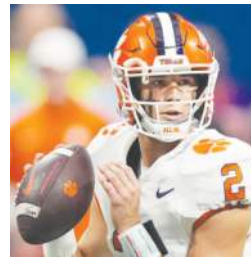


**FACES**

2nd season of 'Pachinko' explores challenges for ethnic Koreans in Japan  
**Page 15**

**MIDEAST**

Israeli forces recover bodies of 6 hostages in southern Gaza city  
**Page 11**

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

Clemson's loss against Georgia puts Swinney's Tigers in risk of demise  
**Page 24**

**7 US troops hurt in joint Iraq raid; 15 suspected militants dead** >> **Page 5**

# STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 83 Edition 98 ©SS 2024 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2024

平成12年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)  
 発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas



PHOTOS BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes

Reenactors participate in the annual Tanks in Town event in Mons, Belgium, on Sunday, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the city's liberation from Nazi occupation during World War II.

## Saying thanks with tanks

80 years after liberation, Belgian city honors US WWII troops with parade

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

MONS, Belgium — Some 200 World War II military vehicles rolled through the streets of this southwestern Belgian city on Sunday, marking 80 years since U.S. soldiers helped free it from Nazi occupation.

The annual Tanks in Town event honored the Americans and Belgian resistance fighters who liberated the city on Sept. 3, 1944, while emphasizing the value of standing together against aggression, a reminder that felt particu-



Lt. John Jacinto, left, and Capt. Clayton Vermeesch help fasten an American flag onto a Bradley Fighting Vehicle ahead of the Tanks in Town parade in Mons, Belgium.

larly relevant to some attendees amid Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine.

Vintage tanks, jeeps and armored cars proceeded through villages and locations around Mons for several hours in the morning, retracing the route taken by the Army's 3rd Armored Division as it advanced from the French border into Mons eight decades ago.

Upon entering the city, the procession took over the historic central square, the Grand Place,

SEE THANKS ON PAGE 6

## Adult family members OK to join 2-year Poland tour

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

U.S. military spouses may soon be searching for apartments and the best place for pierogis in Poznan, home of the first permanent American base in Poland.

The Pentagon has now approved accompanied, 24-month tours for service members assigned to Camp Kosciuszko. The new travel regulation allows military dependents 18 years and older to join service members with orders to the base in west-central Poland.

"When you walk out our main gate, you're in the heart of a 500,000-person city," said Marcus Fichtl, a spokesman for U.S. Army Garrison Poland.

Soldiers on solo permanent orders will continue to serve one-year tours. Civilians on two-year assignments at Poznan were authorized in December to bring adult dependents. The first family members arrived in the spring, Fichtl said.

The two-year tour policy went into effect Aug. 19, Fichtl said Friday. It doesn't affect units based in the United States that arrive on nine-month rotational deployments, the Army said.

"Bringing permanently stationed soldiers with their families to Poland is a significant milestone as we continue to build our Army home on NATO's eastern flank," Col. Jesse Chace, U.S. Army Garrison Poland commander, said in a statement Thursday.

Spouses and adult children accompanying soldiers can expect to live in the city. Housing for personnel on permanent orders is off base and the military housing allowance is "more than adequate for top-quality housing in the

SEE POLAND ON PAGE 7

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Average mortgage rate lowest in more than a year

Associated Press

The average rate on a 30-year mortgage eased for the second week in a row and remains at its lowest level in more than a year, good news for prospective homebuyers facing home prices near all-time highs.

The rate fell to 6.35% from 6.46% last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday. A year ago, the rate averaged 7.18%.

The last time the average rate was this low was May 11, 2023.

Borrowing costs on 15-year

fixed-rate mortgages, popular with homeowners seeking to refinance their home loan to a lower rate, also eased last week. The average rate fell to 5.51% from 5.62% last week. A year ago, it averaged 6.55%, Freddie Mac said.

"Mortgage rates fell again this week due to expectations of a Fed rate cut," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist. "Rates are expected to continue their decline, and while potential homebuyers are watching closely, a rebound in purchase activity re-

mains elusive until we see further declines."

Signs of waning inflation and a cooling job market have raised expectations the Federal Reserve will cut its benchmark interest rate for the first time in four years.

Mortgage rates are influenced by several factors, including how the bond market reacts to the central bank's interest rate policy decisions. That can move the trajectory of the 10-year Treasury yield, which lenders use as a guide to pricing home loans.

## EXCHANGE RATES

### Military rates

Euro costs (Sept. 2)	\$1.08
Britain (Pound)	\$1.29
Japanese yen (Sept. 2)	141.00
South Korean won (Sept. 2)	1300.00

### Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3768
Britain (Pound)	1.3121
Canada (Dollar)	1.3486
China (Yuan)	7.0917
Denmark (Krone)	6.7493
Egypt (Pound)	48.6204
Euro	0.9049
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7982
Hungary (Forint)	355.49
Israel (Shekel)	3.6279
Japan (Yen)	146.10
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3056
Norway (Krone)	10.6217
Philippines (Peso)	56.26
Poland (Zloty)	3.87
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7527
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3054
South Korea (Won)	1337.79

Switzerland (Franc)	0.8504
Thailand (Baht)	34.09
Turkey (NewLira)	34.0762

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## INTEREST RATES

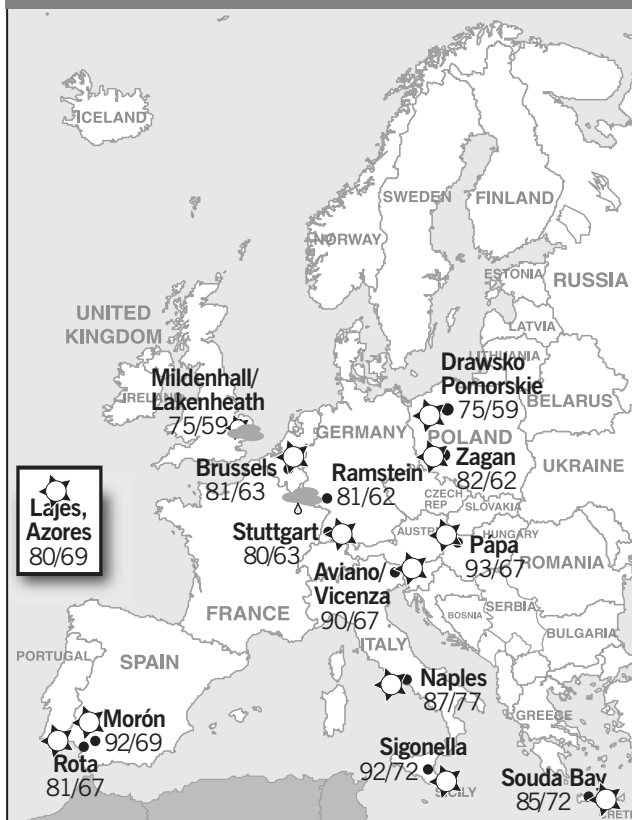
Prime rate	8.50
Interest Rates Discount rate	6.00
Federal funds market rate	5.33
3-month bill	5.11
30-year bond	4.20

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### MONDAY IN EUROPE



### TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

## TODAY IN STRIPES

- American Roundup ..... 14
- Classified ..... 13
- Comics ..... 17
- Crossword ..... 17
- Faces ..... 15
- Opinion ..... 16
- Sports ..... 18-24

## STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

### EUROPE

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

### MIDDLE EAST

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

### PACIFIC

PacificAdvertising@stripes.com

+81 (42) 552.2511  
DSN: 315.227.7310

## STARS AND STRIPES

# SHOW US YOUR STRIPES

Show us your Stripes! Send in a picture reading your favorite Stripes publication and be entered to win a PS5!



Scan the QR code to submit your photo or visit [www.stripes.com/show](http://www.stripes.com/show).



For official contest rules visit [ww2.stripes.com/promotions/ShowUsYourStripes](http://ww2.stripes.com/promotions/ShowUsYourStripes).

## PACIFIC

# US, S. Korea drills undeterred by North

BY DAVID CHOI  
*Stars and Stripes*

SUWON, South Korea — Thousands of U.S. and South Korean troops have concluded an annual large-scale exercise the two allies describe as defensive drills, and North Korea claims destabilizes the region.

Around 19,000 South Korean troops were involved in the 11-day Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise on land, air, sea and in cyberspace to demonstrate “the alliance’s combined capabilities and enhanced interoperability across all levels of command,” U.S. Forces Korea said in a news release Thursday.

The military uses interoperability to describe the ability of one nation’s military to use another’s training methods and equipment.

Photos released by USFK during the exercise revealed U.S. and South Korean troops drilling in Kunsan and Osan air bases and the Rodriguez Live Fire Complex in Pocheon, about 16 miles south of the border with North Korea.

Ulchi Freedom Shield is one of two large-scale, joint military exercises held annually in South Korea. The other, Freedom Shield, occurs in March.

North Korea condemned Ulchi Freedom Shield on its first day, Aug. 19, as offensive in nature and



JONATHAN CLUTTER/U.S. Army

**Soldiers assigned to the 65th Medical Brigade prepare to transport a simulated casualty during an Ulchi Freedom Shield drill in Pocheon, South Korea, on Aug. 26.**

the instigation of crisis on the Korean Peninsula, the state-run Korean Central News Agency reported that day.

This year, the exercise addressed threats from North Korea’s missiles, GPS jamming and cyberattacks. More than 200 U.S.

and South Korean military aircraft made about 2,000 sorties in five days, according to the South’s Ministry of National Defense.

South Korean military reservists, and U.S. federal and South Korean civil agencies also participated with counterterrorism drills

in urban areas, according to the ministry.

In a first, representatives of South Korea’s National Intelligence Service and a host of other Seoul-based government agencies and USFK gathered Aug. 20 to confer on measures to deter North

Korean disinformation campaigns. The conference addressed “gray zone provocations” from the North, such as fake government messages and manipulated videos, the ministry said.

Another U.S.-South Korean joint exercise got underway during Ulchi Freedom Shield. The 13-day Ssangyong exercise began Aug. 26 and focuses on maritime drills along the eastern coast.

During the exercise, over 40 U.S. and South Korean aircraft, 40 amphibious assault vehicles and 40 ships will be practicing amphibious skills over, near and on South Korean beachheads, Indo-Pacific Command said in a news release Aug. 26.

Last year’s Ssangyong involved 2,500 U.S. Marines and sailors and 3,000 troops from South Korea.

During Ulchi Freedom Shield, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw several weapons tests, according to KCNA.

Kim on Tuesday supervised the test-firing of a 240 mm rocket launcher outfitted with an upgraded guidance system. Earlier, he oversaw tests of domestically produced military drones, one of which appeared to strike an armored vehicle resembling South Korea’s K-2 Black Panther tank, KCNA reported.

## Chinese, Philippine vessels collide at disputed atoll and trade blame

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEEN  
*Associated Press*

TAIPEI, Taiwan — China and the Philippines accused each other of causing a collision between their two vessels Saturday in the latest flareup of tensions over disputed waters and maritime features in the South China Sea.

In a statement posted on social media, Chinese coast guard spokesperson Liu Dejun was quoted as saying that a Philippine ship maneuvered and “deliberately collided” with a Chinese coast guard ship “in an unprofessional and dangerous manner.”

Philippine officials in Manila said it was their coast guard ship, the BRP Teresa Magbanua, that

was rammed thrice by the Chinese coast guard without any provocation, causing damage to the Philippine vessel.

It was the second confrontation in days near Sabina Shoal, about 85 miles west of the Philippine province of Palawan, in the internationally recognized exclusive economic zone of the Philippines.

The Philippine ship, the Magbanua, has been anchored in Sabina since mid-April after Manila suspected that China may construct a structure to seize the uninhabited atoll.

China harbored the same suspicions and recently filed a diplomatic protest against the Philippines due to the ship’s prolonged

presence at the shoal.

Commodore Jay Tarriela of the Philippine coast guard said in a news briefing in Manila that the Magbanua had dropped its anchor again and would not withdraw from Sabina Shoal “despite the harassment, bullying activities and escalatory action of the Chinese coast guard.”

Video released by the Philippine coast guard appeared to show the Magbanua being rammed by a Chinese coast guard ship.

The United States condemned “the multiple dangerous violations of international law by the PRC (People’s Republic of China), including today’s intentional ramming of the BRP Teresa Magba-



PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD/AP

**A Chinese Coast Guard ship, right, collides with Philippine Coast Guard vessel BRP Teresa Magbanua near the Sabina Shoal at the disputed South China Sea on Saturday.**

nua while it was conducting lawful operations within the Philippines’ Exclusive Economic Zone.”

“We stand with the Philippines

in upholding international law,” U.S. Ambassador to Manila Mary-Kay Carlson said in a statement she posted on X.

## Japan protests Chinese survey ship entering its territorial waters

BY YURI KAGEYAMA  
*Associated Press*

TOKYO — Japan lodged a formal protest via China’s embassy against what it called an incursion by a Chinese survey ship into its territorial waters Saturday, the Japanese foreign ministry said.

The ministry expressed “strong

concern” after the ship was spotted near Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan, early in the morning.

The Chinese ship, confirmed in territorial waters at 6 a.m. local time, left shortly before 8 a.m., according to Japan’s Defense Ministry, adding it was monitored by a

Japanese military vessel and plane.

Recently, China’s increasingly assertive activity around Japanese waters and airspace has caused unease among Japanese defense officials, also concerned about the growing military cooperation between the Chinese and

Russian air forces.

This follows Tokyo’s protest after a Chinese military aircraft briefly entered Japan’s southwestern airspace on Monday. It was the first time the Japanese Self Defense Force detected a Chinese military aircraft in Japan’s airspace.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said on Tuesday his country had “no intention” to violate any country’s airspace.

Bilateral business ties between the two countries, as well as exchanges among scholars and business people, remain strong.

## PACIFIC

# Airman says he thought girl was 18, consented

BY BRIAN McELHINEY  
AND KEISHI KOJA

*Stars and Stripes*

NAHA CITY, Okinawa — An airman charged with sexually assaulting a minor, testifying in the case for the first time in a Japanese court on Friday, said he believed the girl was 18 and gave her consent.

Senior Airman Brennon Richard Edward Washington, 25, in his third appearance in Naha District Court in the case, answered questions posed by his attorney and the prosecution in front of three judges, with Judge Tetsuro Sato presiding over the trial.

Washington, assigned to the 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Kadena Air Base, said the girl told him she was 18 when they met in a Yomitan park on Dec. 24.

The girl, referred to in court as

“A,” testified on Aug. 23 that she used English, Japanese and hand gestures to tell Washington that she is 15.

Washington on Friday said no hand gestures or counting actions took place that day.

“I think why she said that is it’s another fabrication of the story she is making about this case,” he said.

The girl also testified that Washington sexually assaulted her in July 2023 — fondled her and kissed her — outside a convenience store and invited her to his house nearby. In December, she recognized Washington when he brought her to the same house, she said.

Questioned by his attorney, Washington testified that the girl recalled the incident five months earlier but said she did not seem afraid of him.

“I think she told me a foreigner touched her, but that’s it,” he said.

Washington testified that after he drove “A” to his house, he asked permission to kiss her, and she agreed.

From there, Washington detailed under questioning by his attorney what happened that night.

He said he used a mix of gestures, questions and a translation app on his phone to communicate with the girl. He kissed the girl, touched her vagina both over her underwear and directly and eventually performed oral sex on her, he said in court. He said he never penetrated her with any part of his body.

The girl testified on Aug. 23 that Washington did penetrate her with his finger and tongue.

Washington said the girl gave her consent to him kissing and touching her.

“When saying bye with ‘A,’ did you ask her to keep a secret?” the defense attorney asked.

“No, I did not; I had no motivation, reason to tell her that,” Washington testified. “She said that she was 18; I had consent. I did not think, at that time, that this situation was going to be a criminal charge.”

Under cross-examination, Washington told the prosecutor, identified in court only by his last name, Hisaoka, that he had no intent to have sex with the girl.

“I touched, because of the type of mood that was happening at the time,” Washington said.

Hisaoka asked Washington if he usually engaged in kissing and petting, and offering to show someone his penis, without intending to have sex.

“I cannot answer yes or no for that question,” Washington said.

Washington also testified under cross-examination that he drank “three cans of strong chuhai,” a Japanese alcoholic drink, before going to the park.

Questioned again by his attorney, Washington said he would not have taken the girl to his house if he knew she was 15.

Washington’s case, and that of a Marine lance corporal charged in July in a separate case with attempted sexual assault, outraged Okinawa government officials, who made formal complaints to the Japanese government, the U.S. Embassy and military commands in Japan.

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly also called for changes to the status of forces agreement governing the U.S. military population in Japan.

Closing arguments are expected on Oct. 25.

## Japan seeks record high for defense in budget

BY HANA KUSUMOTO

*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — Japan’s Ministry of Defense asked for a record-high 8.5 trillion yen — about \$58.7 billion — on Friday for fiscal 2025, the third year of a planned military buildup.

The ministry also unveiled details of its budget request, which, if approved, will be the 13th consecutive year of increased military spending and will exceed this fiscal year’s \$54.5 billion budget. Japan’s fiscal year begins April 1.

To achieve its buildup goals by fiscal 2027, the government “will steadily increase the expenditure budget request, while accumulating projects that should be started during FY 2025,” the budget document states.

Japan in 2022 embarked on a plan to increase its defense capabilities in five years, aiming to strengthen its deterrence capabilities in a regional security environment made uncertain by an assertive China.

Since then, Japan has drastically increased its defense budget, pledging to spend about \$297 billion through 2027.

The fiscal 2025 budget request includes about \$6.7 billion to continue strengthening Japan’s stand-off defense capability. Past purchases in this category included U.S.-made extended range stand-off missiles and Tomahawk cruise missiles.

“We will drastically strengthen our stand-off defense capabilities to deal with ships and landing forces advancing to our island region from outside the threat zone of anti-aircraft missiles,” budget request stated.

Among the items in that category is about \$2.2 billion to build a



JOSHUA SYBERG/U.S. Army

Japan Ground Self Defense Force members charge into a fight during training for Orient Shield 2018.

satellite constellation for target detection and tracking capabilities. The system is budgeted this year for the first time; the ministry hopes to start operating it by March 2027.

The ministry has budgeted another \$712 million for unmanned defense capabilities, which it calls a “revolutionary game changer” that can provide asymmetric advantages in the air, on the water

and under the sea.

The ministry requested about \$20.7 million to acquire small, offensive unmanned aerial vehicles for security in the southwestern islands, a strategically important area for Japan.

It also requested about \$58 million for equipment designed to defend against drones and improve base security. That request follows a May incident in which

drone footage of a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force flattop, the JS Izumo, at Yokosuka Naval Base appeared on a Chinese social media site.

The budget request also stated that the Air Self-Defense Force’s Space Operation Group will be upgraded into a wing, which will focus on space domain surveillance and countermeasures under the command of a general.

## Third airman found dead at S. Korea base

BY DAVID CHOI

*Stars and Stripes*

SUWON, South Korea — The 8th Fighter Wing at Kunsan Air Base, 120 miles south of Seoul, reported an airman death Friday, the third in a span of five weeks.

Tech. Sgt. Jacob Venegas of the 8th Maintenance Group was found dead Wednesday in a base dormitory, the wing said in a news release. An investigation is ongoing.

“We are devastated by the loss of Tech. Sgt. Venegas, and we extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew him as they navigate this difficult time,” wing commander Col. Peter Kasarskis said in the release.

The 8th Maintenance Group is tasked with equipping and maintaining 40 F-16 Fighting Falcons and is responsible for 1,100 military personnel. Roughly 2,800 airmen are assigned to the wing.

Venegas’ death marks the third at Kunsan since mid-July. The wing is experiencing a “difficult summer” due to the recent deaths and units are “reinforcing existing support entities to care for our airmen,” Kasarskis said in the release.

Senior Airman Saniyya Smalls, 25, of the 8th Security Forces Squadron, was found dead there on Aug. 5. Nearly two weeks earlier, Airman Basic Kye Vang, 23, of the same squadron, was declared dead at the base.

Foul play was not suspected in those deaths, the wing said at the time.

## MILITARY



PHOTOS BY U.S. NAVY

An Iranian mariner is guided off a helicopter after being rescued Aug. 23, by sailors assigned to the USS Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group in the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

## USS Theodore Roosevelt sailors save Iranian mariners in distress

By SHANNON RENFROE  
*Stars and Stripes*

U.S. sailors assigned to a Navy carrier strike group recently rescued two Iranians in distress in international waters and airlifted them to a ship for medical treatment, according to U.S. Central Command.

The rescue happened at about 7 a.m. on Aug. 23 at an undisclosed location in the CENTCOM area of operations and involved the USS Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group, the command said Thursday in a statement.

The two Iranian mariners were pulled from the water by U.S. personnel in a rigid inflatable boat and a search-and-rescue helicopter, the statement said.

They were taken to the aircraft carrier, where they were given food, water and medical care, according to CENTCOM.

The statement did not give any updated information about the current condition or location of the two Iranians.

Roosevelt replaced USS



Sailors rescue two Iranian civilian mariners in the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

Dwight D. Eisenhower in the Middle East on July 12 after operating in the Indo-Pacific region since January.

Two Navy carrier strike groups are now operating in the Gulf of Oman. The USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group is the other.

Abraham Lincoln arrived in the Middle East on Aug. 21 to replace Roosevelt, but on Tuesday, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered both carrier strike groups to remain in the region.

The last time two U.S. Navy carrier strike groups operated simultaneously in the Middle East was in March 2020, with the USS Eisenhower and USS Harry S. Truman there during heightened tensions between Iran and its proxies.

The ongoing Israel-Hamas war has brought even more volatility, as Iran-backed Houthi militants in Yemen attack commercial shipping and fears grow that Hezbollah, another Iranian ally, will join the fighting against Israel.

## Navy fires commander of destroyer now in Middle East

By GARY WARNER  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy on Friday fired the commander of a guided-missile destroyer that is part of an aircraft carrier strike group deployed in the Middle East to counter attacks on shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen.

Cmdr. Cameron Yaste was relieved of his duties as commanding officer of the USS John S. McCain, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer now operating in the Gulf of Oman.

Rear Adm. Christopher Alexander, commander of the USS Theo-

dore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group, took the action citing a "loss of confidence to command the guided-missile destroyer."

"Loss of confidence" is a vague phrase often used throughout the U.S. military to describe the removal of a commanding officer from his or her post without providing a clear explanation. The causes for past removals of Navy commanders for "lack of confidence" have ranged from ineffective leadership, mistreatment of crew members, and poor behavior off duty, such as drinking with subordinates or a "driving under the influence" arrest.

Alexander announced Capt. Allison Christy, deputy commodore of Destroyer Squadron 21, has temporarily assumed command of the destroyer.

"There is no impact on the ship's mission or schedule due to the relief," the Navy said in a statement.

Yaste assumed command of the John S. McCain in October 2023. The Navy said he will return to Naval Station Everett, Wash., to take up temporary administrative duties.

Yaste was photographed earlier this year firing an M-4 rifle, which some service members pointed

# 7 US troops hurt in joint raid with Iraq

By JON GAMBRELL  
*Associated Press*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The United States military and Iraq launched a joint raid targeting suspected Islamic State militants in the country's western desert that killed at least 15 people and left seven American troops hurt, officials said Saturday.

For years after dislodging the militants from their self-declared caliphate across Iraq and Syria, U.S. forces have fought the Islamic State group, though the casualties from this raid were higher than in previous ones.

The Central Command said the militants were armed with "numerous weapons, grenades, and explosive 'suicide' belts" during the raid Thursday, which Iraqi forces said happened in the Anbar Desert.

"This operation targeted ISIS leaders to disrupt and degrade ISIS' ability to plan, organize, and conduct attacks against Iraqi civilians, as well as U.S. citizens, allies, and partners throughout the region and beyond," CENTCOM said. "Iraqi Security Forces continue to further exploit the locations raided."

It added: "There is no indication of civilian casualties."

An Iraqi military statement said "airstrikes targeted the hideouts, followed by an airborne operation."

"Among the dead were key ISIS leaders," Iraq's military said, without identifying them.

"All hideouts, weapons and logistical support were destroyed, explosive belts were safely detonated and important documents, identification papers and communication devices were seized."

A U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the operation yet to be made public, told The Associated Press that five American troops were wounded in the raid, while two others suffered injuries from falls during the operation. One who suffered a fall was transported out of the region, while one of the wounded was evacuated for further treatment, the official said.

"All personnel are in stable condition," the official said.

It wasn't immediately clear why it took two days for the U.S. to acknowledge it took part in the raid. Iraq did not say the U.S. took part in the operation when initially announcing it, as politicians debate the future of having American troops in the country. There are approximately 2,500 U.S. troops in Iraq.

Iraqi officials say that they can keep the ISIS threat under control with their own forces and have entered into talks with the U.S. aimed at winding down the mission of the U.S.-led military coalition in Iraq.

Since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza last October, U.S. military presence in the region has become particularly contentious.



KEVIN TANG/U.S. NAVY

Cmdr. Cameron Yaste receives the colors during a ceremony in March.

## MILITARY

# WWII vet devotes life to sharing war memories

BY LINDA F. HERSEY

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — As an 18-year-old Navy yeoman 2nd class, Arthur Grabiner served during World War II aboard the USS *Laurens*, an attack transport ship that island-hopped and took part in amphibious assaults in the Pacific, including the battles of Okinawa and the Philippines.

He watched as a Japanese kamikaze suicide plane plunged into another ship and stood at attention during a mass burial at sea of fellow service members killed in the attack. At age 98, Grabiner is determined to devote this final chapter of his life to sharing memories of his wartime service.

"It's a duty I owe this generation," he said. "My hope for the future is that young people can learn something from my talks."

On Monday — the 79th anniversary of Japan's surrender — Grabiner will greet visitors at the Intrepid, a former World War II aircraft carrier transformed into a floating maritime museum permanently anchored in the Hudson River in New York City.

One of a fast-dwindling number of World War II veterans, Grabiner said he sees himself as having an important role in the commemoration. Less than 1% of the more than 16 million Americans who served in that war — or about 100,000 — were still alive at the beginning of this year, according to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.

"At 98 years young, Dad is determined to remain active, vital and engaged while continuing to live his life purposefully. He will not allow age to define or limit him," said his son Douglas Gra-



USS Intrepid Former Crewmembers Association Inc.

**Navy veteran Arthur Grabiner is shown with his son, Douglas Grabiner, at the New York City Veterans Day parade in 2023.**

biner, who assists his father in public appearances at high school ROTC programs, military college commencements and special events at museums such as the Intrepid.

In June, Grabiner was invited to graduation ceremonies of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy on Long Island, east of New York City.

"When Dad is out speaking in public, he acts like a gung-ho sailor back in the thick of things and eager to mix it up," Douglas Grabiner said.

Grabiner's story followed a template of millions of young Americans of the "Greatest Generation," who came from modest origins but were thrust into extraordinary events at a young age.

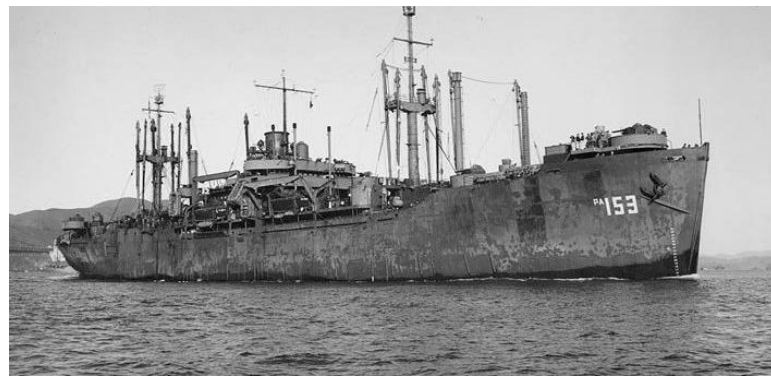
The son of Polish immigrant

parents, Grabiner (pronounced "Gruh-bee-ner") said he'd rarely ventured more than 20 square blocks from his home in a working-class neighborhood of the Bronx before entering the Navy in 1944.

Assigned to the USS *Laurens*, which was commissioned in September 1944, Grabiner pulled overnight shifts as a watchman and assisted the gunners by relaying commands from officers on the bridge.

His ship operated out of New Guinea and New Caledonia transporting troops and supplies before landing soldiers on the main Philippine island of Luzon in January 1945.

Three months later, one of its sister ships, the USS *Tyrrell*, was attacked by Japanese aircraft off



Arthur Grabiner

**Arthur Grabiner, a Navy veteran, served aboard the USS *Laurens*, shown here, during two years of active duty.**

Okinawa. The aircraft failed to strike the ship but crashed alongside it and exploded, showering the deck with debris.

Grabiner participated in a burial at sea for fellow sailors the same day as the attack, describing it as the largest funeral that he ever attended.

Remains were placed in weighted canvas bags draped with the American flag in a mass funeral, he said. As a bugler played taps, the flag was removed, and the bag dropped into the ocean.

"Standing at attention and saluting while on the top deck of our respective ships, thousands of Navy sailors, myself included, watched as our brothers were buried at sea," Grabiner said.

He and his shipmates were training for an invasion of Japan when they learned of the Aug. 6 atomic bombings of Hiroshima, which along with a second bombing of Nagasaki led to the Japanese surrender, ending World War II.

"The message told of a great bomb dropped on Japan that inflicted extraordinary damage. No

mention was made of an atomic bomb," Grabiner said.

The ship's captain then received another radio message directing him to terminate the exercise and set sail for Pearl Harbor.

"Dad believes his life was very likely spared by President (Harry) Truman's order to drop the atomic bombs over Japan," Douglas Grabiner said.

Grabiner returned to his family home in the Bronx after receiving an honorable discharge in May 1946. He went to college under the GI Bill, becoming a certified public accountant. He became a principal at a Manhattan public accounting firm, practicing for 50 years.

But Grabiner said his experiences from military duty have stayed with him and helped to shape his values.

"My service as a teenager in the U.S. Navy helped me appreciate that when we, as Americans, come together, we can accomplish anything. Not for self but for country," he said. "I am proud to have played my part and grateful to those who do so today."

## Thanks: Parade retraces route taken by Army 8 decades ago

FROM PAGE 1

where commemoration activities continued.

Soldiers with the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division traveled from Poland to participate in the commemoration, driving two modern-day Bradley Fighting Vehicles in the procession.

"What our predecessors did here 80 years ago, the sacrifices they made, is tremendous," said Capt. Clayton Vermeesch of 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment. "To be here and to feel that gratitude from the local population all these years later is humbling."

The first U.S. troops, other than earlier reconnaissance missions, entered Belgium on Sept. 2, 1944, at Cendron in Hainaut province. The following day, they liberated Mons, about 40 miles north.

It was part of a broader strategy by the Allies to push German fighters out of Belgium and drive them deeper into Europe.

Within 10 days, American, British, Canadian and other Allied troops had liberated



PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/STARS AND STRIPES

**Tom Verbrugge, right, his nephew Livio, and girlfriend Valentine Simon take part in the Tanks in Town parade in Mons, Belgium, on Sunday.**

most of Belgium. But in December, Hitler launched his last major offensive on the Western Front, which came to be known as the Battle of the Bulge. About three months later, Allied troops had fully liberated Belgium. Some 19,000 U.S. troops were killed during the Battle of the Bulge alone, which

was responsible for most American combat deaths during the liberation.

Mons resident Tom Verbrugge, 27, one of the scores of reenactors who participated in this year's Tanks in Town, said he's been taking part since he was a child.

"This event is a lot of fun, but it's also an important way to keep remembering the sacrifices that were made," said Verbrugge, who drove a vintage vehicle with his 6-year-old nephew in the passenger seat, both dressed in military garb.

Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Tanks in Town has taken on additional meaning, as NATO countries reaffirm their commitment to collective defense, said Corentin Rousman, a curator at the Mons Memorial Museum.

"This event, and the commemoration that we do, allows people to say, 'yes, we are in a free country now, but will that be the case in the future?'" Rousman said.

The efforts of the Allies in Belgium 80 years ago paved the way for the establishment of NATO in 1949. Today, the bloc's

command headquarters, known as Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, or SHAPE, is located just outside Mons.

Army Gen. Christopher Cavoli, NATO's supreme allied commander and leader of U.S. European Command, on Sunday laid a wreath at a memorial to the 1st Infantry Division. U.S. Ambassador to Belgium Michael M. Adler was scheduled to speak later in the day. Tanks in Town's role of keeping the memory of Belgium's liberation alive is particularly important as the numbers of those who directly remember it dwindle, said Gil Dupuis of the Royal Mons Auto Moto Club, which organizes the event.

With record vehicle participation this year and new activities, such as a 1940s-themed ball, which the SHAPE band performed at on Saturday, the event shows no signs of waning.

"In 20 years from now, 50 years from now, until my death, we will be remembering the Americans who came here and celebrating the liberation," Dupuis said.

## MILITARY

# New moving system for troops to add 16 bases this month

By MATTHEW ADAMS  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — More service members and their families will be able to use a new streamlined system for shipping their belongings when it is expanded this month to an additional 16 bases, according to U.S. Transportation Command officials.

The expansion announced Tuesday follows the initial 14 bases that started using the new system in April to help overcome long-standing problems with military moves.

The change in systems was driven by complaints from military families about delays in pickups and deliveries of goods and damage to items during transportation.

A 2020 analysis by the Defense Department inspector general found 20% of domestic household goods shipments in 2018 had at least one damage claim. The analysis also concluded Transportation Command did not have reliable data to determine whether

service members' goods were being delivered on time or in good condition.

Though only 94 shipments have been completed under the new Global Household Goods Contract, officials are satisfied with how things have gone and anticipate continued progress with volume increases expected in the fall, said Andy Dawson, director of the Defense Personal Property Management Office at TRANSCOM.

The command awarded its contract worth an estimated \$6.2 billion to HomeSafe Alliance in November 2021. The company will provide "complete door-to-door global household goods relocation transportation and warehouse services worldwide," according to TRANSCOM.

Moves originally were slated to begin under the new contract last September. But technical issues arose in the development of the Defense Department's MilMove and HomeSafe Alliance's HomeSafe Connect — two new comput-



ETHAN STEINQUEST/U.S. Army

Workers from River City Movers conduct a delivery in May 2022 for a soldier at Fort Campbell, Ky., whose belongings were transported overseas from his previous duty station in Germany.

er programs designed to plan, track and expedite moves, command officials said.

The command developed a system called MilMove for service members to upload change-of-station orders and initiate a request for their shipment to be scheduled. HomeSafe Alliance developed HomeSafe Connect to be used by service members, the government and industry officials

to track a shipment sent from MilMove.

TRANSCOM expects to include all domestic moves by the spring. The earliest date for international shipping would be September 2025, according to the announcement.

The additional bases include Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; Presidio of Monterey, Calif.; Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, Calif.; Naval

Postgraduate School Monterey, Calif.; Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.; Fort Carson, Colo.; Peterson Space Force Base, Colo.; United States Air Force Academy, Colo.; Fort Stewart, Ga.; Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.; Fort Meade, Md.; Fort Detrick, Md.; Minot Air Force Base, N.D.; Carlisle Barracks, Pa.; Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C.; and Fort Gregg-Adams, Va.

## DOD to help Secret Service for presidential campaigns

By LARRY LIEBERT  
AND ROXANA TIRON  
*Bloomberg News*

The Defense Department said it will provide "additional military support capabilities" to the Secret Service to guard the major presidential and vice presidential candidates through the November election in the aftermath of the assassination attempt on Donald Trump.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin approved a request from the De-

partment of Homeland Security, which oversees the Secret Service, for "increased support" at "various locations across the United States," Sabrina Singh, a Defense Department spokeswoman, told reporters Thursday. Such support would be provided by National Guard units.

Although Singh didn't elaborate on why the help being provided through U.S. Northern Command was needed, the Secret Service has been under scrutiny for security

failures that allowed the attempted assassination of former President Trump, this year's Republican nominee for president, at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania in July. Trump was slightly injured and a spectator in the crowd was killed before snipers shot and killed the attacker.

Anthony Guglielmi, chief of communications for the Secret Service, said in a statement that since the assassination attempt the service

"has bolstered our protective operations in order to ensure the highest levels of safety and security. As part of this effort, the Department of Defense is providing the U.S. Secret Service with additional assistance including logistics, transportation, and communications, through the 2024 campaign season."

Northern Command said in a statement that the Defense Department is "providing enhanced support for the protection of the 2024

Presidential and Vice-Presidential campaign candidates." It compared that to past support for "National Special Security Events," such as political conventions, but "with additional capabilities provided to further bolster candidate security."

Singh said the added military support is likely to continue for the president-elect and vice president-elect through their inauguration in January.

## Poland: Camp Kosciuszko now has more than 100 personnel supporting 7,500 troops

FROM PAGE 1

city," Fichtl said.

U.S. military personnel on permanent orders and civilians at the garrison's posts in Powidz and Swietosow will continue to serve unaccompanied tours of 12 and 24 months, respectively, since those installations lack the infrastructure to support family members, according to the Pentagon.

The Army designated Camp Kosciuszko as permanent in March 2023, a move reflecting Poland's emergence in recent years as the center of gravity for Army operations aimed at deterring po-

tential Russian aggression from the east.

The camp is the headquarters for V Corps' forward element, which was reestablished in 2021 to manage operations from the Baltic Sea in the north down to the Black Sea region.

Though the Army is looking to put down roots in the former Warsaw Pact country, most troops in Poland are on nine-month rotational assignments for now.

In the 15 months since the garrison staked out an enduring presence, it's grown its headquarters staff from a handful of soldiers

and civilians to more than 100 personnel supporting 7,500 troops in the V Corps area of responsibility, according to the Army.

Whether school-age dependents will eventually be authorized for accompanied tours remains to be seen. The biggest hurdle is the lack of Defense Department schools in the country.

Establishing education facilities for U.S. service members and their families is something the garrison plans to work toward, Fichtl said, adding that an assignment to Poznan is attractive even in the current conditions.



DEVIN KLECAN/U.S. Army

U.S. Army Col. Jesse Chace stands in front of his formation during the change of command ceremony at Camp Kosciuszko in Poznan, Poland, in June. The Pentagon has approved accompanied, 24-month tours for service members assigned to the base in western Poland.

"It's the gem of Europe to live in right now," he said.

"You're in a cool city but also in

an organization that's growing and thriving. It's something brand new."

## NATION

# Trump, special counsel duel over future in 1/6 case

By SPENCER S. HSU  
The Washington Post

The special counsel's office and Donald Trump outlined dueling visions Friday for how the former president's 2020 election obstruction case should proceed in D.C. federal court, with Trump's attorneys proposing a schedule that would extend pretrial arguments into next year and neither side pushing for resolution before the November election.

In a joint filing Friday night, both sides previewed legal wrangling that is likely to drag out the case deep into 2025 or beyond. The filing came after U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan requested a proposed plan for how to resolve legal issues in the case after the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 along ideological lines that presidents are absolutely immune from prosecution when carrying out their core constitutional powers.

The ruling prompted special counsel Jack Smith last week to seek a superseding indictment in the case, removing elements of the original indictment that might run afoul of the Supreme Court's guidance.

It will be up to Chutkan to determine what acts laid out in the indictment can still be prosecuted. Although the Supreme Court determined presidents had broad immunity, it said they could still be prosecuted for private conduct or for official acts under certain exceptions. Whatever Chutkan decides could face higher-level court review.

In Smith's revised indictment, prosecutors kept the same four counts of plotting to subvert the results of the election that Trump

was charged with in August 2023. But the special counsel dropped some allegations that the high court said intruded on core executive-branch powers and sharpened others that the justices said might be prosecutable as the actions of a candidate for president, rather than an officeholder.

Prosecutors with Smith's office did not outline a specific timetable on which they thought the case should proceed. But they said Chutkan should tackle "first and foremost" whether Trump might be immune from allegations in the new indictment and whether evidence that prosecutors plan to use at trial may be off-limits to the government.

Prosecutors said they are ready to submit an opening brief "promptly" that would detail why Trump's private conduct as a candidate is prosecutable, and make a case for why even some of his official conduct as president should not be shielded.

Smith's office said Chutkan should resolve immunity questions all at once before or at the same time as Trump's other challenges. That is because the outcome of her decisions about what allegations and evidence the government may use could affect her rulings on Trump's other claims, and because rendering immunity decisions one at a time could give the defense repeated opportunities to appeal, paralyzing the case, prosecutors argued.

Trump's attorneys, meanwhile, said they would move to dismiss his revised indictment, arguing that even the new grand jury that recently returned it was exposed to immunized conduct.



JAE C. HONG/AP

Border patrol agent Pete Bidegain looks from a hilltop on the U.S. side of the U.S.-Mexico border in Nogales, Ariz. on June 25.

## Border arrests expected to rise slightly in August, still hovering near four-year lows

By ELLIOT SPAGAT  
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Arrests for illegal border crossings from Mexico during August are expected to rise slightly from July, officials said, possibly ending a streak of five straight monthly declines but the numbers are hovering near four-year lows.

Authorities made about 54,000 arrests through Thursday, which, at the current rate, brought the August total to about 58,000 when the month ended Saturday, according to two U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss information that has not been publicly released.

The tally suggests that arrests could be bottoming out after being halved from a record 250,000 in December, a decline that U.S. officials largely attributed to Mexican authorities increasing enforcement within their borders. Arrests were more than halved again after Democratic President Joe Biden

invoked authority to temporarily suspend asylum processing in June. Arrests plunged to 56,408 in July, a nearly four-year low that changed little in August.

Asked about the latest numbers, the Homeland Security Department released a statement by Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas calling on Congress to support failed legislation that would have suspended asylum processing when crossings reached certain thresholds, reshaped how asylum claims are decided to relieve bottlenecked immigration courts and added Border Patrol agents, among other things.

Republicans, including presidential nominee Donald Trump, opposed the bill, calling it insufficient.

"Thanks to action taken by the Biden-Harris Administration, the hard work of our DHS personnel and our partnerships with other countries in the region and around the world, we continue to see the lowest number of encounters at

our Southwest border since September 2020," Mayorkas said Saturday.

The steep drop from last year's highs is welcome news for the White House and the Democrats' White House nominee, Vice President Kamala Harris, despite criticism from many immigration advocates that asylum restrictions go too far and from those favoring more enforcement who say Biden's new legal paths to entry are far too generous.

More than 765,000 people entered the United States legally through the end of July using an online appointment app called CBP One and an additional 520,000 from four nationalities were allowed through airports with financial sponsors. The airport-based offer to people from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela — all nationalities that are difficult to deport — was briefly suspended in July to address concerns about fraud by U.S. financial sponsors.

## Investigators start probe of Mississippi bus crash that killed 7, injured dozens

Associated Press

BOVINA, Miss. — Investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board on Sunday were at the scene of a bus crash in Mississippi that killed seven people and injured dozens of others.

They plan to look at how well the tires were maintained, NTSB member Todd Inman said at a news conference late Saturday. The NTSB previously said the crash was caused by tire failure.

The 2018 Volvo bus was traveling westbound on Interstate 20 near Bovina in Warren County

early Saturday morning when it left the roadway and overturned, according to the Mississippi Highway Patrol. No other vehicle was involved. Six people aboard were pronounced dead at the scene and another died at a hospital, according to a highway patrol news release. Thirty-six people were taken by ambulance to hospitals.

The highway patrol did not immediately have an update on their conditions Sunday. The dead included a 6-year-old boy and his 16-year-old sister, according to Warren County Coroner Doug Hus-

key. They were identified by their mother. Authorities were working to identify the other victims, he said. The bus was traveling from Atlanta to Dallas with 41 passengers and two drivers, the highway patrol said.

Inman said the NTSB will also look at the carrier's safety record and protections for bus occupants.

The bus was operated by Autobuses Regiomontanos. A woman who answered the phone at its Laredo, Texas, office said it was aware of the crash, but she didn't answer questions.



WAPT via AP

A damaged bus is shown after several people were killed and dozens injured after the commercial bus overturned on Interstate 20 early Saturday in Warren County, Miss.

## NATION

# Illegal voting by noncitizens a concern in election

BY DAVID A. LIEB  
Associated Press

Only U.S. citizens are eligible to vote in this fall's election for president and other top offices. While that is nothing new, the potential for noncitizens to register or vote has been receiving a lot of attention lately.

Citing an influx of immigrants in recent years at the U.S.-Mexico border, Republicans have raised concerns about the possibility that noncitizens will be voting and they have taken steps in numerous states to address that prospect, even though cases of noncitizens actually voting are rare.

GOP officials have undertaken reviews of voter rolls, issued executive orders and placed constitutional amendments on state ballots as part of an emphasis on thwarting noncitizen voting. Some Democrats contend the measures could create hurdles for legal voters, are unnecessary and lead people to believe the problem of noncitizens voting is bigger than it really is.

## ■ What does the law say?

A 1996 U.S. law makes it illegal for noncitizens to vote in elections for president or members of Congress. Violators can be fined and imprisoned for up to a year. They can also be deported.

When people register to vote, they confirm under penalty of perjury that they are U.S. citizens. Federal law requires states to regularly maintain their voter rolls and remove anyone who is ineligible, a process that could identify immi-



JULIE CARR SMYTH/AP

**Luis Gil, then a Republican candidate for Franklin County Commissioner in central Ohio, speaks in favor of a constitutional amendment on 2022 ballots that would prohibit noncitizen voting, at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, on Oct. 6, 2022.**

grants living in the country illegally.

No state constitutions explicitly allow noncitizens to vote, and many states have laws that prohibit noncitizens from voting for state offices such as governor or attorney general. But some municipalities do allow voting by noncitizens in some local elections such as for school board and city council.

## ■ What does the data say?

Voting by noncitizens is rare. Yet Republican officials have highlighted voter registration reviews that turned up potential noncitizens.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, said this past week that more

than 6,500 potential noncitizens have been removed from Texas voter rolls since 2021, including 1,930 with "a voter history" who have been referred for investigation by the attorney general's office. Texas has almost 18 million registered voters.

Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose, a Republican, said in August that he referred for potential prosecution 138 apparent noncitizens found to have voted in a recent election and 459 more who registered but did not vote. Those figures were higher than reviews from previous years.

Some election administration experts have said the voter roll reviews show that current tools to flag noncitizen voters are working.

## ■ What do the courts say?

Arizona provides a case study for the long-running attempts by Republicans to prohibit noncitizen voting.

Under a 2004 voter-approved initiative, Arizona required a driver's license, birth certificate, passport or other similar document to approve a federal voter registration application. But the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2013 that Arizona cannot require documentary proof of citizenship for people to vote in federal elections.

The state responded by creating two classes of voters. For state and local elections, voters must provide proof of citizenship when they register or have it on file with the state. But because that cannot be required in presidential and congressional elections, tens of thousands of voters who have not provided proof of citizenship are registered only for federal elections.

An August order by a divided U.S. Supreme Court will allow voter registration forms submitted without "documentary proof of citizenship" to be rejected by Arizona counties while litigation over the law continues. People will be able to register to vote in presidential and congressional elections using a different federal form that requires people to swear they are citizens under penalty of perjury, without requiring proof.

## ■ What's on the ballot?

Republican-led legislatures in eight states have proposed constitutional amendments on their November ballots declaring that only citizens can vote.

Proposals in Iowa, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Wisconsin would replace existing constitutional provisions stating that "every" citizen or "all" citizens can vote with new wording saying "only" citizens can vote.

In Idaho and Kentucky, the proposed amendments would explicitly state: "No person who is not a citizen of the United States" can vote. Similar wording won approval from Louisiana voters two years ago.

## ■ What has Congress done?

Republicans in Congress are pushing a bill, known as the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, that would require proof of citizenship to register to vote. During a news conference about the legislation this year, House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., did not provide specific examples of noncitizens voting but insisted it is a concern.

"We all know, intuitively, that a lot of illegals are voting in federal elections," he said, "but it's not been something that is easily provable."

The legislation passed the Republican-led House in July but has not come to a vote in the Democratic-led Senate. The Biden administration said it is strongly opposed and that laws against noncitizen voting are working.

## Harris: 'Political stunt' at Arlington by Trump 'disrespected sacred ground'

Associated Press

Vice President Kamala Harris said former President Donald Trump "disrespected sacred ground" in his recent appearance at Arlington National Cemetery, where the Republican nominee took and distributed images despite a federal prohibition on campaign activity on the grounds.

Harris, in a statement posted Saturday on the social media platform X, cited reports that Trump's campaign aides created an altercation with a cemetery staffer and proceeded to take photographs and film the former president, including at the graves of Afghanistan War veterans, after being warned about rules at the site.

"Let me be clear: the former president disrespected sacred ground, all for the sake of a political stunt," Harris said, calling Arlington a "solemn place where we come together to honor American heroes ... not a place for politics."

The original incident stemmed from Trump's and Republicans' continued criticism of President Joe Biden and now Harris for the

chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. At the invitation of some family members of service members killed during the withdrawal, Trump laid wreaths last Monday in honor of Sgt. Nicole Gee, Staff Sgt. Darin Hoover and Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss. They were among 13 U.S. service members and more than 100 Afghans who died in an Aug. 26, 2021, bombing at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul.

Trump's campaign was warned about not taking photographs before an altercation at the cemetery, according to defense officials. Officials have said since that an Arlington employee whom two Trump campaign staff members allegedly "verbally abused and pushed" aside has declined to press charges. The Trump campaign has since lashed out at Pentagon officials, with a top campaign adviser, Chris LaCivita, referring to military spokespersons as "hacks." Trump campaign officials say it had permission to bring someone to take video.

Since Biden ended his reelection bid, Trump has been zeroing in on

Harris and her roles in foreign policy decisions. He has specifically highlighted the vice president's statements that she was the last person in the room before Biden made the decision on Afghanistan.

Biden's administration was following a withdrawal commitment and timeline that the Trump administration had negotiated with the Taliban in 2020. A 2022 review by a government-appointed special investigator concluded decisions made by both Trump and Biden were the key factors leading to the rapid collapse of Afghanistan's military and the Taliban takeover.

Harris on Saturday alluded to Trump's history of picking fights with veterans and repeated allegations that he has "called our fallen service members 'suckers' and 'losers' and disparaged Medal of Honor recipients."

"This is a man who is unable to comprehend anything other than service to himself," Harris said. "I will always honor the service and sacrifice of all of America's fallen heroes. ... And I will never politicize them."

## Police: Man who stormed into press area at Trump rally in Pa. to be charged

Associated Press

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. — Police said Saturday that a man will face misdemeanor charges after he stormed into the press area at Donald Trump's rally in Johnstown, Pa., before being surrounded by authorities and eventually subdued with a Taser as the former president spoke at the campaign stop.

The incident Friday came moments after Trump had criticized major media outlets for what he said was unfavorable coverage and had dismissed CNN as fawning for its interview Thursday with his Democratic rival Kamala Harris and her running mate, Tim Walz.

It was not immediately clear what motivated the man or whether he was a Trump supporter or critic.

The man made it over a barrier ringing the media area and began climbing the back side of a riser where television reporters and cameras were stationed, according to a video of the incident posted to social media by a reporter for CBS News.

People near him tried to pull him off the riser and were quickly joined by police officers and sheriff's deputies.

The crowd cheered as police led the man away, prompting Trump to say, "Is there anywhere that's more fun to be than a Trump rally?"

Johnstown's police chief, Richard M. Pritchard, confirmed to The Associated Press on Saturday that the man was arrested, released and will be formally charged this week. Pritchard said the man, whose identity will be disclosed when charges are filed, will face misdemeanors in municipal court for alleged disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and disrupting a public assembly.

Pritchard declined to speculate on the man's motives.

The incident happened amid heightened scrutiny of security at Trump rallies after a gunman fired at him, grazing his ear, during an outdoor rally in July in Butler, Pa. A Secret Service spokesperson referred questions to local authorities.

## NATION

# Calif. lawmakers pass bills to atone for racism

By SOPHIE AUSTIN

Associated Press/Report for America

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California lawmakers last week passed some of the nation's most ambitious legislation aimed at atoning for a legacy of racist policies that drove disparities for Black people, from housing to education to health.

None of the bills would provide widespread direct payments to African Americans. The state Legislature instead approved proposals allowing for the return of land or compensation to families whose property was unjustly seized by the government, and issuing a formal apology for laws and practices that have harmed Black people.

But lawmakers left out two bills that would have created a fund and an agency to carry out the measures, considered key components of the efforts to take action. California Legislative Black Caucus Chair Assemblymember Lori Wilson said Saturday that the Black Caucus pulled the bills, adding the proposals need more work.

"We knew from the very beginning that it was an uphill battle. ... And we also knew from the very beginning that it would be a multi-year effort," Wilson told reporters.

Sen. Steven Bradford, who authored the measures, said the bills didn't move forward out of fear Gov. Gavin Newsom would veto them.

"We're at the finish line, and we, as the Black Caucus, owe it to the descendants of chattel slavery, to Black Californians and Black Americans, to move this legislation forward," Bradford said, urging his colleague to reconsider.

The Democratic governor hasn't weighed in on most of the bills, but he signed a \$297.9 billion budget in June that included up to

\$12 million for reparations legislation. However the budget did not specify what proposals the money would be used for, and his administration has signaled its opposition to some of them. Newsom has until Sept. 30 to decide whether to sign the bills that passed into law.

Democratic Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer, who is Black, called his bill to issue a formal apology for discrimination "a labor of love." His uncle was part of a group of African American students who in the 1950s were escorted by federal troops past an angry white mob into Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., three years after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that school segregation was unconstitutional. The students became known as the "Little Rock Nine."

"I think my grandmother, my grandfather, would be extremely proud for what we are going to do today," Jones-Sawyer said ahead of the vote on the legislation that was passed. "Because that is why they struggled in 1957, so that I'd be able to — and we'd be able to — move forward our people."

Newsom approved a law in 2020 creating a first-in-the-nation task force to study reparations proposals. New York state and Illinois have since followed suit with similar legislation. The California group released a final report last year with more than 100 recommendations for lawmakers.

Newsom signed a law last month requiring school districts that receive state funding for a career education program to collect data on the performance of participating students by race and gender.

The legislation, part of a reparations package backed by the California Legislative Black Caucus, aims to help address gaps in student outcomes.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Shoppers consider items displayed in refrigerators at a Costco warehouse Aug. 22, in Parker, Colo.

## Fed's inflation gauge shows price pressures easing as rate cuts near

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An inflation measure closely tracked by the Federal Reserve remained low in July, extending a trend of cooling price increases that clears the way for the Fed to start cutting its key interest rate next month for the first time in 4½ years.

Prices rose just 0.2% from June to July, the Commerce Department said Friday, up a tick from the previous month's 0.1% increase. Compared with a year earlier, inflation was unchanged at 2.5%. That's just modestly above the Fed's 2% target level.

The slowdown in inflation could upend former President Donald Trump's efforts to saddle Vice President Kamala Harris with blame for rising prices. Still, despite the near-end of high inflation, many Americans remain unhappy with today's sharply higher average prices for such necessities as gas, food and housing compared with their pre-pandemic levels.

Excluding volatile food and energy costs, so-called core inflation rose 0.2% from June to July, the same as in the previous month. Measured from a year earlier,

core prices increased 2.6%, also unchanged from the previous year. Economists closely watch core prices, which typically provide a better read of future inflation trends.

Friday's figures underscore that inflation is steadily fading in the United States after three painful years of surging prices hammered families' finances. According to the measure reported Friday, inflation peaked at 7.1% in June 2022, the highest in four decades, before steadily dropping.

In a high-profile speech last week, Fed Chair Jerome Powell attributed the inflation surge that erupted in 2021 to a "collision" of reduced supply stemming from the pandemic's disruptions with a jump in demand as consumers ramped up spending, drawing on savings juiced by federal stimulus checks.

With price increases now cooling, Powell also said last week that "the time has come" to begin lowering the Fed's key interest rate. Economists expect a cut of at least a quarter-point in the rate, now at 5.3%, at the Fed's next meeting Sept. 17-18. With inflation coming under control, Powell indicated that the central bank is now in-

creasingly focused on preventing any worsening of the job market. The unemployment rate has risen for four straight months.

Reductions in the Fed's benchmark interest rate should, over time, reduce borrowing costs for a range of consumer and business loans, including mortgages, auto loans and credit cards.

"The end of the Fed's inflation fight is coming into view," Ben Ayers, senior economist at Nationwide, an insurance and financial services provider, wrote in a research note. "The further cooling of inflation could give the Fed leeway to be more aggressive with rate declines at coming meetings."

Friday's report also showed that healthy consumer spending continues to power the U.S. economy. Americans stepped up their spending by a vigorous 0.5% from June to July, up from 0.3% the previous month.

And incomes rose 0.3%, faster than in the previous month. Yet with spending up more than income, consumers' savings fell, the report said. The savings rate dropped to just 2.9%, the lowest level since the early months of the pandemic.

## Doctor charged in Perry's death appears in court after plea deal

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — One of two doctors charged in connection with Matthew Perry's death made his first appearance in a federal court in Los Angeles on Friday after reaching a deal to plead guilty and cooperate with prosecutors.

Dr. Mark Chavez, 54, of San Diego, stood in court with his lawyer and told a judge he understood his rights. U.S. Magistrate



Chavez

Judge Jean P. Rosenbluth told him he could remain free on bond with several restrictions, including turning over his passport and not working as a doctor. He has agreed to turn over his medical license.

Chavez signed an agreement with prosecutors last month to plead guilty to conspiring to distribute the surgical anesthetic ketamine.

He did not enter his guilty plea or speak about the case, which he will do with another judge at a date to be determined.

"He's incredibly remorseful, not just because it happened to Matthew Perry, but because it

happened to a patient," Chavez's lawyer Matthew Binninger said outside court with the doctor standing at his side. "He's trying to do everything in his power to right the wrong that happened here. He didn't accept responsibility today, but only because it wasn't on the calendar."

Binninger added, "He's doing everything in his power to cooperate and help with this situa-

tion."

Asked what he and Chavez would say to Perry's family, Binninger said, "I'm afraid I can't answer that question other than to say that we're incredibly sorry that someone lost their life. It doesn't matter that he was a famous celebrity, and I know that he was incredibly universally loved by all. It's a shame at what happened."

## MIDEAST

# Israel recovers bodies of 6 hostages in Gaza

By JOSEF FEDERMAN  
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel on Sunday said it had recovered the bodies of six hostages in Gaza, including a young Israeli-American man who became one of the most well-known captives held by Hamas as his parents met with world leaders and pressed for his release.

The military said all six had been killed shortly before the arrival of Israeli forces. Their recovery sparked mass protests against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whom many Israelis blame for failing to bring them back alive in a deal with Hamas to end the 10-month-old war. Negotiations over such a deal have dragged on for months.

Netanyahu said Israel would hold Hamas accountable for killing the hostages in “cold blood,” and blamed the militant group for the stalled negotiations, saying “whoever murders hostages doesn’t want a deal.”

Grieving and angry Israelis surged into the streets Sunday night, chanting “Now! Now!” as they demanded that Netanyahu reach a cease-fire with Hamas to bring the remaining captives home.

Tens of thousands of Israelis protested in one of the largest demonstrations since war began nearly 11 months ago. Thousands of people, some of them weeping, gath-



The Hostages Families Forum via AP

**This combination of six undated photos shows hostages, from top left, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Ori Danino, Eden Yerushalmi, from bottom left, Almog Sarusi, Alexander Lobanov, and Carmel Gat, who were held hostage by Hamas militants in Gaza.**

ered outside Netanyahu’s office in Jerusalem. In Tel Aviv, hostages’ relatives marched with coffins to symbolize the toll.

Militants seized Hersh Goldberg-Polin, 23, and four of the other hostages at a music festival in southern Israel during Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack, which triggered the war.

The native of Berkeley, Calif., lost part of his left arm to a grenade in the attack. In April, a Hamas-issued video showed him alive but with his left hand missing, sparking new protests in Israel urging the government to do more to secure the hostages’ release.

The army identified the other dead hostages as Ori Danino, 25;

Eden Yerushalmi, 24; Almog Sarusi, 27; and Alexander Lobanov, 33; who were also taken from the music festival. The sixth, Carmel Gat, 40, was abducted from the nearby farming community of Be’eri.

It said the bodies were recovered from a tunnel in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, around half a mile from where another hostage, Qaid

Farhan Alkadi, 52, was rescued alive last week.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, a military spokesperson, said the army believed there were hostages in the area but had no specific intelligence. He said Israeli forces found the bodies several dozen yards underground as “ongoing combat” was underway, but that there was no firefight in the tunnel itself.

He said there was no doubt that Hamas had killed them.

Hamas has offered to release the hostages in return for an end to the war, the withdrawal of Israeli forces and the release of a large number of Palestinian prisoners, including high-profile militants.

Izzat al-Rishq, a senior Hamas official, said the hostages would still be alive if Israel had accepted a U.S.- backed cease-fire proposal that Hamas said it had agreed to back in July.

Netanyahu has vowed to continue the war until Hamas is destroyed and says military pressure is needed to bring home the hostages.

Israel’s Channel 12 reported that he got into a shouting match at a security Cabinet meeting late Thursday with his defense minister, Yoav Gallant, who accused him of prioritizing control of a strategic corridor along the Gaza-Egypt border — a major sticking point in the talks — over the lives of the hostages.

## Polio vaccinations begin in Gaza after 1st case in 25 years

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Palestinian health authorities and United Nations agencies on Sunday began a large-scale campaign of vaccinations against polio in the Gaza Strip, hoping to prevent an outbreak in the territory that has been ravaged by the Israel-Hamas war.

Authorities plan to vaccinate children in central Gaza until Wednesday before moving on to the more devastated northern and southern parts of the strip. The campaign began with a small number of vaccinations on Saturday and aims to reach about 640,000 children.

The World Health Organization has said Israel agreed to limited pauses in the fighting to facilitate the campaign. There were initial reports of Israeli strikes in central Gaza early Sunday, but it was not immediately known if anyone was killed or wounded. The pause ended Sunday afternoon, according to

a schedule released by Israel.

Hospitals in Deir al-Balah and Nuseirat confirmed that the campaign had begun. Israel has said the vaccination program will continue through Sept. 9 and last eight hours a day.

Gaza recently reported its first polio case in 25 years — a 10-month-old boy, now paralyzed in the leg. The World Health Organization says the presence of a paralysis case indicates there could be hundreds more who have been infected but aren’t showing symptoms.

Most people who have polio do not experience symptoms, and those who do usually recover in a week or so.

But there is no cure, and when polio causes paralysis, it is usually permanent. If the paralysis affects breathing muscles, the disease can be fatal.

The vaccination campaign faces challenges, from ongoing fighting to devastated roads and hospi-



ABDEL KAREEM HANA/AP

**A health worker administers a polio vaccine to a child at a hospital in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, on Sunday.**

tals shut down by the war. Around 90% of Gaza’s population of 2.3 million people have been displaced within the besieged territory, with hundreds of thousands crammed into squalid tent camps.

Health officials have expressed alarm about disease outbreaks as uncollected garbage has piled up and the bombing of critical infrastructure has sent putrid water flowing through the streets. Polio is spread through fecal matter. Widespread hunger has left people even more vulnerable to illness.

The vaccinations will be administered at roughly 160 sites across the territory, including medical centers and schools.

## Yemen’s Houthi rebels fire 2 missiles at a container ship as an oil tanker burns

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Yemen’s Houthi rebels fired two missiles targeting a Liberian-flagged container ship in the Gulf of Aden, though the projectiles splashed down nearby without causing any damage, authorities said Saturday.

The attack comes after the Houthis repeatedly assaulted and then boarded a Greek-flagged oil tanker in the nearby Red Sea, planting explosives on it they later detonated.

That attack, the worst in weeks, risked a major oil spill as the rebels’ campaign disrupts the \$1 trillion in goods that pass through the Red Sea each year over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, as well as halting some aid shipments to conflict-ravaged Sudan and Yemen.

In the attack Friday night, two missiles exploded in close proximity to the vessel some 150 miles east of Aden, the British military’s United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said.

The ship “reports all crew are

safe and proceeding to next port of call,” the UKMTO said. “Investigations are ongoing.”

The Joint Maritime Information Center, a multinational body overseen by the U.S. Navy, on Saturday identified the vessel targeted as the Liberian-flagged container ship Groton. The Groton came under attack Aug. 3 as well in a similar Houthi assault off Aden that included two missiles fired at the vessel, with one causing minor damage.

The ship “was targeted due to other vessels within its company structure making recent port calls in Israel,” the center said.

Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, a Houthi military spokesman, claimed the attack in a prerecorded video address aired Saturday night. He claimed, without offering evidence, the missiles hit the Groton. Saree and other Houthi officials have exaggerated details about attacks in the past.

The Houthis have targeted more than 80 vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started in October.

## WORLD

# Russia says it downed over 150 Ukrainian drones

Associated Press

Russian air defenses intercepted and destroyed 158 Ukrainian drones overnight, including two over Moscow and nine over the surrounding region, the Defense Ministry said Sunday.

Forty-six of the drones were over the Kursk region, where Ukraine has sent its forces in recent weeks in the largest incursion on Russian soil since World War II. A further 34 were shot over the Bryansk region, 28 over the Voronezh region, and 14 over the Belgorod region — all of which border Ukraine.

Drones were also shot down deeper into Russia, including one each in the Tver region, northwest of Moscow, and the Ivanovo region, northeast of the Russian capital. Russia's Defense Ministry said drones were intercepted over 15 regions, while one other governor said a drone was shot down over his region, too.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said that falling debris from one of the two drones shot down over the city caused a fire at an oil refinery.

Ukrainian drone strikes have brought the fight far from the front line into the heart of Russia. Since the beginning of the year, Ukraine has stepped up aerial assaults on Russian soil, targeting refineries and oil terminals to slow down the Kremlin's assault.

Meanwhile, Russia's Defense Ministry said Sunday it had taken control of the towns of Pivnichne and Vyimka, in Ukraine's Donetsk region. The Associated Press could not independently verify the claim.

Russian forces have been driving deeper into the partly occupied eastern region, the total capture of which is one of the Kremlin's primary ambitions. Russia's army is closing in on Pokrovsk, a critical logistics hub for the Ukrainian defense in the area.

At least three people were killed and nine wounded on Sunday in Russian shelling in the town of Kurakhove, some 20 miles south of Pokrovsk, Donetsk regional Gov. Vadym Filashkin said.

Also on Sunday, 44 people were wounded when Russia attacked the Kharkiv regional

capital, also called Kharkiv, Mayor Ihor Terkhov said. The city was struck by 10 missiles, with a shopping center, a sports facility and residential buildings among those damaged.

Elsewhere in Ukraine overnight, eight drones were shot down out of 11 launched by Russia, according to the Ukrainian air force. One person was killed and four wounded in shelling overnight in the Sumy region, local officials said.

The developments in the fighting occurred on the heels of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's announcement Friday that he fired the commander of the country's air force Friday, four days after an F-16 warplane that Ukraine received from its Western partners crashed during a Russian bombardment and killed the pilot. The order to dismiss Lt. Gen. Mykola Oleshchuk was published on the presidential website.

"We need to protect people. Protect personnel. Take care of all our soldiers," Zelenskyy said in an address minutes after the order was published. He said Ukraine needs to strength-

en its army on the command level. Lt. Gen. Anatolii Kryvonozhko was appointed acting air force commander.

The dismissal came on the same day that Oleshchuk directed scathing criticism at a lawmaker who is deputy head of the Ukrainian parliament's defense committee for her claims that the F-16 was downed by a Patriot air-defense system. Ukraine has received an unspecified number of the U.S.-made systems.

Mariana Bezuhla cited unnamed sources for her claim and demanded punishment for those responsible for the error.

Oleshchuk accused Bezuhla of defaming the air force and discrediting U.S. arms manufacturers and said that he hoped she would face legal consequences for her claims.

"The truth will win," Bezuhla posted on X shortly after the dismissal order was published. The air force did not directly deny that the F-16 was hit by a Patriot missile.

U.S. experts have joined the Ukrainian investigation into the crash, the air force said.

## Deadly storm sweeps through Japan; heavy rain could linger

By YURI KAGEYAMA

Associated Press

TOKYO — Tropical Storm Shanshan brought torrential rain Sunday to Japan's Shizuoka area southwest of Tokyo, as weather officials warned it would linger for several more days.

Shanshan had packed maximum winds of 40 mph when it made landfall Thursday, leaving six dead and landslides, flooded rivers, torn branches and scattered debris in its path. In southwestern Japan, people were busy cleaning up muddied homes and throwing out broken appliances.

One person was missing and 127 people were injured, according to Japanese public broadcaster NHK, which compiles reports from local governments.

Shanshan was traveling extremely slowly and barely moving Sunday evening, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

It triggered rainfall in an extensive area, even in places not in its path, such as the northernmost main island of Hokkaido, according to the agency. Some homes became lopsided as roofs caved in, while vehicles passed through brown water.

Shanshan initially crept across the southwestern islands of Kyushu and Shikoku, then reached the main island of Honshu, meandering into coastal waters but later



YUYA SHINO, KYODO NEWS/AP

People look at debris stuck on a bridge over a river in Ninomiyamachi, southwest of Tokyo, on Friday, following a severe weather system in the area. Tropical Storm Shanshan brought torrential rain Sunday to Japan's Shizuoka.

moving back onto land.

Landslide warnings were issued in parts of Hamamatsu and Izu cities in Shizuoka prefecture, 110 miles southwest of Tokyo, and Yokohama in Kanagawa, a port city near Tokyo, as well as at-risk spots in Tokyo.

People living in areas at risk for land-

slides were told to evacuate to local stadiums and community centers. Shanshan was expected to gradually move north Monday then out over the Sea of Japan.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said Shanshan was weakening, but another storm was developing near the Philippines, which could grow into a typhoon.

## WHO: Outbreaks of mpox could be ended in months

Associated Press

GENEVA — The head of the World Health Organization believes the ongoing mpox outbreaks in Africa might be stopped in the next six months, and said Friday that the agency's first shipment of vaccines should arrive in Congo within days.

To date, Africa has received just a tiny fraction of the vaccines needed to slow the spread of the virus, especially in Congo, which has the most cases — more than 18,000 suspected cases and 629 deaths.

"With the governments' leadership and close cooperation between partners, we believe we can stop these outbreaks in the next six months," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

He said that while mpox infections have been rising quickly in the last few weeks, there have been relatively few deaths. Tedros also noted there were 258 cases of the newest version of mpox, with patients identified in Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, Sweden and Thailand.

Last month, WHO declared the ongoing mpox outbreaks in Africa a global emergency, hoping to spur a robust global response to the disease on a continent where cases were spreading largely unnoticed for years, including in Nigeria.

Mpox, also known as monkeypox, is related to smallpox but typically causes milder symptoms. Mpox is typically spread via close skin-to-skin contact.

Your votes. Your favorites. Your Best of the Pacific.

ANNOUNCING  
THE BEST OF 2024



Pick up the magazine  
or get it online



STARS AND STRIPES

WORLD

# On first day without X, Brazilians feel disconnected

By GABRIELA SA PESSOA  
Associated Press

SAO PAULO — The blocking of social media platform X in Brazil divided users and politicians over the legitimacy of the ban, and many Brazilians on Saturday had difficulty and doubts over navigating other social media in its absence.

The shutdown of Elon Musk's platform started early Saturday, making it largely inaccessible on both the web and through mobile

apps after the billionaire refused to name a legal representative to the country, missing a deadline imposed by Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes. The blockade marks an escalation in a monthslong feud between Musk and de Moraes over free speech, far-right accounts and misinformation. Brazil is one of the biggest markets for X, with tens of millions of users.

"I've got the feeling that I have no idea what's happening in the

world right now. Bizarre," entertainment writer and heavy X user Chico Barney wrote on Threads. Threads is a text-based app developed by Instagram that Barney was using as an alternative. "This Threads algorithm is like an all-you-can-eat restaurant where the waiter keeps serving things I would never order."

Bluesky, a social media platform that was launched last year as an alternative to X and other more established sites, reported a

large influx of Brazilians in the past couple of days. The company said Friday it has seen about 200,000 new users from Brazil sign up during that time, and the number "continues to grow by the minute." Brazilian users are also setting records for activities such as follows and likes, Bluesky said.

Previous users of other platforms welcomed Brazilians to their ranks. "Hello literally everyone in Brazil," a user wrote on Threads. "We're a lot nicer than

Twitter here," said another.

Platform migration isn't new for Brazilians. They were huge adopters of Orkut and, when Orkut went kaput, they very gladly moved to other platforms.

X is not as popular in Brazil as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or TikTok. However, it remains an important platform on which Brazilians engage in political debates and is highly influential among politicians, journalists and other opinion makers.

# Canadian rail union files lawsuits challenging back-to-work orders

Associated Press

The union that represents workers at both of Canada's largest freight railroads has filed the lawsuits it had promised challenging the orders that forced employees back to work and got the trains moving again, the union announced Friday.

The lawsuits were filed Thursday afternoon, the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference said. But they won't stop the trains because the government has ordered the union to stay on the job while the arbitration

process plays out.

"The right to collectively bargain is a constitutional guarantee. Without it, unions lose leverage to negotiate better wages and safer working conditions for all Canadians," the union's president, Paul Boucher, said Friday. "We are confident that the law is on our side, and that workers will have their voices heard."

One of the railroads, CPKC, declined to comment. A spokesperson for the other railroad, Canadian National, said, "CN would

have preferred a negotiated settlement. However, after nine months of attempting to reach a settlement, it was evident that the Teamsters were not looking for a resolution and were happy to keep applying pressure by inflicting damage to the Canadian economy."

The lockouts stopped traffic in Canada on the crucial railroads last month and halted shipments to and from the United States, cutting off delivery of raw materials, along with shipping of finished products from fac-

tories and to retail shelves. They lasted a little over a day at CN and four days at CPKC.

The union doesn't want to let the precedent stand that the government can block a strike and remove a union's leverage in negotiations. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government stepped into the contract dispute after both CN and CPKC locked out their workers Aug. 22. Trudeau said he had been reluctant to intervene but saw no other option because of the railroads' economic importance.

**STARS AND STRIPES**  
**SERVICE DIRECTORY**  
The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market

Transportation 944

## VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

**For Further Information Please Contact**

<b>GERMANY</b> Phone: +49-(0)6134-2592730 Toll-free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only) E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b> +44-(0)1638-515714 enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk www.carshipuk.co.uk	<b>U.S.A</b> +1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701 +1-800-264-8167 (US only) info@tgal.us www.tgal.us
--	---	---

*For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations*

**Trans Global**  
LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Are you in the picture?

Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.

*No one covers the bases the way we do.*

---

**STARS AND STRIPES**

Transportation 944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA

**WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AGENCY**

**OPENING HOURS:** 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri  
0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)

For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de  
Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!

Concert, events, TV, movies, music, video games, celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

---

**STARS AND STRIPES**

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Contract to replace collapsed bridge awarded

**MD** BALTIMORE — Maryland transportation leaders on Thursday approved a contract for rebuilding the Francis Scott Key Bridge several months after the 1.6-mile steel span collapsed under the impact of a massive container ship that lost power and crashed into one of its supporting columns.

They cited a 2028 completion date and estimated the project would cost \$1.7 billion and would include significantly more pier protection to better defend against future wayward ships.

At a monthly meeting Thursday morning, the Maryland Transportation Authority board awarded a \$73 million contract for the first phase of the project to Kiewit Infrastructure.

## Mass killing of barred owls may start in spring

**WA** SEATTLE — As soon as next spring, barred owls will be shot in the woods in a plan finalized last week. As many as 450,000 barred owls could be killed in three states over the next 30 years in an effort to save the spotted owl.

The cull is necessary to prevent extinction of the spotted owl, which is being pushed out of its native range by the barred owl, a native of the East Coast, said Kessina Lee, state supervisor for the Oregon office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The goal is not to eliminate barred owls, but to ensure both species survive, she said.

## Plane lands on highway, then is hit by vehicle

**NC** GREENSBORO — A small plane that had made an emergency landing on a highway near an airport was hit by a vehicle, injuring one of the aircraft's occupants, authorities said.

The single-engine plane experienced a mechanical failure and put out a distress call around 8 p.m. Wednesday to Piedmont Triad International Airport, Greensboro police said.

The plane landed on westbound Interstate 840 at the junction with Interstate 73, and after it stopped, a passenger vehicle hit it, police said. One of the two people on the plane was taken to a hospital with a minor injury, police said.

Greensboro police will investigate the crash. The National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the cause of the airplane malfunction.

## Wolf pack that attacked livestock to be relocated

**CO** DENVER — Wildlife agencies are trying to capture and relocate the first pack of wolves that formed under Colorado's ambitious wolf reintro-



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

## Taking flight

A young boy throws a glider into the sky over a parking lot last week at the Cabrillo Way Marina in the San Pedro neighborhood of Los Angeles.

duction program after the animals repeatedly attacked livestock, marking an early stumble in the voter-driven initiative.

The move comes only a week after state officials touted three pups born to the Copper Creek pack, which formed after 10 of the predators were released in December over bitter opposition from livestock groups. The pack has at least two adults.

The bid to capture them goes against Colorado's wolf management plan that was adopted last year. It included guidance that relocation "has little technical merit" because it could create problems elsewhere if the animals continue attacking livestock. The plan calls for using non-lethal approaches, such as patrolling ranches with range riders and scaring away problem wolves, or killing them if necessary to stop ongoing attacks on livestock.

Officials did not say where the pack would be relocated, nor whether they would be released into the wild or kept in captivity.

## Boar's Head plant linked to outbreak cited before

**VA** JARRATT — A Boar's Head deli meat plant in Virginia tied to a deadly food poisoning outbreak repeatedly vio-

lated federal regulations, including instances of mold, insects, liquid dripping from ceilings, and meat and fat residue on walls, floors and equipment, newly released records show.

Government inspectors logged 69 instances of "noncompliance" with federal rules in the past year, including several in recent weeks, according to documents released through federal Freedom of Information Act requests.

Inspections at the plant have been suspended and it will remain closed "until the establishment is able to demonstrate it can produce safe product," U.S. Agriculture Department officials said in a statement Thursday. Boar's Head officials halted production at the Jarratt, Va., plant in late July.

The plant has been linked to the deaths of at least nine people and hospitalizations of about 50 others in 18 states.

Between Aug. 1, 2023, and Aug. 2, 2024, inspectors found "heavy discolored meat buildup" and "meat overspray on walls and large pieces of meat on the floor." They also documented flies "going in and out" of pickle vats and "black patches of mold" on a ceiling. One inspector detailed blood puddled on the floor and "a rancid smell in the cooler." Plant staff were repeatedly notified that they

had failed to meet requirements, the documents showed.

## Water woes shutter hotels at Grand Canyon

**AZ** GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK — A series of breaks in the Grand Canyon's only water pipeline prompted park officials to take unprecedented action with what they call "Stage 4" water restrictions, forcing the sudden shutdown of overnight hotel stays during one of the busiest times of the year.

Since July 8, the park has faced challenges with its water supply and has been implementing various levels of water restrictions. Now, officials said, no water is currently being pumped to the canyon's south or north rims.

The 12.5 mile-long Transcanyon Waterline, built in the 1960s, supplies potable water for facilities on the South Rim and inner canyon. Park officials say it has exceeded its expected lifespan.

## First arrest made under new ban on face masks

**NY** NEW YORK — Police made the first arrest under a new local law banning face masks, officials announced last week.

Nassau County Police say officers on Aug. 25 responded to reports of a suspicious person on a street near the Levittown and Hicksville town line, about 30 miles east of Manhattan. They found Wesslin Omar Ramirez Castillo wearing black clothing and a black ski mask that covered his face, except for his eyes.

The department said the 18-year-old displayed other suspicious behavior, including attempting to conceal a large bulge in his waistband and refusing to comply with the officers' commands.

Officers say the bulge turned out to be a 14-inch knife. Ramirez Castillo was arrested without further incident, police said.

## High winds, possible tornado derail train cars

**ND** STEELE — Strong winds knocked nearly four dozen train cars off a track in North Dakota, part of a storm system that spurred reports of five tornadoes across the Dakotas.

BNSF Railway spokesperson Kendall Sloan said a train was stopped due to a tornado warning Wednesday night near the town of Steele, N.D., when high winds from a suspected tornado caused 43 empty coal cars to derail.

No one was hurt, and no hazardous materials were in the cars, Sloan said in an email. BNSF cleanup crews were at the site on Thursday.

The National Weather Service said three potential tornadoes were reported in north-central South Dakota on Wednesday night, and two were reported in North Dakota. Storm survey teams on Thursday were trying to verify if damage was from tornadoes or straight-line winds. No injuries were reported.

## Errant ostrich brings traffic to a halt

**SD** SIOUX FALLS — An ostrich brought traffic to a halt in Sioux Falls on Tuesday as motorists tried to lure and nudge the towering bird off a multilane thoroughfare.

Drivers called Sioux Falls police just before noon to report the roughly 7-foot-tall bird in the middle of a busy four-lane road.

As police and animal officials responded, motorists hopped out of their cars and managed to carefully corral the flightless bird. Video shot by bystanders showed people coaxing the bird off the road by offering up food in a plastic container and a few gentle nudges.

A police spokesman said the bird was among several ostriches being hauled in a trailer owned by an out-of-state traveler before it escaped. The owner helped capture the bird and managed to get it back into the trailer.

## FACES

# 'It broke my heart and I cried inside'

## Second season of 'Pachinko' explores challenges for ethnic Koreans in Japan

BY JUWON PARK  
Associated Press

The second season of "Pachinko," now streaming, delicately captures the plight of ethnic Koreans brought to Japan during colonial rule and their descendants, exploring themes of home and identity through several generations.

The award-winning series, based on the New York Times bestselling novel, is back on Apple TV+ with eight episodes that follow four generations of an immigrant Korean family living in Japan since before World War II. The star-studded cast includes Oscar-winning actor Youn Yuh-jung and Korean actor Lee Minho.

Many ethnic Koreans were brought to Japan, often forcibly, to work in mines and factories during the country's 1910-1945 colonial rule of Korea. They were treated as second-class citizens and faced discrimination, which the series portrays.

Youn, who plays the older version of protagonist Sunja, said she was largely unfamiliar with the situation of ethnic Koreans in Japan — known as Zainichi Koreans — before she spoke with actor Soji Arai, who plays Mozasu, the son of her character. Arai was born into an ethnic Korean family in Japan.

"It broke my heart and I cried inside because I felt so bad after hearing about their stories," Youn told The Associated Press.

The second season continues Sunja's story as she struggles to feed her sons Noa and Mozasu during the war.

In the series, ethnic Koreans face discrimination generation after generation. In one episode, a Japanese worker at a wartime Nagasaki factory refers to his Korean



CJ RIVERA, INVISION/AP

**"It must feel really sad to know that you're not going to die where you want to die. And that's, I think, something so many of our characters confront in this show."**

Soo Hugh

"Pachinko" executive producer and showrunner

colleagues as "roaches" that "keep multiplying."

Decades later, Sunja's grandson Solomon nearly explodes at a Japanese store clerk whom he thinks is showing discrimination over his grandmother's Korean heritage. He senses that discrimination will follow him even after attaining academic and professional credentials.

The series is in Japanese, Ko-



APPLE TV+/AP

Youn Yuh-jung is pictured in a scene from "Pachinko." Youn, an Oscar winner for the 2020 film "Minari," plays the older version of the show's protagonist, Sunja. "Pachinko" is now streaming on Apple TV+.

rean and English with subtitles and is based on Korean American author Min Jin Lee's novel, titled after a Japanese game played in arcades where ethnic Koreans often worked in jobs typically shunned by Japanese.

Youn said she portrayed Sunja as "intimidated, scared and feeling small," believing discrimination is her fault due to endless exposure to it. Youn added that she has felt similarly in her own life, having an "inferiority complex" over her struggles with the English language.

Around half a million ethnic Koreans still live in Japan. Although many have become naturalized Japanese citizens, about half a million have not and are officially considered foreigners.

Executive producer and showrunner Soo Hugh said she was "nervous" about how the show

would be received among Zainichi Koreans, but that she was happy to learn that it had resonated "really emotionally."

"This is their story," she told the AP, adding that she had to unlearn previous history education to understand "from the point of view of the people on the ground," including those in Nagasaki.

When Youn was asked if she was concerned about playing a role in a series touching on sensitive parts of East Asian history, Youn said no. "We are talking about the past," she said. "I am not a politician, so it doesn't matter to me."

Hugh said the series gradually transitions from the family's day-to-day survival to answering big questions about their shifting identities: "What does it mean to live a good life ... knowing that Japan is now my home?"

These are familiar questions to Hugh, who is Korean American.

"So many Korean immigrants come to America and think, 'We'll make a better life, but I'm not going to die in America because Korea is my home. ... You know, a year goes by, then a year, another year, and then another year,'" Hugh said.

"It must feel really sad to know that you're not going to die where you want to die. And that's, I think, something so many of our characters confront in this show," she said.

Youn said that people will always carry their identity with them despite circumstances. "I see many people who try their best to erase (their Korean identity)," she said. "I really don't like that. There is no need to do that."

"Pachinko" Season 2 is available on Apple TV+ platforms.

## ESPN aims to offer personalized 'SportsCenter' for subscribers

From wire reports

ESPN is looking at using artificial intelligence to create personalized "SportsCenter" shows for subscribers to its Flagship streaming service that is expected to launch in fall 2025, according to the network's chief executive.

The idea is one of several in the works that were discussed at a news conference by ESPN Chairman Jimmy Pitaro on Wednesday, including a "Where to Watch" guide that debuted that day on ESPN.com and the ESPN app.

The personalized "SportsCenter" would be reminiscent of a popular wrinkle that NBC Sports offered through its Peacock

streaming service during the Olympics, where the voice of broadcaster Al Michaels was used to create highlights packages tailored to individual interests.

ESPN had few other details of how it is working to do something similar for its signature highlights show. The Flagship streaming service is expected to include much of the programming on ESPN's main channel and some other offshoots, marketed to people who have abandoned cable or satellite TV subscriptions.

The "Where to Watch" feature is billed as an easy-to-use guide for sports fans to find where to watch any sports event on ESPN

platforms and beyond, including broadcast, cable and regional sports networks and streaming services.

"Simplifying discovery of sporting events and where a fan can watch has become increasingly important as sports viewing has become fragmented across networks and platforms," said Brian Marshall, vice president for sports product and technology for Disney Entertainment and ESPN.

ESPN said it is designed for fans to customize searches to prioritize their favorite teams and sports. Fans will be able to use the service to click to events, if they are pay television or ESPN+ subscribers.

Some partner networks, including NESN and Monumental Sports, will also be included.

Pitaro said that ESPN has talked to various leagues and commissioners about how ESPN streaming can be a potential solution for troubled regional sports networks in getting a specific team's games to its fans.

"We want to be at least part of the solution here," Pitaro said.

ESPN also announced Wednesday that it has extended a rights agreement with the U.S. Tennis Association that would keep U.S. Open coverage on the network, on ABC and streaming services through 2037.

### Other news

■ "Dancing With the Stars" pro Artem Chigvintsev was arrested Aug. 29 and booked on a felony domestic violence charge in Yountville, Calif., according to the local sheriff's office. Authorities could not release any information about the alleged victim or their relationship to Chigvintsev, who was released on \$25,000 bail.

■ Leah Remini and Angelo Pagan are filing for divorce after more than two decades of marriage. The "King of Queens" star, 54, and "Bosch: Legacy" actor, 56, announced the news Aug. 29 in a joint Instagram post.

## STARS AND STRIPES

Laura Law, Chief Operating Officer  
Lt. Col. Katie R. Fidler, Europe commander  
John Rodriguez, Europe chief of staff  
Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Pacific commander

## EDITORIAL

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

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

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

## BUREAU STAFF

## Europe/Mideast

Erik Slaviv, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
slaviv.erik@stripes.com

+49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350

## Pacific

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

+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

## Washington

Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com

(+1)(202)886-0033

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

## CIRCULATION

## Mideast

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

## Europe

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

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

## Pacific

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

## CONTACT US

## Washington

tel: (+1)202.886.0003

633 3rd St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20001-3050

## Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

## Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

## OMBUDSMAN

Jacqueline Smith

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at [ombudsman@stripes.com](mailto:ombudsman@stripes.com), or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published week-days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2024

[stripes.com](http://stripes.com)

## OPINION

## Lessons of the Afghanistan withdrawal disaster

By ARTHUR I. CYR

Special to Stars and Stripes

The terrible disaster of the collapse of the Afghanistan government and sweeping Taliban victory three years ago was a reversal for the United States and the international community, and a serious leadership failure by the Biden administration. However, the collapse does not have to be a strategic defeat for the U.S.

Let me explain why. The anniversary of the debacle is an appropriate time to do so.

The failure of the administration adequately to prepare for this scenario was devastating. The background of the debacle has been investigated, but not thoroughly or publicly.

The fact that the Democrats held majorities in both houses of Congress, along with the White House, means the party's congressional leaders did not pursue aggressive fact-finding hearings. However, the leaders' power is limited, and the scale of a failure this significant provides powerful incentive. Republicans now have a narrow House of Representatives majority and continue to press.

Most striking is that the American withdrawal from Afghanistan unfolded contrary to customary procedures, as well as common sense. Normally, civilians leave first, then the military, with a rear guard securing exits as long as necessary.

The explanation is that clearly no one at the top of the administration believed Afghanistan's government and military would disintegrate immediately. Consequently, there was

no preparation for handling this terrible worst-case development.

Predictably, various agencies aggressively leaked to the media that they warned the White House this collapse was likely to happen. Skepticism is the right attitude toward such self-protection, especially in this case.

The Biden administration apparently failed to coordinate withdrawal with our allies. A substantial international coalition overthrew the Taliban regime and occupied the country following the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States. The U.S. led this United Nations and NATO effort, but many nations have been involved. This again is a prime topic for in-depth serious investigation.

There is also a challenge to learn and use this failure to strengthen as well as repair relations with our closest allies. We should devote sustained attention to working-level military and intelligence cooperation, and make the priority public.

Reports are impressive of British and French military patrols in Afghanistan operating beyond the Kabul airport and successfully rescuing their citizens, Afghan nationals and some Americans. Permitting American forces guarding the airport to join them should have been done. In April 1975, as South Vietnam collapsed, U.S. officials emphasized efforts to rescue our citizens and allies.

"Someone to talk to" is how McGeorge Bundy, President John F. Kennedy's national security adviser, described Anglo-American rapport. Fundamental affinity helped forge

an enduring special relationship during the total struggle of World War II.

Commentary on Afghanistan regularly referred to the disastrous Soviet invasion and ultimate defeat in the 1980s, but usually overlooked the earlier history of British engagement. During the 19th century, the British experienced military defeat, but eventually achieved influence. Condemnation of President Joe Biden by Britain's Parliament provides powerful evidence for necessary repair of relations.

Britain's influence in Afghanistan proved to be of particularly important strategic help during World War II. That nation remained neutral, reinforcing the importance of the then-colony of India. The grand goal of Germany and Japan linking forces in South Asia failed.

The two-decade occupation of Afghanistan has brought extensive economic and social modernization. That clock cannot be turned back completely, and economic aid to the nation provides useful practical leverage.

Electronic surveillance and human agents are essential to monitor the Taliban. No doubt this is happening, but should be a top priority.

The effort to transform Afghanistan was misguided. In future realism, calculated diplomacy and selective aid should guide policy — not failed utopianism.

Learn More: Hans Morgenthau, "Politics Among Nations."

Arthur I. Cyr at Carthage College is the author of "After the Cold War," "Liberal Politics in Britain," and other books.

## Prosecutors test high court's limits on Trump, Jan. 6

By JASON WILLOCK

The Washington Post

The Supreme Court's presidential immunity ruling was a punching bag at last month's Democratic National Convention, where it was lambasted by speaker after speaker, and in Congress, where Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York is threatening legislation to strip the justices of jurisdiction. Democrats believe, probably rightly, that the issue is a political winner for them, and a useful bludgeon against the court's conservative majority.

That's the backdrop for prosecutors' aggressive superseding indictment of former President Donald Trump for trying to overturn the 2020 election. If Trump wins this November, the case will end. But if Vice President Kamala Harris wins, prosecutors are making sure the immunity ruling, and Trump, will remain in the political spotlight. Years of ongoing litigation will provide a constant source of polarizing political material, but the effects on the judiciary and the country might be less sanguine.

In his July opinion in *Trump v. United States*, Chief Justice John Roberts explained that prosecutors may not criminally charge presidents for exercising their "core constitutional powers." That meant Trump's communications with his Justice Department in the course of his efforts to reverse the election had to be excluded from the indictment.

As for other official acts, such as Trump's efforts to persuade Vice President Mike Pence to somehow intervene in Congress' electoral-vote count on Jan. 6, 2021, the Supreme Court said Trump is "presumptively immune." But it left open the possibility that prosecutors could "rebut the presumption of immunity."

The Biden Justice Department could have responded to the ruling in a number of ways. It could have paused to let the next attorney general decide how to proceed. It could have changed the indictment — particularly by removing Trump's browbeating of Pence — in an effort to minimize further friction with the courts. Instead, prosecutors barreled ahead with the Pence allegations and as much of the original indictment as the Roberts ruling conceivably tolerates. The new indictment signals that they'll pursue every angle to prosecute Trump to the maximum extent the high court will allow, come hell or high water.

As a former Trump Justice Department official told *The Wall Street Journal*, prosecutors are "daring the justices to rebuke them again." Their strategy might well work. Only a bare majority of five justices fully joined the ruling in *Trump v. United States*. One or more conservative justices might balk at a second immunity ruling in Trump's favor, especially given Democrats' political pressure. After all, one thing that probably caught the Supreme Court's attention the first time around was that prosecutors were trying to rush Trump's trial in time to influence the 2024 election. Next time around, the political timeline might be less of a concern.

The Justice Department is also testing the limits of the Supreme Court's ruling in another Jan. 6 case, *Fischer v. United States*. That case substantially narrowed a 2002 obstruction law that prosecutors used against some Capitol rioters and Trump. The department claimed that it could cover any improper influence of a proceeding, including protests that delay a proceeding. In June, the Supreme Court ruled that prosecutors had overreached. In another opinion by Roberts, the court said the law only covered efforts to interfere with a proceeding

by impairing records or evidence.

Yet the Justice Department is audaciously continuing to use the charge against other select riot defendants, apparently on the theory that they "were aware that this proceeding involved records" — "specifically, the electoral votes Congress was to consider." But what government proceeding doesn't involve records? Here, prosecutors aren't so much trying earnestly to comply with the Supreme Court's ruling as openly testing what they can get away with. The superseding indictment against Trump also keeps the same obstruction charges despite the ruling in *Fischer*.

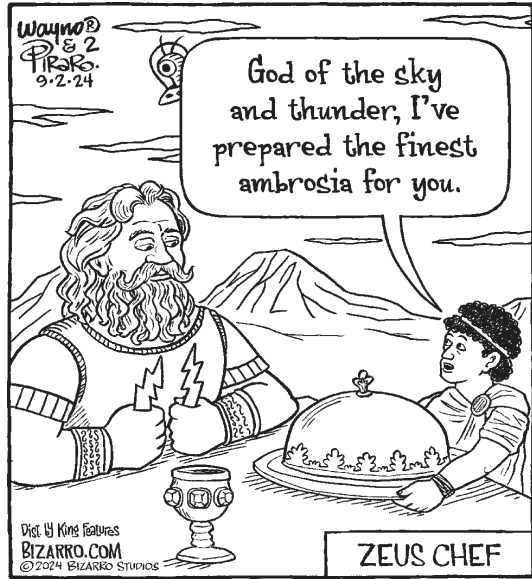
Regardless of how the Supreme Court ultimately responds to these challenges, it's easy to see, as a matter of realpolitik, why a Justice Department led by Democrats would attempt them. The Supreme Court might be an obstacle to Harris' ability to implement some policies by executive order. Why not keep its controversial rulings in the spotlight and its feet to the fire?

The vice president said during her convention acceptance speech that America has a "fleeting opportunity to move past the bitterness, cynicism and divisive battles of the past." That will certainly look quaint if, as the 2026 midterms approach, the news cycle is dominated by a Trump trial in D.C. — and if his appeals from conviction put the Supreme Court on the spot again in 2028.

The legal landscape is murky, but at least the indictment makes one thing clear: Some "divisive battles of the past" can be awfully convenient to keep alive. Even a politically defeated Trump could be a political bonanza for Democrats in a Harris term.

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

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

Grid for Eugene Sheffer Crossword with numbered squares.

ACROSS

- 1 Cain's dad
5 Dallas cager, for short
8 Lewd material
12 News reporter Logan
13 French article
14 Sex educator Shere
15 Airline to Tel Aviv
16 Free of poison
18 Man-machine hybrid
20 Hair dryers
21 British big shots
23 2500, in Roman numerals
24 Red Sox, at Fenway
28 Online auction site
31 "Selma" director DuVernay
32 Dove alternative
34 Invoice fig.
35 River blockers
37 Loki, for one
39 \$ dispenser
41 In — (shortly)
42 — corpus
45 Product names
49 Chinese drink
51 Libertine
52 Blue shade
53 Sharing word
54 Sketched
55 Differ

- 56 7, on older phones
57 Lip

- 22 Pago Pago's place
24 Owned
25 Eggs
26 Her bed was too soft
27 Some Halloween candies
29 I love (Lat.)
30 Since Jan. 1
33 Belgian river
36 Hard and cold
38 Online greetings
40 "Sheesh!"
42 "Million Dollar Rooms" channel
43 Bailiwick
44 Halt
46 Writer Ephron
47 Union payment
48 Does tailoring
50 Where Lux. is

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Crossword grid with answers: BACON, PARSSES, ARIOSO, URANIA, CINDER, SEDONA, TETE, TBS, WEB, RUHR, ADD, ABE, ASEC, OATS, IAGREEWITHYOU, RAGA, ASTI, SOB, HMS, KYLO, NAE, ENID, ULNA, ETALIA, UNISEX, ARDENT, MOJAVE, PASTES, PRATE.

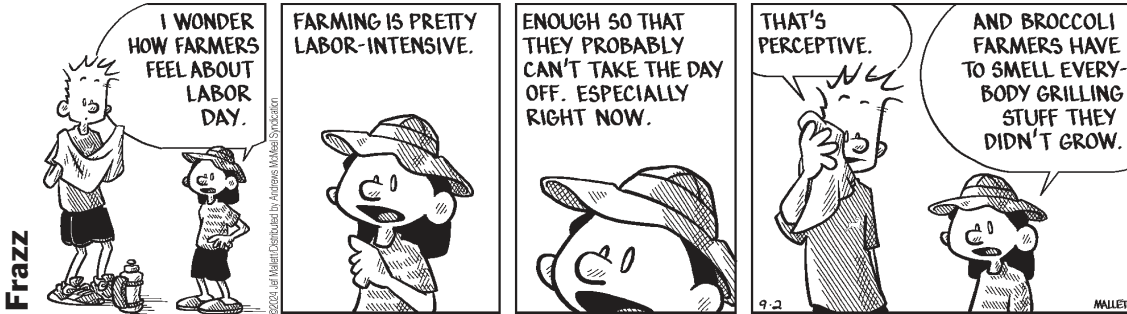
9-2

CRYPTOQUIP

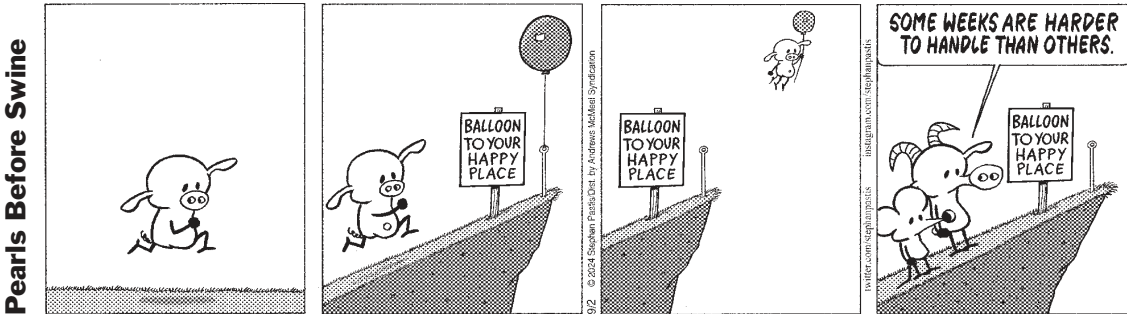
VK HP MBBMPGWVB LHP GRRQ
XRPD PHAE VP FVE KVVMAXHBM,
V GFVPQ FM LVDFG EXMMA
XVQM H XRD.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A PRISON OFFICIAL HAS TO STIR A DISH HE'S COOKING, I RECKON HE SHOULD USE A WARDEN SPOON.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals C



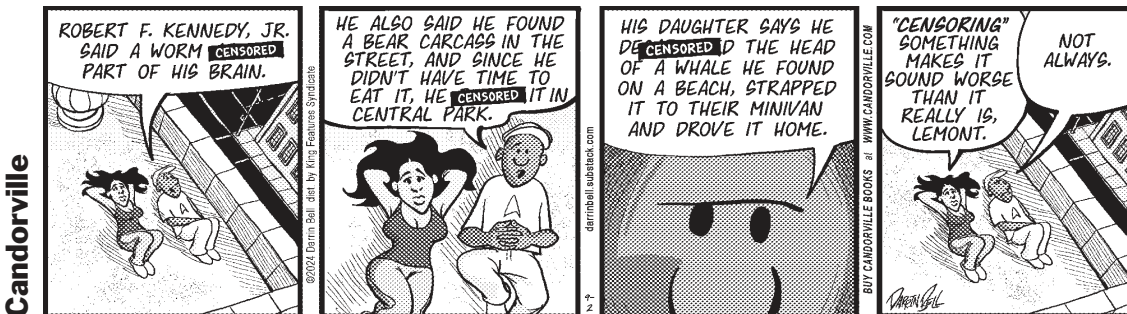
Frazz



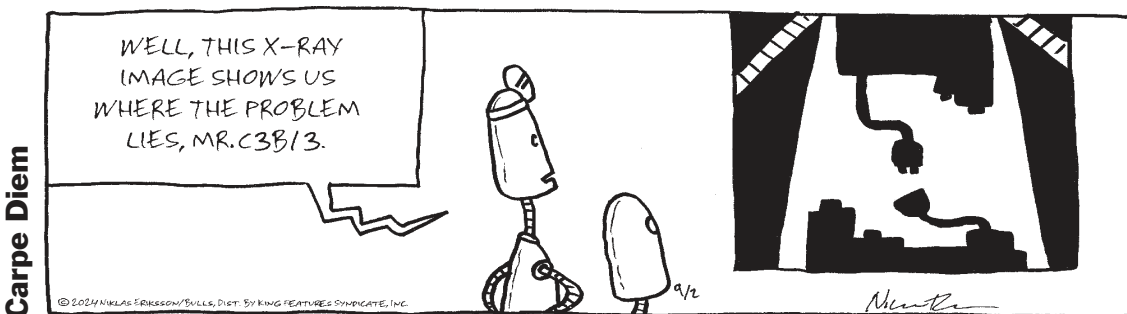
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



MLB

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	79	57	.581	—
Baltimore	78	59	.569	1½
Boston	70	66	.515	9
Tampa Bay	67	68	.496	11½
Toronto	67	71	.486	13
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	77	59	.566	—
Kansas City	75	62	.547	2½
Minnesota	73	62	.541	3½
Detroit	69	68	.504	8½
Chicago	31	106	.226	46½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	74	62	.544	—
Seattle	69	67	.507	5
Texas	64	72	.471	10
Oakland	59	77	.434	15
Los Angeles	56	80	.412	18

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	80	56	.588	—
Atlanta	74	62	.544	6
New York	72	64	.529	8
Washington	61	75	.449	19
Miami	50	86	.368	30
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	80	56	.588	—
Chicago	70	66	.515	10
St. Louis	68	68	.500	12
Cincinnati	64	73	.467	16½
Pittsburgh	63	72	.467	16½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	82	54	.603	—
Arizona	76	60	.559	6
San Diego	77	61	.558	6
San Francisco	68	69	.496	14½
Colorado	51	86	.372	31½

**Saturday's games**  
 St. Louis 6, N.Y. Yankees 5  
 Tampa Bay 11, San Diego 4  
 Detroit 2, Boston 1  
 Pittsburgh 3, Cleveland 0  
 Texas 3, Oakland 2  
 Houston 5, Kansas City 2  
 Toronto 15, Minnesota 0  
 N.Y. Mets 5, Chicago White Sox 3  
 Colorado 7, Baltimore 5  
 L.A. Angels 5, Seattle 4  
 Chicago Cubs 5, Washington 3  
 Philadelphia 3, Atlanta 0  
 Milwaukee 5, Cincinnati 4  
 L.A. Dodgers 8, Arizona 6  
 Miami 4, San Francisco 3

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

**Monday's games**  
 St. Louis (Pallante 6-6) at Milwaukee (Peralta 9-7)  
 Chicago White Sox (Flexen 2-13) at Baltimore (Burnes 12-7)  
 Cleveland (Williams 2-7) at Kansas City (Wacha 11-6)  
 Houston (Verlander 3-4) at Cincinnati (TBD)  
 L.A. Dodgers (Flaherty 10-6) at Arizona (Rodriguez 2-0)  
 Detroit (TBD) at San Diego (Musgrove 4-4)  
 Minnesota (Woods Richardson 5-3) at Tampa Bay (Littell 5-8)  
 Seattle (Gilbert 7-10) at Oakland (Bido 5-3)  
 Boston (Bello 12-6) at N.Y. Mets (Severino 9-6)  
 Pittsburgh (Jones 5-7) at Chicago Cubs (Steele 5-5)  
 N.Y. Yankees (Cole 5-3) at Texas (Heaney 4-13)

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

ROUNDUP

# Cards get first win in Bronx since '64

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Brendan Donovan hit a three-run homer, Kyle Gibson pitched seven strong innings and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the New York Yankees 6-5 on Saturday for their first regular-season win at Yankee Stadium.

It was the first victory for St. Louis in the Bronx since Tim McCarver hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning in Game 5 of the 1964 World Series and Bob Gibson pitched a complete game in a 5-2 win. The Cardinals improved to 1-7 at Yankee Stadium in the regular season.

St. Louis went ahead to stay with four runs in the third against rookie Will Warren (0-3). Nolan Arenado hit a tying RBI single before Donovan connected for his 11th homer. It was his first three-run drive since July 23, 2023.

“Any day you hit a home run, I consider that a good day and to have a couple of people on base and to give us a little bit of breathing room, I think is good,” Donovan said after matching a career high in homers. “Someone said that’s the first time we’ve won here in 60 years, which is pretty special for this organization. First time here, it’s a pretty cool place.”

Gibson (8-6) allowed one run and five hits. After struggling through his worst outing this season Monday against San Diego, he got his first win since July 7 at Washington.

“Today was just about trying to clear my mind a little bit, not look at ERA, not look at last couple of outings and try to be focused on what I’m trying to do today,” Gibson said.

**Cubs 5, Nationals 3:** Nico Hoerner had two hits and scored two runs, and visiting Chicago beat Washington for its fifth straight win.

**Javier Assad** pitched six innings of three-run ball as the Cubs won for the eighth time in nine games overall. Chicago (70-66), trying to make up ground in the race for the last NL wild card, also improved to 18-8 in August.

**Rays 11, Padres 4:** Touted rookie Junior Caminero hit a three-run homer, José Caballero had four RBIs and host Tampa Bay beat San Diego.

Caminero went deep against Randy Vásquez in a four-run second inning to help Tampa Bay take a 5-2 lead. Baseball’s top-ranked prospect has three homers and seven RBIs in 17 games.

**Tigers 2, Red Sox 1:** Tarik Skubal allowed one run in eight innings and struck out eight to become the fourth Detroit left-hander with 200 strikeouts in a season as the Tigers celebrated the franchise’s 1984 World Series cham-



NOAH K. MURRAY/AP

St. Louis Cardinals third baseman Nolan Arenado tags out the New York Yankees Gleyber Torres after a rundown during the eighth inning Saturday in New York. The Cardinals won 6-5.

pionship with a win over visiting Boston.

Jack Morris threw the ceremonial first pitch to Lance Parrish, and Skubal (16-4) gave a performance that would have fit onto Morris’ resume. He allowed Tyler O’Neill’s first-inning homer, but Boston only managed three singles the rest of the way.

**Pirates 3, Guardians 0:** Rowdy Tellez hit a two-run single in the eighth inning, and visiting Pittsburgh beat AL Central leading Cleveland.

Luis Ortiz (6-4) pitched six innings of one-hit ball in his first win since July 20. The right-hander struck out five and walked three, helping Pittsburgh stop a four-game slide.

**Rangers 3, Athletics 2:** Leody Taveras hit a game-ending single with one out in the ninth inning as host Texas beat Oakland.

The bases were loaded when Taveras grounded a single through the middle and past a drawn-in infield, sending pinch-runner Ezequiel Duran home with the winning run.

**Astros 5, Royals 2:** Yusei Kikuchi struck out 12 in seven innings to lead host Houston to a win over Kansas City.

Kikuchi (7-9) improved to 3-0

with a 2.57 ERA since he was acquired by the Astros a day before the trade deadline. He gave up five hits, only allowing the Royals a run on a fielder’s choice grounder that followed two singles in the seventh. He threw 101 pitches, including 75 for strikes.

**Blue Jays 15, Twins 0:** Visiting Toronto hit three two-run homers, including two in a seven-run first inning, and José Berríos tossed six shutout innings as the Blue Jays routed Minnesota.

Daulton Varsho and Spencer Horwitz each hit two-run home runs in the first inning off Twins starter Zebby Matthews (1-2), giving the Blue Jays a 4-0 lead just four batters into the game.

**Phillies 3, Braves 0:** Zack Wheeler pitched seven shutout innings to earn his 100th career victory, Edmundo Sosa homered, doubled and drove in two runs and host Philadelphia beat Atlanta.

Trea Turner also went deep for NL East-leading Philadelphia, which increased its lead over the Braves in the division to six games.

**Mets 5, White Sox 3:** Pete Alonso and Jesse Winker hit back-to-back home runs in the first inning and visiting New York handed Chicago its 106th loss to tie a franchise record.

The Mets (72-64) won their third straight and moved within two games of Atlanta for the final NL wild card. New York has won eight of 12 to climb eight games over .500 for the first time this season.

**Brewers 5, Reds 4:** Jackson Chourio hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the ninth inning, and visiting Milwaukee beat Cincinnati for its fifth consecutive win.

The 20-year-old Chourio had three hits and scored twice as the Brewers reduced their magic number for clinching the NL Central title to 16.

**Marlins 4, Giants 3:** Griffin Conine hit his first career home run and visiting Miami beat San Francisco.

Conine, the son of longtime Marlins stalwart Jeff Conine, made his major league debut Monday and got his first hit Tuesday. His first homer was a two-run shot off the right-field foul pole in the second inning.

**Angels 5, Mariners 4:** Mickey Moniak hit two home runs in the final three innings, including a game-ending solo shot in the ninth, to rally host Los Angeles past Seattle.

Joe Adell also homered twice for the Angels, who won for just the second time in 10 games.

## US OPEN/AUTO RACING

## No. 1 Sinner halts run of upsets

BY HOWARD FENDRICH

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jannik Sinner never gave his third-round opponent at the U.S. Open on Saturday, Chris O'Connell, even a moment to contemplate pulling off the sort of monumental upset that eliminated Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz.

"It shows that this sport is unpredictable. Whenever you drop a little bit of your level — if it's mental, if it's tennis-wise or physical — at the end, it has a huge impact on the result," Sinner said. "Both opponents who they lost against, they played some incredible tennis. And it happens."

Not to the No. 1-ranked Sinner, who is suddenly the favorite to win the men's championship at Flushing Meadows. He won the first five games and 21 of the first 29 points to make quite clear how things would go at Arthur Ashe Stadium and wrapped up a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 victory over O'Connell in under two hours.

"I felt like he was on from the get-go," O'Connell said. "I felt a little bit clueless, to be honest. ... Every single shot, I just felt like I had to do something with it, because he was just on me. He was suffocating me."

Stepping on court less than 15 hours after Djokovic's loss to Alexei Popyrin, and two days after Alcaraz's loss to Botić van de Zandschulp, Sinner was as dominant as can be in every facet of the sport. With 23-time major champion Serena Williams watching from an Ashe suite, Sinner struck 15 aces. He never faced a break point. He won five of O'Connell's 12 service games. He finished with more than twice as many winners, 46, as unforced errors, 22.

"The best tennis player I've ever played, for sure," the 30-year-old O'Connell said.

The only past men's champion at the U.S. Open still in the bracket



JULIA NIKHINSON/AP

**Jannik Sinner celebrates after a point against Christopher O'Connell in the third round of the U.S. Open on Saturday. Sinner won in straight sets after other top seeds Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic lost.**

is 2021 winner Daniil Medvedev.

"For sure didn't expect to have this in the fourth round when Novak and Carlos are here," Medvedev said after beating No. 31 Flavio Cobolli 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. "So it's a fun feeling from one side, but from the other side it's a new tournament. I need to play my best to try to win it again."

The No. 5 seed will next face Nuno Borges, who was a point away from elimination at 6-3 in a fourth-set tiebreaker, then rallied to beat Jakub Mensik 6-7 (5), 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (6), 6-0.

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek, who counts the 2022 title at Flushing

Meadows among her five Grand Slam trophies, beat No. 25 seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-4, 6-2 to reach the fourth round of the U.S. Open for the fourth straight year.

Earlier Saturday, Jasmine Paolini joined Coco Gauff as the only women to reach at least the fourth round at every major in 2024, getting that far at the U.S. Open for the first time with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over No. 30 seed Yulia Putintseva.

The fifth-seeded Paolini was the runner-up at the French Open in June and Wimbledon in July and next meets 2023 French Open finalist Karolina Muchova. Also ad-

vancing were No. 6 Jessica Pegula, No. 16 Liudmila Samsonova, No. 18 Diana Shnaider and 2018 Australian Open champion Caroline Wozniacki.

Since losing the first set he played in New York, against Mackie McDonald — which was also the first set Sinner had played since news emerged of a doping case that involved two positive tests in March for trace amounts of a banned anabolic steroid — the 23-year-old from Italy has performed impeccably, dropping a total of 18 games across nine sets. Trying to collect his second Grand Slam title of the year after gaining the first of his career at the Australian Open in January, Sinner will face No. 14 Tommy Paul of the United States in the fourth round Monday. Paul defeated Canadian qualifier Gabriel Diallo 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-1, 7-6 (3).

"He's a great mover. He has improved a lot in the last period of time. It's going to be a tough challenge," Sinner said about facing Paul, a 2023 Australian Open semifinalist. "He plays some great tennis, especially here in America."

Perhaps there was some wariness on Sinner's part heading into Saturday, given recent events. This is, after all, only the third time in the Open era (the others were in 1973 and 2000) that two of the top three seeded men were gone before the fourth round.

So Sinner woke up as the man considered most likely to win the U.S. Open, a status that belonged to No. 3 Alcaraz — the champion at the French Open and Wimbledon this season — before the tournament began. No. 2 Djokovic — the defending champ and owner of a men's-record 24 major trophies — moved atop the odds when Alcaraz was sent home Thursday night, only to relinquish that after his own early exit Friday night.

There is something quite diffi-

## Scoreboard

## US Open

At New York  
Purse: \$26,440,000  
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor  
Seedings in parentheses

## Saturday

## Men's Singles

## Third Round

Tomas Machac, Czechia, def. David Goffin, Belgium, 6-3, 6-1, 6-2.  
Jack Draper (25), Britain, def. Botić van de Zandschulp, Netherlands, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.  
Jannik Sinner (1), Italy, def. Christopher O'Connell, Australia, 6-1, 6-4, 6-2.  
Tommy Paul (14), United States, def. Gabriel Diallo, Canada, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-1, 7-6 (3).  
Jordan Thompson, Australia, def. Matteo Arnaldi (30), Italy, 7-5, 6-2, 7-6 (5).  
Nuno Borges, Portugal, def. Jakub Mensik, Czechia, 6-7 (5), 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (6), 6-0.  
Alex de Minaur (10), Australia, def. Daniel Evans, Britain, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-0, 6-0.  
Daniil Medvedev (5), Russia, def. Flavio Cobolli (31), Italy, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

## Women's Singles

## Third Round

Aryna Sabalenka (2), Belarus, def. Ekaterina Alexandrova (29), Russia, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2.  
Karolina Muchova, Czechia, def. Anastasia Potapova, Russia, 6-4, 6-2.  
Jasmine Paolini (5), Italy, def. Yulia Putintseva (30), Kazakhstan, 6-3, 6-4.  
Jessica Pegula (6), United States, def. Jessica Bouzas Maneiro, Spain, 6-3, 6-3.  
Diana Shnaider (18), Russia, def. Sara Errani, Italy, 6-2, 6-2.  
Caroline Wozniacki, Denmark, def. Jesika Ponchet, France, 6-3, 6-2.  
Liudmila Samsonova (16), Russia, def. Ashlyn Krueger, United States, 6-1, 6-1.  
Iga Swiatek (1), Poland, def. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (25), Russia, 6-4, 6-2.  
Beatriz Haddad Maia (22), Brazil, def. Anna Kalinskaya (15), Russia, 6-3, 6-1.

## Friday

## Men's Singles

## Third Round

Andrey Rublev (6), Russia, def. Jiri Lehecka (32), Czechia, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.  
Grigor Dimitrov (9), Bulgaria, def. Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1.  
Taylor Fritz (12), United States, def. Francisco Comesaña, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.  
Frances Tiafoe (20), United States, def. Ben Shelton (13), United States, 4-6, 7-5, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-3.  
Brandon Nakashima, United States, def. Lorenzo Musetti (18), Italy, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4).  
Casper Ruud (8), Norway, def. Junheng Shang, China, 6-7 (1), 3-6, 6-0, 6-3, 6-1.  
Alexei Popyrin (28), Australia, def. Novak Djokovic (2), Serbia, 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.  
Alexander Zverev (4), Germany, def. Tomas Martin Etcheverry, Argentina, 5-7, 7-5, 6-1, 6-3.

## Women's Singles

## Third Round

Zheng Qinwen (7), China, def. Jule Nie-meier, Germany, 6-2, 6-1.  
Paula Badosa (26), Spain, def. Elena-Gabriela Ruse, Romania, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (8).  
Coco Gauff (3), United States, def. Elina Svitolina (27), Ukraine, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.  
Wang Yafan, China, def. Victoria Azarenka (20), Belarus, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.  
Donna Vekic (24), Croatia, def. Peyton Stearns, United States, 7-5, 6-4.  
Emma Navarro (13), United States, def. Marta Kostyuk (19), Ukraine, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.  
Elise Mertens (33), Belgium, def. Madison Keys (14), United States, 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-4.

## O'Ward dominates Milwaukee, displays popularity

BY JENNA FRYER

Associated Press

WEST ALLIS, Wis. — The Arrow McLaren Racing team members began scheming the moment Pato O'Ward took the lead at the Milwaukee Mile.

Miffed that NASCAR this week announced it will race in Mexico City next year — beating IndyCar to the punch to get O'Ward into an event in his home country — O'Ward has spent the weekend criticizing IndyCar leadership for the whiff.

So a team employee ran to the "Pato Shop" — IndyCar's most popular driver is so beloved he has his own merchandise truck at most events — to grab one of the \$149.99 sombreros. The 25-year-old from Monterrey, Mexico, then wore it to his victory news conference.



JENNA FRYER/AP

**Pato O'Ward wears a sombrero at the post-race news conference after winning the IndyCar race at the Milwaukee Mile.**

Runner-up Will Power immediately said, "We really should be in Mexico City, not NASCAR."

O'Ward replied: "Pato who?"

O'Ward desperately wants to race in his home country. Instead, NASCAR got a date next June and O'Ward fears there's no longer room for IndyCar.

The situation escalated when IndyCar CEO Mark Miles said the Mexico City promoters have felt the series and O'Ward are not popular enough to warrant anything but a lease agreement to stage the race themselves.

That irritated O'Ward, who has organically and steadily built his fanbase and is probably second only to Formula 1 driver Sergio Perez in popularity in Mexico.

His response was Saturday's win at Milwaukee, his third win of the year but first on an oval since Iowa Speedway in July 2022. His wins this year are on a street course (St. Pe-

tersburg, where he was promoted to winner following Josef Newgarden's disqualification), the road course at Mid-Ohio and now the Milwaukee oval.

The three wins are the most in one season for an Arrow McLaren Racing driver.

O'Ward led 133 of the 250 laps and said he never let the Mexico City fiasco distract him.

"No, I was chilling in the morning, I was chilling in the afternoon. I was just here for business," O'Ward said.

The victory overshadowed the championship battle between points leader Alex Palou and Power, who started the race 54 points behind the reigning IndyCar champ.

But Power finished second to cut Palou's lead to 43 points with two races remaining, both on ovals.

# COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Scoreboard

### Saturday's scores

#### EAST

Albany (NY) 27, LIU Brooklyn 21  
 Delaware St. 17, Sacred Heart 15  
 E. Michigan 28, Umass 14  
 Georgetown 46, Davidson 7  
 Marshall 45, Stony Brook 3  
 Maryland 50, Uconn 7  
 Navy 49, Bucknell 21  
 Penn St. 34, West Virginia 12  
 Pittsburgh 55, Kent St. 24  
 Post 41, WV Wesleyan 24  
 Rhode Island 20, Holy Cross 17  
 Syracuse 38, Ohio 22  
 Wagner 46, Va. Lynchburg 7  
 Winston-Salem 34, Bluefield State 3

#### SOUTH

Alabama 63, W. Kentucky 0  
 Appalachian St. 38, ETSU 10  
 Auburn 73, Alabama A&M 3  
 Boise St. 56, Georgia Southern 45  
 Charleston (WV) 38, Livingstone 7  
 East Carolina 42, Norfolk St. 3  
 Emory & Henry 38, Glenville St. 7  
 Erskine 52, St. Andrews 0  
 Florida A&M 22, SC State 18  
 Georgia 34, Clemson 3  
 Georgia Tech 35, Georgia St. 12  
 James Madison 30, Charlotte 7  
 Kentucky 31, Southern Miss. 0  
 Liberty 41, Campbell 24  
 Louisiana Tech 25, Nicholls 17  
 Louisiana-Lafayette 40, Grambling St. 10  
 Louisville 62, Austin Peay 0  
 McNeese St. 21, Southern U. 7  
 Memphis 40, North Alabama 0  
 Miami 41, Florida 17  
 Middle Tennessee 32, Tennessee Tech 25

#### MIDWEST

Mississippi 76, Furman 0  
 Mississippi St. 56, E. Kentucky 7  
 Morgan St. 30, Hampton 28  
 Nevada 28, Troy 26  
 North Texas 52, South Alabama 38  
 Shaw 17, Elizabeth City St. 13  
 South Carolina 23, Old Dominion 19  
 South Florida 48, Bethune-Cookman 3  
 Stetson 41, Ave Maria 3  
 Tennessee 69, Chattanooga 3  
 Tennessee St. 41, MVSU 21  
 The Citadel 22, Charleston Southern 21  
 Valdosta St. 42, Albany St. (Ga.) 10  
 Vanderbilt 34, Virginia Tech 27, OT  
 Virginia 34, Richmond 13  
 Virginia Union 69, Kentucky St. 7  
 West Alabama 16, Miles 15  
 West Georgia 38, Samford 29  
 Wingate 17, UNC-Pembroke 12

#### SOUTHWEST

Arkansas St. 34, Cent. Arkansas 18  
 Baylor 45, Tarleton St. 3  
 Incarnate Word 28, N. Colorado 7  
 Notre Dame 23, Texas A&M 13  
 Oklahoma St. 44, S. Dakota St. 20  
 SMU 59, Houston Christian 7  
 Sam Houston St. 34, Rice 14  
 Texas 52, Colorado St. 0  
 Texas Southern 27, Prairie View 9  
 Texas State 34, Lamar 27  
 Texas Tech 52, Abilene Christian 51, OT  
 Texas-Permian Basin 41, W. New Mexico 0  
 UNLV 27, Houston 7  
 UTSA 28, Kennesaw St. 16

#### FAR WEST

Air Force 21, Merrimack 6  
 Arizona 61, New Mexico 39  
 Arizona St. 48, Wyoming 7  
 BYU 41, S. Illinois 13  
 California 31, UC Davis 13  
 Montana 29, Missouri St. 24  
 Montana St. 31, Utah Tech 7  
 N. Arizona 66, Lincoln Oaklanders 6  
 New Mexico St. 23, SE Missouri 16  
 Oregon 24, Idaho 14  
 Oregon St. 38, Idaho St. 15  
 San Diego 27, Cal Poly 21  
 San Diego St. 45, Texas A&M Commerce 14

#### FRIDAY'S SCORES

##### EAST

Army 42, Lehigh 7  
 Maine 17, Colgate 14

##### SOUTH

Duke 26, Elon 3

##### MIDWEST

Fort Hays St. 21, Angelo St. 7  
 Michigan St. 16, FAU 10

##### SOUTHWEST

Oklahoma 51, Temple 3

### Sunday's games

#### SOUTH

NC Central (0-0) vs. Alabama St. (0-0) at Miami Gardens, Fla.

#### FAR WEST

Southern Cal (0-0) vs. LSU (0-0) at Las Vegas

# No. 3 Ducks struggle but top Idaho

BY ANNE M. PETERSON  
*Associated Press*

EUGENE, Ore. — Dillon Gabriel threw for 380 yards and two touchdowns in his Oregon debut, but the third-ranked Ducks struggled in their first game as Big Ten members before holding off resilient Idaho 24-14 on Saturday night.

“Stats are one thing, but we’re focused on winning,” Gabriel said. “A win is a win, I will say that, but there’s a lot we need to improve on.”

While the victory wasn’t as decisive as expected, Oregon extended its nonconference home winning streak to a national-best 33 games. Oregon has won 20 straight home openers.

Gabriel was sacked three times and had just the one touchdown pass in the first half.

“Different than we thought it would look like,” Oregon coach Dan Lanning said. “Great teams are able to learn from tight matches. This was a tight match, and we didn’t create some of the explosive plays I was hoping we could create offensively. Gave up a couple of critical plays on defense. So certainly some things to attack.”

Oregon led 14-0 at the half, but Idaho narrowed the deficit on Jack Layne’s 36-yard touchdown pass to Jake Cox. After a field goal by Oregon, Layne rushed for a 4-yard TD to make it 17-14.

“I wouldn’t say disappointment,” Gabriel said. “It’s just more like, gosh, we’re explosive, we’ve got a lot of weapons, and I think at times we bit ourselves in the foot. It was strenuous, when it didn’t have to be.”

## ACADEMIES

# Horvath-Heidenreich combo lead Navy's rout

*Associated Press*

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Blake Horvath threw two touchdowns passes, Eli Heidenreich caught two for scores and Navy opened its season with a 49-21 win over FCS Bucknell on Saturday.

Braxton Woodson also saw action at quarterback and threw for one touchdown and ran for another. The QBs combined to go 10-for-19 for 173 yards, the three TDs and two interceptions.

Ralph Rucker IV, who set a Bison record last year by throwing for 2,537 yards, was 11-for-24 for 122 yards and a score. TJ Cadden made five catches for 97 yards.

Rucker threw a 47-yard TD pass to wide-open Nate Anderson within the first two minutes of the game but the Midshipmen scored the next 28 points of the half, including Daba Fofana’s 49-yard burst up the middle and Horvath’s



LYDIA ELY/AP

**Oregon quarterback Dillon Gabriel threw for 380 yards and two touchdowns against Idaho on Saturday in Eugene, Ore.**

Gabriel found Tez Johnson with a 12-yard scoring pass midway through the final quarter to salvage the win.

“You can never doubt an opponent,” defensive lineman Matayo Uiagalelei said. “Tip my hat off to Idaho, that’s a great program. Shoot, it was a close game. I don’t think we were expecting that.”

## Tez time

Johnson caught 12 passes for 81 yards and both of the touchdowns through the air from Gabriel.

Last season, Johnson caught 86 passes for 1,182 yards and 10 touchdowns last year. His receptions were an Oregon single-season record.

Like Lanning, he saw room for improvement.

“We’ve just got to finish. That’s exactly what it is. We have to finish in the red zone,” Johnson. “And that’s something we’ll fix.”

## Honoring Khyree

The Ducks held a moment of silence before the game for Khyree Jackson, 24, a former Oregon cornerback who was killed July 6 along with two of his friends in a car accident in Maryland. Jackson was preparing for his rookie season with the Minnesota Vikings.

Oregon’s helmets this season include stickers for Jackson and former tight end Spencer Webb, who died ahead of the 2023 season in a climbing accident.

## The takeaway

Oregon, with its highest preseas-

## Top 25 Fared

### Saturday

No. 1 Georgia (1-0) beat No. 14 Clemson 34-3. Next: vs. Tennessee Tech, Saturday.  
 No. 2 Ohio St. (1-0) beat Akron 52-6. Next: vs. W. Michigan, Saturday.  
 No. 3 Oregon (1-0) beat Idaho 24-14. Next: vs. Boise St., Saturday.  
 No. 4 Texas (1-0) beat Colorado St. 52-0. Next: at No. 9 Michigan, Saturday.  
 No. 5 Alabama (1-0) beat W. Kentucky 63-0. Next: vs. South Florida, Saturday.  
 No. 6 Mississippi (1-0) beat Furman 76-0. Next: vs. Middle Tennessee, Saturday.  
 No. 7 Notre Dame (1-0) beat No. 20 Texas A&M 23-13. Next: vs. N. Illinois, Saturday.  
 No. 8 Penn St. (1-0) beat West Virginia 34-12. Next: vs. Bowling Green, Saturday.  
 No. 9 Michigan (1-0) beat Fresno St. 30-10. Next: vs. No. 4 Texas, Saturday.  
 No. 10 Florida St. (0-1) did not play. Next: vs. Boston College, Monday.  
 No. 11 Missouri (1-0) beat Murray St. 51-0, Thursday. Next: vs. Buffalo, Saturday.  
 No. 12 Utah (1-0) beat S. Utah 49-0, Thursday. Next: vs. Baylor, Saturday.  
 No. 13 LSU (0-0) did not play. Next: at No. 23 Southern Cal, Sunday.  
 No. 14 Clemson (0-1) lost to No. 1 Georgia 34-3. Next: vs. Appalachian St., Saturday.  
 No. 15 Tennessee (1-0) beat Chattanooga 69-3. Next: at No. 24 NC State, Saturday.  
 No. 16 Oklahoma (1-0) beat Temple 51-3, Friday. Next: vs. Houston, Saturday.  
 No. 17 Oklahoma St. (1-0) beat S. Dakota St. 44-20. Next: vs. Arkansas, Saturday.  
 No. 18 Kansas St. (1-0) beat UT Martin 41-6. Next: at Tulane, Saturday.  
 No. 19 Miami (1-0) beat Florida 41-17. Next: vs. Florida A&M, Saturday.  
 No. 20 Texas A&M (0-1) lost to No. 7 Notre Dame 23-13. Next: vs. McNeese St., Saturday.  
 No. 21 Arizona (1-0) beat New Mexico 61-39. Next: vs. N. Arizona, Saturday.  
 No. 22 Kansas (1-0) beat Lindenwood (Mo.) 48-3, Thursday. Next: at Illinois, Saturday.  
 No. 23 Southern Cal (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 13 LSU, Sunday.  
 No. 24 NC State (1-0) beat W. Carolina 38-21, Thursday. Next: vs. No. 15 Tennessee, Saturday.  
 No. 25 Iowa (1-0) beat Illinois St. 40-0. Next: vs. Iowa St., Saturday.

son ranking since 2014, was a 44-point favorite but the Ducks looked rusty against the Vandals. Last season, Oregon finished 12-2, getting close to the playoff before losing to rival Washington in the final Pac-12 championship game. Oregon capped the season by beating Liberty 45-6 in the Fiesta Bowl.

Army marched 80 yards in nine plays the first time it had the ball, scoring on a 1-yard quarterback plunge by Daily for a 7-0 lead.

Lehigh answered with a nine-play, 75-yard drive. Luke Yoder raced 18 yards for a touchdown on third-and-2 to tie the game at 7 after one quarter.

Daily scored on another 1-yard run to cap a 13-play, 76-yard drive to put the Black Knights up 14-7 early in the second quarter. Army took a 21-7 lead into halftime after Udoh finished off a 10-play, 79-yard drive with a 13-yard run.

Noah Short’s 3-yard scoring run in the third quarter pushed Army’s advantage to 28-7.

The Black Knights used 12 plays to go 80 yards for a score midway through the final quarter with Udoh gaining the final yard.

Short, Daily and Udoh combined to rush for 236 yards.

screen pass to Braxton Woodson, who broke tackles on his way to a 42-yard score.

Bucknell cornerback Aaron Davis was injured early in the second half and was put on a stretcher. He gave a thumbs up as he was carted off.

**Air Force 21, Merrimack 6:** Cade Harris had two short touchdown runs in the first half and the host Falcons had no problem dispatching the FCS-member Warriors.

Harris scored on a 2-yard run in the first quarter and a 4-yard run with 16 seconds left before halftime to stake Air Force to a 14-0 lead. Merrimack went 0-for-5 on third-down conversions and managed just three first downs before intermission.

The Falcons final score came midway through the fourth quarter after Merrimack turned the

ball over deep in its own territory.

Luke Fischer recovered a fumble by Warriors receiver Jermaine Corbett and returned it five yards, giving Air Force the ball on the 14-yard line. The Falcons rushed six straight times with Aiden Calvert scoring from a yard out with 8:31 left to play.

Merrimack avoided a shutout on the final play of the game when backup quarterback Ayden Pereira connected with Jalen McDonald for an 11-yard touchdown.

Air Force had only 20 more yards of offense than the Warriors — 237-217.

The Falcons’ last shutout came in a 28-0 victory over New Mexico in November of 2020.

**Army 42, Lehigh 7:** Bryson Daily and Kanye Udoh both ran for two touchdowns and the host Black Knights cruised past an FCS opponent Friday night.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

**Hard:** Clemson's prospects have waned over last few seasons

## FROM PAGE 24

er you want.”

Thing is, this really goes well beyond the portal. Cade Klubnik is now the second consecutive five-star quarterback recruit to not pan out at Clemson, following DJ Uia-galelei.

Maybe the receivers have a chance to be better this season. There was a lot of talk in the pre-season about five-star freshman T.J. Moore. He had one catch against the Bulldogs.

Over the last three years, Clemson has had just three offensive players drafted, none higher than the fourth round. Who's changing that anytime soon?

The good news is it will only get easier for the Tigers because Georgia is if not in a class by itself, one that can meet in a broom closet.

This Clemson team still feels like one that could contend for an Atlantic Coast Conference title, with defensive lineman Peter Woods and linebacker Barrett Carter making life miserable against most opponents. Heck, the Tigers' D held up fine for a half against Georgia.

Try not to turn this into an indictment of the ACC, but it's not good news for the angst-ridden conference that its most recent national title winner is simply no longer part of those conversations.

Now, Virginia Tech losing to Vanderbilt might be an indictment on the ACC.

Fortunately, No. 19 Miami looked very much like the real deal, swamping Florida behind Cam Ward. On the Is-The-U-Back? meter, the Hurricanes' 41-17 victory was a solid 7½.

Meanwhile, that smell coming from Gainesville, Fla., is resignation. A make-or-break season for coach Billy Napier started with no signs the Gators are any better



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

**Despite leading Clemson to two titles and being the winningest football coach in school history, Dabo Swinney, center, finds himself on the hot seat after several years of underachieving and a dismal start to the season.**

than they have been.

“It's embarrassing, to be quite honest with you,” Napier said.

Only seven more ranked opponents to go for Florida.

Resignation is probably the feeling for Clemson fans now, too. The Tigers salvaged last season by winning their final five games, renewing hope that maybe Swinney's program would rediscover its mojo.

It was nowhere to be found in Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

“They didn't hand out a national championship trophy tonight. We didn't lose the ACC tonight,” Swinney said.

Nope, and with a new 12-team College Football Playoff, Clemson can still dream big.

The problem is the biggest

dreams now appear to be pipe dreams.

**Debuts**

Riley Leonard's first game as quarterback for No. 7 Notre Dame was a gritty performance behind an inexperienced offensive line against No. 20 Texas A&M at a raucous Kyle Field. The Fighting Irish beat an SEC team on the road for the first time in 20 years, winning 23-13.

Penn State fans could not have been much happier with new offensive coordinator Andy Kotelnicki after the eighth-ranked Nittany Lions romped at West Virginia, 34-12. Kotelnicki was hired away from Kansas to bring explosiveness to a unit that slogged through a 10-win season last year. He deli-

vered in Game 1. Drew Allar averaged 12.7 yards per attempt. Harrison Wallace averaged 23.3 yards on five catches. Nick Singleton averaged 8.8 yards on 13 carries. Mission accomplished for Game 1.

No. 25 Iowa also unveiled a new offense, with former Western Michigan coach Tim Lester taking over for the beleaguered Brian Ferentz, son of Hawkeyes head coach Kirk Ferentz. It took while for Iowa — sans the suspended Kirk Ferentz — to get it cranked up in a 40-0 victory over Illinois State. The Hawkeyes finished with 490 total yards, their most since putting up 644 against Middle Tennessee on Sept. 28, 2019.

No. 2 Ohio State has assembled maybe the most talented depth chart in college football, and there is a very real chance its best player is a freshman. Receiving prodigy Jeremiah Smith caught two touchdown passes during a choppy first half against Akron before the Buckeyes rolled in the second half en route to a 52-6 victory.

This could be the year of the freshman receiver phenom: Alabama's Ryan Williams (two catches, 139 yards and two TDs); Texas' Ryan Wingo (four for 70); Auburn's Cam Coleman (two for 62, TD) and Perry Thompson (two for 82, TD); and Iowa's Reece Vander Zee (five for 66, two TDs) all shined Saturday.

Nebraska's highly touted freshman quarterback, Dylan Raiola, was rock solid in his first career game, throwing for 238 yards and two scores as the Cornhuskers rolled past UTEP 40-7, setting up a tasty Week 2 game against Colorado.

New Mexico State transfer Diego Pavia ran for 104 yards, threw for 190 and scored what proved to

be the winning touchdown as Vanderbilt upset Virginia Tech 34-27 in overtime. A huge win for Commodores coach Clark Lea, who imported both Pavia and former New Mexico State head coach Jerry Kill from Las Cruces, hoping to show enough progress in Season 4 to earn a Season 5 at his alma mater.

The first Alabama football game without Nick Saban as coach since 2006 could not have gone better. Kalen DeBoer's fifth-ranked Crimson Tide won 63-0 over Western Kentucky and quarterback Jalen Milroe put up this crazy stat line: 7 for 9 passing for 200 yards and three touchdowns and 79 yards rushing and two TDs on 10 carries.

**Around the country**

In the transfer portal era, keeping stars is a major challenge for schools outside the Power Four. There was no bigger retention this offseason than running back Ashton Jeanty at Boise State. The pre-season All-American ran for 267 yards and tied a Mountain West record with six touchdowns in a wild 56-45 victory at Georgia Southern. The Broncos play at No. 3 Oregon, which had a glitchy 24-14 win against Idaho, next Saturday.

Arizona preseason All-American Tetairoa McMillan was the receiving star of the day, going off for a school-record 304 yards and four touchdowns in a 61-39 win over New Mexico. The 300-yard receiving game was the first in major college football since Ohio State's Jaxon Smith-Njigba in the 2022 Rose Bowl vs. Utah.

No. 4 Texas beat Colorado State 52-0, but the big news was Arch Manning had the most extensive playing time of his career. College football's most famous backup quarterback was 5-for-6 for 95 yards and his first touchdown pass.

Michigan looks as if it could use a guy like Manning. Playing two quarterbacks, the Wolverines' offense sputtered, but Will Johnson and the defense were stellar against Fresno State in a 30-10 win for the defending champions. The Longhorns visit the Big House next week.

Lots of transfer quarterbacks debuted for their new teams. One that didn't get a ton of attention in the offseason was former Alabama blue chipper Eli Holstein to Pitt. Holstein was 30 for 40 for 333 yards and three touchdowns running new offensive coordinator Kade Bell's wide-open attack in a 55-24 win over Kent State.

Reminder: There is still a Pac-12. Washington State and Oregon State are operating as a two-team conference this season. The Cougars won their first game after being abandoned, 70-30 over Portland State. Oregon State did the same, beating Idaho State 38-15.



KATHLEEN BATTEN/AP

**Penn State quarterback Drew Allar immediately benefited from having a new offensive coordinator in Andy Kotelnicki as Allar averaged 12.7 yards per attempt in a 34-12 win over West Virginia on Saturday.**

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# No. 7 Notre Dame scores late to top No. 20 Texas A&M

By KRISTIE RIEKEN  
Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Jeremiah Love broke a tie with a 21-yard touchdown run with 1:54 left and No. 7 Notre Dame beat No. 20 Texas A&M 23-13 on Saturday night in the opener for both teams.

Love burst through the line and shed two would-be tacklers before waltzing into the end zone to give the Fighting Irish the lead.

The Aggies had a chance to tie it, but Christian Gray jumped the route to knock down Conner Weigman's pass on fourth down to give Notre Dame the ball back.

The Fighting Irish added Mitch Jeter's 46-yard field goal with 30 seconds left.

Riley Leonard had a strong performance in his Notre Dame debut after transferring from Duke. He threw for 158 yards and added 63 yards rushing.

"It wasn't pretty," Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman said. "The defense played lights out, (forced) turnovers. And our offense didn't turn the ball over. Yes, there's a lot of things we need

to work on, but man they did a great job at least trying to move the chains and... they didn't make a detrimental mistake."

## Elko's debut

Saturday was the debut for Texas A&M coach Mike Elko after he was hired from Duke this offseason following Jimbo Fisher's firing late last season. Elko was looking to take the Aggies to the next level after last season's disappointing 7-6 season, but instead finds his team in an early 0-1 hole.

"I told the locker room for us to get this program over the hump, we have to put ourselves in the position to play the game the way we need to, and we didn't do that tonight," he said.

## Running wild

Notre Dame had 198 yards rushing led by 91 from Love. The game was tied at 6-all with about seven minutes left in the third quarter when Jadarian Price escaped a tackle at the line, darted down the left side of the field and simply outran everyone for a 47-yard TD that put the Fighting



SAM CRAFT/AP

Notre Dame running back Jeremiah Love breaks free from Texas A&M linebacker Daymion Sanford, bottom right, for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter Saturday in College Station, Texas.

Irish on top.

Texas A&M linebacker Taurian York said improving the run defense will be a priority for the Aggies.

"Them running for 198 yards, that's no bueno," he said. "It starts with me, so it will be fixed."

## That's sick

Television cameras caught Weigman vomiting as he returned to the sideline after a drive in the second half. Elko said he wasn't ill

and it wasn't a big deal.

"In the heat of the moment just got a little sick," he said. "Puke and rally."

## The takeaway

**Notre Dame:** The defense — especially the secondary — was as good as advertised. Xavier Watts, whose seven interceptions tied for most in the nation last year, got another one against the Aggies and Adon Shuler added a second one. Notre Dame held

Texas A&M to 246 yards.

**Texas A&M:** Weigman will have to get better before SEC play begins after the A&M offense struggled to move the ball for most of the night against Notre Dame's staunch defense. Their only touchdown came on a 1-yard run by Le'Veon Moss with about 12 minutes left. Weigman managed just 100 yards passing with the two turnovers in his return after missing most of last season with a foot injury.

# Ward throws for 3 TDs as No. 19 Miami dominates Florida

By MARK LONG  
Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Cam Ward threw for 385 yards and three touchdowns — looking cool, calm and collected on a sweltering Saturday in the Swamp — and No. 19 Miami dominated Florida 41-17 to give coach Mario Cristobal a signature victory to start his third season at his alma mater.

The Hurricanes controlled both lines of scrimmage and never trailed in the renewal of a once-heated rivalry.

"We're starting to look like Miami in a lot of different respects," Cristobal said.

The latest iteration of this series was a one-sided beatdown, the kind that sent Florida fans scurrying for the exits in the third quarter and raised speculation about coach Billy Napier's job security.

Little looked different from Napier's first two years to Year 3, and now Napier has to hope "The U" is a legit national championship contender to soften his worst home loss.

"It's embarrassing, to be quite honest with you," Napier said. "That's how I feel. That's how our kids feel. We've got a decision to make. That's what I just told them.



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Miami quarterback Cam Ward completed 26 of 35 passes for 385 yards and three TDs against Florida on Saturday in Gainesville, Fla.

There's no excuses. Keep our mouths shut, show up and work. We have to do better."

Among the most egregious misuses: Napier, who retained play-calling duties despite outside cries for him to give them up, dialed up runs on two third-and-5 plays. And his defense committed two rough-

ing the passer penalties to extend first-half drives that led to touchdowns.

Miami had no such issues. Ward, the former Incarnate Word and Washington State starter, showed why he was the Atlantic Coast Conference's preseason Player of the Year before ever

playing a down in a Miami uniform. He completed 26 of 35 passes, with an interception.

"I had to prove it to myself, to my 17-, 18-year-old self when I wanted to be an SEC quarterback out of high school," Ward said. "I'm grateful to say that God put me in position to play against an SEC team. It didn't work out how I wanted early on, but he's got a different plan for me."

Ward became the first Miami QB since at least 1979 to throw for 300 yards in his first start with the team.

"I think we made more of a statement on physicality, not just on ourselves," Ward said. "I think the best thing for us we did this game is we were very physical in the trenches."

Xavier Restrepo caught seven passes for 112 yards, including a 24-yarder for a touchdown. Ward's best throw, though, was a 23-yarder in the back of the end zone to Jacoby George.

## Mertz injured

Florida quarterback Graham Mertz headed to the locker room at the end of the third quarter after getting drilled while throwing an interception. Napier said he was in

the concussion protocol.

Mertz completed 11 of 20 passes for 91 yards, with an interception. He was sacked three times.

## Bain hurt

Miami star defensive end Reuben Bain left the field after the first series and never returned. Cristobal said he has a "soft-tissue injury" that will sideline him a "week, maybe two."

Bain had 7½ sacks last season and was projected to be one of the best defenders in the country as a sophomore.

## The takeaway

**Miami:** The Hurricanes finally have a quarterback, potentially their best since Heisman Trophy finalist Ken Dorsey. Ward changed arm slots and threw receivers open all afternoon. He could be the difference for a proud program trying to return to glory.

**Florida:** The Gators showed no progress on the defensive side of the ball despite spending significant capital to upgrade that side of the ball. The unit allowed 38.3 points a game during the team's five-game losing streak to end 2023 and picked up where it left off, allowing 529 yards to Miami at home.

## SPORTS



60 years later

Cardinals beat Yankees for first win in Bronx since 1964 » MLB, Page 19

## TOP 25 TAKEAWAYS

## Hit hard

Clemson at risk of demise after feeble loss against Georgia

BY RALPH D. RUSSO  
Associated Press

Week 1 overreactions often turn into freezing cold takes by mid-October. See 2023 Colorado, for example.

That said, there has been enough evidence of Clemson's demise over the last three seasons to comfortably say the days of coach Dabo Swinney's program as a national championship contender are over and not have to worry about looking silly later this year.

In fact, what made No. 1 Georgia's 34-3 demolition of the 14th-ranked Tigers on Saturday in Atlanta notable was just how unsurprising it was.

"When you get beat like that, that's on the head coach," Swinney told reporters. "Complete ownership of an absolute crap second half. Sometimes you get your butt kicked, and we did today."

The Bulldogs aren't the defending champions — No. 9 Michigan has that title — but at 43-2 with two national titles since the start of the 2021 season, they are the standard in college football.

This run of dominance for Kirby Smart's squad began against Clemson in the '21 opener. That night in Charlotte, North Carolina, the Bulldogs beat the Tigers 10-3 without an offensive touchdown.

Since then, Georgia has been a rocket ship and Clemson is basically the same team: duds on defense, dysfunctional on offense, with a coach who simply refuses to use all avenues available to improve his team.

Swinney's lack of transfer portal activity is well documented.

"People say whatever they are going to say," Swinney said. "Doesn't matter what I say. We do what's best for Clemson. When you lose like this, they've got every right to say whatever they want and write whatever



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Clemson quarterback Cade Klubnik is hit by Georgia linebacker Damon Wilson II after releasing a pass during the second half Saturday in Atlanta. No. 1-ranked Georgia routed No. 14 Clemson 34-3 in the teams' season opener.

SEE HARD ON PAGE 22

49ers WR Pearsall shot, in stable condition » NFL, Page 18

