2
M.Williams, LAC	19	249	13.1	49t	1
Cooper, Cle	17	243	14.3	43t	1
Pickens, Pit	13	238	18.3	71t	1
Pittman, Ind	25	230	9.2	39t	1

Punters					
	No	Yds	Lg	Avg	
Stonehouse, Ten	15	787	74	52.5	
Cole, Las	9	460	60	51.1	

Scoring					
Touchdowns					
	TDRush	Rec	Ret	Pts	
Mostert, Mia	7	6	1	0	42
Achane, Mia	4	2	2	0	24

Kicking					
	PAT	FG	LG	Pts	
Bass, Buf	10/10	7/7	54	31	
Fairbairn, Hou	6/6	8/9	38	30	

### NFC individual leaders

Quarterbacks					
	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Cousins, Min	138	96	1075	9	2
Stafford, LAR	126	76	910	2	4
Goff, Det	103	72	819	5	2
Purdy, SF	91	61	736	4	0
G.Smith, Sea	103	71	736	4	1
Howell, Was	99	65	671	3	5
Love, GB	96	51	655	7	1
Prescott, Dal	102	69	647	3	1
Hurts, Phi	93	63	640	3	3
Mayfield, TB	93	62	636	4	1

Rushers					
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
McCaffrey, SF	60	353	5.9	65t	3
Swift, Phi	45	308	6.8	43	1
Conner, Ari	51	266	5.2	26	2
Pollard, Dal	62	264	4.3	31	2
Robinson, Was	47	216	4.6	27	2
Robinson, Atl	39	213	5.5	21	0
Walker, Sea	47	204	4.3	36	4
Mattison, Min	39	155	4.0	15	0
R.White, TB	48	150	3.1	13	1
K.Williams, LAR	39	142	3.6	9	3

Receivers					
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Jefferson, Min	27	458	17.0	52t	1
Nacua, LAR	30	338	11.3	37	0
Olave, NO	22	302	13.7	45	0
Evans, TB	17	297	17.5	70	3
St. Brown, Det	21	275	13.1	39	1
Lamb, Dal	19	273	14.4	49	0
Samuel, SF	17	247	14.5	40	1
Atwell, LAR	17	246	14.5	44	1
A.Brown, Phi	20	239	12.0	28	0
Metcalf, Sea	15	234	15.6	34	1

Punters					
	No	Yds	Lg	Avg	
Camarda, TB	14	768	74	54.9	
Dickson, Sea	9	481	73	53.4	

Scoring					
Touchdowns					
	TDRush	Rec	Ret	Pts	
Walker, Sea	4	4	0	0	24
K.Williams, LAR	4	3	1	0	24

Kicking					
	PAT	FG	LG	Pts	
Aubrey, Dal	6/7	10/10	55	36	
Moody, SF	9/9	9/9	57	36	

### AFC team statistics

AVERAGE PER GAME			
OFFENSE			
	Yards	Rush	Pass
Miami	550.3	188.3	362.0
L.A. Chargers	416.7	108.0	308.7
Kansas City	390.3	114.7	275.7
Buffalo	383.3	149.3	234.0
Cleveland	366.3	160.7	205.7
Baltimore	348.0	158.0	190.0
New England	342.7	107.0	235.7
Houston	341.0	70.0	271.0
Denver	340.7	95.0	245.7
Jacksonville	339.0	98.3	240.7
Indianapolis	320.0	110.0	210.0
Las Vegas	287.7	61.7	226.0
Pittsburgh	275.7	67.0	208.7
Cincinnati	244.3	69.3	175.0
Tennessee	240.0	90.3	149.7
N.Y. Jets	225.0	91.3	133.7

DEFENSE			
	Yards	Rush	Pass
Cleveland	163.7	52.0	111.7
Buffalo	253.0	110.7	142.3
New England	270.3	93.3	177.0
Kansas City	280.7	102.7	178.0
Baltimore	292.3	92.3	200.0
Houston	340.7	117.3	223.3
Tennessee	344.7	69.3	275.3
Las Vegas	347.7	127.3	220.3
Jacksonville	348.3	84.0	264.3
N.Y. Jets	351.3	129.3	222.0
Cincinnati	352.3	151.7	200.7
Miami	361.3	130.0	231.3
Indianapolis	365.0	114.3	250.7
Pittsburgh	387.0	151.7	235.3
L.A. Chargers	450.7	113.7	337.0
Denver	458.3	177.7	280.7

### NFC team statistics

AVERAGE PER GAME			
OFFENSE			
	Yards	Rush	Pass
Minnesota	406.0	66.3	339.7
San Francisco	399.0	162.7	236.3
Philadelphia	384.3	185.7	198.7
Detroit	381.3	111.7	269.7
L.A. Rams	368.0	84.0	284.0
Dallas	354.3	147.0	207.3
Seattle	332.7	104.3	228.3
Arizona	329.7	156.3	173.3
New Orleans	314.7	93.3	221.3
Carolina	299.3	99.3	200.0
Green Bay	297.7	90.3	207.3
Washington	288.7	106.3	182.3
Tampa Bay	284.3	78.0	206.3
Atlanta	283.3	128.3	155.0
N.Y. Giants	253.3	88.0	165.3
Chicago	250.0	101.7	148.3

DEFENSE			
	Yards	Rush	Pass
San Francisco	258.3	53.0	205.3
Dallas	262.0	131.3	130.7
L.A. Rams	284.7	103.7	181.0
Atlanta	287.7	117.7	170.0
New Orleans	288.0	99.7	188.3
Detroit	297.3	72.0	225.3
Philadelphia	310.0	48.3	261.7
Carolina	329.0	136.7	192.3
Washington	331.7	128.7	203.0
Green Bay	336.3	136.7	199.7
Tampa Bay	359.0	103.0	256.0
N.Y. Giants	361.7	138.0	223.7
Arizona	367.7	134.7	233.0
Minnesota	382.3	120.7	261.7
Chicago	407.3	121.7	285.7
Seattle	407.3	79.3	328.0



JEFFREY PHELPS/AP

Packers linebacker Rashaan Gary sacks New Orleans Saints quarterback Derek Carr during the second half of Sunday's game in Green Bay, Wis. Carr injured his shoulder on the play.

# Packers' Gary grabbing chances as he recovers

BY STEVE MEGARGEE  
Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Green Bay Packers outside linebacker Rashaan Gary is making the most of his limited workload as he comes back from a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

Gary has been on the field for only 26.3% of the Packers' defensive snaps, yet his 3½ sacks put him in a tie for sixth place among all NFL players. He had a career-high three sacks while on the field for just 23 plays Sunday in an 18-17 victory over the New Orleans Saints.

"Like I told the team in the locker room, the main thing is I'm just happy to go out there and go to war with you guys," Gary said after the game. "That's something that I truly missed over the 9½ months or so that I was out."

Gary tore the ACL in his right knee last November in a 15-9 loss at Detroit.

Although he returned for the start of this season, the Packers are remaining cautious in how they use him while gradually increasing his opportunities each week.

He played 16.2% of the Packers' defensive plays in a season-opening victory at Chicago. That rate increased to 26.8% the following week and 37.7% on Sunday. He figures to have a limited snap count again Thursday when the Packers (2-1) host the Lions (2-1).

"Rashaan, he wants to be out there every single play," defensive coordinator Joe Barry said. "But he's definitely taken advan-



**Detroit Lions (2-1)**  
**at Green Bay Packers (2-1)**  
AFN-Sports  
2:15 a.m. Friday CET  
9:15 a.m. Friday JKT

tage of his at-bats, there's no doubt about it."

Gary, 25, isn't particularly surprised he's been able to play just as well as he did before his injury.

"All I did was get surgery," Gary said Tuesday. "It didn't change the way I get off the ball, my IQ of the game, how to read things."

But he acknowledges the knee injury and long recovery process changed him in at least one respect.

"It for sure made me a hungrier player," Gary said. "And I already was a hungry player."

In Gary's first game back from injury, he was credited with four pressures on eight pass rush attempts. He teamed up with Preston Smith on a sack in Atlanta and followed that up by getting the first three-sack game for any Packer since Za'Darius Smith did it against the Atlanta Falcons in October 2020.

One of Gary's three sacks knocked the Saints' Derek Carr out of the game with a shoulder injury.

"When he's able to play full go, it's going to be scary," defensive

tackle Kenny Clark said. "He's doing it with 20-some snaps. When he's able to play 40 or 50 of them, it's going to be tough to stop him."

Gary's successful return comes at a crucial time for him. The 2019 first-round pick from Michigan is in the final season of his contract, and his bargaining power for a potential extension is seemingly increasing every week.

His value to the Packers was apparent last season when their pass rush suffered after his injury. Packers cornerback Rasul Douglas says Gary is "like our soul here on this team."

"He's all-out," Douglas said. "He's a killer. He's an emotional killer, I'll say that. Right now, you go tell him you're proud of him, he's going to start crying. But on that field, it's somebody else out there."

Douglas referenced Gary's emotional nature by noting how the pass rusher started crying last month after learning he could finally start participating in individual drills, a big step forward in his comeback from the knee injury.

Gary confirmed that story earlier this month and then explained why it meant so much to him.

"Football is something that offered myself, my family a great life," Gary said. "I just owe the game of football so much. That's all I wanted to do. This sport gives me the opportunity to provide for my family. There's no better feeling than saying you're able to do something or take care of something and you're able to do it. This game provides me that."

## MLB

# Phillies: Rookie reliever could pitch in postseason despite September call-up

FROM PAGE 24

they knocked off St. Louis, Atlanta and San Diego on a wild ride to the World Series. Again, the 100-win NL East champion Braves are in the way and the Dodgers are closing in on reaching that win total. But remember last year, the Dodgers, Braves and Mets all hit 100 wins, yet it was the Phillies left standing in the National League, before losing in six games to Houston in the World Series.

Top to bottom, the Phillies are stronger, deeper everywhere, especially on the pitching staff. The Phillies gutted through the playoffs tossing out “openers” such as Bailey Falter and Noah Syndergaard to survive an inning or two. Now, Sanchez, owner of one of the best changeups in the game, has struck out 10 batters in a game twice this month, yet may not even get a chance to start in a short series.

“I’m not sure where we’d be without him,” manager Rob Thomson said. “This kid’s really something. I wouldn’t be afraid to use him in leverage situations out of the bullpen. If we get to October. We’re not there yet. For me, he’s not out of the question about starting a game.”

Zack Wheeler and Aaron Nola are sure postseason starters, with Walker and Ranger Suárez in the mix, along with Sanchez.

Thomson was itching to see what he had in Kerkering and how Michael Lorenzen would fare in relief after he got knocked around in five starts following his no-hitter.

The early returns, pretty promising: Kerkering and Lorenzen (who earned the save) struck out three in two shutout innings in a 5-2 win over the Mets. Kerkering’s father, Todd, teared up from the Citizens Bank Park seats as he watched his son pitch.

Thomson envisions Kerkering — who went 4-1 with 14 saves and a 1.51 ERA across 49 relief appearances with four different minor league teams this season — as a high-leverage reliever.

The Phillies close the regular season with two more against the Pirates and three more on the road against the Mets, giving Thomson a few more opportunities to see how Kerkering fits among a right-handed crop of relievers that include Craig Kimbrel, Seranthony Domínguez and Jeff Hoffman.

“The only thing with guys coming up here is, how they’re going to handle this environment,” Thomson said. “How they’re going to handle the third deck, 40,000 people in the stands, the passion of the city. He looked like he wasn’t even sweating.”

Phillies hitters are rounding into postseason form in the stretch run. Castellanos has seven homers since Sept. 12; Schwarber is one of only 13 players since 1920 with 120 walks/100 runs/100 RBIs/45 homers in a season; and Brandon Marsh’s home run Tuesday night gave the Phillies eight players with at least 40 extra-base hits in a season for the first time in franchise history.

They can hit.

But the Phillies really want their starters to go deep, the six- or seven-inning quality starts needed until relievers can nail down wins.

As Kerkering packed for the big leagues, suddenly expected to become one of those shutdown relievers, his phone never stopped buzzing.

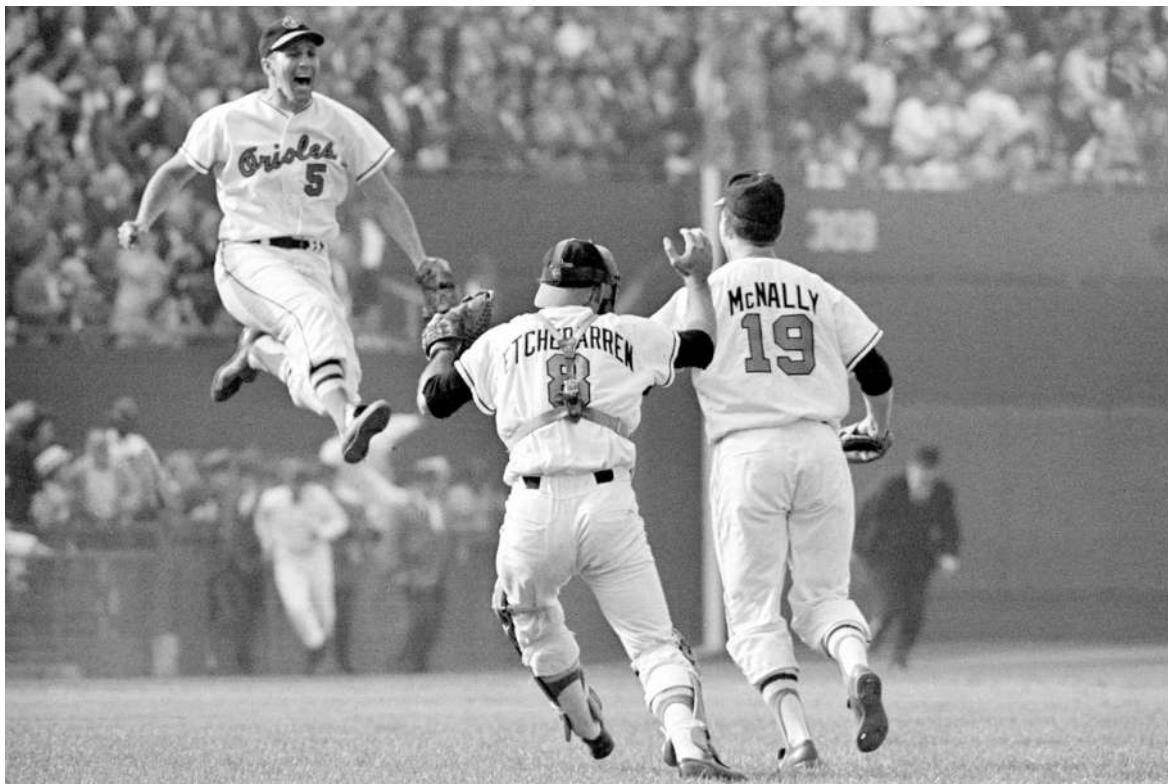
“It’s nonstop. I feel bad for not texting back right away,” he said.

Just wait until October. Those calls will surely come from friends asking for tickets that Kerkering won’t have to try to buy anymore.



MATT SLOCUM/AP

The Philadelphia Phillies’ Orion Kerkering is dunked by teammates after a game against the New York Mets on Sunday in Philadelphia.



BOB DAUGHERTY/AP

Baltimore Orioles third baseman Brooks Robinson celebrates beating the Los Angeles Dodgers for the World Series title with pitcher Dave McNally and catcher Andy Etchebarren Oct. 9, 1966, in Baltimore.

# Hall of Famer, Orioles legend Robinson dies

BY DAVID GINSBURG  
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Hall of Fame third baseman Brooks Robinson, whose deft glove work and folksy manner made him one of the most beloved and accomplished athletes in Baltimore history, has died. He was 86.

The Orioles announced his death in a joint statement with Robinson’s family Tuesday. The statement did not say how Robinson died.

The Orioles held a moment of silence before their game against the Washington Nationals, and the teams lined up outside their dugouts to pay their respects. Also before the game, fans gathered around the 9-foot bronze statue of Robinson inside Camden Yards.

“Great player, great guy on the field, great guy off,” said fellow Orioles Hall of Famer Jim Palmer, who was overcome with emotion. “Respectful, kind. And you don’t meet too many guys like that. Brooks was a genuine person. There was no acting. Brooks was just a genuine person.”

Coming of age before the free-agent era, Robinson spent his entire 23-year career with the Orioles. He almost single-handedly helped Baltimore defeat Cincinnati in the 1970 World Series and homered in Game 1 of the Orioles’ 1966 sweep of the Los Angeles Dodgers for their first crown.

Robinson participated in 18 All-Star Games, won 16 consecutive Gold Gloves and earned the 1964



Robinson

AL Most Valuable Player award after batting .318 with 28 home runs and a league-leading 118 RBIs.

“An integral part of our Orioles Family since 1955, he will continue to leave a lasting impact on our club, our community and the sport of baseball,” the team said.

He finished with 268 homers, drove in 1,357 runs and batted a respectable .267 in 2,896 career games. Not bad for ol’ No. 5, the boy from Arkansas.

MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred described Robinson as “one of the greats of our National Pastime,” calling him a “model of excellence, durability, loyalty and winning baseball for the Orioles.”

MLB Player Association Executive Director Tony Clark cited Robinson’s role as an advocate for his fellow players.

“Tributes to Brooks Robinson will duly note his brilliance at third base.... But his impact transcended the field — as a prominent voice in the early days of the MLBPA and a relentless advocate for his fellow players through his work with the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association.”

The Hall of Fame applauded Robinson’s role as a member of its board.

“For generations of fans, Brooks Robinson’s talent on the field was

surpassed only by his incredible character and integrity. His love of the Hall of Fame brightened Cooperstown, as did his devotion to the Museum as a long-standing and valued member of our Board of Directors.”

Robinson will be forever remembered for his work ethic and the skill he displayed at the hot corner, where he established himself as arguably the finest-fielding third baseman in baseball history, whether charging slow rollers or snaring liners down the third-base line.

“Brooks was maybe the last guy to get into the clubhouse the day of the game, but he would be the first guy on the field,” said former Orioles manager Earl Weaver, who died in 2013. “He’d be taking his ground balls, and we’d all go, ‘Why does Brooks have to take any ground balls?’”

“I wouldn’t expect anything else from Brooks. Seeing him work like that meant a lot of any young person coming up. He was so steady, and he steadied everybody else.”

Robinson retired in 1977 after batting only .149 in 24 games. His jersey was retired that year, and he was later inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1983, his first year of eligibility.

His legacy in Maryland continued long after his retirement.

There’s a Brooks Robinson Drive in Pikesville, and the annual state high school All-Star game played at Camden Yards is named in his honor.

MLB

Scoreboard

ROUNDUP

# Brewers win NL Central despite loss

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Baltimore	98	59	.624	—
z-Tampa Bay	96	62	.608	2½
Toronto	87	70	.554	11
New York	80	77	.510	18
Boston	76	81	.484	22
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Minnesota	84	73	.535	—
Detroit	74	83	.471	10
Cleveland	74	84	.468	10½
Chicago	60	97	.382	24
Kansas City	54	103	.344	30
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	88	69	.561	—
Houston	86	72	.544	2½
Seattle	85	72	.541	3
Los Angeles	71	87	.449	17½
Oakland	48	109	.306	40
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	101	56	.643	—
y-Philadelphia	88	69	.561	13
Miami	81	75	.519	19½
New York	71	85	.455	29½
Washington	69	89	.437	32½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Milwaukee	88	69	.561	—
Chicago	82	75	.522	6
Cincinnati	81	77	.513	7½
Pittsburgh	74	83	.471	14
St. Louis	69	88	.439	19
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Los Angeles	97	60	.618	—
Arizona	83	74	.529	14
San Diego	78	80	.494	19½
San Francisco	78	80	.494	19½
Colorado	57	100	.363	40

*Associated Press*  
**MILWAUKEE** — The Milwaukee Brewers clinched the NL Central title with help from the MLB-leading Atlanta Braves.

Milwaukee claimed the division crown for the third time in six seasons Tuesday night, despite a 4-1 loss to the last-place St. Louis Cardinals and with the help of a come-from-behind win by the Braves.

Milwaukee clinched its second division crown in three seasons when the Chicago Cubs dropped a 7-6 decision to the Braves. The Milwaukee crowd roared as the ninth inning of the Cubs-Braves game was shown on the scoreboard.

“You could just sense something was going on in the stands a little bit,” Milwaukee manager Craig Counsell said. “Then I turned behind me and looked down the tunnel and some of the clubhouse guys were scurrying around way too fast for us losing 4-1. So I knew something was going on then.”

The Brewers had clinched no worse than a wild-card berth on Friday, with a 16-1 win over the Marlins in Miami. They missed two chances to clinch the division title by losing to Miami on Saturday and Sunday, scoring a total of five runs in those two games.

“You dream of this, but you know how hard it is to get here,” principal owner Mark Attanasio said. “Last year, we felt we were going to be in the same position and we were reminded of how hard it is to clinch. Everybody in that clubhouse built off that.”

“You never know how you’re going to get there. This was great to celebrate with all our fans.”

Milwaukee rookie Sal Frelick said: “It’s so fun and something you want to do,” as teammates poured beer down the back of his new Central Division Champions shirt. “It’s something I’ve never experienced. It’s so fun, some-



MORRY GASH/AP

The Milwaukee Brewers’ Freddy Peralta is doused with champagne and beer as they celebrate clinching the NL Central after a game against the St. Louis Cardinals on Tuesday night in Milwaukee.

thing I want to do for a long time.” St. Louis starter Miles Mikolas (8-13) allowed one run and five hits in seven innings, as the Cardinals played the role of spoilers. He struck out five batters and walked two, throwing 101 pitches.

Mikolas had given up five earned runs in five innings in his previous start, a loss to the Brewers in St. Louis.

“He’s been beat up, so he needed it,” manager Oliver Marmol said of Mikolas’ outing. “To navigate a lineup like that and being able to go seven was good.”

**Braves 7, Cubs 6:** Sean Murphy reached on a two-run fielding error by right fielder Seiya Suzuki in the eighth inning and host Atlanta overcame a six-run deficit to beat Chicago.

Suzuki ran to his right and called off center fielder Cody Bell-

inger, but apparently lost the fly ball in the lights and dropped it. Drew Smyly (11-10) aided the comeback by throwing two wild pitches in the eighth, letting Matt Olson advance to third and setting the stage for pinch-runner Forrest Wall to steal second.

Both runners easily scored on Suzuki’s error. Brad Hand (5-2) worked a scoreless eighth to win it. Raisel Iglesias got his 31st save in the ninth after facing four batters.

The loss mathematically eliminated the Cubs from the NL Central race, allowing the Brewers to clinch despite their loss to the Cardinals. Chicago maintained its hold on the final NL wild-card spot, but its lead over the Miami Marlins dropped to a half-game.

**Mariners 6, Astros 2:** George Kirby escaped an early bases-loaded jam to throw six shutout innings, host Seattle took advantage of three Houston errors and the Mariners snapped a four-game losing streak with a win over the Astros.

Seattle pulled within a half-game of Houston for the final wild card spot in the American League and trailed Toronto by two games after the Blue Jays lost at home to the Yankees. The Mariners also gained a game on Texas in the AL West after the Rangers lost to the Angels.

Houston didn’t help its cause matching a season-high with the three errors, two of which directly led to runs. Jose Altuve’s errant relay throw in the third inning allowed Mike Ford to score. In the fifth, Kyle Tucker’s throw from

Wild card				
American League				
	W	L	Pct	WCGB
z-Tampa Bay	96	62	.608	+10
Toronto	87	70	.554	+1½
Houston	86	72	.544	—
Seattle	85	72	.541	½
z-clinched playoff berth				
National League				
	W	L	Pct	WCGB
y-Philadelphia	88	69	.561	+6
Arizona	83	74	.529	+1
Chicago	82	75	.522	—
Miami	81	75	.519	½
Cincinnati	81	77	.513	4
y-clinched wild card				

right field skipped away from third baseman Alex Bregman and into the Houston dugout allowing Julio Rodríguez to score.

Seattle also got a sacrifice fly from Rodríguez, as well as RBI singles from Cal Raleigh and Teoscar Hernández. Ty France homered for the first time since Aug. 15 with a solo shot in the eighth.

**Angels 9, Rangers 3:** Brandon Drury had three hits, including a home run, Reid Detmers threw seven solid innings and host Los Angeles rolled to the victory over Texas, preventing the Rangers from getting another step closer to wrapping up their first playoff appearance since 2016.

Eduardo Escobar and Michael Stefanic each drove in two runs for the Angels, who won for just the seventh time in 24 games in September.

With Houston also losing, Texas maintained a 2½-game lead in the AL West.

Detmers (4-10) allowed only one run on four hits in seven innings and struck out seven.



JOHN FROSCHAUER/AP

The Seattle Mariners’ Josh Rojas and Julio Rodriguez celebrate after scoring against the Houston Astros in the fifth inning Tuesday in Seattle.

This date in baseball

Sept. 28

1941 — Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox ends the year with a .406 batting average. Williams remains the last player to hit over .400 in a full season.

# SPORTS



## Hungry for more

Packers LB Gary making most of limited time back after injury » **NFL, Page 21**



MLB

MATT SLOCUM/AP

From left, the Philadelphia Phillies' Brandon Marsh, Michael Lorenzen and Nick Castellanos celebrate after a win against the New York Mets on Sunday in Philadelphia.

# Red October

## Phillies have arms, bats to make a second straight World Series run

By DAN GELSTON  
*Associated Press*

PHILADELPHIA — Orion Kerkering sounded a bit like every Phillies fan last year, vowing to score World Series tickets at any price. That he was Philadelphia's fifth-round draft pick didn't matter much. Kerkering had to scrounge for tickets like any other desperate fanatic.

Good news: Kerkering knew a guy — his uncle — who knew a guy who could get tickets. Kerkering only had to buy his plane ticket and he would have seats with his girlfriend and his father at Game 3 of the World Series.

Kerkering rooted on the Phillies from the third row of the upper deck as they blasted five homers against Houston. While the

Phillies trotted out four relievers in the win, Kerkering watched and wondered, could he one day — say, 2025, he figured — be the pitcher that gets the call from the 'pen in the postseason?

Why wait?

Should the Phillies reach the World Series again, he can skip the secondary market and friends-of-friends for tickets and instead catch the game from the bullpen. Kerkering, 22, blazed through four stops in the minor leagues this year before he was called up over the weekend, and the right-hander then struck out two in a scoreless inning in his MLB debut in Sunday's win over the New York Mets.

Oh, and even with the late start, Kerkering is postseason eligible.

Now that the Phillies have officially clinched a wild-card spot, it's just a matter of waiting to see if Kerkering will be named to the roster for the initial round. Philadelphia punched its ticket back to the postseason in thrilling fashion Tuesday, as Johan Rojas hit a walk-off single in the 10th inning against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Bryce Harper, Nick Castellanos and Kyle Schwarber are ready to mash again in October.

This time around, Trea Turner, Taijuan Walker, Christopher Sánchez and Kerkering are along for the ride.

With 88 wins after Tuesday, their total has now surpassed last season's, before

SEE PHILLIES ON PAGE 22



### INSIDE

Legendary Orioles 3B Brooks Robinson dies  
**Page 22**

## Liberty's Stewart wins narrow MVP race » WNBA, Page 18

