

VIDEO GAMES

Mario, Rabbids sequel finds a winning formula
Page 14



MILITARY

US, Japan and South Korea begin missile-defense drills
Page 3



COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Clemson quarterback DJ Uiagalelei has an answer for doubters
Page 24

CENTCOM says US airstrike kills Islamic State leaders in Syria >> **Page 4**

STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 81 Edition 125A ©SS 2022

CONTINGENCY EDITION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022

Free to Deployed Areas

Biden issues stark warning over nuclear 'Armageddon'

By AAMER MADHANI
AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Joe Biden is declaring that the risk of nuclear "Armageddon" is at the highest level since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, as Russian officials speak of using tactical nuclear weapons after suffering massive setbacks in the eight-month invasion of Ukraine.

Speaking at a Democratic fundraiser, Biden said Thursday night that Russian President Vladimir Putin is "a guy I know fairly well" and the Russian leader is "not joking when he talks about the use of tactical nuclear weapons or biological or chemical weapons."

Biden added, "We have not faced the prospect of Armageddon since Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis." He suggested the threat from Putin is real "because his military is — you might say — significantly underperforming."

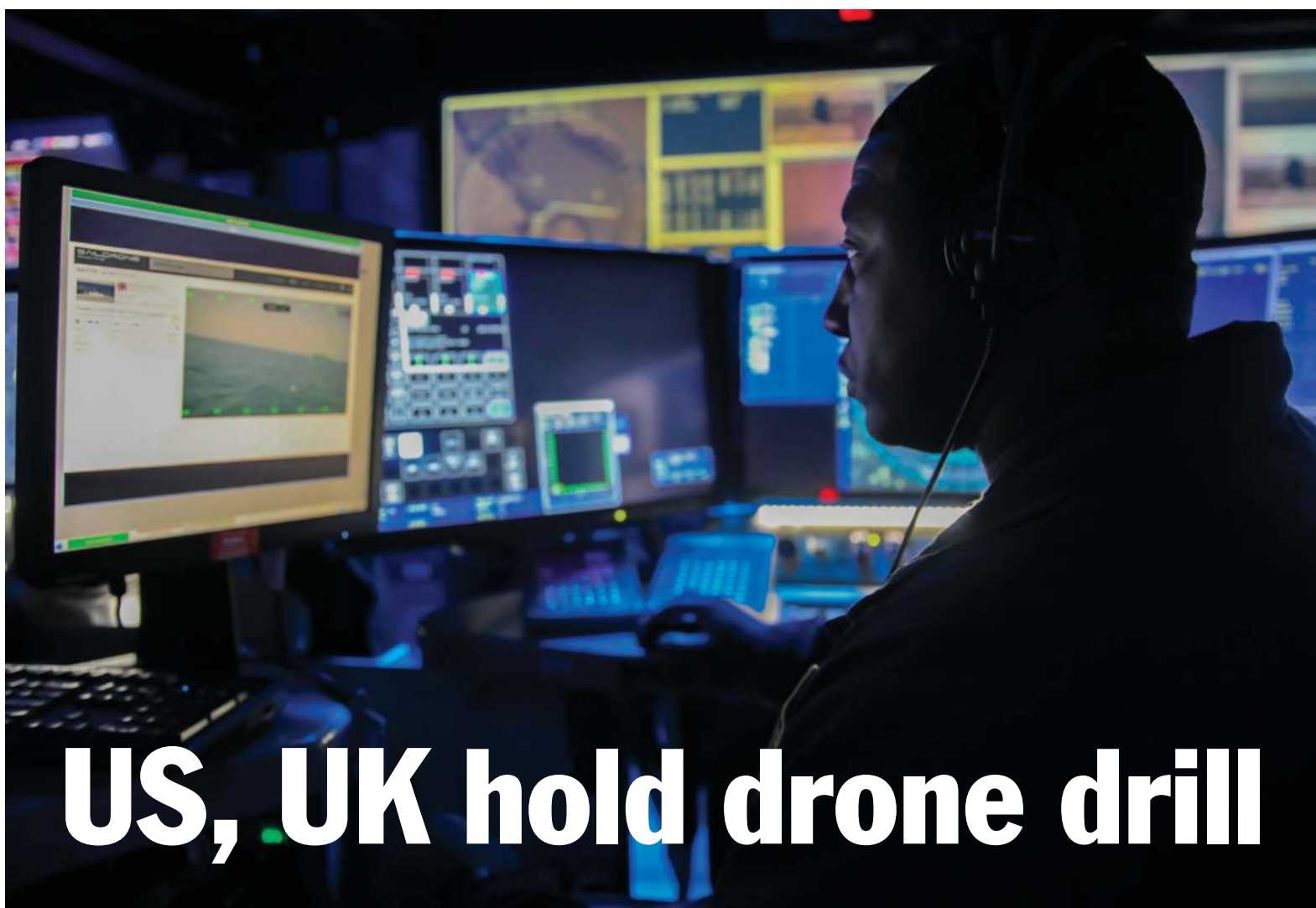
U.S. officials for months have warned of the prospect that Russia could use weapons of mass destruction in Ukraine as it has faced strategic setbacks on the battlefield, though Biden's remarks marked the starkest warnings yet by the U.S. government about the nuclear stakes.

Still, nothing has changed in U.S. intelligence assessments that

SEE WARNING ON PAGE 6

RELATED

Ukraine city takes more hits; deaths rise from attack
Page 5



JEREMY BOAN/U.S. Navy

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Demetrius Perry observes visuals transmitted from an unmanned surface vessel in the combat information center aboard guided-missile destroyer USS Delbert D. Black during exercise Phantom Scope on Friday.

Persian Gulf exercise comes after Iran's seizures of unmanned surveillance ships

By JON GAMBREL
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The U.S. Navy held a joint drone drill with the United Kingdom on Friday in the Persian Gulf, testing the same unmanned surveillance ships that Iran twice has seized in recent months in the Middle East.

The exercise comes as the U.S. Navy separately told commercial shippers in the wider Mideast that it would continue using drones in the region and warned against interfering with their operations.

The drone drill — and the American pledge to keep sailing them — also comes as tensions be-



DAWSON ROTH, U.S. NAVY/AP

A Sailer drone Explorer sails in the Gulf of Aqaba in February.

tween the U.S. and Iran on the seas remain high amid stalled negotiations over its tattered nuclear deal with world powers and as protests sweep the Islamic Republic.

Friday's drill involved two American and two British warships in the Persian Gulf, as well as three Sailer drone Explorers, said Cmdr. Timothy Hawkins, a spokesman for the Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet.

The drones searched for a target on the seas, then sent the still images its cameras captured back to both the warships and the 5th

SEE DRILL ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Biden: IBM investment gives edge vs. China

Associated Press
POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. — President Joe Biden predicted Thursday a \$20 billion investment by IBM in New York’s Hudson River Valley will help give the United States a technological edge against China, hailing the expansion during an appearance with two House Democrats in competitive races in next month’s critical elections.
The president cited IBM’s commitment as part of a larger manufacturing boom, spurred by this summer’s passage of a \$280 billion

measure intended to boost the semiconductor industry and scientific research. That legislation was needed for national and economic security, Biden said in Poughkeepsie, adding that “the Chinese Communist Party actively lobbied against” it.
“The United States has to lead the world of producing these advanced chips — this law is going to make sure that it will,” Biden said.
The speech was part of a trip that focused on campaigning and included two fundraising events. Dur-

ing one, he warned that Russian President Vladimir Putin’s threat about using nuclear weapons as his Ukrainian invasion has floundered is the most severe “threat of Armageddon” since the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.
Democratic candidates have largely avoided election-year appearances with Biden, whose approval ratings remain underwater. Bucking that trend in New York were Reps. Sean Patrick Maloney and Pat Ryan, who attended the president’s remarks at IBM.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		South Korea (Won)	1418.44
Euro costs (Oct. 10)	\$0.96	Switzerland (Franc)	0.9936
Dollar buys (Oct. 10)	0.995	Thailand (Baht)	37.55
British pound (Oct. 10)	\$1.10	Turkey (NewLira)	18.5858
Japanese yen (Oct. 11)	141.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
South Korean won (Oct. 11)	1373.00	INTEREST RATES	
Commercial rates		Prime rate	6.25
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3773	Interest Rates Discount rate	3.75
Britain (Pound)	1.1122	Federal funds market rate	3.08
Canada (Dollar)	1.3704	3-month bill	3.39
China (Yuan)	7.1160	30-year bond	3.79
Denmark (Krone)	7.6284		
Egypt (Pound)	19.6614		
Euro	1.0253		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8500		
Hungary (Forint)	434.88		
Israel (Shekel)	3.5416		
Japan (Yen)	145.18		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3102		
Norway (Krone)	10.7179		
Philippines (Peso)	58.99		
Poland (Zloty)	4.99		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7593		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4316		

WEATHER OUTLOOK



TODAY
IN STRIPES

American Roundup	11
Comics/Crossword	17
Health & Fitness	15
Movies	12-13
Opinion	16
Sports	18-24
Video Games	14



However you read us,
wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE

ADVERTISING
CustomerService@stripes.com | +49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

ADVERTISING
CustomerService@stripes.com | +49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC

ADVERTISING
PacificAdvertising@stripes.com | +81 (42) 552.2511
DSN: 315.227.7310

Round-the-world news for America’s military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.
Also available on mobile apps for Android and iOS.



Mobile • Online • Print

MILITARY

US, Japan and South Korea begin drills

By **WYATT OLSON**
Stars and Stripes

Warships from the United States, Japan and South Korea commenced a ballistic missile defense exercise Thursday in the Sea of Japan, also known as the East Sea, according to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

The drills came the same day North Korea fired a pair of short-range ballistic missiles off its eastern coast and two days after it launched an intermediate-range weapon over Japan.

Also Thursday, South Korea scrambled more than 30 aircraft in response to a dozen North Korean warplanes flying near the South's border.

U.S. ships involved in Thursday's exercise were the guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville and guided-missile destroyer USS Benfold, which are part of the USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group, the INDOPACOM release said.

The other vessels were Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyers JS Chokai and JS Ashigara and South Korea's de-



U.S. Navy

The guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville, Japan Maritime Self Defense Force guided-missile destroyer JS Chokai and South Korean guided-missile destroyer ROKS Sejong The Great conduct a ballistic missile defense exercise in the Sea of Japan, also known as the East Sea, on Thursday.

stroyer ROKS Sejong the Great.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff announced Wednesday that the nuclear-powered air-

craft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and its strike group would redeploy to the South's eastern coast due to an uptick in North

Korean activity. The group had made a port call in and around Busan on Sept. 23.

North Korea, known formally

as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or DPRK, has launched roughly 40 missiles so far this year, a record.

"The United States, [South Korea] and Japan strongly condemn the DPRK's launches, which violate numerous, unanimous mandates of the United Nations Security Council," the INDOPACOM release said.

The exercise on Thursday was intended to demonstrate "the strength of the trilateral relationship with our Japan and [South Korea] allies, which is forward-leaning, reflective of our shared values, and resolute against those who challenge regional stability," the release said.

The three nations carried out trilateral anti-submarine warfare drills in waters between Japan and the Korean Peninsula late last month "to cope with the North Korean nuclear and missile threat," South Korea's Ministry of National Defense said in a news release on Sept. 29.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com

2 brigade leaders relieved of command at Fort Hood

By **ROSE L. THAYER**
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Two brigade commanders within the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood have been relieved of command because of a loss of confidence in their judgment and ability to command, according to officials at the Texas Army base.

Maj. Gen. John Richardson, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, removed Col. Jon Meredith as commander of the division's 1st Brigade Combat Team and Col. Anthony Wilson as commander of the 1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade, said

Col. Wayne Marotto, spokesman for Fort Hood.

"The cases are not related, and the reliefs were based on two separate investigations. To protect the privacy of the individuals involved, the Army does not comment on investigations," Marotto said.

Those investigations are ongoing, he said.

Meredith took command of 1st Brigade in May 2021 while the unit was deployed to Poland. He stepped in after the previous commander, Col. Michael Schoenfeldt, was removed for bullying staff. At the time, Mere-



Meredith



Wilson

dith pledged to "move forward and forge something new."

Meredith's past command positions included the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment at Fort Riley, Kan., from 2016 to 2018, according to his official Army biography. He was the armor branch chief at Human Re-

sources Command from 2018 to 2020.

His wife, Col. Ann Meredith, is the commander of Fort Hood's 89th Military Police Brigade and is not under investigation, Marotto said.

Wilson took command of the sustainment brigade in June 2021, according to his official Army biography. Before coming to Fort Hood, Wilson was the division chief of plans and integration for the Army's logistics office at the Pentagon. He also previously commanded the 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion at Fort Drum,

N.Y.

An external review of Fort Hood released in December 2020 put the spotlight on the leadership within the 1st Cavalry Division because many of its brigades were found to have little trust between soldiers and leaders. Maj. Gen. Jeffery Broadwater, then division commander, was suspended while a new investigation occurred. That investigation cleared him just as Richardson stepped into command in July 2021.

thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

Austin orders renaming of military bases, assets honoring Confederacy

By **SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Thursday directed senior defense leaders to begin changing the names of military bases and assets honoring the Confederacy, bringing the Pentagon in line with recommendations issued by a congressional commission.

Austin said he agreed with the findings of the Naming Commission, a group convened by Congress to purge the military of commemorative references to the Confederacy, and is committed to implementing the renaming plan as soon as possible.

"The installations and facilities that our department operates are ... powerful public symbols of our military," Austin wrote in a memo to senior officials. "The names of these installations and facilities should inspire all those who call them home, fully reflect the history and the values of the United States and commemorate the best of the republic that we are all sworn to protect."

The secretary said he established a working group to review the commission's report, develop a plan of action and oversee the full implementation of the renaming recommendations. Defense Department leaders and the service

branches must hold off until Dec. 18 to begin part of the process due to a mandatory 90-day waiting period required by Congress. Changes to the Pentagon's memorialization and naming processes can begin immediately, however.

Commissioners spent 18 months reviewing more than 1,100 assets linked to the Confederacy, including installations, ships, monuments, symbols and paraphernalia. Their first report called for the renaming of nine Army bases: Fort Benning in Georgia, Fort Bragg in North Carolina, Fort Gordon in Georgia, Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia, Fort Hood in Texas, Fort Lee in Virginia, Fort Pickett in Vir-

ginia, Fort Polk in Louisiana and Fort Rucker in Alabama.

The second report focused on assets at the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy, recommending West Point take down a famous portrait of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, while the third and final report addressed all other property under the jurisdiction of the Defense Department.

The list of recommended changes includes the renaming of guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville, which was recently deployed to the East Sea to carry out exercises with Japan and South Korea amid provocations by

North Korea, and the stripping of the Confederate Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia to its base.

It is projected to cost an estimated \$62.5 million to carry out the renaming work.

"The department's implementation of the commission's recommendations ... will give proud new names that are rooted in their local communities and that honor American heroes whose valor, courage and patriotism exemplify the very best of the United States military," Austin wrote.

shkolnikova.svetlana@stripes.com
Twitter: @svetashko

MIDEAST

US airstrike kills ISIS leaders in Syria

Stars and Stripes

A “successful airstrike” in northern Syria has claimed the lives of two senior Islamic States leaders, U.S. Central Command said Thursday.

The strike, carried out at 6:32 p.m., killed Abu-Hashum al-Uma-wai, a deputy Wali of Syria, and another official associated with him, a CENTCOM statement said.

No American or civilians were killed or wounded in the operation, according to the statement.

“This strike will degrade ISIS’ ability to destabilize the region and strike our forces and partners,” CENTCOM’s commander, Gen. Michael “Erik” Kurilla, said in the statement. “Our forces remain in the region to ensure the enduring defeat of ISIS.”

The operation against al-Uma-wai followed a Wednesday night helicopter raid in northeastern Syria, near the village of Qamish-li, that targeted and killed Rakkan Wahid al-Shammari, as well as one other associate.

Al-Shammri was an ISIS smug-gler known to bring in weapons, fighters and money to support the terrorist organization, who had al-

so beheaded two members of the Syrian Defense Forces, according to a person familiar with the operation who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the particulars of the raid and its target.

The raids are the latest in a series of recent operations aimed at killing influential ISIS figures. Over the summer, U.S. military forces killed Hani Ahmed al-Kur-

di, a senior ISIS bombmaker known as the “Wali of Raqqa.”

That followed the killing of al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, ISIS’s then-leader, who is believed to have rigged his hideout in Atma, Syria, with explosives that were detonated when the structure was raided.

The Washington Post contributed to this report.



U.S. Navy

Vessels from the Israeli Navy and U.S. Naval Forces Central Command operate in the Gulf of Aqaba with two unmanned surface vessels, a Devil Ray T-38, top, and Saildrone Explorer, bottom, during exercise Digital Shield, on Sept. 21.

Drill: Navy tests Saildrone Explorer as US focuses on protecting gulf

FROM PAGE 1

Fleet’s command center in the island kingdom of Bahrain. There, an artificial intelligence system worked through the photos.

The 5th Fleet launched its unmanned Task Force 59 last year. Drones used by the Navy include ultra-endurance aerial surveillance drones, surface ships like the Sea Hawk and the Sea Hunter and smaller underwater drones that resemble torpedoes.

But of particular interest for the Navy has been the Saildrone Explorer, a commercially available drone that can stay at sea for long periods of time. That’s crucial for a region that has some 5,000 miles of coastline from the Suez Canal, down the Red Sea to the Gulf of Oman, the Strait of Hormuz and into the Persian Gulf.

It’s a vast territory that stretches the reach of the Navy and its allies and has seen a series of attacks amid the atomic accord’s collapse. It also remains crucial to global shipping and energy supplies, as a fifth of all oil traded passes

through the Strait of Hormuz.

“No matter what forces you have, you can’t cover all that,” Hawkins said. “You have to do that in a partnered way and an innovative way.”

But Iran, which long has equated America’s presence in the region to it patrolling the Gulf of Mexico, views the drones with suspicion.

In August and September, Iranian regular and paramilitary forces seized Saildrones in both the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea, alleging without providing evidence that the drones posed a danger to nearby ships.

Iran ultimately released the drones after the U.S. Navy arrived to the sites. Cameras on the Sail-drones involved in the Red Sea incident went missing.

Iranian state-run media did not acknowledge the drill Friday. Iran’s mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

“Recent events notwithstanding, we have been operating these

systems safely, responsibly and in accordance with international law and will continue to do so,” Hawkins said.

The Navy underscored its plan to keep operating the drones in notices sent to shippers and sailors in the region beginning Thursday. It said that the drones would continue to broadcast their location via their Automatic Identification System trackers.

Ships are supposed to keep their AIS trackers on, but Iranian vessels routinely turn theirs off to mask their movements as Tehran faces international sanctions over its nuclear program and human rights abuses.

“U.S. Navy (drones) are U.S. government property and will lawfully operate in international waters and through straits in accordance with internationally recognized rights and freedoms,” the Navy said in the notice. “Any interference with U.S. Navy (drones) will be considered a violation of the norms of international maritime law.”

Dems urge exit from Saudi Arabia, UAE

By Svetlana Shkolnikova
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Three Democrats are calling for the removal of U.S. troops and defense systems from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates following a decision by the energy cartel OPEC to drastically cut oil production.

The move by the group on Wednesday to raise prices drew ire from some lawmakers who said oil production needs to increase to lower gas prices and replace Russian exports of crude blocked by sanctions.

Reps. Tom Malinowski, D-N.J., Sean Casten, D-Ill., and Susan Wild, D-Pa., swiftly introduced legislation in response, seeking to withdraw U.S. forces from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, two of OPEC’s 15 member countries and longtime strategic partners of the United States.

“Both countries have long relied on an American military presence in the Gulf to protect their security and oil fields,” the lawmakers said in a statement. “We see no reason why American troops and contractors should continue to provide this service to countries that are actively working against us. If Saudi Arabia and the UAE want to help [Russian President Vladimir] Putin, they should look to him for their defense.”

The bill mandates the pullout of some 3,000 American troops in Saudi Arabia and 2,000 service members stationed in the UAE as well as the removal of all U.S. equipment, including Patriot missile batteries and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, systems. The U.S. also maintains fighter squadrons, F-35 fighters and other weapons systems operated by U.S. personnel in the two countries.

The missile defense systems would be moved to other areas in the Middle East with the aim of protecting American service members, according to the legislation.

Lawmakers described OPEC’s decision, after months of lobbying by the White House to stave off a

production cut, as a “hostile act” against the U.S. that signals support for Russia in its war against Ukraine. Russia reaps enormous revenue from its exports of crude.

“By significantly boosting global oil prices, OPEC’s decision appears designed to increase Russia’s oil export revenues, enabling Putin to continue his war crimes in Ukraine, and undercutting Western sanctions,” the lawmakers said.

The cut ordered by OPEC — a reduction of 2 million barrels per day — is the largest decrease in oil production since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, when demand plummeted. The U.S. at the time exerted pressure on Saudi Arabia, the de facto leader of OPEC, to lower oil supply or face potential legislation by Congress to remove troops from the kingdom.

OPEC’s actions this week dashed hopes of stabilizing global energy markets in the wake of Russia’s invasion and demonstrated a lopsided relationship between the U.S. and its Gulf partners that overwhelmingly benefits the Middle East, the lawmakers said.

President Joe Biden made a controversial visit to Saudi Arabia during the summer partly to convince Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to boost oil production and lower skyrocketing gas prices. The CIA implicated the crown prince in the killing of the U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi dissident who sharply criticized the kingdom’s regime.

Lawmakers said the rejection of U.S. overtures was a “slap in the face” that will hurt American consumers and undermine national interests.

“It is time for the United States to resume acting like the superpower in our relationship with our client states in the Gulf,” they said. “They have made a choice and should live with the consequences. Our troops and military equipment are needed elsewhere.”

EUROPE

Russia increases attacks on city near nuke plant

By ADAM SCHRECK
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia concentrated attacks in its increasingly troubled invasion of Ukraine on areas it illegally annexed, including the Zaporizhzhia region that is home Europe’s largest nuclear power plant.

Fighting near the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant has alarmed the U.N.’s atomic energy watchdog. An accident there could release 10 times the potentially lethal radiation than the world’s worst nuclear disaster, at Chernobyl in Ukraine 36 years ago, Ukrainian Environmental Protection Minister Ruslan Strilets said Friday.

“The situation with the occupation, shelling, and mining of the Chernobyl and Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plants by Russian troops is causing consequences that will have a global character,” Strilets told The Associated Press.

The city of Zaporizhzhia, the region’s administrative center, is 33 miles from the nuclear plant and remains under Ukrainian control. To cement Russia’s claim to the region, Russian forces bombarded the city with S-300 missiles on Thursday.

Russia was reported to have converted the S-300 from its original use as a long-range anti-aircraft weapon into a missile for ground attacks because of a shortage of other, more suitable weapons.

Ukrainian authorities said the

death toll from the strikes rose to 12 on Friday, while another 12 people who were wounded in the bombardment of apartments remained hospitalized.

Missiles also struck the city overnight, injuring one person, Zaporizhzhia Gov. Oleksandr Starukh said. Russia also used Iranian-made Shahed-136 drones there for the first time and damaged two infrastructure facilities, he said.

With its army losing ground to a Ukrainian counteroffensive in the country’s south and east, Russia has increasingly deployed Iranian-made drones to attack Ukrainian targets. The unmanned, disposable “kamikaze drones” are cheaper and less sophisticated than missiles but are effective at damaging ground targets.

The Washington-based Institute for the Study of War said Russia’s use of the explosive-packed drones was unlikely to affect the course of the conflict significantly.

“They have used many drones against civilian targets in rear areas, likely hoping to generate nonlinear effects through terror. Such efforts are not succeeding,” analysts at the think tank wrote.

In other Moscow-annexed areas, Russia’s Defense Ministry reported Friday that its forces had repelled Ukrainian advances near the city of Lyman and retaken three villages elsewhere in the eastern Donetsk region. The ministry said Russian forces also had prevented Ukrainian troops from



FRANCISCO SECO/AP

Ukrainian servicemen drive a tank as they cross Oskil village, Ukraine, on Thursday.

advancing on several villages in the Kherson region.

Some of the Russian military’s equipment and weapons is getting into Ukrainians’ hands. Ukraine’s ability to capture and put back into service Russian tanks and other equipment has become an important factor in its counteroffensive.

Britain’s Ministry of Defense said Friday that Ukrainian forces have captured at least 440 tanks and about 650 armored vehicles since the war started Feb. 24.

“The failure of Russian crews to destroy intact equipment before withdrawing or surrendering highlights their poor state of training and low levels of battle discipline,” the British said.

Putin ordered a partial mobilization of Russian reservists last month to reinforce the front lines in Ukraine. Mistakes have dogged the call-up, however, and tens of thousands of would-be fighters have fled Russia.

Russia has been so desperate for troop reinforcements that it’s turned to unusual sources. The Ukrainian military said Friday

that 500 former criminals have been mobilized to reinforce Russian ranks in the eastern Donetsk region, where Ukrainian forces have retaken some territory. Officers drawn from law enforcement are commanding the new units, the military said.

Russian state news agency Tass reported Friday that a court in the Russian city of Penza had dismissed the first case against a Russian man called up to serve but who refused. The 32-year-old man’s lawyers had argued that the law under which he was charged applies only to conscription evaders, not those subject to the partial mobilization.

In another sign of trouble, reports have surfaced of poor training and supplies for the new troops. The supply problems appeared to be so severe that at least two Russian cities — St. Petersburg and Nizhny Novgorod — announced Friday they were canceling their Russian New Year’s and Christmas celebrations and redirecting the money saved to buy supplies for mobilized troops.

Under increasing pressure from his own supporters and others, Putin continued reshuffling his military’s leadership. The state-run Tass news agency reported a new commander was put in place in Russia’s eastern military district.

The trail of Russia’s devastation and death from the areas where its troops retreated became clearer Friday. A report by Ukrainian First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Yevhen Yenin revealed that 530 bodies of civilians have been found in northeast Ukraine’s Kharkiv region since Sept. 7.

The residents killed in that area during the Russian occupation included 225 women, 257 men and 19 children, with 29 people unidentified, Yenin said. Most of the bodies were found in a previously disclosed mass grave in Izium.

According to Yenin, recovered bodies bore signs of gunshots, explosions and torture. Some people had ropes around their necks, hands tied behind their back, bullet wounds to their knees and broken ribs.

US intelligence: Putin confronted by insider over Ukraine



SERGEI SAVOSTYANOV
SPUTNIK, KREMLIN POOL/AP
Russian President Vladimir Putin

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A member of Vladimir Putin’s inner circle has voiced disagreement directly to the Russian president in recent weeks over his handling of the war in Ukraine, according to information obtained by U.S. intelligence.

The criticism marks the clearest indication yet of turmoil within Russia’s leadership over the stewardship of a war that has gone disastrously wrong for Moscow, forcing Putin last month to order the mobilization of hundreds of thousands of troops in a desperate bid to reverse recent battlefield losses.

The information was deemed significant enough that it was included in President Biden’s daily

intelligence briefing and shared with other U.S. officials, according to people familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence.

The discontent that the member of Putin’s inner circle expressed related to what the insider considered mismanagement of the war effort and mistakes being made by those executing the military campaign, according to one of the people.

The insider’s identity could not be confirmed, although the name has been included in U.S. intelligence reporting.

The new intelligence, coupled with comments from Russian officials, underscores divisions within Putin’s upper echelon,

where officials have long been loath to bring bad news to an autocratic Russian leader who is seen as more isolated than at any time in his 22-year rule.

A spokesperson for the National Security Council declined to comment on the intelligence.

The number of people Putin counts as close or trusted aides and advisers is small and composed primarily of colleagues from his days serving as a KGB officer and those he met while a deputy to the mayor of St. Petersburg in the 1990s after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The mobilization has sparked domestic unrest, prompted hundreds of thousands of Russian fighting-age men to flee the country and been beset by bureaucrat-

ic incompetence, with individuals being called up who are supposed to be excluded from service.

As the war enters its eighth month, and Russian victory remains elusive and ill-defined, the unquestioning loyalty Putin has enjoyed may be slipping, intelligence officials said, but they cautioned there was no indication the Russian leader was on the brink of being swept aside.

“Since the start of the occupation we have witnessed growing alarm from a number of Putin’s inner circle,” a Western intelligence official said. “Our assessments suggest they are particularly exercised by recent Russian losses, misguided direction and extensive military shortcomings.”

EUROPE

West studying how Russia uses Iran's drones in Ukraine

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

Russia's unconventional drone attacks and Ukraine's responses are laying the foundation for new rules of aerial warfare in future conflicts, both for U.S. forces and their adversaries.

Moscow neglected drone development for decades, only to find after its February invasion of Ukraine that its larger forces were getting routed by smaller Ukrainian units with surveillance and firing capability aided by drones.

Russia has tried to remedy that by purchasing advanced Iranian drones. But the unmanned planes that buzzed the deserts of the Middle East were used primarily to attack high-value targets.

Instead, Russian units are using drones against targets such as Ukrainian artillery batteries and ammunition depots on the front lines, as if the drones were a form of artillery.

"There is a more proactive, operational element to the Russian approach," said Nicholas Heras, director of strategy and innovation at the Washington-based New Lines Institute.

Iran-backed forces such as the Houthis in Yemen tended to use the same drones to send strong messages to their opponents, es-

pecially Saudi Arabia, by striking distant targets, Heras said in a Twitter message to Stars and Stripes.

Lessons learned from tactics in Ukraine could end up being used in future fights involving the U.S. or its allies, especially ones where drones and counterdrone technologies are prevalent.

Heras used the example of a war between Iranian proxy Hezbollah and the Israel Defense Forces.

"Hezbollah would likely deploy Iranian drones against the IDF in a manner resembling how the Russians are using the drones against the Ukrainians, at shorter distances and as a type of complement to their small squad tactics," Heras said.

The Pentagon is closely observing how Russia uses Iranian drones and how Ukraine counters them, U.S. officials told Defense Scoop last week.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy convened a meeting Wednesday with advisers to discuss how to respond to these "new types of weapons" being used by Russia, The Wall Street Journal reported.

The Ukrainian military will have to find ways to counter the recently introduced Iranian drones,



PHOTOS BY UKRAINE DEFENSE MINISTRY/TWITTER

A photo of the surviving pieces of an Iranian attack UAV Shahed-136 drone, shared on Twitter by Ukraine's defense ministry on Sept. 13. The drone was reportedly destroyed by the Ukrainian army near Kupiansk.



A photo of an Iranian Qods Mohajer-6 drone, posted on Twitter by the Ukraine Defense Ministry on Oct. 3. Officials said the drone was launched to coordinate an attack on Odesa.

either by jamming them or shooting them down, analysts said.

In an example of the competition of ideas between Russia and Ukraine, the Iranian drones that have been shot down seem to include circuit boards with hardened components to make them resistant to jamming, said Farzin

Nadimi, an associate fellow at the Washington Institute.

Ukrainian forces will no doubt study these drones to find better methods to attack them, he added.

They will most likely try to use smaller, portable anti-air missiles, or air defense systems such as the Counter-Rocket, Artillery, Mor-

tar, or C-RAM, which have proven effective against Iranian drones, Nadimi said.

The U.S., Saudi Arabia and other countries that employ C-RAMs as well as expensive Patriot missile anti-air defense systems will watch Ukraine to see whether these cheaper options work.

Meanwhile, Russia's drone tactics could change as they get more experienced, said Samuel Bendett, a member of the Russia Studies Program at the research and analysis organization CNA in Arlington, Va.

"Ukrainians are learning how to better defend themselves; Russians are learning how to better circumvent Ukrainian defenses," Bendett said.

The Iranians are taking notes, he added, and they will likely market their drones and tactics to countries around the world.

lawrence.jp@stripes.com

Warning: Zelenskyy says world wouldn't forgive strike

FROM PAGE 1

in recent weeks have shown no evidence that Putin has imminent plans to deploy nuclear weapons, according to U.S. officials.

One official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity, added that Biden was speaking broadly about the administration's growing concerns about Putin's threats.

Biden was conveying that the White House sees Putin's rhetoric as "reckless and irresponsible" and is taking it seriously, the official said. The official added that Biden's remarks are in line with warnings he's made in speeches at the U.N. General Assembly and that other senior administration officials have made recently.

The president's new remarks came after White House officials this week said they have seen no change to Russia's nuclear forces that would require a change in the alert posture of U.S. nuclear forces: "We have not seen any reason

to adjust our own strategic nuclear posture, nor do we have indication that Russia is preparing to imminently use nuclear weapons," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Tuesday.

The 13-day showdown in 1962 that followed the U.S. discovery of the Soviet Union's secret deployment of nuclear weapons to Cuba is regarded by experts as the closest the world has ever come to nuclear annihilation. The crisis during President John F. Kennedy's administration sparked a renewed focus on arms control on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

Biden on Thursday also challenged Russian nuclear doctrine, warning that the use of a lower-yield tactical weapon could quickly spiral out of control into global destruction.

"I don't think there is any such a thing as the ability to easily use a tactical nuclear weapon and not end up with Armageddon," Biden said.

He added that he was still "trying to figure" out Putin's "off-ramp" in Ukraine.

"Where does he find a way out?" Biden asked. "Where does he find himself in a position that he does not only lose face but lose significant power within Russia?"

Putin has repeatedly alluded to using his country's vast nuclear arsenal, including last month when he announced plans to conscript Russian men to serve in Ukraine.

"I want to remind you that our country also has various means of destruction ... and when the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, to protect Russia and our people, we will certainly use all the means at our disposal," Putin said Sept. 21, adding with a lingering stare at the camera, "It's not a bluff."

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said last week that the U.S. has been "clear" to Russia about what the "consequences" of using a nucle-

ar weapon in Ukraine would be.

"This is something that we are attuned to, taking very seriously, and communicating directly with Russia about, including the kind of decisive responses the United States would have if they went down that dark road," Sullivan said.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said earlier Thursday that Putin understands that the "world will never forgive" a Russian nuclear strike.

"He understands that after the use of nuclear weapons he would be unable any more to preserve, so to speak, his life, and I'm confident of that," Zelenskyy said.

Biden's comments came during a private fundraiser for Democratic Senate candidates at the Manhattan home of James and Kathryn Murdoch. He tends to be more unguarded — often speaking with just rough notes — in such settings, which are open only to a handful of reporters without cameras or recording devices.



ALEX BRANDON/AP

A U.S. Army officer carries nuclear launch codes as he follows President Joe Biden into the White House, Thursday.

NATION

Hurricane evacuees begin returning home

BY STEPHEN SMITH AND BOBBY CAINA CALVAN
Associated Press

SANIBEL ISLAND, Fla. — Rotting fish and garbage lie scattered in Sanibel Island’s streets. On the mainland, debris from washed-away homes is heaped in a canal like matchsticks. Huge shrimp boats sit perched amid the remains of a mobile home park.

“Think of a snow globe. Pick it up and shake it — that’s what happened,” said Fred Szott.

For the past three days, he and his wife Joyce have been making trips to their damaged mobile home in Fort Myers, cleaning up after Hurricane Ian slammed into Florida’s Gulf Coast.

As for the emotional turbulence, he says: “You either hold on, or you lose it.”

The number of storm-related deaths rose to at least 101 on Thursday, eight days after the storm made landfall in southwest Florida. According to reports from the Florida Medical Examiners Commission, 98 of those deaths were in Florida. Five people were also killed in North Carolina, three in Cuba and one in Virginia.

Ian is the second-deadliest storm to hit the mainland United States in the 21st century, behind Hurricane Katrina, which left more than 1,800 people dead in 2005. The deadliest hurricane ev-



SCOTT SMITH/AP

Pamela Brislin cleans up the damage from Hurricane Ian, Thursday, in Sanibel Island, Fla.

er to hit the U.S. was the Great Galveston Hurricane in 1900 that killed as many as 8,000 people.

Residents of Florida’s devastated barrier islands are starting to return, assessing the damage to homes and businesses despite limited access to some areas.

The broken causeway to Sanibel Island might not be passable until the end of the month. In the meantime, residents like Pamela Bris-

lin arrived by boat to see what they could salvage.

Brislin stayed through the storm, but is haunted by what happened afterward. When she checked on a neighbor, she found the woman crying. Her husband had passed away, his body laid out on a picnic table until help could arrive. Another neighbor’s house caught fire. The flames were so large that they forced Breslin to do

what the hurricane could not — flee with her husband and a neighbor’s dog.

Ian, a Category 4 storm with sustained winds of 150 miles per hour, unleashed torrents of rain and caused extensive flooding and damage. The deluge turned streets into gushing rivers. Backyard waterways overflowed into neighborhoods, sometimes by more than a dozen feet, tossing

boats onto yards and roadways. Beaches disappeared, as ocean surges pushed shorelines far inland.

Sanibel Island had ordered a complete curfew after the storm passed, allowing search and rescue teams to do their work. That meant residents who evacuated the island were technically blocked from returning.

But the city of about 7,000 started allowing residents back from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday. City manager Dana Souza told residents in a Facebook Live stream that he wished the municipality had resources to provide transportation but that, for now, residents would have to arrange visits by private boat.

Pine Island is closer to the mainland than Sanibel, but it too was hit hard by the storm.

Cindy Bickford’s house was still standing. Much of the damage was from the flooding, which left a thick layer of rancid muck on her floors.

“It’s not our stuff we’re worried about. It’s our community. Pine Island is extremely close-knit,” said Bickford, who arrived Thursday for the first time.

She was hopeful that much could be salvaged.

“We’ll tear the home apart so we can live in it,” said Bickford, who wore a T-shirt that said “Relax,” “Refresh” and “Renew.”

Proud Boy guilty of seditious conspiracy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A North Carolina man pleaded guilty Thursday to plotting with other members of the far-right Proud Boys to violently stop the transfer of presidential power after the 2020 election, making him the first member of the extremist group to plead guilty to a seditious conspiracy charge.

Jeremy Joseph Bertino, 43, has agreed to cooperate with the Justice Department’s investigation of the role that Proud Boys leaders played in the mob’s attack on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, a federal prosecutor said.

Bertino’s cooperation could ratchet up the pressure on other Proud Boys charged in the siege, including former national chairman Henry “Enrique” Tarrio.

The guilty plea comes as the founder of the another extremist group, the Oath Keepers, and four associates charged separately in the Jan. 6 attack stand trial on seditious conspiracy — a rarely used Civil War era offense that calls for up to 20 years behind bars.

Bertino traveled to Washington with other Proud Boys in Decem-

ber 2020 and was stabbed during a fight, according to court documents. He was not in Washington for the Jan. 6 riot because he was still recovering from his injuries, court papers say.

Bertino participated in planning sessions in the days leading up to Jan. 6 and received encrypted messages as early as Jan. 4 indicating that Proud Boys were discussing possibly storming the Capitol, according to authorities.

A statement of offense filed in court says that Bertino understood the Proud Boys’ goal in traveling to Washington was to stop the certification of Joe Biden’s victory and that the group was prepared to use force and violence if necessary to do so.

On Jan. 6, Bertino applauded the insurrection from afar and sent messages encouraging other Proud Boys to keep pushing toward the Capitol: “DO NOT GO HOME. WE ARE ON THE CUSP OF SAVING THE CONSTITUTION,” he wrote on a social media account. That night, he messaged Tarrio, “You know we made this happen.”

Whistleblower: 665 left FBI over misconduct between 2004 and 2020

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. senator is pressing the FBI for more information after a whistleblower alleged that an internal review found 665 FBI personnel have resigned or retired to avoid accountability in misconduct probes over the past two decades.

The whistleblower told the office of Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, that the Justice Department launched the review of the FBI’s disciplinary database in 2020 following an Associated Press investigation into sexual misconduct allegations involving at least six senior FBI officials.

The follow-up review found 665 FBI employees, including 45 senior-level officials, resigned or retired between 2004 and 2020 following a misconduct probe but before a final disciplinary letter could be issued, according to a letter this week from Grassley to FBI Director Christopher Wray and Attorney General Merrick Garland.

It was not clear how many of those cases involved sexual mis-

conduct. Grassley’s office, which declined to make the whistleblower or underlying documents available to protect the person’s identity, said in its letter it was still seeking that information but also characterized that number as possibly being in the “hundreds.”

“It’s been alleged to my office that the data involved an element of sexual misconduct, which comports with the purpose of the ... review that was done because of the Associated Press article,” Grassley wrote in his letter that was first shared with the AP. “The committee welcomes any clarity the Justice Department is able to provide.”

Asked for its response, the FBI told AP it intended to respond to the oversight committee first. It declined to comment specifically on the whistleblower’s allegation or to provide its own tally of disciplinary cases and how many of them involved sexual misconduct.

It instead issued a statement saying it has a zero-tolerance policy toward sexual harassment. “The FBI looks critically at ourselves and will continue to make

improvements. The bottom line is, employees who commit gross misconduct and sexual harassment have no place in the FBI,” it said.

In its statement, the FBI also said that since establishing a working group just days after the AP story was published, the bureau has implemented a series of changes, including a 24/7 tip line with a licensed clinician where employees can report abuse, and a working group of senior executives to review policies and procedures on harassment and victim support.

Grassley asked in his letter for updates on other changes recommended by the Justice Department, including that it fast-track investigations to reduce the chance an accused employee could become eligible for retirement and leave the FBI before a probe can be completed.

The FBI noted that it cannot legally prevent someone from resigning or retiring. “It is infuriating that we are left with little disciplinary recourse when people leave before their case is adjudicated,” the statement said.

NATION

2 dead, 6 hurt in knife attack in Vegas Strip

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — An attacker with a large kitchen knife killed two people and wounded six others in stabbings along the Las Vegas Strip before he was arrested Thursday, police said.

Three people were hospitalized in critical condition and another three were in stable condition, according to Las Vegas police, who said they began receiving 911 calls about the stabbings around 11:40 a.m. across the street from the Wynn casino and hotel.

Yoni Barrios, 32, was booked into the Clark County Detention Center on two counts of murder and six counts of attempted murder, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department said in a statement.

It wasn't immediately known whether Barrios had a lawyer who could comment on his behalf.

Barrios, who is not a Las Vegas resident, was detained by Sands security guards and Metropolitan Police officers while running on a Strip sidewalk, police said.

"This was an isolated incident,"

Metropolitan Police Deputy Chief James LaRochelle said in a statement. "All evidence indicates Barrios acted alone and there are no outstanding suspects at this time."

Police said they were continuing to investigate the motive but do not believe there was an altercation before the attacks.

The Clark County coroner's office identified the victims who were killed as Brent Allan Hallett, 47, and Maris Mareen Digiovanni, 30, both Las Vegas residents.

The names of those wounded in the attack were not immediately released.

The initial stabbing was unprovoked and on the eastern sidewalk of Las Vegas Boulevard. The suspect then headed south and stabbed others, LaRochelle said.

The man fled and was followed by 911 callers before he was taken into custody, authorities said. Po-



Barrios



RACHEL ASTON, LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL/AP

Police work at the scene, Thursday, where multiple people were stabbed in front of a casino in Las Vegas.

lice recovered the "large knife with a long blade" believed to have been used, LaRochelle said, calling the case a "hard-to-comprehend murder investigation."

There were no other suspects in the case and "the Strip is secure," Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo said.

"Locals and tourists are the victims of this crime," Lombardo said.

Witnesses told Las Vegas TV stations that some of the victims appeared to be showgirls or street

performers who take pictures with tourists on the Strip.

The suspect told a woman that he was a chef who wanted to take a picture with some of the showgirls with his knife, but he started stabbing people when the group declined the man's offer, the woman told KTNV.

Jason Adams told KLAS that he witnessed the attack on a showgirl.

"This guy came, ran up, and started stabbing this lady in front of me and she ran around the escalators and she tried to get up under

the bridge and her girlfriend was trying to help her," Adams said, adding that the attack happened very quickly.

Democratic Gov. Steve Sisolak posted a message on social media saying, "Our hearts are with all those affected by this tragedy."

"At the State level, we will continue to work with partners in law enforcement to make resources available on the ground and ensure the Las Vegas Strip remains a safe and welcoming place for all to visit," Sisolak said.

GOP steps up crime message in midterm election's final stretch

BY MICHELLE L. PRICE AND JESSE BEDAYN
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The graphic surveillance video shows a man on a sidewalk suddenly punching someone in the head, knocking them to the ground.

With muted screams and gunshots in the background, the video stitches together other surveillance clips of shootings and punching on streets and subway trains as a voiceover says, "You're looking at actual violent crimes caught on camera in Kathy Hochul's New York."

That's not exactly true.

The ad from Rep. Lee Zeldin, the Republican challenging New York Gov. Kathy Hochul in next month's election, included video of an assault in California. Some of the footage depicted crimes that took place before Hochul took office last year. While acknowledging a mistake, Zeldin's campaign defended the ad and said the message was clear: violent crime is out of con-

trol.

That's a theme GOP candidates across the U.S. are sounding in the final month of the critical midterm elections. The issue of crime is dominating advertising in some of the most competitive Senate races, including those in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Nevada, along with scores of House and governors campaigns such as the one in New York.

The rhetoric is sometimes alarmist or of questionable veracity, closely echoing the language of former President Donald Trump, who honed a late-stage argument during the 2020 campaign that Democratic-led cities were out of control. That didn't help Trump avoid defeat, but experts say Democrats would be wrong to ignore the potency of the attacks.

"When violence is going up, peo-



Hochul

ple are concerned, and that's when we tend to see it gain some traction as a political issue," said Lisa L. Miller, professor of political science at Rutgers University, who focuses on crime as a political issue in countries across the world.

The FBI released annual data this week that found violent crime rates didn't increase substantially last year, though they remained above pre-pandemic levels. The report presents an incomplete picture, in part because it doesn't include some of the nation's largest police departments.

More broadly, rates of violent crime and killings have increased around the U.S. since the pandemic, in some places spiking after hitting historic lows. Non-violent crime decreased during the pandemic, but the murder rate grew nearly 30% in 2020, rising in cities and rural areas alike, according to an analysis of crime data by The Brennan Center for Justice. The rate of assaults went up 10%, the analysis found.

Biden pardons thousands of marijuana possession

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden is pardoning thousands of Americans convicted of "simple possession" of marijuana under federal law, as his administration takes a dramatic step toward decriminalizing the drug and addressing charging practices that disproportionately impact people of color.

Biden's move also covers thousands convicted of the crime in the District of Columbia. He is also calling on governors to issue similar pardons for those convicted of state marijuana offenses, which reflect the vast majority of marijuana possession cases.

Biden, in a statement, said the move reflects his position that "no one should be in jail just for using or possessing marijuana."

"Too many lives have been upended because of our failed approach to marijuana," he added. "It's time that we right these wrongs."

According to the White House, no one is currently in federal pris-

on solely for "simple possession" of the drug, but the pardon could help thousands overcome obstacles to renting a home or finding a job.

"There are thousands of people who have prior Federal convictions for marijuana possession, who may be denied employment, housing, or educational opportunities as a result," he said. "My action will help relieve the collateral consequences arising from these convictions."

The pardon does not cover convictions for possession of other drugs, or for charges relating to producing or possessing marijuana with an intent to distribute. Biden is also not pardoning non-citizens who were in the U.S. without legal status at the time of their arrest.

The announcement marks Biden's reckoning with the impact of 1994 crime legislation, which he supported, that increased arrest and incarceration rates for drug crimes, particularly for Black and Latino people.

NATION

US employers add 263K jobs in September

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — America’s employers slowed their hiring in September but still added a solid 263,000 jobs — a dose of encouraging news that may mean the Federal Reserve’s drive to cool the job market and ease inflation is starting to make progress.

Friday’s government report showed that last month’s job growth was down from 315,000 in August and that the unemployment rate fell from 3.7% to 3.5%, matching a half-century low.

September’s slightly more moderate pace of hiring may be welcomed by the Fed, which is trying to restrain the economy enough to tame the worst inflation in four decades without causing a recession. Slower job growth would

mean less pressure on employers to raise pay and pass those costs on to their customers through price increases — a recipe for high inflation.

The public anxiety that has arisen over high prices and the prospect of a recession is also carrying political consequences as President Joe Biden’s Democratic Party struggles to maintain control of Congress in November’s midterm elections.

In its epic battle to rein in inflation, the Fed has raised its benchmark interest rate five times this year. It is aiming to slow economic growth enough to reduce annual price increases back toward its 2% target.

It has a long way to go. In August, one key measure of year-

over-year inflation, the consumer price index, amounted to 8.3%. And for now, consumer spending — the primary driver of the U.S. economy — is showing some resilience. In August, consumers spent a bit more than in July, a sign that the economy was holding up despite rising borrowing rates, violent swings in the stock market and inflated prices for food, rent and other essentials.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell has warned bluntly that the inflation fight will “bring some pain,” notably in the form of layoffs and higher unemployment. Some economists remain hopeful that despite the persistent inflation pressures, the Fed will still manage to achieve a so-called soft landing: Slowing growth enough to tame

inflation, without going so far as to tip the economy into recession.

It’s a notoriously difficult task. And the Fed is trying to accomplish it at a perilous time. The global economy, weakened by food shortages and surging energy prices resulting from Russia’s war against Ukraine, may be on the brink of recession. Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, warned Thursday that the IMF is downgrading its estimates for world economic growth by \$4 trillion through 2026 and that “things are more likely to get worse before it gets better.”

Powell and his colleagues on the Fed’s policymaking committee want to see signs the abundance of available jobs — there’s currently

an average of 1.7 openings for every unemployed American — will steadily decline. Some encouraging news came this week, when the Labor Department reported that job openings fell by 1.1 million in August to 10.1 million, the fewest since June 2021.

Nick Bunker, head of economic research at the Indeed Hiring Lab, suggested that among the items on “the soft-landing flight checklist” is “a decline in job openings without a spike in the unemployment rate, and that’s what we’ve seen the last few months.”

On the other hand, by any standard of history, openings remain extraordinarily high: In records dating to 2000, they had never topped 10 million in a month until last year.

‘Forever chemicals’ challenge hunters, fishers and tourism

By PATRICK WHITTLE
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — Wildlife agencies in the U.S. are finding elevated levels of a class of toxic chemicals in game animals such as deer — and that’s prompting health advisories in some places where hunting and fishing are ways of life and key pieces of the economy.

Authorities have detected the high levels of PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, in deer in several states, including Michigan and Maine, where legions of hunters seek to bag a buck every fall. Sometimes called “forever chemicals” for their persistence in the environment, PFAS are industrial compounds used in numerous products, such as non-stick cookware and clothing.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency launched an effort last year to limit pollution from the chemicals, which are linked to health problems including cancer and low birth weight.

But discovery of the chemicals in wild animals hunted for sport and food represents a new challenge that some states have started to confront by issuing “do not eat” advisories for deer and fish and expanding testing for PFAS in them.

“The fact there is an additional threat to the wildlife — the game that people are going out to hunt and fish — is a threat to those industries, and how people think about hunting and fishing,” said Jennifer Hill, associate director of the Great Lakes Regional Center for the National Wildlife Federation.

PFAS chemicals are an increasing focus of public health and en-

vironmental agencies, in part because they don’t degrade or do so slowly in the environment and can remain in a person’s bloodstream for life.

The chemicals get into the environment through production of consumer goods and waste. They also have been used in firefighting foam and in agriculture. PFAS-tainted sewage sludge has long been applied to fields as fertilizer and compost.

In Maine, where the chemicals were detected in well water at hundreds of times the federal health advisory level, legislators passed a law in 2021 requiring manufacturers to report their use of the chemicals and to phase them out by 2030. Environmental health advocates have said Maine’s law could be a model for other states, some working on their own PFAS legislation.

More testing will likely find the chemicals are present in other game animals besides deer, such as wild turkeys and fish, said David Trahan, executive director of the Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine, a hunting and outdoors advocacy group.

The discovery could have a negative impact on outdoor tourism in the short term, Trahan said.

“If people are unwilling to hunt and fish, how are we going to manage those species?” he said. “You’re getting it in your water, you’re getting it in your food, you’re getting it in wild game.”

Maine was one of the first states to detect PFAS in deer. The state issued a “do not eat” advisory last year for deer harvested in the Fairfield area, about 80 miles north of Portland, after several of the animals tested positive for ele-



ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP

A 10-point white-tailed deer walks through the woods in Freeport, Maine.

vated levels.

The state is now expanding the testing to more animals across a wider area, said Nate Webb, wildlife division director at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

“Lab capacity has been challenging,” he said, “but I suspect there will be more facilities coming online to help ease that burden — in Maine and elsewhere in the country.”

Wisconsin has tested deer, ducks and geese for PFAS, and as a result issued a “do not eat” advisory for deer liver around Marinette, about 55 miles north of Green Bay. The state also asked fishermen to reduce consumption of Lake Superior’s popular rainbow smelt to one meal per month.

Some chemicals, including PFAS, can accumulate in the liver over time because the organ filters the chemicals from the blood, Wisconsin’s natural resources department told hunters. New Hampshire authorities have also



DREW YOUNGEDYKE, NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION/AP

A sign warning hunters not to eat deer because of high amounts of toxic chemicals in their meat, in Oscoda, Mich.

issued an advisory to avoid consuming deer liver.

Michigan was the first state to assess PFAS in deer, said Tammy Newcomb, senior executive assistant director for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The state issued its first “do not eat” advisory in 2018 for deer taken in and near Oscoda Township. Michigan has since issued an advisory against eating organs, such as liver and kidneys, from deer, fish or any other wild game anywhere in the state. It has also studied waterfowl throughout the state in areas of PFAS surface water contamination.

The state’s expanded testing also has proven beneficial because it helped authorities find out which areas don’t have a PFAS problem, Newcomb said.

“People like to throw up their arms and say we can’t do anything about it. I like to point to our results and say that’s not true,” Newcomb said. “Finding PFAS as a contaminant of concern has been

the exception and not the rule.”

The chemical has also been found in shellfish that are collected recreationally and commercially. Scientists from the Florida International University Institute of Environment sampled more than 150 oysters from around the state and detected PFAS in every one, according to their study in August. Natalia Soares Quinete, an assistant professor in the institute’s chemistry and biochemistry department, described the chemicals as “a long-term poison” that jeopardizes human health.

Kip Adams, chief conservation officer for the National Deer Association, said the discovery of PFAS in states like Maine and Michigan is very concerning to hunters.

“With the amount of venison my family eats, I can’t imagine not being able to do that,” Adams said. “To this point, everything we’ve done has been about sharing information and making sure people are aware of it.”

WORLD/NATION

Peace Prize seen as rebuke of Putin's war

BY HANNA ARHIROVA
AND FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Activists from Ukraine, Belarus and Russia won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, a strong rebuke to Russian President Vladimir Putin whose invasion of Ukraine has outraged the international community and highlighted his authoritarian rule.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2022 prize to imprisoned Belarus rights activist Ales Bialiatski, the Russian group Memorial and the Ukrainian organization Center for Civil Liberties.

Berit Reiss-Andersen, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said the panel wanted to honor “three outstanding champions of human rights, democracy and peaceful coexistence.”

“Through their consistent efforts in favor of human values and anti-militarism and principles of law, this year’s laureates have revitalized and honored Alfred Nobel’s vision of peace and fraternity between nations, a vision most needed in the world today,” she told reporters in Oslo.

Asked whether the Nobel Committee was intentionally sending a signal to Putin, who celebrated his 70th birthday Friday, Reiss-Andersen said that “we always give a prize for something and to somebody and not against anyone.”

“This prize is not addressing President Putin, not for his birthday or in any other sense, except



SERGEI GRITS/AP

Ales Belyatsky, the jailed leader of Vesna, the most prominent human rights group in Belarus, waves to his relatives as he sits in a cage during a court session in Minsk, Belarus, in 2011. Ales Belyatsky won the Nobel Peace Prize, on Friday.

that his government, as the government in Belarus, is representing an authoritarian government that is suppressing human rights activists,” she said.

Bialiatski was one of the leaders of the democracy movement in Belarus in the mid 1980s and has continued to campaign for human rights and civil liberties in the au-

thoritarian country. He founded the non-governmental organization Human Rights Center Viasna.

He was detained following protests in 2020 against the re-election of Belarus’ President Alexander Lukashenko, a close ally of Putin. He remains in jail without trial.

“Despite tremendous personal hardship, Mr Bialiatski has not yielded one inch in his fight for human rights and democracy in Belarus,” Reiss-Andersen said, adding that the Nobel panel was calling on Belarusian authorities to release him.

Exiled Belarus opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, visiting Paris, told The Associated Press that the award would further increase the spotlight on Belarusian political prisoners and said she felt “honored and delighted” that Bialiatski was among the laureates, calling him a “famous human rights defender in Belarus and in the world” and a “wonderful person.”

“For sure, it will attract more attention to (the) humanitarian situation in our country,” she said of the award.

Memorial was founded in the Soviet Union in 1987 to ensure the victims of communist repression would be remembered. It has continued to compile information on human rights abuses and tracked the fate of political prisoners in Russia. The country’s highest court ordered it shut down in De-

cember, the latest move in a relentless crackdown on rights activists, independent media and opposition supporters.

Tatyana Glushkova, a board member of the Memorial Human Rights Defense Center, said she learned about the award from the news. “It was a shock,” she told the AP. “We are very, very happy.”

“For us, this is a sign that our work, whether it is recognized by the Russian authorities or not, it is important for the world, it important for people in Russia,” Glushkova said.

The Center for Civil Liberties was founded in 2007 to promote human rights and democracy in Ukraine during a period of turmoil in the country.

Following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February, the group has worked to document Russian war crimes against Ukrainian civilians.

“The center is playing a pioneering role with a view to holding the guilty parties accountable for their crimes,” said Reiss-Andersen.

A representative of the center, Volodymyr Yavorskyi, said the award was important for the organization because “for many years we worked in a country that was invisible.”

“This is a surprise for us,” he told the AP. “But human rights activity is the main weapon against the war.”

US hits Iran with more sanctions in Amini death

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. on Thursday imposed more sanctions on Iranian government officials in response to the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, as protests have embroiled dozens of Iranian cities for weeks and evolved into the most widespread challenge to Iran’s leadership in years.

U.S. Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control designated seven high-ranking leaders for financial penalties due to the shutdown of Iran’s internet, repression of speech and violence inflicted on protesters and civilians. Iran’s interior and communications ministers and several law enforcement leaders were targeted for sanctions.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the sanctions demonstrate the “United States stands with the brave citizens and the brave women of Iran who right now are demonstrating to secure their basic rights.”

And Brian Nelson, Treasury’s undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, said in announcing the sanctions that “the rights to freedom of expression and of peaceful assembly are vital to guaranteeing individual liberty and dignity.”

U.S. support of freedom in Iran, however, further undermines efforts to salvage the

languishing 2015 Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, would provide Tehran with billions in sanctions relief in exchange for the agreeing to roll back its nuclear program..

How the administration can credibly side with a protest movement while hoping to strike a nuclear deal with a regime it accuses of engaging in human rights abuses is a question that has resonated through the halls of Congress.

“President Biden simply cannot offer the prospect of sanctions relief and de facto legitimize a regime that is ruthlessly gunning down its own citizens in the street,” said Marjan Keypour Greenblatt, director of a network of activists that promotes human rights in Iran and a nonresident scholar with the Middle East Institute’s Iran Program.

Amini was detained in September by the morality police, who said she didn’t properly cover her hair with the mandatory Islamic headscarf, known as the hijab. She collapsed at a police station and died three days later.

“We’re going to continue to impose further costs on the perpetrators of this violence,” White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Tuesday afternoon.

2 Russians seek asylum after reaching remote Alaska island

BY BECKY BOHRER
Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska — Two Russians who said they fled the country to avoid military service have requested asylum in the U.S. after landing in a small boat on a remote Alaska island in the Bering Sea, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski’s office said Thursday.

Karina Borger, a spokesperson for the Alaska Republican senator, said in an email that the office has been in communication with the U.S. Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection and that “the Russian nationals reported that they fled one of the coastal communities on the east coast of Russia to avoid compulsory military service.”

Thousands of Russian men have fled since President Vladimir Putin announced a mobilization to bolster Russian forces in Ukraine. While Putin said the move was aimed at calling up about 300,000 men with past military service, many Russians fear it will be broader.

Spokespersons with the U.S. Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection referred a reporter’s questions to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security public affairs office, which provided little information Thursday. The office, in a state-

ment, said the people “were transported to Anchorage for inspection, which includes a screening and vetting process, and then subsequently processed in accordance with applicable U.S. immigration laws under the Immigration and Nationality Act.”

The agency said the two Russians arrived Tuesday on a small boat. It did not provide details on where they came from, their journey or the asylum request. It was not immediately clear what kind of boat they were on.

Alaska’s senators, Republicans Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, on Thursday said the two Russians landed at a beach near the town of Gambell, an isolated Alaska Native community of about 600 people on St. Lawrence Island. Sullivan said he was alerted to the matter by a “senior community leader from the Bering Strait region” on Tuesday morning.

Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy on Wednesday, as initial details of the situation were emerging, said he did not expect a continual stream or “flotilla” of people traversing the same route. He also warned that travel in the region could be dangerous as a fall storm packing strong winds was expected.

It is unusual for someone to take this route to try to get into the U.S.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

3 men charged in \$2.6M jewelry store robbery

CA LOS ANGELES — Three men were charged Wednesday with stealing more than \$2.6 million in a brazen smash-and-grab robbery at a Beverly Hills jewelry store, federal prosecutors said.

Jimmy Lee Vernon III, 31; Laddell Tharpe, 37; and Deshon Bell, 20, all of Long Beach, were each indicted on one count each of conspiracy and interference with commerce by robbery, which carry a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison for each count, the U.S. attorney's office said in a statement.

The three are accused of driving three cars, one of them reportedly stolen, to the Beverly Hills store on March 23, where Vernon and others allegedly smashed the exterior store cases with axes, sledgehammers and crowbars and ran off with dozens of bracelets, watches, necklaces and other items.

Vernon's cellphone fell out of his sweatpants pocket during the robbery and law enforcement recovered it, authorities said.

Officer shoots armed man inside police station

IL CHICAGO — A Chicago police officer shot an armed man who entered a police station on the city's West Side "ranting" anti-law enforcement statements on Wednesday, just days after an officer shot a man who infiltrated another police facility and pointed guns at officers, a department spokesman said.

Police Superintendent David Brown said during a news conference that the man walked into the lobby of the Ogden District station shortly before 1 p.m. holding a plastic bag with what appeared to be the barrel of a gun sticking out of it.

Brown said the man was "ranting anti-police sentiments," and that when officers told him to drop the weapon, the man instead pointed it at officers, prompting approximately three of them to open fire. Brown said the man was shot at least once in the shoulder. The department said his injuries are not considered life threatening.

Bourbon tours on pace to set visitations record

KY FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Bourbon Trail is on a pace to surpass the record-high number of distillery visitations in a year, the Kentucky Distillers' Association said.

The continued rise in bourbon tourism means that distilleries along the Kentucky Bourbon Trail and Kentucky Bourbon Trail Craft Tour will likely exceed the record 1.7 million combined visits set in 2019, prior to pandemic-related shutdowns, the association said this week.



KENNETH FERRIERA, LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR/AP

Colorful courts

Players cast long shadows as they compete on the newly painted courts on Wednesday at Antelope Park in Lincoln, Neb. The Antelope Park basketball courts were recently resurfaced and repainted as a reproduction of a painting "Red Sea" by African American artist Felrath Hines.

Many of Kentucky's iconic distilleries are asking visitors to book their tours well in advance because of the popularity of the visits, it said.

Law school sends out erroneous acceptances

MA BOSTON — A Massachusetts law school says it's guilty of accidentally sending acceptance emails to thousands of former and current applicants.

The Northeastern University School of Law in a statement Wednesday blamed a "technical error" for the glitch, saying the erroneous emails went to more than 200 people who applied for admission starting next fall, as well as to nearly 4,000 former applicants, some of whom are already enrolled.

"The School of Law quickly sent a clarifying email explaining the error. Individual outreach is also taking place to applicants with concerns," the Boston school said.

Final admissions decisions will not be made until later in the academic year.

"The School of Law deeply regrets this unintended mistake and is taking steps to ensure that it will not happen in the future," the school said.

Partially treated wastewater goes in river

MI ANN ARBOR — The City of Ann Arbor says an estimated 1.38 million gallons of partially treated wastewater flowed into the Huron River during maintenance Tuesday at its

treatment plant.

The wastewater had received all treatment except disinfection, the city announced Wednesday in a news release.

The city notified the Washtenaw County Health Department and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy of the discharge, it said.

The discharge marked the second incident threatening the quality of the river water in a little more than two months.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy cited Wixom auto trim maker Tribar Manufacturing for discharging a plating solution containing hexavalent chromium into a sanitary sewer system over the weekend of July 29.

The solution ended up at a wastewater treatment facility that sends wastewater into a creek that flows into the Huron River system.

Hoax shooting calls upend school day

SC COLUMBIA — A wave of hoax emergency calls about school shootings across South Carolina sent hundreds of police officers into schools on Wednesday as scared students hid behind locked classroom doors.

The calls affected more than a dozen districts from Charleston to Greenville.

At least one 911 caller faked their caller ID information to make it seem like the call came from inside Blythewood High School, said Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott.

Lott said this information made the threat so real that he had no choice but to send waves of deputies, and to ask students and teachers to follow safety procedures.

"We had to respond the way we did," Lott said.

Other fake calls came into Burke High School in Charleston, Beaufort High School and at least four schools in Horry County on Wednesday morning.

Another wave of calls about non-existent shooters poured in throughout the day in places like Newberry, Greenville, Chester, Lancaster, Greenwood and other locations around the state, officials said.

No arrests were made, but the FBI and State Law Enforcement Division are investigating.

5 workers charged with defrauding programs

TN MEMPHIS — Five current or former Internal Revenue Service workers have been charged with fraud for illegally getting money from federal COVID-19 relief programs and using a total of \$1 million for luxury items and personal trips, prosecutors said.

The U.S. attorney's office in Memphis said Tuesday that the five have been charged with wire fraud after they filed fake applications for the Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, which were part of a federal stimulus package tied to the pandemic response.

The five defendants then individually used the funds to pay for a Mercedes-Benz car, manicures,

massages, luxury clothing, jewelry, a Gucci bag and Gucci clothing, and trips to Las Vegas, prosecutors said.

Three of the IRS workers already have pleaded guilty to wire fraud, which carries a sentence of up to 20 years in prison. Four are from the Memphis area, and another lives in Olive Branch, Miss., prosecutors said.

Fire chief and volunteer firefighter killed in crash

TX DALHART — The chief of a Texas Panhandle volunteer fire department and one of his firefighters were killed when a tractor-trailer rig slammed head-on into their department sport utility vehicle, officials said Tuesday.

The crash happened at about 8:40 p.m. Tuesday on U.S. 54 northeast of Dalhart, about 70 miles northwest of Amarillo, the Texas Department of Public Safety said in a statement.

The Dalhart Volunteer Fire Department SUV was returning to the station from a call when the tractor-trailer traveling the opposite direction attempted a pass on the two-lane road and slammed into the SUV, killing Fire Chief Curtis Brown, 51, and Firefighter Brendan Torres, 19, DPS Sgt. Cindy Barkley said.

The truck driver was taken to a hospital with unknown injuries, Barkley said.

The investigation was ongoing, she said.

Dalhart is about 30 miles south of the Oklahoma border.

MOVIES

A month's worth of monsters

A list of 31 key horror movies from the past 31 years worth watching

By ADAM GRAHAM
The Detroit News

The air is crispy, the leaves are turning and jack-o'-lanterns are starting to show up on front porches. October has arrived, kiddos. Which means horror movie season is officially here. It's the best time of the year to sit back with a scary movie, or a whole lot of them, the jumpier the better. But without checking off the tried-and-true same-olds — "Halloween," "A Nightmare on Elm Street," etc. — we wanted to do a list of horror movies with some strict parameters: one defining horror movie per year for each of the last 31 years. One for each day of the month. Since we're a week into October, feel free to make it a truly spooky one by watching one film per night with a few weekends of double features. Some years are stronger than others, and some favorites didn't make the cut ("Cabin Fever," we are truly sorry!), but what follows is a very worthy and diverse list of three decades of killer movies.

'The Silence of the Lambs' (1991)

Hello, Clarice. The only best picture winner on this list — because it's the only horror movie to ever win top honors at the Oscars — Jonathan Demme's serial killer classic is such a prestigious affair that some don't consider it a horror movie at all. But it most definitely is one, and the fact that it's still giving people the willies all these years later is a testament to that. To see it once is to never forget it. Available on Paramount+.

'Candyman' (1992)

Look, it's probably a safe bet that nothing's going to happen if you say his name into a mirror five times, but who's willing to take the risk? "Candyman" spawned a couple of sequels as well as a somewhat muddled 2021 follow-up, but in this case it's best to stick with the original, which follows the urban legend of a spirit who kills anyone who speaks his name five times into a mirror, and which made Tony Todd a horror movie legend. Available on Peacock.

'The Nightmare Before Christmas' (1993)

"Horror" may be a stretch here, but it's definitely a Halloween movie, and it's long been considered a seasonal rite of passage. It follows Jack Skellington, the "Pumpkin King" of Halloween Town, who throws elaborate Halloween celebrations which are rendered beautifully in director Henry Selick's stop-motion animation. When people talk about celebrating Halloween on Christmas (or living like Jack and Sally), this is their reference point. Available on Disney+.

'The Crow' (1994)

We try not to talk about Devil's Night in Detroit anymore, but it was immortalized on screen in Alex Proyas' adaptation of the popular comic book, which follows a



DIMENSION FILMS/The Weinstein Company

Neve Campbell stars in the "Scream" horror franchise, which rewrote the rules for scary movies as soon as the first one came out in 1996.

murdered musician who comes back to life to avenge the death of his bride-to-be. Star Brandon Lee (son of Bruce) was accidentally killed during the film's production, which has only added to the lore surrounding the film, a mystique which is all its own. Available on Paramount+.

'Demon Knight' (1995)

Back in the '90s, HBO's "Tales from the Crypt" was a powerful enough brand that horror titles were released under its banner. "Demon Knight" was the first ("Bordello of Blood" would follow), and it traces the Collector (Billy Zane), who wants to initiate a world-ending apocalypse by attaining an ancient key from a hardened ex-soldier (William Sadler). It's campy, bloody fun, bookended by appearances by the Crypt Keeper himself. Available on Peacock.

'Scream' (1996)

The one that rewrote all the rules going forward. Wes Craven's "Scream" acknowledged all the slasher movie clichés that everyone already knew, but by putting them up on screen and playing them out through characters that had grown up seeing all the same movies the audience had, it created a through-the-looking-glass world where horror movies became self-aware. Beyond that, it stands on its own as a damn good horror movie. Available on Paramount+.

'Event Horizon' (1997)

"In space, no one can hear you scream." That was the tagline for 1979's "Alien," but it also applies to this slice of sci-fi horror insanity, about a spaceship that goes missing under mysterious conditions and eventually turns into something that resembles "The Shining" at zero gravity. Sam Neill returned to the "Jurassic Park" franchise earlier this year, but this is the one horror movie fans remember him for, and are still spooked out by. Available on Paramount+.

'Blade' (1998)

In the '90s, there was no Marvel Cinematic Universe. But there was "Blade," an adaptation of the Marvel comic, which follows the world's coolest vampire hunter, played by Wesley Snipes at his most badass. "Blade" is a throwback to when comic book movies weren't such serious business, and didn't have to prop up the entirety of Hollywood's bottom line. It's a gloriously bloody romp, with Stephen Dorff having a ball in the villain role. Available for rental.

'The Blair Witch Project' (1999)

You kinda had to be there, when the hype and the marketing had people believing what they were watching was real. We were so naive! But beyond the buzz, "The Blair Witch Project" is an important piece of the Hollywood puzzle, pioneering the "found footage" genre that became

a new mode of storytelling and a fresh way to mess with people's heads. And it's still pretty scary. Available on Amazon Prime Video, HBO Max, Hulu, Peacock and Paramount+.

'Final Destination' (2000)

It's like the board game "Mouse Trap" but in horror movie form, where one small action leads to another and suddenly someone is being impaled. (It's probably not what Rube Goldberg had in mind with his machines, but it's what we got.) "Final Destination" led to a series of sequels, best known for their elaborate death sequences (the car accident in "Final Destination 2" is a series high) and the creepy presence of Tony Todd. This one is how it all began. Available on Starz.

'Jeepers Creepers' (2001)

Freddy, Jason and Michael Myers were all running out of gas once the '00s got here, and it was time for some fresh blood in the horror game. Enter the Creeper, a demonic winged creature who pops up every 23rd spring to feed on humans for 23 days. Um, OK? "Jeepers Creepers" spawned a handful of follow-ups — including last month's "Jeepers Creepers: Reborn" — but ultimately never threatened the legacies of Freddy, Jason or Mr. Myers. Available for rental.

'The Ring' (2002)

The legend of a cursed videotape (remember VCRs?) flipped fans inside out when "The Ring" became a sensation upon its arrival 20 years ago. Starring Naomi Watts and Martin Henderson, "The Ring" traced the story of a mysterious tape that would kill whomever watched it seven days later. A remake of a Japanese horror title, it caused a wave of J-horror remakes, including "The Grudge," which entered the chat two years later. Available on Paramount+ and Shudder.

'House of 1000 Corpses' (2003)

Rob Zombie's debut film is his entire brain spilled onto the screen, and he pays homage to monster movies, slashers, haunted houses, the 1950s, cross-cuts, tourist traps, demented clowns, the 1960s, Slim Whitman, the 1970s, the very concept of evil and his wife, Sheri Moon Zombie. He'd go on to create the leaner, meaner and much more disturbing "The Devil's Rejects," but that movie removes all the campy fun he built in his original "House." Available on HBO Max.

'Saw' (2004)

Before the series became shorthand for dreary torture porn, the original "Saw" presented a rather ingenious concept: Two men awaken to find themselves chained to pipes inside a dingy basement, and the only way to free

SEE MONSTERS ON PAGE 13

MOVIES

Monsters: List includes several franchise favorites

FROM PAGE 12

themselves involves a saw, and it's not quite as easy as cutting the chain. The series is still going — "Saw 10," yes, 10, lands next year — but for a clever good time, the original stands on its own, and still holds up. Available for rental.

'The Descent' (2005)

Anyone with a fear of enclosed spaces need not apply. "The Descent" follows a group of women on a spelunking adventure where they traverse some intensely tight spaces; it's enough to rack your nerves and trigger your claustrophobia fears, and that's before the cave-dwelling troll monsters even show up. A scary movie that is on the short list of movies that are really, truly scary. Available on Amazon Prime Video and Hulu.

'Slither' (2006)

James Gunn would later bring his love of nostalgia and his twisted sense of humor to the mega-budget "Guardians of the Galaxy" and "Suicide Squad" franchises, but his debut outing follows an alien parasite that infects a South Carolina town, and it plays out as a sicko homage to B-movie gore with Gunn willfully, gleefully pushing the limits of good taste. With Nathan Fillion, Elizabeth Banks and Michael Rooker. Available on Peacock.

'Paranormal Activity' (2007)

Picking up where "The Blair Witch Project" left off, "Paranormal Activity" also utilized low-budget visuals and smart marketing to trick people into thinking what they were watching was real. It worked, and a slew of sequels followed, but the domestic horror of the original, with its security cam-style presentation, best captured the fear that something strange and unexplained was happening inside your house. Available on Paramount+, Amazon Prime Video and Epix.

'The Strangers' (2008)

A couple is away for the weekend when they receive a knock on the door and someone asking if Tamra is home. Neither of their names is Tamra. So begins this terrifying nightmare, with a trio of masked crazies toying with the houseguests for no reason in particular, but simply because they can. It's their lack of motivation that makes this one so frightening, and the idea that horror could be lurking in the darkness, just because. Available for rental.

'Drag Me to Hell' (2009)

After cranking out three "Spider-Man" films (and setting the course for Hollywood for the next two decades), Sam Raimi went back to his "Evil Dead" roots and made an all-killer, no-filler horror ride that moves like a speed demon and never looks back. Alison Lohman is put through hell as a loan officer who denies an elderly woman an extension on her mortgage and pays the price, and Raimi proves that no one does horror quite like him. Available on Peacock.

'Insidious' (2010)

Director James Wan ("Saw") helms this supernatural haunted house thriller that led to three sequels, as well a fourth, due next year. Three years later, Wan re-teamed with his "Insidious" star Patrick



UNITED ARTISTS, ZUMA PRESS/TNS

"Jeepers Creepers," released in 2001, brought fresh blood to the horror genre.

Wilson and kicked off "The Conjuring" and its affiliated universe, which has spawned eight films. All horror roads lead through Wan, and "Insidious" set the template for much of what horror would look like for the next 10-plus years. Available on Netflix and Hulu.

'The Cabin in the Woods' (2011)

Like "Scream" before it, "The Cabin in the Woods" knows that horror viewers have seen it all before. So writer-director Drew Goddard (who co-wrote the screenplay with his "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" boss, Joss Whedon) offers up a house of mirrors and a commentary on horror movies and the buttons they push inside of us. It's a clever (maybe too clever?) journey that dines on its big "gotcha!" moment. Available for rental.

'Sinister' (2012)

Star Ethan Hawke and director Scott Derrickson, who also teamed up for this year's "The Black Phone," fortified their relationship on this twisted horror tale, which contains some certifiably disturbing scares in the form of old Super 8 movies. Hawke plays an author who goes too far in his quest to write his masterpiece, moving his family into a home where a horrific tragedy occurred years earlier, disrupting a pagan deity in the process. Whoops. Available on Peacock.

'The Purge' (2013)

What if for one night a year, all crime was legal? It's a simple premise, and it's rich enough that it has (so far) led to five films and a TV series. Ethan Hawke, again, leads the cast as a man trying to keep his family safe while chaos rages outdoors, in the government-sanctioned Purge, a way for citizens to blow off some steam by partaking in a single night of anarchy. The premise is better than the execution, but at least it's got great masks. Available on HBO Max.

'It Follows' (2014)

Writer-director David Robert Mitchell shot this unnerving horror thriller in and around Detroit. Maika Monroe plays a teenager who is beset with a curse after she has sex, and it's on her to pass it on to someone else, solidifying the long-standing ties between sex and death in horror



TNS

Tim Burton's 1993 "The Nightmare Before Christmas" is a more child-friendly addition to the Halloween movie list.

movies in an inventive, malevolent way. Available on Netflix.

'The Witch' (2015)

This folk-horror tale, the debut film from writer-director Robert Eggers ("The Lighthouse," "The Northman"), played the film festival circuit in 2015 before going wide in 2016. It marks the feature film debut of Anya Taylor-Joy, who stars as the daughter of settlers in New England in the 1630s whose baby is stolen by a witch. It strikes a wicked spell, all the more impressive by Eggers' commitment to period language, mood and detail. Available on Paramount+.

'Don't Breathe' (2016)

Detroit, again. A couple of reckless kids break into the wrong home when they try to rob a blind Gulf War veteran (Stephen Lang) expecting an easy score. Not so fast. Director Fede Alvarez, who also directed 2013's "Evil Dead" remake, ratchets up the scares of this fast-paced thrill ride, which sets its pieces in motion and lets them rip. Skip the 2021 sequel, but the original packs a serious punch. Available for rental.

'Get Out' (2017)

Jordan Peele's "social horror" experi-

ment nearly joined "Silence of the Lambs" in Best Picture winner territory (it was nominated, but lost to "The Shape of Water"), but it went on to make history in other ways. Chris (Daniel Kaluuya) goes off to visit the parents of his girlfriend (Allison Williams) for the weekend, and things go south from there. "Get Out" cleverly uses a horror playbook for social commentary, and makes its point loud and clear. Available for rental.

'Hereditary' (2018)

The great Toni Collette shines in writer-director Ari Aster's grim horror fable, about a family dealing with the unsettling secrets of their ancestry. Well, maybe shines isn't the right word; it's more like Collette rattles the screen and everything around her to their very foundations. "Hereditary" is the kind of movie that imprints itself on viewers' brains after one viewing, and going back for seconds is not for the faint of heart. Available on Paramount+ and Showtime.

'Doctor Sleep' (2019)

This sequel to "The Shining" stars Ewan McGregor as Danny Torrance, all grown up, and still dealing with that trip to the Overlook Hotel all those years ago. Based on Stephen King's 2013 novel, "Doctor Sleep" doesn't sound like a great idea, but writer-director Mike Flanagan — a King regular — fashions the film into a tale of trauma that stands on its own, right up until it plays a few too many of "The Shining's" greatest hits. Still, worth a watch. Available for rental.

'The Invisible Man' (2020)

How to update a horror classic for modern times and jaded audiences? Follow this blueprint. Writer-director Leigh Whannell — a key player in the "Saw" and "Insidious" franchises — brings the story into the #MeToo present, with themes of domestic and psychological abuse, alongside tech gurus run amok. Elisabeth Moss gives an intense, emotionally wrought performance that gives the movie the grounding in reality it needs. See it. Available for rental.

'Malignant' (2021)

James Wan, again, breaks off from his multiple film universes with this one-off that is truly bananas and needs to be seen to be believed. Annabelle Wallis is a pregnant woman who suffers intense physical abuse at the hands of her husband, and the pain from her mysterious past comes back to manifest itself in a wild way. Stick this one out, because you don't know where it's headed, and once you find out, you'll be glad you did. Available on HBO Max.

And as a bonus, here's one that's new this year:

'X' (2022)

A crew sets out to make a porno movie on a Texas ranch in the 1970s, and how were they to know the property owners are a bit, shall we say, off? Ti West pays homage to horror standbys such as "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" in this campy, crazy thrill ride, which stars Mia Goth in a double role which she built on in "Pearl," a prequel to "X" which is currently in theaters and makes for a glorious double-feature companion. Available for rental.

VIDEO GAMES

Mario + Rabbids is back

Sparks of Hope improves on Kingdom Battle's combat system and its level design

By GIESON CACHO
Bay Area News Group

Mario + Rabbids: Kingdom Battle was one of those games that I never wanted to end. The surprisingly fantastic title from Ubisoft Milan and Ubisoft Paris put a whimsical and flexible bent on a strategy genre that was stubbornly rigid and punishing.

It was a breath of fresh air that adeptly combined the chaos sown by the Rabbids and the smart gameplay of Mario games into a project that worked cohesively on all fronts. Every encounter could be approached in different ways using novel combinations of characters and strategies.



For the sequel, Mario + Rabbids: Sparks of Hope, I wouldn't have blamed the teams for

wanting to keep the same mechanics while broadening the level and scenario design. The formula they came up with was straightforward, and had plenty of avenues to explore. Thankfully, the Ubisoft developers went in a different direction.

They kept many of the same concepts from the original. Combo of attacks is still there. Players can switch out among three team members at any time so they can layer movement and attacks. Players can dash to hurt enemies and run to an ally for a Team Jump to reach longer distances.

A more visceral game

The differences lie in the details. The developers removed the grid system and now give players free rein to move around within a character's set parameters. They can run however they want in that defined space, and they'll have one dash and one Team Jump to use along with two action points. The big caveat for this freedom is that an attack will end any chance of movement.

This new range of movement adds a more visceral element to Sparks of Hope as players no longer have to point and click different elements to see how their turn will go. They can tilt the controller sticks and see their characters scramble across the screen.

That dynamism flows to other elements of the campaign. Players will recognize more foes from the Mushroom Kingdom. Goombas will soldier forward and the best way for Mario and company to eliminate



Nintendo photos

Like in the original Mario + Rabbids game, players can switch out among three team members (from a total of nine heroes) at any time so they can layer movement and attacks.

them is to dash at them in a straight line. (Don't do what I did initially and try to fire at each individual one. That's a waste of a turn.)

Players will also find Bob-ombs that they can knock down with a dash and pick up to toss at foes. Players have to do it quickly because they will explode if left alone too long. This again creates a new element that adds a dash of real-time mechanics to the turn-based gameplay.

Changing levels and enemies

Another part of this equation comes in the form of level design: Sparks of Hope has levels that are less static and ones that are more likely to change. A switch brings up a new section of a stage that players will have to account for on the fly. Portals will whisk in new enemies to catch players off guard. The stages will keep players on their toes as Cursa (the new Big Bad of this entry) is spreading its Darkness energy around the galaxy, and Mario and company will have to find a way to clean it up and stop her.

These surprises amp up the difficulty slightly, and that means it's best for newcomers to have experience with the original game before jumping into this one. Sparks of Hope doesn't do as great a job teaching players the mechanics as the original.

The other big change comes in the characters and construction of the teams. The sequel gives Mario's crew and the Rabbids more defined roles. Mario is the all-arounder with an overwatch type technique that lets him strike at enemies as they move around the battlefield. He also wields two blasters. On the other hand, Rabbid Mario is a brawler that needs to be up close to attack. His technique is called the Counter Blow and allows him to attack enemies that hit him up close.

The wild card in all this are the Sparks, which are a combination of Rabbids and Lumas. They each have their own distinct abilities that augment a character. Because players can give a character up to two Sparks, they create more strategic depth as some will mesh better with the more defined roles of the characters.

The Sparks give an elemental boost to weapons or allow characters to be stealthy and remain undetected during ambushes.



In Mario + Rabbids: Sparks of Hope, the characters have more defined roles. Mario, for example, has an overwatch technique that lets him strike at enemies as they move around the battlefield. He also can wield two blasters.



Mario + Rabbids: Sparks of Hope levels are less static and more likely to change than the levels in Kingdom Battlefield. Portals and switches help keep players on their toes.

They can be powered up by feeding them Star Bits that enemies drop when defeated, improving their passive powerups such as damage boosts or physical protection.

When used with a teammate's special ability, Sparks open up more paths for damaging combos. For example, players can give Pyrostar to Luigi in order to burn enemies with his Sharpshooter bow. If players set Mario's Hero Sight ability beforehand, the scorched enemy could

run around and trigger Mario's overwatch ability, knocking the foe off the map.

With plenty of Lumas to pair with heroes, players will have more combinations than ever to test out. It's just the tip of the iceberg for Sparks of Hope, which is already shaping up to a strategy-game fan's dream that arrives on the Nintendo Switch on Oct. 20.

Platform: Nintendo Switch

Online: ubisoft.com/en-us/game/mario-rabbids/sparks-of-hope

HEALTH & FITNESS

BY EVE GLICKSMAN
Special to The Washington Post

The man had promised his betrothed daughter he would walk her down the aisle. So, at the recommendation of the doctor treating him for advanced lung cancer, the wedding date was moved up by two months.

“He was a man of his word,” says Charles von Gunten, the oncologist treating him. It took enormous energy for his bed-bound patient to dress for the occasion, held in a hospice facility, and accompany his daughter down the aisle in a wheelchair, von Gunten says.

That evening, after the reception, the father of the bride died.

You may have heard a version of this story before. A parent hangs on to life until a child arrives. Or against all medical odds, someone lives to see the birth of a grandchild. Or family members sit by the bedside for two days and the loved one dies when they step out for lunch.

Can people choose the moment they die?

Lizzy Miles, a hospice social worker in Columbus, Ohio, sees it all the time. Miles’ own great aunt died “the very second her chaplain walked in the room,” she said. Her great aunt, of strong faith, had been nonresponsive and inexplicably alive for days. In hindsight, the family believes she was waiting for the chaplain.

“All these things happen [often] enough that those who work in the field aren’t surprised,” says von Gunten, a pioneer of palliative medicine in the 1990s and editor in chief of the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*.

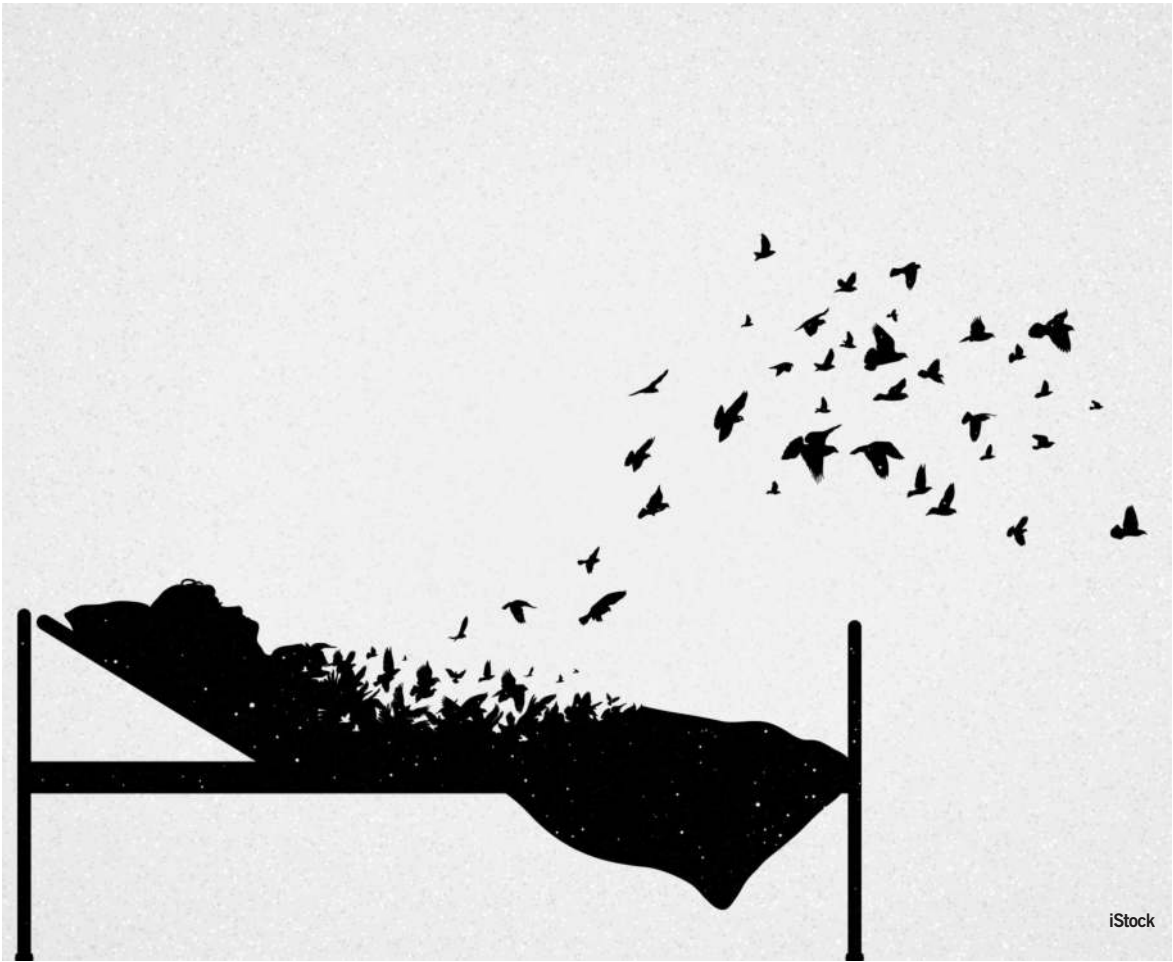
One theory is that a hormonal stimulus may enable us to hang on until a special event or loved one’s arrival. “What people will do for one another in the name of love is extraordinary,” von Gunten says. “I think of it as a gift when it happens.”

But there are limits. To be clear, no scientific evidence exists that we can control the moment we die. If we could will our death, there would be no right-to-die movement or legal battles over euthanasia.

Felice LePar, an oncologist with Alliance Cancer Specialists in the Philadelphia area, also believes that people may have some sway over the timing of their death. LePar cautions families that patients sometimes die quickly after deciding on hospice, despite no change in their medical condition.

“We can’t fully understand it,” she says. “Some people decide that they are just done living.” Other times, when reviewing lab tests, she wonders how a patient can still be alive.

“My rule of thumb is that when someone says ‘I think it’s soon,’ I listen,” von Gunten says. “They tend to know more than I do”



Choosing when we die

Stories of the dying holding on until a loved one reaches or leaves the room makes some wonder if we have control over our final moments

about when they’re dying.

Few scientific studies have explored our last moments of life. Protectiveness and respect for the deceased figure into that. Dying is seen as sacred across all cultures, and getting approval from ethical review boards for such studies is difficult, von Gunten says.

Questions about potential harm to participants and intrusiveness arise, Miles adds.

“Do we bother people while they’re dying, to ask questions?”

whom Caswell interviewed during her research believe we have some measure of control over death after watching many patients die after loved ones left the room.

“Hearing voices may be what was holding them on to life,” Caswell says. When the family leaves, they are able to relax and let go, she says.

Waiting to die until people leave can be a protective gesture to spare loved ones who might not cope well, Miles says.

behind than about themselves. They do what they think their family wants, she says, and do not want to be a burden.

That’s why standard advice often includes giving permission to a loved one to die. “That reassurance can help people on both sides let go in peace,” von Gunten says.

“‘You’ve done what you need to do. We’re all right,’” Caswell suggests as an example of what to say.

Miles sees it differently, however: “If it is fear that is keeping a patient lingering, telling them it’s okay to let go may put unnecessary pressure on them to go before they are ready.”

How much do people in a non-responsive state know about what’s going on around them? Researchers used electroencephalography to measure the brain response of dying hospice patients to voices and sounds, before and after they lost consciousness.

The study found evidence of the brain responding to sound stimuli, supporting the idea that patients may know when someone is in the room. The researchers could not confirm, however, whether the patients understood what they were hearing or were able to identify voices.

Hospice workers refrain from saying people are “unconscious,” preferring the term “nonrespon-

sive,” Miles writes on her blog. Even actively dying patients seem to have an awareness of what’s going on in the room, she says. Minute gestures — the fluttering of an eye, a swallow or a head turn — can be a response. One patient started breathing along with the music she put on, “almost like he was conducting,” she recalls.

I am convinced my father could hear me while dying despite his deep-sleep appearance. He squeezed my hand once and there was an upward head tilt when I said I’d take care of my mother. Then, a funny, bemused lift of the brow when I said I would write about him.

More convincingly, I had been updating my father regularly on my brother and sister-in-law’s journey to be there as I received word in texts — the flight delay, rental car line, traffic. Within 15 minutes of my brother’s arrival, my father died after holding on, nonresponsive, for 16 hours.

“It’s impossible to know, let alone prove or disprove,” says Sam Parnia, about whether we can influence our time of death. Parnia is an expert in the scientific study of cardiac arrest and death and associate professor of critical care medicine at New York University Grossman School of Medicine.

What Parnia is sure about from his research is that death is not a fixed moment and that it is not well understood. Parnia has studied thousands of testimonies from people who were resuscitated after being considered dead. They consistently described feeling conscious, lucid and aware of what was going on after their heart stopped.

“Calling the time of death when the heart stops beating and the body and brain stop functioning reflects social convention rather than the science of what is happening to the body biologically,” Parnia says. “Studies have shown categorically that our brain cells do not die for many hours after we die.”

Von Gunten advises people to behave around the dying the same as always — not being afraid they will break if you hold them, for example.

“You don’t have to keep children quiet and lights don’t have to be dimmed,” he says. “Whispering outside the door is the worst thing you can do if that person always wants to know everything.”

Ideally, the dying person will have talked to family and friends about their end-of-life wishes beforehand, Caswell says. Who do you want at your bedside, or do you prefer solitude? Do you want to listen to a cherished symphony during your last hours, or have someone read a favorite poem? It’s a hard conversation to have, but everyone benefits from that openness, Caswell says.



Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Laura Law, Chief Operating Officer
Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Europe commander
John Rodriguez, Europe chief of staff
Lt. Col. Michael Kerschbaum, Pacific commander
Michael Ryan, Pacific chief of staff

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com

Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
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 Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.erik@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

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

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

CIRCULATION

Mideast
Kevin R. Miller, Circulation Manager
miller.kevin@stripes.com
xsscirculation@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9136; DSN (314)583-9136

Europe
Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager
lewis.karen@stripes.com
memberservices@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9090; DSN (314)583.9090

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

Ernie Gates

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, 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.

OPINION

Shut down foreign dictator lobbying racket

By JOSH ROGIN
The Washington Post

Shilling for anti-U.S. dictatorships is one of Washington’s most time-honored bipartisan traditions. But what if getting paid to lobby for the United States’ enemies — who happen to be the world’s worst tyrants — were no longer allowed? A bill pending in Congress is bringing Republicans and Democrats together in an effort to make immoral financial arrangements with these regimes illegal as well.

When foreign dictatorships try to affect U.S. politics and policy, they often hire former U.S. officials and lawmakers to launder and promote their agenda by petitioning our government, Congress and society writ large. Under the current rules, so long as Americans who are advocating for foreign governments, politicians and corporations disclose these activities, they can legally be paid to work against America’s interests. The theory underpinning the current system was that transparency would lead to accountability, which would in turn protect our democracy.

That system is clearly failing. President Donald Trump’s campaign chairman, one of his top lawyers and his first national security adviser have all been credibly accused of violating the foreign agent registration rules. Tony Podesta, the brother of President Bill Clinton’s chief of staff (who is also a current adviser to President Joe Biden) reportedly was paid \$1 million to lobby the Biden administration on behalf of the sanctioned Chinese tech company Huawei. Former GOP House Speaker John Boehner works for a lobbying firm that represents the Chinese Embassy. Former Republican Sen. David Vitter lobbies for a Chinese company called Hikvision that has been accused by the U.S. government of complicity in genocide — as did former senior Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer, until she got embarrassed and quit.

Pushing the agenda of the United States’ ad-

versaries is big business in Washington. The huge scale of these relationships became painfully clear after Russian President Vladimir Putin attacked Ukraine, when the U.S. gov-ernment expanded sanctions against Putin’s cronies, sending the D.C. lobbying industry scrambling. Firms have been taking millions from Russian oligarchs, Russian banks or Chinese tech companies to help their clients navigate the risk of U.S. sanctions, try to shape U.S. laws and influence U.S. public opinion.

These U.S. firms will often defend their actions as legal and protected on free-speech grounds. Nobody is arguing that exercising free speech, even on behalf of an anti-U.S. dictatorship, should be illegal. But neither do Americans have an explicit right to profit from working for the United States’ enemies.

That’s the thinking behind the Stop Helping Adversaries Manipulate Everything Act, also known as the Shame Act. The title harks back to a time in Washington when lobbyists had at least a little shame and would stop taking money from despots when they committed atrocities. But if the lobbying industry once had any shame, those days are long gone.

The new bipartisan bill would bar any American from taking money from any foreign adversary of the U.S. or any of their agents for lobbying, public relations or representational services of any kind. This would also ban Americans from being paid to represent any foreign company that is either directly or indirectly controlled by a foreign adversary. The legislation would amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act and the Lobbying Disclosure Act and would apply to all countries on the Commerce Department’s official list of “foreign adversaries,” which currently includes China (including Hong Kong), Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba and Venezuela.

Introduced Tuesday, the bill has two Republican and two Democratic co-sponsors: Republican Study Committee Chairman Jim Banks, of Indiana; Rep. Steve Cohen, D-Tenn.;

Iran’s ruler faces a formidable new foe – schoolgirls

By BOBBY GHOSH
Bloomberg Opinion

A week ago, I worried that the anti-regime demonstrations in Iran might falter if the mostly young protesters didn’t get some help from grown-ups — like the trade unions, say, or the so-called moderate elements within the theocratic state. I reckoned it would take the participation of groups of that stature to rattle Ali Khamenei, the Islamic Republic’s ruthless supreme leader.

The adults have not yet risen to the occasion, but the tyrant and his theocrats have been confronted and confounded by an unexpected constituency: schoolgirls. They represent a new kind of challenge for a regime that usually deals with dissent by licensing its security forces to use torture and murder. Does Khamenei dare turn his thugs on children?

Now in its third week, the protests have evolved from an expression of disgust over the death of a young woman, Mahsa Amini, in the custody of Iran’s notorious morality police. Women continue to dominate the demonstrations, but they are no longer content merely to burn their hijabs, or headscarves, in symbolic opposition to the regime’s restrictive dress code. Now, they are calling for the dismantling of the entire theocratic edifice of the state.

Their ranks have been joined by schoolgirls, who are likewise calling for the downfall of the

regime. Video clips of girls confronting teachers and officials in classrooms are proliferating on social media, despite the government’s efforts to impose a communications blackout. In some clips, the kids can be heard chanting “Death to the dictator,” and stomping on images of Khamenei — and even of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic.

Even for a regime practiced in the dark arts of dissimulation, these videos are hard to reconcile with its usual dismissal of dissent as the work of foreign actors. Per usual, Khamenei is blaming the protests on the U.S. and Israel, but he will struggle to explain how they managed to reach into the classrooms, past the minders appointed by the state, to pollute the minds of children.

Demonstrations have also spread across university campuses across the country, accelerating after a bloody crackdown on protesters at Tehran’s Sharif University. Beating down on college students is practically routine for the regime, however, and Iranians are all too familiar with images of carnage in the campus, especially from 1999, when Khamenei unleashed the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Basij militia against students protesting censorship.

But the supreme leader has never set his attack dogs upon schoolkids — not yet, anyway. Will the IRGC and Basij balk at clubbing chil-

Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C.; and Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich.

“D.C. lobbying firms are making millions from our greatest adversaries,” Banks told me. “The American people are taking it from all sides. Nobody is sticking up for them, they’re fed up, and this has got to stop. It’s time to drain the swamp.”

The RSC, a group of more than 150 conservative members, joined with several other organizations to support the bill, including the Helsinki Commission (of which Cohen is co-chairman), the watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley’s advocacy group Stand for America, Transparency International and the Syrian Emergency Task Force.

A big part of the foreign malign influence problem is that much of this work is directed at influencing the American people, Cohen told me, through promotion of propaganda and disinformation. The legislation would also apply to celebrities who push the propaganda of foreign adversaries.

“It’s important that we deter all Americans from doing the work of U.S. adversaries,” Cohen said. “We must disincentivize this type of work, and that begins with cutting off the money.”

These former officials and celebrities could still support whatever tyrant they like — they just wouldn’t be able to charge for it anymore.

Everyone knows why this bill faces an uphill climb in Congress: because so many lawmakers plan to shill for dictators after leaving office. But everyone also knows that containing despotic influence in Washington is the right thing to do — and that it is long overdue. We have to drain the foreign dictator influence swamp, once and for all.

Josh Rogin is a columnist for the Global Opinions section of The Washington Post. He is the author of the book “Chaos Under Heaven: Trump, Xi, and the Battle for the 21st Century.”

dren into submission, especially given the risk that their actions will be caught on cellphone cameras and shown to the wide world?

They must know that the world is paying attention. In the U.S., Canada, Europe and Turkey, there have been rallies in solidarity with the Iranian protesters. Their signature slogan — “Women! Life! Freedom!” — has been taken up in Afghanistan, where women are fighting their own battles against misogynistic rulers.

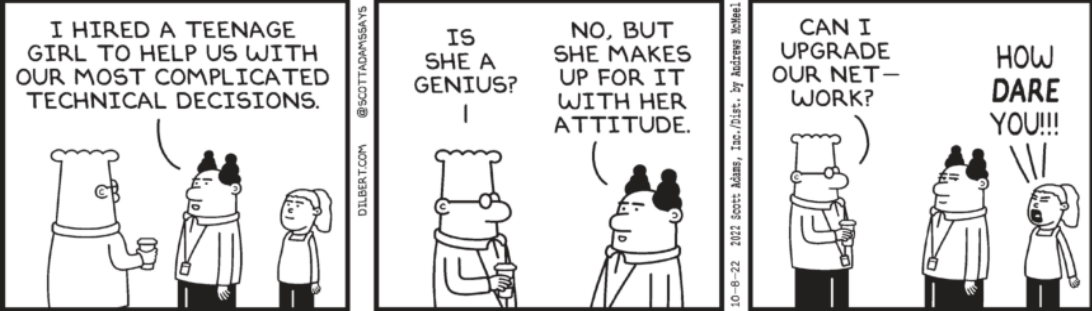
World leaders are watching, too. Having already announced sanctions against the morality police and other regime officials, President Joe Biden has announced he will impose “further costs” on those responsible for violence against the protesters. The European Union is considering sanctions requests from Germany, France, Denmark, Spain, Italy and the Czech Republic.

Any action against schoolkids will undoubtedly invite harsher penalties, such as expulsion of diplomats and barring Iran from international forums. Even allies like China and Russia will find it hard to back Tehran in those circumstances. But perhaps most worrying for the supreme leader is that a crackdown against children might finally bring the grown-ups into the streets. The kids are a problem Khamenei can’t easily solve.

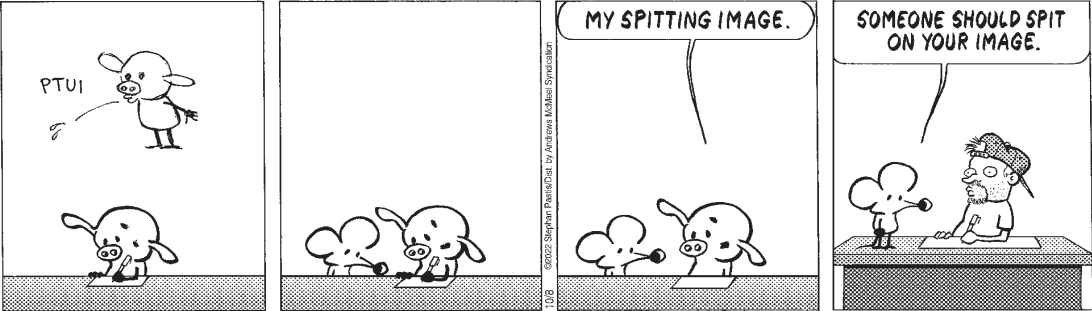
Frazz



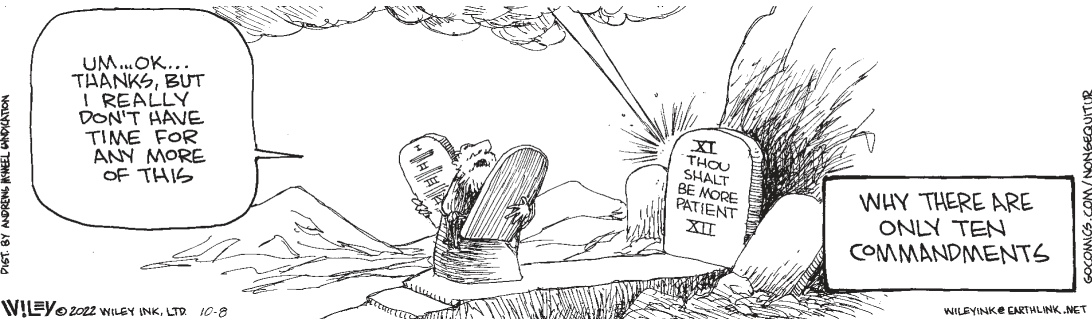
Dilbert



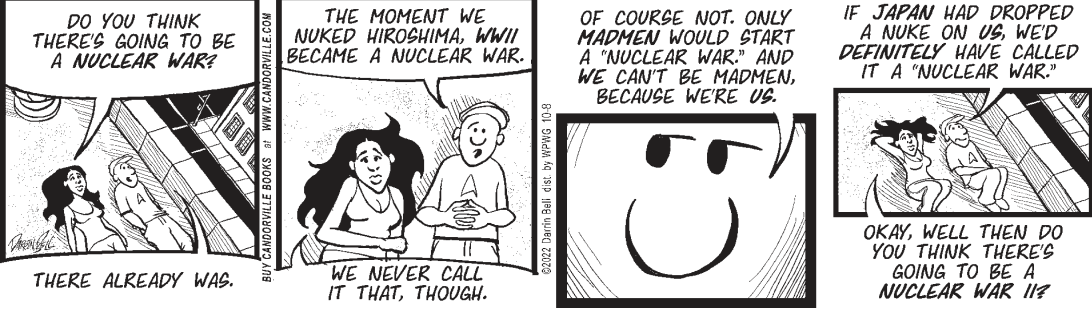
Pearls Before Swine



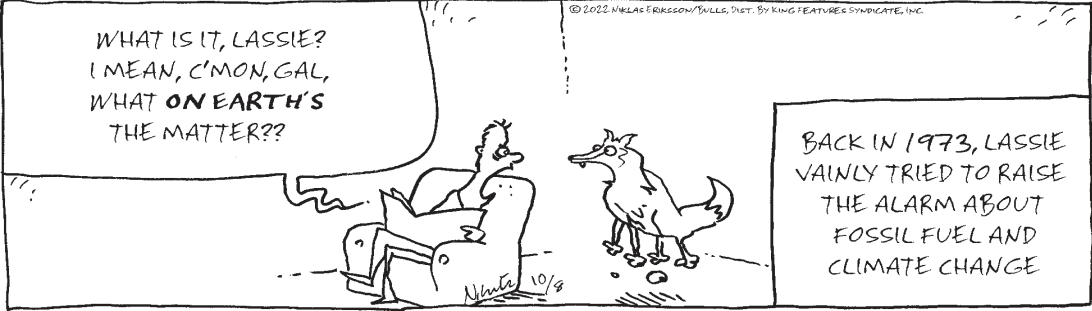
Non Sequitur



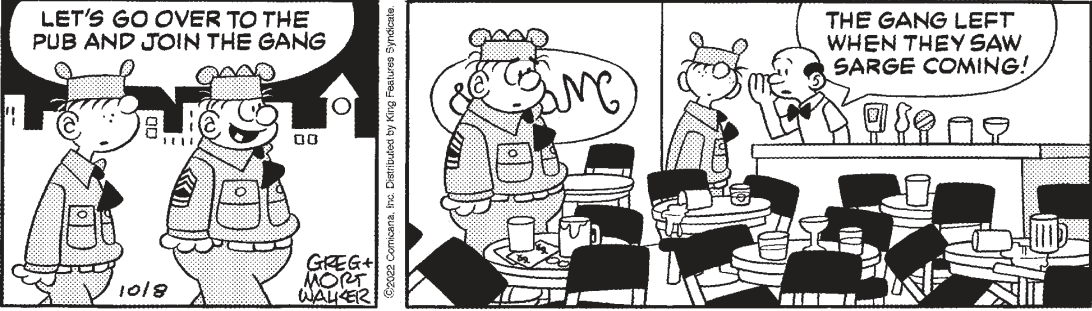
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
18					19				20			
			21	22			23	24				
25	26	27					28			29	30	31
32							33					
34					35		36					
			37				38					
39	40	41			42	43			44	45	46	47
48					49				50			
51					52				53			
54					55				56			

- ACROSS
- 1 Sketch

5 Old name for France

9 Microwave

12 Top-of-the-line

13 Golden Rule preposition

14 "As I see it," in a text

15 Lady of Spain

16 Teen fave

17 Stannum

18 Out of control

19 Pool unit

20 Faction

21 Humorist

23 Follower (Suff.)

25 Cerebral

28 Car safety feature

32 Tree bumps

33 Unfettered

34 Closed tight

36 Outlaw

37 Summer in Paris

38 Flavor enhancer, for short

39 Aspic shaper

42 Pair

44 Now, in a memo

48 Rock producer Brian

49 TV's Griffin

50 Painter Magritte
- 51 Thesaurus wd.

52 DLI doubled

53 Partner

54 Chopper

55 Diminutive suffix

56 Dance move
- DOWN
- 1 Baby's father

2 Leeway

3 Part of A.D.

4 Easily swayed

5 Culpable

6 Forever — day

7 Perfect place

8 Texter's guffaw

9 Tubular pasta

10 During

11 Corn concoction

20 Coerces

22 Map feature
- 24 "The Da Vinci Code" monk

25 Small ammo

26 Wish undone

27 Coach

Parseghian

29 Physique

30 "— was saying ..."

31 Retrieve

35 Sense

36 Low-budget flick

39 Small plateau

40 Cameo stone

41 Single

43 Legal document

45 Plane reservation

46 Pot starter

47 Incubator noise

49 Bovary's title (Abbr.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

10-8

CRYPTOQUIP

IBDSIBUU JSBL PFYDS LSLISHD

BUPBTD QDS YAS DXSWRZRW

Z RJASDD DTDJSL: JFS

XRJJDIQHEF XRUBJSD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A BRAND-NEW VARIETY OF PUNGENT, EDIBLE ROOT IS VERY POPULAR RIGHT NOW. IT'S A FADDISH RADISH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals B

SCOREBOARD/SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 18

PRO HOCKEY

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Ottawa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Detroit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buffalo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Toronto	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montreal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Metropolitan Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
N.Y. Islanders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Philadelphia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Jersey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N.Y. Rangers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pittsburgh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Columbus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carolina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

WESTERN CONFERENCE								
Central Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Nashville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winnipeg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dallas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Pacific Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vancouver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Los Angeles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calgary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edmonton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anaheim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vegas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Jose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seattle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Friday's game	
San Jose vs. Nashville at Prague	
Saturday's game	
Nashville vs. San Jose at Prague	
Sunday's games	
No games scheduled	
Monday's games	
No games scheduled	
Tuesday's games	
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers	
Vegas at Los Angeles	
Wednesday's games	
Boston at Washington	
Columbus at Carolina	
Toronto at Montreal	
Chicago at Colorado	
Seattle at Anaheim	
Vancouver at Edmonton	
Thursday's games	
Arizona at Pittsburgh	
New Jersey at Philadelphia	
Ottawa at Buffalo	
Florida at N.Y. Islanders	
Washington at Toronto	
N.Y. Rangers at Minnesota	
Dallas at Nashville	
Colorado at Calgary	
Chicago at Vegas	
Seattle at Los Angeles	

AUTO RACING

NASCAR Cup Series points leaders

Through Oct. 3

1. Chase Elliott	3103
2. Ryan Blaney	3101
3. Ross Chastain	3097
4. Denny Hamlin	3090
5. Kyle Larson	3087
6. Joey Logano	3087
7. Daniel Suárez	3081
8. Austin Cindric	3069
9. Chase Briscoe	3069
10. William Byron	3058
11. Christopher Bell	3036
12. Alex Bowman	3015
13. Tyler Reddick	2116
14. Austin Dillon	2107
15. Kyle Busch	2089
16. Kevin Harvick	2071
17. Martin Truex Jr	880
18. Erik Jones	727

DEALS

Thursday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Assigned LHP Nick Vespi to Norfolk (IL). Selected the contract of C Anthony Bemboom from Norfolk. Designated RHP Anthony Castro for assignment. Reinsated 2B Ramon Urias from the 10-day and RHP Tyler Wells from the 15-day IL. Recalled OF Yusniel Diaz, RHPS Louis Head, Joey Krehbiel and C Cam Gallagher from Norfolk.

BOSTON RED SOX — Reinstated 2Bs Trevor Story and Rob Refsnyder from the 10-day IL. Reinstated RHPs Garrett Whitlock and Kutter Crawford from the 15-day IL. Recalled RHPS Bryan Mata, Easton McGee, Tyler Danish, Connor Seabold, Josh Winckowski, SS Jeter Downs and 2B Jarren Duran, from Worcester (IL).

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Reinstated C Seby Zavala from the 7-day IL. Reinstated SS Tim Anderson and OF Luis Robert from the 10-day IL. Reinstated RHP Michael Kopech from the 15-day IL. Recalled OF Adam Haseley, LHPs Tanner Banks, Bennett Sousa, RHPS Matt Foster, Jason Bilous, Nicholas Padilla and 3B Jake Burger from Charlotte (IL).

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Recalled SSS Brayan Rocchio, Richie Palacios, Jose Tena, RHPs Carlos Vargas, Xzavion Curry, Hunter Gaddis, C Bryan Lavastida, 3Bs Nolan Jones, Jhonkensy Noel and OF George Valera from Columbus (IL).

DETROIT TIGERS — Reinstated SS Will Castro and OF Kerry Carpenter from the 10-day IL. Reinstated RHP Joe Jimenez from the 15-day IL. Recalled SS Luis Garcia from Erie (EL). Recalled LHP Joey Wentz from FCL Tigers. Recalled C Ali Sanchez, SS Zach Short, OF Daz Cameron, RHPs Alex Faedo, Elvin Rodriguez, Luis Castillo and 3B Josh Lester from Toledo (IL).

HOUSTON ASTROS — Recalled RHPs Forrest Whitley, Ronel Blanco, Shawn Dubin, Enoli Paredes, Brandon Bielak, Seth Martinez, LHPs Blake Taylor, Parker Mushinski, 3B Joe Perez, 1B J.J. Matijeivic and C Korey Lee from Sugar Land (PCL).

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Recalled RHPs Wyatt Mills, Nathan Webb, Jackson Kowar and Ryan Weiss, LHP Gabe Speier, OF Brent Rooker, SS Maikel Garcia and 1B Nick Pratto from Omaha (IL). Recalled RHP Jonathan Bowlan from NW Arkansas (TL). Terminated the contracts of manager Mike Matheny and pitching coach Cal Eldred.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Reinstated RHP Archie Bradley from the 15-day IL. Reinsated OF Mickey Moniak from the 10-day IL. Recalled RHPs Davis Daniel, Jose Marte, Janson Junk, Oliver Ortega, Austin Warren, Touki Toussaint, Elvis Peguero, LHP Kenny Rosenberg and C Chad Wallach from Salt Lake (PCL). Recalled RHP Chase Silseth from Rocket City (SL).

MINNESOTA TWINS — Renistated OF Max Kepler, Byron Buxton, and SS Jorge Polanco from the 10-day IL. Reinstated RHPs Chris Archer, Sonny Gray, Thler Mahle and Trevor Megill from the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP Blayne Enlow from Wichita (TL). Recalled RHPs Ronny Henriquez, Jordan Balazovic, Simeon Woods Richardson and LHP Devin Smeltzer from St. Paul (IL).

NEW YORK YANKEES — Reinstated LF Adrew Benintendi from the 10-day IL. Activated RHP Frankie Montas and LHP Wandy Peralta from the 15-day IL. Recalled OF Everson Pereira and RHP Yoendrys Gomez from Somersset (EL). Recalled RHPs Greg Weissert, Deivi Garcia, OF Estevan Florial and C Ben Rotrvedt from Scranton/ Wilkes-Barre (IL).

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Reinstated RHPs Collin Wiles, Zach Johnson, Joel Payamps and LHP Sam Moll from the 15-day IL. Reinstated OF Ramon Laureano from the 10-day IL. Reinstated 3B Vimael Machin from the paternity list. Recalled LHP Zach Logue, OFs Cody Thomas, Cal Stevenson, 1B David MacKinnon and SS Kevin Smith from Las Vegas (PCL). Recalled RHP Luis Medina from Midland (TL).

SEATTLE MARINERS — Reinstated LHP Ryan Borucki from the 15-day IL. Recalled 1B Evan White, LHPs Brennan Bernardino, Justus Sheffield, OFs Derek Hill, Kyle Lewis and 3B Drew Ellis from Tacoma (PCL). Recalled RHP Juan Then from Arkansas (TL). Recalled OF Alberto Rodriguez from Everett (NL).

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Reinstated LHP Ja-len Beeks from the 15-day IL. Reinstated C Francisco Mejia from the paternity list. Reinstated OF Roman Quinn from the 10-day IL. Recalled 3B Josh Lowe, RHPs Kevin Herget, Yonny Chirinos, Luis Patino, OFs Bligh Madris and Luke Raley from Durham.

TEXAS RANGERS — Reinstated LHPs Brett Martin, Cole Ragans and RHP Dane Dunning from the 15-day IL. Recalled 2B Andy Ibanez, RHPs Nick Snyder, Drew Stotman, Tyson Miller, LHP Kolby Allard and C Meibryrs Vilorio from Round Rock (PCL). Recalled RHP Spencer Howard from ACL Rangers. Recalled RHP Ricky Vanasco from Frisco (TL).

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Assigned RHP Casey Lawrence to Buffalo (IL). Reinstated SS Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and 2B Santiago Espinal from the 10-day IL. Recalled LHPs Anthony Kay, Matt Gage, RHPs Thomas Hatch and Julian Merryweather from Buf-falo. Recalled SS Leo Jinezez from Van-couver (NL). Recalled RHP Hagen Danner from New Hampshire (EL).

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Reinstated RHPs Keynaam Middleton, Ryne Nelson and LHP Kyle Nelson from the 15-day IL. Reinstated SS Katel Marte from the 10-day IL. Recalled RHPs J.B. Bukauskas, Corbin Martin, Edwin Uceta, Luis Frias, LHPs Thler Holton, OFs Seth Beer, Alek Thomas and C Jose Herrera from Reno (PCL).

ATLANTA BRAVES — Reinstated RHPs Spencer Strider and Kirby Yates from the 15-day IL. Reinsated C Chadwick Tromp and 2B Ozzie Albies from the 10-day IL. Re-called RHPs Mike Soroka, William Woods, Brooks Wilson, Freddy Tarnok, Ian Anderson and 3B Rylan Bannon from Gwinnett (IL).

CINCINNATI REDS — Reinstated CF T.J. Friedl from the 10-day IL and LHP Mike Minor and RHP Justin Dunne from the 15-day IL. Recalled RHPs Dauri Moreta, Ryan Hendrix, Jared Solomon, Kyle Dowdy, Daniel Duarte and Raynel Espinal, Cs Mark Kolo-zsvary and Michael Papierski and OF Al-an Cerdra from Louisville (IL). Sent RHP Robert Dugger outright to Louisville.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Reinstated RHPs Carlos Estevez, Antonio Sezatela and LHP Lucas Gilbreath from the 15-day IL. Reinstated 3Bs Kris Bryant, Connor Joe and OF Charlie Blackmon from the 10-day IL. Re-called 3B Ryan Vilade, RHP Peter Lambert, C Dom Nunez and OF Sam Hilliard from Al-buquerque (PCL).

MIAMI MARLINS — Reinsated LHPs Trevor Rogers, Steven Okert and RHP Edward Cabrera from the 15-day IL. Reinstated LHP Daniel Castano from the 7-day IL. Re-insated 1B Garrett Cooper from the 10-day IL. Recalled RHPs Nick Neidert, Sixto Sanchez, Cole Sulser, 3B Luke Williams, SS Jose Devers and C Payton Henry from Jacksonville (IL).

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Reinsated RHPs Matt Bush, Adrian Houser, Jandel Gustave, Trevor Rosenthal, Luis Perdomo and Justin Topa from the 15-day IL. Re-called 3B Pablo Reyes, 2B Esteuiry Ruiz, RHP Trevor Kelley, C Mario Feliciano and LHP Ethan Small from Nashville (IL).

CHICAGO CUBS — Reinstated LHPs Jus-tin Steele and Steven Brault from the 15-day IL. Reinstated 2B Nick Madrigal from the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Alexander Viz-caino, LHP Brailly Marquez and C Miguel Amaya from Tennessee (SL). Recalled OF Narciso Crook, 2B Jared Young, RHPs Caleb Kilian, Anderson Espinoza, Jeremiah Estrada and OF Alexander Canario from Iowa (IL).

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Reinstated RHP Blake Treinen from the 15-day IL. Re-called SS Eddys Leonard and 2B Jorbit Vi-vas from Great Lakes (ML). Recalled 3B Ed-win Rios, OF James Outman and RHP Ryan Pepiot from Oklahoma City (PCL).

NEW YORK METS — Reinstated RHP Tommy Hunter, Tylor Megill and Bryce Montes de Oca from the 15-day IL. Reinstated OF Starling Marte and 3B Brett Baty from the 10-day IL. Sent LHP Alex Claudio outright to Syracuse (IL). Recalled RHPs Yoan Lopez, Stephen Nogosek, Jose Butto, OF Khalil Lee, C Michael Perez and 1B Do-minic Smith from Syracuse. Recalled SS Ronny Mauricio from Binghamton (EL).

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Reinsated 2B Edmundo Sosa from the 10-day IL. Re-called OF Jhailyn Ortiz from Reading (EL). Recalled RHPs Vinny Nittoli, Francisco Mo-rales, Sam Coonrod, Taylor Scott, LHP Christopher Sanchez and C Rafael Mar-chan from Lehigh Valley (IL).

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Reinstated LHP Eric Stout and RHP Will Crowe from the 15-day IL. Reinstated C Zack Collins from the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Luis Ortiz, Roans Contreras, Jeremy Beasley, C Jose Godoy, SS Hoy Park and OF Travis Swaggerty from Indianapolis (IL). Recalled SS Llover Peguero from Altoona (EL).

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Reinstated OF Tyler O'Neill from the 10-day IL. Recalled RHPs Jake Walsh, Kodi Whitley, Freddy Pa-checo, James Naile, LHPs Genesis Cabre-ra, Packy Naughton, C Ivan Herrera, 2B

AP SPORTLIGHT

Oct. 8

1933 — Cliff Battles of the Boston Red-skins becomes the first NFL player to gain more than 200 yards rushing with 215 yards in a 21-20 win over the New York Giants.

1949 — Walt Pastuszak has five of Brown's 11 interceptions in a 46-0 rout of Rhode Island.

1950 — Bill Grimes of the Green Bay Packers gains 167 yards on 10 carries in a 44-31 loss to the New York Yankees.

1956 — Don Larsen of the New York Yan-kees pitches the only perfect game in World Series history, a 2-0 triumph over Brooklyn.

1966 — Jerry DePoyster of Wyoming be-comes the first player in college football to make three field goals of 50 yards or more in a game. DePoyster connects on two 54-yard tries and a 52-yarder in the Cowboys' 40-7 rout of Utah.

1961 — Paul Hornung scores 33 points, with four touchdowns, six extra points and a field goal, to lead the Green Bay Packers to a 45-7 romp over the Baltimore Colts.

1977 — No. 7 Alabama beats No. 1 South-ern California 21-20 in Los Angeles. USC fallback Lynn Cain scores with 38 seconds remaining but the 2-point attempt fails.

1992 — Doug Small scores two goals and the expansion Ottawa Senators rock the Montreal Canadiens 5-3 — the first regu-lar-season NHL game by an Ottawa fran-chise in 58 years.

1993 — The Anaheim Mighty Ducks, be-fore 17,174 at the Arrowhead Pond, lose 7-2 to the Detroit Red Wings in their first NHL game.

1997 — Adam Oates reaches 1,000 points with three goals and two assists as the Washington Capitals post a 6-3 victory over the New York Islanders.

2005 — Baylor wins a Big 12 road game

Kramer Robertson and 3B Nolan Gorman from Memphis (IL).

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Reinstated RHP Mike Clevinger from the 15-day IL. Re-called RHP Efrain Contreras from Fort Wayne (ML). Recalled LHPs Ryan Weath-ers, Ray Kerr, Jay Groome, Jose Castillo, RHPs Angel Felipe, Michel Baez, Reiss Knehr, C Brett Sullivan and 2B Eguy Rosa-rio from El Paso (PCL).

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Reinstated 2B Tommy La Stella, OF Luis Gonzalez and 3B Evan Longoria from the 10-day IL. Rein-stated LHPs Thomas Szapucki, Carlos Rod-on and RHP Logan Webb from the 15-day IL. Recalled RHPs Randy Rodriguez, Jakob Junis, Zack Littell, 1B Taylor Jones and OF Austin Dean from Sacramento.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

CHARLOTTE HORNETS — Waived F Isaiah Whaley. Signed F Xavier Sneed.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ATLANTA FALCONS — Released DT An-thony Rush.

BALTIMORE RAVENS — Signed LB A.J. Klein to the active roster from New York Giants practice squad. Signed WR Andy Isabella to the practice squad.

BUFFALO BILLS — Released WR Tavon Austin from the practice squad.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed TE Pha-roah Brown.

DENVER BRONCOS — Promoted RB De-vine Ozigbo, S Anthony Harris and OLB Jo-nathan Kongbo to the active roster from the practice squad.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Promoted RB Phillip Lindsay and DT Chris Williams to the active roster from the practice squad. Signed WR Dezmon Patmon to the prac-tice squad.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed WR Chris Conley to the practice squad.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Signed K Taylor Bertolet to the practice squad. Re-leased CB Michael Jacquet from the prac-tice squad.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed LB Ryan Connelly to the practice squad.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Placed QB Brian Hoyer on injured reserve.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed S Landon Collins.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Designated DB Jimmie Ward to return to practice from injured reserve and DB Jason Verrett to re-turn to practice from the physically un-able to perform (PUP) list.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Released WR Cole Beasley from the practice squad.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed OLB Wyatt Ray to the practice squad.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

BOSTON BRUINS — Assigned G Keith Kin-kaid to Hersey (AHL). Placed LW Joona Koppanen, D Dan Renouf and RW Vinni Let-tieri on waivers.

BUFFALO SABRES — Released C Cody Eak-bin from his professional tryout contract (PTO).

CALGARY FLAMES — Released LW Sonny Milano.

EDMONTON OILERS — Named Steve Staios special advisor. Placed G Calvin Pickard on waivers. Released RW Jake Vir-tanen from his professional tryout con-tract (PTO).

FLORIDA PANTHERS — Recalled C Zac Dalpe from Charlotte (AHL).

LOS ANGELES KINGS — Placed C Lias An-dersson on waivers. Recalled D Tobias Bjornfot, D Jordan Spence and C T.J. Tynan from Ontario (AHL).

NEW YORK RANGERS — Assigned F Gus-tav Rydahl to Hartford (AHL). Placed RW Jonny Brodzinski on waivers.

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Assigned C Olle Lucksell to Lehigh Valley (AHL).

WINNIPEG JETS — Assigned G Arvid Holm to Manitoba (AHL). Announced G Mikhail Berdin will play in the Continental Hockey League (KHL) this season.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

NEW YORK RED BULLS — Signed D Sean Nealis to a three-year contract through 2026 with an option for 2027.

VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC — Named Stephanie Labbe general manager of women's soccer.

COLLEGE

TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY — Named LaNiece Brown assistant athletic trainer, Jose Castilleja Jr. facilities and equipment coordinator, Denise Jackson academic success advisor, Loisa Perez athletics graphic designer, Ryela Rodriguez ticket sales and operations coordinator and Gri-celda Saavedra assistant athletic director for business operations (Travel).

for the first time in the league's 10-year history, beating Iowa State 23-13. The Bears had been 0-37 on the road in the Big 12 Conference.

2011 — Howard scores all its points in the fourth quarter, including 16 in the final 1:27 to beat 29-28 Florida A&M. Parker Mu-noz caps the improbable comeback by hitting a 21-yard field goal with 4 seconds left following FAMU's Damien Fleming fumble on the 28-yard line.

2015 — Tampa Bay's Jason Garrison scores his second goal of the game at 2:17 of the extra period to lead the Lightning past the Philadelphia Flyers in the first 3-on-3 overtime game in NHL history.

2016 — Will Worth and Navy stuns No. 6 Houston, romping to a 46-40 victory. Worth runs for 115 yards and throws two scoring passes for the Midshipmen. Navy hadn't beaten a top 10 team since 1984, when it topped then-No. 2 South Carolina in Annapolis.

BRIEFLY

Stars sign Robertson to \$31 million, 4-year deal

FRISCO, Texas — Jason Ro-bertson never wanted to be away from the Dallas Stars as long as he was. The restricted free agent's new contract finally got done a week before the season opener.

After missing the first two weeks of preseason practice, Rob-inson signed a \$31 million, four-year contract through the 2025-26 season. He was expected to rejoin his teammates on the ice Friday.

“It’s definitely relief ... had the little jitters that the season’s going to start soon, and I’m going to be part of it,” Robertson said Thurs-day, a week before the opener at Nashville and after the deal was fi-nalized late the previous night.

Robertson’s \$1.5 million base salary this season will be supple-mented by a \$3 million signing bo-nus. His base salary will be \$8 mil-lion in 2023-24, \$9.2 million in 2024-25 and \$9.3 million in the fi-nal season.

Byron wins NASCAR appeal, regains points

CONCORD, N.C. — An appeals panel on Thursday reinstated the 25 points William Byron had been docked by NASCAR for deliber-ately spinning championship rival Denny Hamlin, a critical decision that helps his playoff hopes.

The three-person panel found that Byron did break a NASCAR rule for spinning Hamlin under caution. But Hendrick Motor-sports had appealed the NASCAR penalty, which was initially a \$50,000 fine and the loss of 25 crit-ical points in the championship race.

The panel instead upped the fine to \$100,000 and gave Byron back his points. The favorable rul-ing moved Byron from below the elimination line headed into Sun-day’s race at Charlotte Motor Speedway, where the playoff field will be cut from 12 to eight.

Byron was 10th in the standings with the loss of points; he’s now seventh in the standings and 14 points above the outline.

Warriors’ Green apologizes for fight

SAN FRANCISCO — Golden State Warriors star Draymond Green apologized to the team a day after fighting with teammate Jordan Poole during practice, general manager Bob Myers said. Poole practiced Thursday while Green didn’t, and Myers said any potential discipline would be han-dled internally. Warriors coach Steve Kerr said Green would be away from the team again Friday and expects him to return Satur-day.

Myers said he doesn’t anticipate Green missing any games for Wednesday’s altercation.

MLB

Velocity soars, batting averages take a hit

League to counter by restricting defensive shifts on balls in play

By Ronald Blum
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Higher velocity and increased shifts led to the major league batting average dropping to .243, its lowest since 1968.

Defensive shifts and 100 mph pitches set records this season, contributing to the worrisome offensive decline Major League Baseball is trying to address.

When the average dropped this low more than a half-century ago, MLB lowered the pitcher's mound. Next year's rules changes announced last month include the first restriction on shifts, a decision made over the objection of the players' association.

"We've engaged in a process to develop rules that will bring back the best form of baseball," Commissioner Rob Manfred said at the time.

The major league average was .269 in 2006 but fell to .254 in 2016 and .245 during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season, then dropped by one point in each of the following years. The only seasons with lower averages than this year were the record low of .237 in 1968 along with 1967 and the dead-ball era seasons of 1884, 1888 and 1908.

Defensive shifts on balls in play totaled 66,961 this season, Sports Info Solutions said Monday, up from 59,063 last year and 2,349 in 2011. The major league-best Dodgers led this year with 2,912 shifts



Seattle Mariners reliever Andres Munoz follows through Sept. 14 against the San Diego Padres. Pitchers threw 3,356 pitches of 100 mph or more this season, which has contributed to a drop in batting averages.

and NL Central champion Cleveland had the fewest at 1,600.

Batting average for left-handed hitters was .236 this year, down from .254 in 2016, when lefties were one point below the big league average.

Luis Arraez's .316 average for Minnesota was the lowest by an American League batting champion since Boston's Carl Yastrzemski hit .301 in 1968.

Velocity has a lot of do with the

fall. There were 3,356 pitches of 100 mph or more, 0.05% of the major league total of 703,918, according to MLB Statcast. That was up from 1,829 in 2021 and 1,056 in 2019.

Minnesota's Jhoan Duran had the most 100 mph pitches with 392, followed by Cincinnati's Hunter Greene (337), St. Louis' Jordan Hicks (274) and Ryan Helsley (237) and Seattle's Andrés Muñoz (209).

Duran averaged 100.8 mph with

his fastball, Muñoz 100.2 and Hicks 100.1.

"Every time that bullpen door swings open, it's velocity," Atlanta manager Brian Snitker said. "The guys, they weren't like that. The closers weren't throwing like they are now. But it's kind of the way they are growing up and how they are trained — and amazing to me, the number of them, too. It's like they just keep coming."

The average four-seam fastball

Scoreboard

Playoffs	
x-if necessary WILD CARD SERIES (Best-of-three)	
American League	
Cleveland vs. Tampa Bay	
Friday:	at Cleveland
Saturday:	Tampa Bay (Glasnow 0-0) at Cleveland (McKenzie 11-11), AFN-Sports, 6 p.m. Saturday CET; 1 a.m. Sunday JKT
x-Sunday:	at Cleveland, AFN-Sports, 11 p.m. Sunday CET; 6 a.m. Monday JKT (joined in progress)
Toronto vs. Seattle	
Friday:	at Toronto
Saturday:	Seattle (Ray 12-12) at Toronto (TBD), AFN-Sports, 11 p.m. Saturday CET; 6 a.m. Sunday JKT
x-Sunday:	at Toronto, AFN-Sports, 8 p.m. Sunday CET; 3 a.m. Monday JKT
National League	
St. Louis vs. Philadelphia	
Friday:	at St. Louis
Saturday:	Philadelphia (Nola 11-13) at St. Louis (Mikolas 12-13), AFN-Atlantic, 2:30 a.m. Sunday CET; 9:30 a.m. Sunday JKT
x-Sunday:	at St. Louis, AFN-Atlantic, 2:30 a.m. Monday CET; 9:30 a.m. Monday JKT
New York vs. San Diego	
Friday:	at New York
Saturday:	San Diego (Snell 8-10) at New York (TBD), AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m. Sunday CET; 8:30 a.m. Sunday JKT
x-Sunday:	San Diego (Musgrove 10-7) at New York (TBD), AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m. Monday CET; 8:30 a.m. Monday JKT

velocity was 93.9 mph, up from 93.7 mph in 2021 and 93.1 mph in 2015, when Statcast first began measuring.

"The way the game is now, everybody's throwing that hard. It's not fun to face, but it's just how the game is," Seattle's Ty France said.

Home runs dropped to 5,215 from 5,944 last year and a record 6,776 in 2019.

The gap between strikeouts and hits narrowed to 1,135 from a record 2,661 last year. Strikeouts topped hits for the first time in 2019. After increasing annually from 2005 through 2019, when there were a record 42,823 whiffs, strikeouts dropped to 42,145 in 2021 and 40,812 this year.

Crowds jump from '21, still below pre-pandemic levels

By David Brandt
Associated Press

Even with homer chases by Aaron Judge and Albert Pujols, Major League Baseball wasn't able to coax fans to ballparks at pre-pandemic levels this season, though attendance did jump substantially from the COVID-19-affected campaign in 2021.

The 30 MLB teams drew nearly 64.6 million fans for the regular season that ended Wednesday, which is up from the 45.3 million who attended games in 2021, according to baseball-reference.com. This year's numbers are still down from the 68.5 million who attended games in 2019, which was the last season that wasn't affected by the pandemic.

The 2022 average of 26,843 fans per game throughout the league was down 5.3% from the 2019 average of 28,339.

The 111-win Los Angeles Dodgers led baseball with 3.86 million fans flocking to Dodger Stadium for an average of 47,672 per contest. The Oakland Athletics — who lost 102 games, play in an aging stadium and are the constant subject of relocation rumors — finished last, drawing just 787,902 fans for an average of less than 10,000 per game.

The St. Louis Cardinals finished second, drawing 3.32 million fans. They were followed by the Yankees (3.14 million), defending World Series champion Braves (3.13 million) and Padres (2.99 million).

The Toronto Blue Jays saw the biggest jump in attendance, rising from 805,901 fans to about 2.65 million. They were followed by the Cardinals, Yankees, Mariners, Dodgers and Mets, which all drew more than a million fans more than in 2021.

The Rangers and Reds were the only teams to draw fewer fans than in 2021.

Only the Rangers started the 2021 season at full capacity, and all 30 teams weren't at 100% until July. It was a huge reason why an average of only 18,901 fans came to games.

No fans were allowed to attend regular-season games in 2020.

MLB attendance had been declining slowly for years after a high of 79.4 million in 2007. This year's 64.6 million fans is the fewest in a non-COVID-19 season since the sport expanded to 30 teams in 1998.

The sport's MLB.TV streaming service is booming, however. Viewers watched 11.5 billion minutes of content in 2022, which was a record high and up nearly 10% from 2021.



A fan holds up a cutout of the head of Los Angeles Angels designated hitter Shohei Ohtani during a Sept. 27 game against the Oakland Athletics in Anaheim, Calif.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



RON JENKINS/AP

Oklahoma head coach Brent Venables is mired in a two-game losing streak going into Saturday’s game against Texas in Dallas. Both losses were to Big 12 opponents.

After solid start, Sooners’ Venables hits rough patch

By Cliff Brunt
Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — The party is over for Brent Venables.

Oklahoma’s new football coach was welcomed at the Norman airport like a conquering hero when he arrived to replace USC-bound Lincoln Riley in December.

Venables seemed to be the perfect person to steady the program to fans who had been watching him ever since he left his job as an Oklahoma assistant after the 2011 season to become defensive coordinator at Clemson. Some had second thoughts when Venables vehemently approved of popular receivers coach Cale Gundy’s resignation in August after Gundy said a “racially charged” word at a film session.

All seemed forgiven when Oklahoma got off to a 3-0 start that culminated with a 49-14 blowout of Nebraska, but things fell apart the next two weeks. The Sooners lost at home to Kansas State, then were demolished 55-24 at TCU. Oklahoma has fallen out of the AP Top 25 for the first time since October 2020, ending a run of 31 straight rankings.

Now, the Sooners face their biggest rival, Texas, in Dallas on Saturday. Venables said the Sooners (3-2, 0-2 Big 12) need to stay focused to get out of their slump and win their fifth straight in the series with the Longhorns (3-2, 1-1).

“I know the emotion, the intensity and what this game has meant to so many people,” he said. “But

Texas (3-2, 1-1)
vs. Oklahoma (3-2, 0-2)
at Dallas
AFN-Atlantic
6 p.m. Saturday CET
1 a.m. Sunday JKT

we shouldn’t prepare for this game any different than we do any other game. And if we are, and I allow that, then I’m not doing a good job leading. We shouldn’t do extra this week or be more committed this week. We should be habitual in how we get ready to play.”

A loss would be the third straight for the Sooners, something that hasn’t happened since 1998. But Venables has been through rough patches before. Just last year, Clemson started the season 4-3 before reeling off six straight wins.

“That team made a decision to get better and not allow themselves to be influenced by the outside noise, only be influenced by a straining to do everything you can to improve every day,” he said. “One practice, one meeting at a time. ... And not allow seeds of doubt or seeds of division to come into the locker room.”

There are plenty of reasons for Oklahoma’s struggles, but they start with the defense. The unit started the season strong, allowing just 10 points per game in three wins. Even after the fast start, Venables warned that coaching becomes more difficult when things go well.

“The hardest thing about success and the thing that’s going to challenge success the most is guys getting bored with doing the mundane and staying in that routine,” he said before the Sooners played Kansas State. “Not only staying in the routine but being intentional and purposeful within that routine.”

The effort was there the next two weeks, but the discipline wasn’t. The Sooners gave up 509 yards against Kansas State, then surrendered 668 yards against TCU.

After answering numerous questions about the team’s recent struggles, Venables clearly was ready to move on.

“Ninety percent of the questions today is about last week’s game, it’s about the rearview mirror, it’s about what happened yesterday,” he said. “And here today, I want the focus to be on what’s ahead, what’s in front of us right now going down to Dallas and the challenge that is, where all of our focus is right now.”

Texas coach Steve Sarkisian respects Venables and knows what he can get out of a defense.

“Coach Venables has been doing it a long time,” Sarkisian said. “They’ve got myriad defenses. They can cause a lot of problems up front with their pressure packages. And then they disguise coverages. At the end of the day, we have to prepare for all of that.”

AP sports writer Jim Vertuno contributed to this report.

Critics: Uiagalelei took blame for team’s failures

FROM PAGE 24

Lawrence became the NFL Draft’s No. 1 player taken and the Tigers belonged to Uiagalelei.

Uiagalelei’s name was atop Heisman Trophy lists, he received lucrative NIL deals and national TV commercials, but things devolved quickly for the 6-foot-5 Uiagalelei in 2021. Clemson lost twice in September and was out of contention for the ACC title, which it had won the previous six years.

Part of the blame was placed on Uiagalelei, who was tentative in his reads and inaccurate with throws. He completed less than 56% of his passes and ended with more interceptions than touchdowns (10 to nine).

Clemson’s critics pounced, already pointing toward the team’s next top prospect — backup freshman Cade Klubnik — to take control this season.

Uiagalelei paid no attention to the outsiders and continued to work to get better.

“No one wants to hear someone complain, whine, make excuses for something,” he said this summer. “So, for me, I always want to put my head down and work. Just keep coming out there, keep putting my best effort forward and just working.”

The approach that made Uiagalelei a football success didn’t change, said Jason Negro, Uiagalelei’s coach at St. John Bosco.

“That’s the proudest thing I felt was that DJ didn’t blame anyone else,” Negro told The AP by phone. “He took the blame and kept putting the team first like he always has.”

Uiagalelei, despite leading Clemson to a 10-3 mark and six

straight wins to end the season, committed to improve. He pledged to lose weight — he dropped about 30 pounds from his peak weight last year to 230 this season — and refine his technique.

Uiagalelei has answered all the questions so far in Clemson’s perfect start. He’s thrown for 11 touchdowns — more than all of last year — and just one interception. Uiagalelei’s completion percentage is up near 66% and he’s run for three touchdowns.

“I’ve never been happier for a guy. The kid deserves it,” Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said after Uiagalelei had five TD passes in a 51-45 overtime win at No. 15 Wake Forest on Sept. 24. “That’s the guy we recruited, it’s who he was in high school, and all these people forget about him and have written him off like he’s some terrible player. He’s not.”

Negro said Uiagalelei never once lost belief in himself during the offseason. His old coaches and friends out West would tell him, don’t worry. “He always assured me, ‘Coach, watch, this season we’re going to be a really good football team,’” Negro said.

With Uiagalelei in charge, the Tigers are among 16 undefeated teams left in college football’s Bowl Subdivision and just one of two in the ACC. Gone, as well, are the calls for anyone else but Uiagalelei to lead Clemson’s offense.

“It has been a little different because I have been playing a lot better,” Uiagalelei said. “But for the most part I’m trying to keep my head down, keep my circle small, and look to get better each and every day.”



JACOB KUPFERMAN/AP

Clemson quarterback DJ Uiagalelei has scored three rushing touchdowns this season. He’s thrown just one interception.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

WEEK 6 PREVIEW

Big potential for blowouts

TCU, Kansas best bet amid uneven matchups

BY JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

There's a new No. 1 in college football, with Alabama and Georgia swapping places again.

But both SEC powers will yield some of the Week 6 spotlight to others this weekend, including newly ranked TCU and Kansas.

The top-ranked Crimson Tide and the No. 2 Bulldogs are playing games that don't have nearly the hoped-for allure. Alabama is a favorite over unranked Texas A&M and the Bulldogs are expected to blow out struggling Auburn.

There are only three Top 25 matchups this weekend and the top seven teams are facing unranked opponents. But there are some intriguing matchups just the same.

No. 8 Tennessee visits No. 25 LSU's Tiger Stadium, where the last three meetings haven't been settled until the final play. No. 11 Utah is at No. 18 UCLA as both try to keep pace with No. 6 USC in the Pac-12.

The What to Watch rundown for this week of college football:

Best game

No. 17 TCU and No. 19 Kansas meet in Lawrence as two of college football's surprise teams and ESPN's "College GameDay" will be on hand.

Not bad for two teams picked to

finish in the bottom half of the Big 12 Conference (TCU, seventh; Kansas, 10th).

The longest AP Top 25 drought for a current Power Five conference team ended when the Jayhawks (5-0, 2-0 Big 12) cracked the rankings for the first time since Oct. 18, 2009. It means TCU (4-0, 1-0) will play in its first matchup of top 20 teams since Sept. 15, 2018 (the 15th-ranked Horned Frogs lost 40-28 to No. 4 Ohio State).

First-year TCU head coach Sonny Dykes was an offensive analyst the last time TCU started 4-0, in 2017.

The Frogs, who last trailed 24 seconds into the second quarter of the opener at Colorado, have the nation's No. 2 scoring and total offense. Quarterback Max Duggan leads the nation in passing efficiency (202.2), throwing for 11 touchdowns without an interception.

Kansas did it with defense in a 14-11 win over Iowa State to move to 5-0 for the first time since 2009. The Jayhawks allowed only 30 yards on 26 rushes.

Heisman watch

Lincoln Riley's Heisman Trophy touch with quarterbacks is perhaps surfacing again. **USC's Caleb Williams**, who followed his coach from Oklahoma, is shaping up as a legitimate contender.

Williams rebounded from a subpar outing against Oregon



RON JENKINS/AP

TCU quarterback Max Duggan, right, and teammate Quentin Johnston celebrate a touchdown Oct. 1 against Oklahoma. Now in the Top 25 at No. 17, the Horned Frogs take on No. 19 Kansas on Saturday.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Southern California quarterback Caleb Williams is shaping up as a legitimate Heisman contender.

State to carve up Arizona State. He completed 27 of 37 passes for 348 yards and three touchdowns, though he did throw his first interception. Williams also ran for 44 yards and a TD.

Williams is completing 67% of his passes with 12 TDs and the lone pick. Riley coached Heisman winners Baker Mayfield and Kyler Murray at Oklahoma.

Numbers to know

3: Utah cornerback Clark Phillips III had three interceptions, including a pick-6, against Oregon

State. It was the most interceptions by a single player in a game in FBS this season.

4: Four players had 200-yard rushing games last weekend after six managed that in the first month. They were Marquez Cooper of Kent State (240), Syracuse's Sean Tucker (232), Northern Illinois' Harrison Waylee (230) and Alabama's Jahmyr Gibbs (206).

11: Cincinnati tied an American Athletic Conference record with 11 sacks against Tulsa to take the national lead.

16: Number of consecutive games when Tennessee's Hendon Hooker has thrown a touchdown pass, two shy of Heath Shuler's school record.

126: Number of times Auburn and Georgia will have played after Saturday. Dating to 1892, it's billed as The Deep South's Oldest Rivalry.

242: Number of rushing yards Alabama had in the fourth quarter against Arkansas, including three runs of 70-plus yards. That followed a third quarter when the Tide lost 4 yards on the ground.

Under the radar

Texas vs. Oklahoma at Cotton Bowl in Dallas: The Red River Showdown is never really under the radar for the teams and fans, but this one certainly is from a national standpoint. It's the first time neither team was ranked heading into this rivalry game since 1998.

Both teams are 3-2 while Oklahoma has dropped its first two Big 12 Conference games. Texas is 1-1 in the league. A big factor, especially for the Sooners: poor defense. Oklahoma ranks 109th nationally in total defense and 119th against the run. Texas is 90th in pass defense.

Oklahoma has won the last three meetings, including a 55-48 victory last season.

Hot seat

Bryan Harsin, Auburn: The Tigers blew a 17-0 lead against LSU and haven't scored a second-half point in their past two games. His tenure was already shaky after an offseason school investigation followed heavy departures among Harsin's staff and players.

No. 15 Wake Forest aims to avoid defensive errors vs. Army



PHIL SEARS/AP

Wake Forest head coach Dave Clawson, shown on Oct. 1 in a win against Florida State, called last season's 70-56 shootout win over Army "one of the most torturous games I've ever been through."

BY AARON BEARD
Associated Press

Wake Forest showed it could respond after a crushing loss. The 15th-ranked Demon Deacons now have something else to prove: that they can play better defense against Army on Saturday after surviving last season's frustrating shootout.

The Demon Deacons (4-1) won last year's game 70-56 in a wild afternoon at Michie Stadium thanks to an offensive output that stood as the program's best of the modern era. They'll get another try at slowing the Black Knights (1-3) as they step out of Atlantic Coast Conference play after last weekend's win at Florida State on the heels of a double-overtime loss to No. 5 Clemson.

"Sometimes there's games you win and you're relieved, and that (FSU) game was pure joy," Wake Forest coach Dave Clawson said. "I think (it's) one of the biggest wins we've had here, and so much of it was because of the circumstances."

And yet, Clawson admitted to feeling

angst when reviewing last year's film of the Army shootout — "one of the most torturous games I've ever been through."

The Black Knights ran for 416 yards. And their 595 yards were the most allowed by the Demon Deacons all year, a jarring performance in an 11-win season that included a trip to the ACC championship game.

"We understand the only reason it was close was because of us," Demon Deacons linebacker Ryan Smenda Jr. said. "The offense put up (70) points and a triple-option team putting up 56 points; I feel like that's kind of unheard of. And they did it against an ACC team."

Scoring in bunches

Wake Forest is tied for 16th in the FBS in scoring (40.4) and has amassed 202 points so far, a program record for the first five games in any season.

Bumpy start

Army has its worst start since opening at

1-4 in 2015, which ended with a 2-10 record. Army had won nine games in each of the previous two seasons, as well as 10 wins in 2017 and 11 in 2018.

"We need a win badly," Army coach Jeff Monken said. "A victory would really help this football team."

Receiving threats

Wake Forest's talent at receiver will present a challenge for Army. A.T. Perry has followed up his 15-touchdown season last year with three scores in five games. Donovan Greene has three TD grabs of his own in his return from a knee injury that sidelined him all last year. And Jahmal Banks has blossomed with five TD grabs, including a 141-yard, two-score day against Clemson.

Series history

Wake Forest is 12-5 in the series, including 6-1 at home against Army. The lone loss came in 2016, which was the Black Knights' last trip to Winston-Salem, N.C.

NFL

Colts grind out win

Indianapolis defense the key in injury-filled OT slog that featured 7 field goals, 0 touchdowns

By ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

DENVER — Matt Ryan kept the faith through all the sacks, interceptions, fumbles and three-and-outs that made for a streaming snooze-fest Thursday night.

“It was just kind of a slog of a game,” the Indianapolis quarterback said after Stephon Gilmore batted away Russell Wilson’s pass to Courtland Sutton in the end zone on fourth-and-1 from the 5 to give the Colts a 12-9 overtime victory over Denver.

The game featured seven field goals, a dozen punts, 25 third-down stops, four interceptions and six fumbles — none of which were recovered by the otherwise disruptive defenses.

“Our defense played lights out,” said Ryan, who emerged victorious despite getting sacked six times, giving him 21 so far this season, throwing a pair of interceptions to Caden Sterns and fumbling for the 10th time this season.

“We need to play better for sure, but I’m proud of the guys,” Ryan said. “Wins are what we need. We’re right in the mix. ... I thought the two drives at the end showed a lot of guys. You just keep battling — and it helps when your defense is shutting them down, too.”

Gilmore also intercepted Wilson’s pass just before the 2-minute mark of the fourth quarter to set up Chase McLaughlin’s tying field goal with 5 seconds left.

“That’s the definition of a big-time player making big plays in the moment,” Colts coach Frank Reich said about Gilmore. “Isn’t it awesome you can have a game like that and still win?”

McLaughlin connected from 47 yards 4:10 into overtime to give the Colts (2-2-1) the lead in the first game in NFL history that pitted quarterbacks with at least four Pro Bowl appearances each yet featured zero touchdowns.

The Broncos (2-3) decided against a tying chip-shot field goal by Brandon McManus or even a first-down play on fourth-and-less-and-a-yard from the 5, and Wilson lined up in the shotgun next to running back Melvin Gordon, then threw incomplete over the middle.

“We wanted to win the game,” Broncos coach Nathaniel Hackett said. “We hadn’t moved the ball very well the whole night and I thought we had a spectacular drive to get all the way down there.”

Wide open and uncovered — but unseen by Wilson — was KJ Hamler, who tore off his helmet and slammed it to the ground after Wilson’s final pass was batted away, sending the Broncos and their awful offense to their second loss in four days.

“There’s going to be a bunch of what-ifs,” Broncos guard Dalton Risner said. “You know what, if we score that touchdown, everyone thinks it’s the best call in the world.” McLaughlin sent it to overtime with a 31-yarder after Gilmore intercepted Wilson’s pass to Tyrie Cleveland in the end zone on third-and-4 from the 13.

“Just can’t throw that,” lamented Wilson. “Got to throw it out of bounds if it’s not there.”

Wilson was sacked four times and picked off twice. His four TD throws through five games marks the worst start of his 11-year career and he hasn’t looked anything like the Broncos expected after giving him a \$245 million contract extension before his first snap for Denver.

The game pitted veteran quarterbacks struggling with their new teams. Neither team had practiced much as they worked in new running backs and key defensive replacements on a short work week, and it showed.

And as is common on Thursday nights, there was a rash of injuries with the most serious to Indy’s Kwity Payne (leg) and Denver’s Garrett Bolles (right knee), both of whom were carted off.

With reigning NFL rushing champion Jonathan Taylor (ankle, toe) out for Indy and the Broncos lamenting the loss of Javonte Williams to a shredded right knee, the grind-it-out nature of the game was entirely expected.

The Colts came in averaging 14.3 points, the lowest in Ryan’s 16-year career, and the Broncos entered the night averaging 16.5 points, the worst in Wilson’s 11-year career.

Nyheim Hines got the start for Indy, but he went out with a head injury after his third snap when D.J. Jones knocked him down and Hines’ helmet bounced on the ground. He wobbled as he tried to leave the field on his own and had to be guided to the sideline, where he was evaluated for a concussion.

Revenge or redemption

Many fans were wondering if this game would be one of revenge — Phillip Lindsay returning to his hometown to beat the Broncos — or redemption — Gordon atoning for his big fumble Sunday that was returned 68 yards for a touchdown by the Raiders.

It turned out to be neither.

Lindsay ran for 40 yards on 11 carries and Gordon had 54 yards on 15 carries, and he was flipped by safety Rodney McLoyd Jr. at the 6 on his way to the end zone when it appeared he had an open path to the winning touchdown.

Kicking himself

While McLaughlin was good from 52, 51, 31 and 48 yards, Brandon McManus was good from 33, 44 and 45 yards but his 34-yard attempt was blocked by Grover Stewart in the third quarter.

Injuries

Paye was injured on Rodney Thomas II’s 35-yard interception return. Starting C Ryan Kelly (hip) and WR Austin Dulin (foot) also got hurt.

The Broncos lost two starting defenders to knee injuries just before halftime, ILB Josey Jewell and CB Ronald Darby. DE Dre’Mont Jones (head) and LB Baron Browning (wrist) got hurt in the second half as did Bolles.

Up next

The Colts host the Jacksonville Jaguars on Oct. 16, and the Broncos visit the Los Angeles Chargers on Oct. 17.



JACK DEMPSEY/AP

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Matt Ryan stretches for yardage Thursday during the second half against the Broncos in Denver. The Colts won in overtime, 12-9.



BART YOUNG/AP

Indianapolis safety Rodney Thomas II goes for an interception.



JACK DEMPSEY/AP

Thomas and linebacker Zaire Franklin celebrate after the Colts' victory.

Wilson shoulders blame

By PAT GRAHAM
Associated Press

DENVER — Russell Wilson had a chance to put the game away late.

He threw an interception in the end zone. The Denver Broncos quarterback had another shot to win the game in overtime.

He threw a game-ending incompletion on fourth-and-short while never looking at an uncovered receiver.

Brought in for moments such as this — and rewarded with a \$245 million extension before taking his first snap in Denver — Wilson couldn’t deliver in a 12-9 loss to the Indianapolis Colts on Thursday night.

“I let the team down tonight,” said Wilson, who threw two interceptions, including one that set up Indy’s game-tying field goal with 5 seconds left in regulation. “When you play this game, the one thing you’re going to know is that you’re going to go through adversity.”

Once again, Wilson and offense struggled to stay on the field, much less find the end zone. This has become a recurring theme for the Broncos (2-3), who are averaging just 15 points a game.

“At the end of the day, I’ve got to be better,” said Wilson, who came to Denver after a decade in Seattle. “I’ve got to play better. We had some good drives. We moved the ball into the red zone and we didn’t capitalize on some of them. There’s some plays here and there that we can capitalize on.”

The turning point occurred just before the two-minute warning. Leading by a field goal, the Broncos faced third-and-4 at the Indy 13. A field goal seemed assured, which, in this low-scoring affair, loomed large.

Instead of running the ball, though, the Broncos tried to put the game away. But Wilson’s pass was picked off in the end zone by Stephon Gilmore. It allowed the Colts to drive down and tie it on Chase McLaughlin’s 31-yard field goal with 5 seconds left.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Denver quarterback Russell Wilson said he let the team down Thursday night. Wilson threw an interception with about two minutes left in regulation, and the Broncos were unable to convert from the 5-yard line in OT.

In overtime, after Indy turned the opening possession into a field goal, the Broncos quickly moved the ball deep into Indy territory again.

On fourth-and-1 at the 5, however, Wilson overlooked a wide-open KJ Hamler and instead tried to force the ball to Courtland Sutton in the end zone. It was broken up by Gilmore.

“It’s on me,” Wilson said after the game. “The one thing I know is I’ve gone through tough times before, gone through obstacles, gone through challenges. Gone through highs and gone through lows, lot of highs, lot of highs. Several lows.

“No one’s ever going to get me discouraged — ever.”

At 2-3, the Broncos have a bumpy road to break a string of six straight seasons without a playoff appearance.

“I’m looking forward to turning it around,” Wilson said. “Because when we do, it’s going to be a special story. There’s no other way to think because that’s all I know.”

SPORTS

Wilson shoulders blame
Quarterback says he cost Broncos
in OT loss to Colts » **NFL, Page 23**



COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Tuning out his critics

Clemson's Uiagalelei puts doubts
to rest with impressive season

By PETE IACOBELLI
Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — DJ Uiagalelei looked so confident and smooth that crisp fall afternoon in 2020 in his first college start against Boston College.

Nearly two years later, with the fifth-ranked Tigers (5-0, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) heading to play the Eagles (2-3, 1-2) again on Saturday, Uiagalelei is just as poised — although these days he's armed with the experience of coming through difficult times on the field.

“No one wants to hear someone complain, whine, make excuses for something.”

DJ Uiagalelei
Clemson quarterback

national championship passer Trevor Lawrence was out with COVID-19. Uiagalelei dazzled that day, throwing for 342 yards and two touchdowns to lead the top-ranked Tigers from 18 points down to a 34-28 victory.

The next week, Uiagalelei passed for 439 yards — the most ever at Notre Dame Stadium — in a 47-40 loss to the Fighting Irish.

Lawrence returned soon after, but Uiagalelei's path was set. He was every bit the star he was projected to be since his early days at California high school power St. John Bosco.

“It was definitely a surreal moment,” Uiagalelei remembered. “I had no clue, but it was cool.”

Uiagalelei's initial start came when na-

Clemson quarterback DJ Uiagalelei has thrown 11 touchdown passes — more than all of last year — with just one interception. His completion percentage is up near 66% and he's run for three touchdowns.

CHUCK BURTON/AP



SEE CRITICS ON PAGE 21

INSIDE

Wake Forest wants to show it can
play better defense against Army
Page 22

Batting averages dropped to lowest point since 1968 » **MLB, Page 20**