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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

1st sub with integrated coed crew to join fleet

BY CAITLYN BURCHETT
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—The first submarine fully integrated for mixed gender crews will join the Navy fleet next week during a commissioning ceremony in its namesake state of New Jersey.

The future USS New Jersey, a fast-attack submarine, will become a deployable part of the Navy's force during the ceremony at Naval Weapons Station Earle in New Jersey on Sept. 14, culminating five years of construction that represents a historic shift in how Navy submarines are designed.

The New Jersey is the 23rd Virginia-class submarine, but it is the first of its kind—designed from the keel up with specific modifications for gender integration.

"The submarine community is a fully gender-integrated warfighting force," said Vice Adm. Robert Gaucher, commander of Submarine Forces Atlantic.

Modifications included obvious ones—more doors and washrooms to create separate sleeping and bathing areas—and some that are more subtle—lowering some overhead valves and making them easier to turn and installing steps in front of the triple-high bunk beds and stacked laundry machines.

The design changes were made to accommodate the growing female force of submariners. In the past five years, the Navy has seen the number of officers and enlisted sailors in the submarine force who are women double and triple, respectively, Gaucher said.

As of August 2024, 730 women were assigned to operational submarines—serving as officers and sailors on 19 nuclear-powered, ballistic-missile and guided-missile

SEE COEDS ON PAGE 7



Restored runway

LYDIA GORDON/Stars and Stripes

U.S. soldiers participating in exercise Saber Junction unload a Humvee and weapons from an Air Force C-130 at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Germany on Thursday.

Landing strip rehabilitated just in time for German exercise

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

HOHENFELS, Germany—A U.S. Air Force Super Hercules packed with Humvees and anti-tank weapons roared onto an Army airstrip surrounded by Bavarian forest, where it supplied airborne troops locked into possibly the most challenging combat drill they'll see all year.

The first of eight C-130J aircraft, seven American and one Italian, arrived around 10 a.m. Thursday on a dusty gravel runway at the 7th Army Training Command's Joint Multinational Readiness Center for exercise Saber Junction.

The short takeoff and landing strip, located deep in the Hohenfels Training Area, was rehabilitated by Army and Air Force engineers

and construction crews just in time for the exercise, which began Aug. 25 and is taking place through Sept. 19 in Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels.

The air cargo was delivered to paratroopers with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, who were fending off simulated attacks. It was the first time in about five years the airstrip was in a condition to host the transport plane.

Lt. Col. Travis Toole, the 54th Engineer Battalion commander, supervised the offload from a concealed position along the flight line.

"Last night, we received a lot of contact here on the airfield," Toole said. "That emphasizes the importance of airfields not only to us but to our adversaries. It's critical that you can seize

SEE RUNWAY ON PAGE 7



ADRIAN GREENWOOD/U.S. Army

U.S. soldiers renovate a runway at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in the German state of Bavaria on June 25.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

New iPhone will catapult Apple into age of AI

Associated Press

Apple's ubiquitous iPhone is about to break new ground with a shift into artificial intelligence that will do everything from smartening up its frequently dim-witted assistant Siri to creating customized emojis on the fly.

The new era will dawn Monday with the unveiling of the hotly anticipated iPhone 16 in a Cupertino, Calif., auditorium named after Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, who pulled out the first iPhone in 2007 and waved it like a magic wand while

predicting it would reshape society.

Apple has sold billions of iPhones since then, helping to create about \$3 trillion in shareholder wealth. But in the past decade, there have been mostly minor upgrades from one model to the next — a factor that has caused people to hold off on buying a new iPhone and led to a recent slump in sales of Apple's marquee product.

The iPhone 16 is generating a bigger buzz because it is the first model to be tailored specifically for AI, a technology that is expected to trigger the biggest revolution in the in-

dustry since Jobs thrust Apple into the smartphone market 17 years ago.

The advances included in the iPhone 16 could set up Apple to be "the gatekeeper of the consumer AI revolution," Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives wrote in a research note.

Most of Apple's AI tasks will be performed on the iPhone itself instead of remote data centers — a distinction that requires a special processor within the forthcoming models and the high-end iPhone 15s that came out a year ago.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Euro costs (Sept. 9)	\$1.08	Switzerland (Franc)
British pound (Sept. 9)	\$1.28	Thailand (Baht)
Japanese yen (Sept. 9)	140.00	Turkey (New Lira)
South Korean won (Sept. 9)	1,299.00	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	.3769	
Britain (Pound)	1.3134	
Canada (Dollar)	1.3563	
China (Yuan)	7.0889	
Denmark (Krone)	6.7313	
Egypt (Pound)	48.4391	
Euro	.9021	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7955	
Hungary (Forint)	355.87	
Israel (Shekel)	3.7351	
Japan (Yen)	142.37	
Kuwait (Dinar)	.3054	
Norway (Krone)	10.7256	
Philippines (Peso)	56.20	
Poland (Zloty)	3.86	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7528	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3026	
South Korea (Won)	1,338.69	

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

INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	8.50
Interest Rates Discount rate	6.00
Federal funds market rate	5.33
3-month bill	5.06
30-year bond	4.03

WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE



TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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MILITARY

NATO drill in Iceland fuels Marine program

Course helps gain familiarity beyond military resources

BY ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

KEFLAVIK, Iceland — When Lance Cpl. Jonathan Williamson leaves the Marine Corps in a few months, he's hoping to parlay the skills acquired during his service as a fuel technician into a well-paying career.

Participation in a Marine Corps pilot program designed to help the service tap into civilian aviation fuel sources worldwide will give him a boost, he said.

"I'm hoping that this will give me some job security — kind of a leg up on the competition," said Williamson, who is assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 271, or MWSS-271.

Williamson and other members of the squadron seeking certification as a Contingency Quality Assurance Specialist — Fuels, or CQAS-F, recently toured several civilian fuel facilities in Iceland. The squadron was on the island to support operations for the U.S.-led Northern Viking exercise, which ended Tuesday.

The CQAS-F program is designed to provide knowledge of commercial aviation fuel facilities, pipelines, storage tanks and related infrastructure, said Chief



ALISON BATH/Stars and Stripes

Lance Cpl. Matthew Trudeau tests fuel for sediment and water at Keflavik Air Base in Iceland on Sept. 2, during the U.S.-led Northern Viking exercise. Members of the squadron also toured civilian aviation fuel facilities on the island to increase their knowledge needed for Contingency Quality Assurance Specialist — Fuels certification.

Warrant Officer 2 James Nieves of MWSS-271.

Having that information on hand helps Marines adapt to changing conditions during overseas operations and make quick use of civilian fuel sources using military equipment, he said.

A CQAS-F trained Marine could provide a commander with a di-

verse "pool of fuel resources that we can tap into right then and there and we don't have to change a thing," Nieves said. "We just need familiarity or someone who is proficient enough to operate that facility."

To gain that understanding, Marines participating in Northern Viking met with their civilian

counterparts on the island, Nieves said.

The interactions were not only helpful in assessing Iceland's facilities but also in understanding the realities of the country's fuel management system.

Some of the locations the squadron toured were staffed by two- or four-man teams fueling millions

of gallons daily. Typically, Marine expeditionary operations are staffed by six to 12 Marines pushing a maximum of 30,000 gallons in a day.

The surprising lesson for service personnel was the "quantity and the efficiency the civilian side operates in," Nieves said.

Besides giving the Marine Corps greater self-sufficiency, CQAS-F trained Marines can work with the Defense Logistics Agency, other U.S. services or military allies worldwide, Nieves said.

"It really does allow us to organically provide for ourselves and those around us," he said. "At the end of the day, it's an aviation ground support mission."

In existence for about 2.5 years, the program is being considered for eventual designation as a necessary military job specialty, Nieves said.

That potential, along with the challenge of acquiring more knowledge and skills, is exciting for Marines, he said. There are about 33 Marines currently training for the designation. The goal is to have at least 25 service members seeking the certification annually, he said.

"Marines are reenlisting because of this initiative," said Nieves, who hopes to see the program expanded to include other job classifications. "They see the value behind it ... the value it brings (to them)."

Air Force Academy athlete found dead in dorm room

Stars and Stripes

Officials are investigating the death of a 19-year-old cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., the second student from the institute to die this year.

Cadet 4th Class Avery Koonce, of Taylor, Texas, was unconscious in her dormitory room Wednesday night, the academy announced in a Facebook post the next day.

"Academy first responders were called and attempted life-saving measures, which were unsuccessful," the post said.

Koonce, who was expected to graduate as a second lieutenant in 2028, was a member of the women's track-and-field team.

"We lost an incredible teammate last night," academy superintendent Lt. Gen. Tony Bauernfeind said in the post. "Our team is focused on providing support to Avery's family, Cadet Squadron 38, the Track and Field team, and the entire Academy family," he added.

The loss follows that of Cadet



U.S. AIR FORCE

Cadet 4th Class Avery Koonce, of Taylor, Texas, was found unconscious in her dormitory.

2nd Class Tristen Burton, of Gran-ger, Texas, who was killed Feb. 29 in an off-base motorcycle crash.

A day earlier, Chong Hirthler, a 23-year employee of the Mitchell Hall Cadet Dining Facility, was found dead in her parked car. A family member had contacted school officials after she failed to return home from work.

IG: Navy secretary broke law by voicing views on Trump and Biden

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro broke the law by publicly endorsing the reelection of President Joe Biden and criticizing former President Donald Trump in several statements he made while on official duty overseas, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel said Thursday.

In a report to the White House, the watchdog agency said Del Toro's comments about the presidential election came in a BBC interview and when he was responding to questions after a speech in London. While he later reported the remarks, his unwillingness to take responsibility for them is troubling, the special counsel said.

The agency said Del Toro's comments, which were made before Biden dropped out of the presidential race, violate the Hatch Act, which prohibits U.S. officials from engaging in political activity while they are on duty and from "using their official authority or influence to interfere with or

affect the result of an election."

"The United States and the world need the mature leadership of President Biden," Del Toro said in response to a question after giving a speech at the Royal United Services Institute in late January. He added, "We cannot afford to have a president who aligns himself with autocratic dictators and rulers whose interpretation of democratic principles is suspicious (at) best."

Later, during an interview on "BBC News Sunday," Del Toro was asked about his comments on Trump's democratic principles. Del Toro responded that in the past, Republican and Democratic presidents abided by core American values and protected democracy.

"When you have someone who doesn't align to those core principles, it makes you wonder, you

know, should you be supporting that individual?" he said.

Del Toro was asked, "You said he had a suspicious attitude to democracy?" And the Navy secretary responded, "Absolutely so."

Several days later, Del Toro self-reported the blunder to the special counsel, saying his intention was to focus on the importance of strong international alliances. But, he added, "In retrospect, I believe my response should have been delivered more broadly without reference to specific candidates."

In a separate written response to the watchdog's findings, the secretary's lawyer, Michael Bromwich, said Del Toro's remarks were "spontaneous and unpremeditated" and did not constitute a violation of the Hatch Act. Bromwich said Del Toro was responding to questions and did not directly speak Trump's name.

Asked about the violation, Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said at a briefing that the department is reviewing the report.



Del Toro

MILITARY

Ex-Coast Guard cadets file claims against academy

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

Thirteen former cadets of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy are seeking \$10 million each from the service, accusing the Coast Guard of failing to implement adequate policies and practices that allowed sexual violence to go unchecked, according to legal documents filed Thursday.

The 12 women and one man who filed the claims wrote in separate documents about rape, hazing and physical violence at the academy in New London, Conn. While some said the abuse led them to leave the academy and end their military careers before they fully began, others said they went on to join the Coast Guard where they were again sexually assaulted.

"Today's filings are just the tip of the iceberg. We know that there are numerous women and men who were sexually assaulted at the Coast Guard Academy and have never gotten justice," said Christine Dunn, an attorney for the 13 former cadets.

Service officials confirmed they received the claims but said federal law prevents them from discussing the details.

"The Coast Guard will resolve the claims in accordance with the Federal Tort Claims Act and any other applicable law," the service said in a statement.

The legal filings follow a year of scrutiny for the Coast Guard Academy that began with the revelation that the service concealed a report that found academy officials had routinely mishandled reports of sexual assault among cadets. The report, known as Operation Fouled Anchor, was the result of a six-year internal review of 102 reports of sexual assault and harassment cases at the academy between 1990 and 2006.

Fouled Anchor's existence only became public after CNN learned of the report and the decision in 2020 to not release it. Only then did Coast Guard officials go to Congress with it. Congressional committees and the Department of Homeland Security inspector general have since opened investigations into the cover-up, and the Coast Guard Investigative Service has begun criminal investigations into the cases included in Fouled Anchor.

One woman who filed a claim Thursday described being asleep in her bed at the academy when a fellow cadet climbed onto her while he was naked. She fought

him and pleaded with him to stop as he began to rape her. Finally, she told him that she feared pregnancy and was not on birth control. He stopped the physical assault but remained at her bedside and performed a sexual act.

An academy policy required cadets to keep their doors unlocked, and it was known among cadets that she did not have a roommate, according to the complaint.

"I had seen other women be discharged while their assailant was allowed to continue their service. I wanted to be an officer and graduate, so I did not report [the attack]," the woman wrote in the complaint.

The man who filed a claim said he was hazed by fellow cadets until it escalated into sexual violence. When he confided in a counselor at the academy, he was told "things like that don't happen to real men."

"The lasting emotional scars from my time at the academy have greatly impacted my well-being," he wrote. "The trauma has caused a strain on my personal relationships and led to two of my marriages failing. The emotional distress and [post-traumatic stress disorder] also make it difficult to sleep. I often wake up at 3 a.m. screaming and throwing punches."

Each complaint was filed anonymously and made available with the dates redacted by the two law firms representing the 13 former cadets, Sanford Heisler Sharp LLP and Maritime Legal Solutions, PLLC. The claims are the first step in filing a lawsuit under the Federal Tort Claims Act, a federal statute that permits individuals to bring legal claims against federal agencies. Prior to filing a complaint in court, it must first go through an administrative process with the agency being accused.

The 13 claims are filed against the Coast Guard, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Transportation, which oversaw the Coast Guard until 2003.

So far, no Coast Guard leaders have been disciplined. Adm. Linda Fagan, the commandant of the service, told Blumenthal and the subpanel that she plans to review the findings of the inspector general before moving forward with accountability. She has conducted her own review and began implementing 33 actions to improve the Coast Guard's culture and handling of sexual misconduct.



PHOTOS BY NICHOLAS ROSS/U.S. Air Force

Staff Sgt. Justin Bosch replaces an air conditioning belt at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, on Aug. 14.

Airmen battle heat, supply shortages to keep AC running in South Korea

By LUIS GARCIA
Stars and Stripes

As temperatures soared this summer, Kunsan Air Base's 8th Civil Engineer Squadron battled every day to keep air conditioners blowing cold air 136 miles southwest of Seoul.

Air conditioning during the torrid summers on the Korean Peninsula provides more than comfort; it's essential to flight operations in some cases.

"During peak summer, we can get anywhere from 20 to 50 calls a week," Staff Sgt. Nickolas Lawson, a squadron heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician, said Aug. 28.

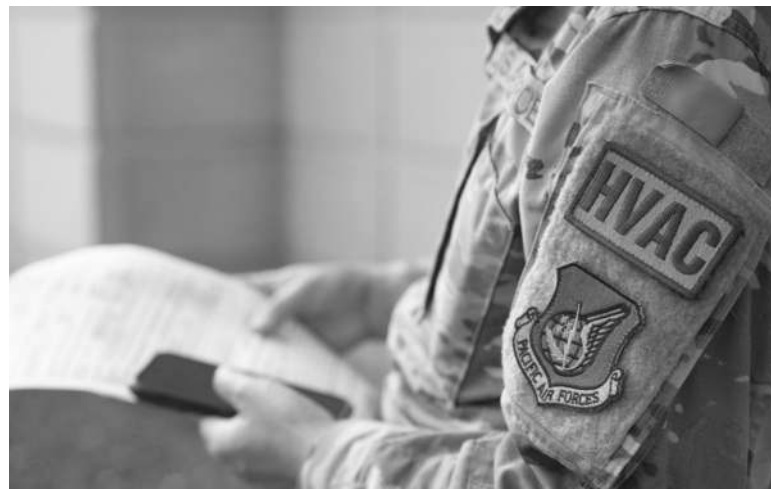
South Korea just endured its hottest summer on record, with an average temperature from June to August of 78.1 degrees Fahrenheit, nearly two degrees above the historical norm, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration.

South Korea also experienced its longest streak on record of tropical nights, defined as nighttime temperatures that remain above 77 degrees, according to The Korea Herald on Sept. 1 and the Korea Meteorological Association. Seoul logged 37 consecutive tropical nights and Jeju Island, offshore of the country's southern tip, recorded 47.

The intense heat and humidity rapidly deteriorate the lifespan of HVAC systems, pushing the civil engineering team into overdrive with preventive maintenance and emergency repairs, Lawson said.

Compounding their challenges are frequent power outages, usually caused by summer storms that wreak havoc on the already stressed systems.

"It can happen a couple of times



Senior Airman Intorn Messa reviews an HVAC work order at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, on Aug. 8.

a month, if not more," Tech. Sgt. Keandrae Lampley, an HVAC technician for the 8th Fighter Wing, said Aug. 28. "Sometimes weather also plays a factor into that, so storms and tropical weather can affect power outages as well."

Power outages are very bad for air conditioning equipment, which must be constantly monitored to ensure it comes back online properly, Lawson said.

The team's work is essential to keeping operations running, Lawson said.

The civil engineers recently received a 3 a.m. call to restore a cooling unit essential for a satellite link, allowing aircraft to take off as scheduled, he said.

Preventive measures are key to avoiding such crises. Units must be kept clean to ensure proper airflow, Lampley said.

Sometimes the hand-off between personnel rotating in and out of South Korea gives rise to miscommunication, he said.

"They're picking up from where

other people left off, and some people before don't account for where they left off," Lampley said. "There might be little communication between rotations, so maintaining it gets lost, in a sense."

Lawson said better tools and more supplies have become available, which improves the HVAC team's efforts significantly.

"When I first got here, we were struggling a little bit, but we were able to get a lot more in, and we've been a lot better on the tool side," he said. "We've been able to get a lot more supplies to fix things, and we've been able to get the money to actually get more and more supplies for guys coming in after us."

Extreme temperatures present a challenge for HVAC technicians in an age when many people regard air conditioning as essential.

"We don't always have the solution right at hand, but we come up with a solution in the long run," Lampley said. "We do what we can and try our best day in, day out."

PACIFIC

Indonesia still 'rowing between 2 reefs'

Multinational drills come to end as relationship with China still strained

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

Two weeks of military drills in Indonesia involving 5,500 troops from 10 nations wrapped up Friday as the Southeast Asian democracy balances security against a strong trading relationship with China.

Super Garuda Shield began Aug. 26 with participants from the United States, Indonesia, Australia, Canada, France, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

A dozen other countries sent observers.

The U.S. and Indonesia began Garuda Shield in 2007 as a bilateral exercise. China and more than 20 other nations were invited for the 2009 iteration, which focused on peacekeeping, according to the U.S. Army Pacific website that year.

The drills, which greatly expanded in 2022, now aim to build trust and strengthen military-to-military relations, according to a 25th Infantry Division news release Aug. 26.

China — Indonesia's second largest investor after Singapore — is "conspicuous by its absence" from Super Garuda Shield, said Carlyle Thayer, an emeritus professor at the University of New South Wales and a lecturer at the Australian Defence Force Academy.

Trade between Indonesia and China was worth \$139.26 billion in 2023, he said Wednesday.

This year's exercise was planned under the watch of Indonesian Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto, who was elected president in February and will take office next month, Thayer said.

"Prabowo is pursuing the well-trodden path of pursuing an 'independent and active' Indonesian foreign policy or 'rowing between two reefs' to avoid alignment with China or the United States," he said.

Prabowo as president-elect visited China in April and reassured President Xi Jinping he would continue President Joko Widodo's friendly policies toward China, Thayer said.

However, Indonesia recently signed security defense agreements with the U.S. and Australia, and plans its largest exercise yet with Australia in November, Thayer said.

China is the most influential economic and political-strategic power in the region, significantly outpacing the U.S., according to the annual State of Southeast Asia

survey published in April by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Studies Centre — Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore.

Just over half the poll's 2,000 respondents prefer China if the region is forced to align itself in the ongoing U.S.-China rivalry. But many indicated an independent stance is preferable to embracing either power.

Indonesia has so far refrained from commenting on the escalating maritime clashes between Beijing and Manila in the South China Sea, Thayer said.

"The sub-text of Indonesia's current defense cooperation with the United States and Australia is to build maritime capacity in order to hedge against China," he said.

China's coast guard continues to patrol north of the Natunas Islands, within Indonesia's 200-nautical-mile economic zone but outside its 12-nautical-mile territorial waters, Ian Chong, an associate professor of political science at the National University of Singapore, said Thursday.

"I don't think Indonesia will accept [China's] claims, but they may have decided to treat things more quietly given that they are on the cusp of their presidential transition," he said.

The U.S. contingent at this year's Super Garuda Shield was composed of 2,500 troops including members of the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, in Hawaii, and the 11th Airborne Division in Alaska.

Marines in the contingent came from the 1st Marine Division in California; the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit on Okinawa; and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

The Navy dispatched the amphibious transport dock ship USS Green Bay from Sasebo Naval Base, Japan.

Most of the training took place in East Java and West Java but an airborne operation was held on Sumatra, Adan Cazarez, 25th ID spokesman in Indonesia, said Wednesday.

"We are treating this as a rehearsal for how we would operate together," U.S. Army Col. Adisa King, commander of a combined ground task force during the exercise, said by phone from Indonesia that day.

The drills were to conclude with a multinational live-fire exercise involving troops from the U.S., Indonesia, Japan, Australia, Singapore, and the United Kingdom at Puslatpur on Java, he said.



EVANGELOS WILSON/U.S. Army

Members of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, assault a beach alongside Indonesian troops near Banongan, Indonesia, during the annual Super Garuda Shield exercise on Thursday.

Cyber security training takes bigger role at Super Garuda Shield exercise

By **WYATT OLSON**
Stars and Stripes

Technology experts from four nations spent the past two weeks practicing a defense against nefarious hacking during the first-ever cyber exercise held as part of Super Garuda Shield in Indonesia.

The cyber exercise is the latest expansion of what began as Garuda Shield in 2006, when it was merely an information and training exchange between U.S. and Indonesia armed forces.

In 2022, the exercise expanded in scope and participation. This year the exercise ran from Aug. 26 through Friday.

The cyber exercise was added at the request of Indonesia's armed forces chief, said Maj. Gen. Joseph Harris, commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard, Thursday from Indonesia.

Air Chief Marshal Hadi Tjahjanto has commanded the Tentara Nasional Indonesia, or TNI, since 2017 and reports directly to the Indonesian president.

"He called for it, and we — and the other nations participating — happily put together the team and the scenario to practice preparing for cyber threats," Harris said.

Cyber security is a growing priority for Indonesia, which borders the contested South China Sea and is the world's most populous Muslim-majority country.

The Jakarta Post reported Wednesday that Indonesian Pres-



ORLANDO CORPUZ/U.S. Air National Guard

Indonesian armed forces Col. Masnal Samian discusses cyber security concepts with Air Force Col. Glen Hayas in Surabaya, Indonesia, last month.

ident Joko Widodo has ordered the establishment of the Indonesian Cyber Force, which would become the fourth service branch of the TNI.

Personnel from the Hawaii National Guard built and managed the "self-contained cyber-range environment" used during the exercise, Harris said. They also helped provide the training scenarios and the "network backbone" to conduct the training, he said.

The appeal of such an exercise is no mystery, Harris said.

"I think every nation realizes how vulnerable they are to cyber threats," he said. "I think every country likely feels that they're behind the curve, or behind the power curve, on establishing the

right defensive posture and having the right defensive capabilities to protect their key infrastructure, their economies, all their military operations, for example."

Most multinational exercises of any size conduct some element of cyber defense, but the Garuda cyber exercise has a dedicated training scenario that is separate from the staff exercise.

"It's tailored for a complex cyber-threat environment," Harris said.

At a training compound devoted to cyber training, 27 experts from the U.S., Indonesia, United Kingdom and Singapore broke into blue and red teams, he said.

"They created four multinational teams, each with about seven folks, and each one led by one of the participating countries," he said.

Each team then divided into a blue force that defended the network, while the red force sought to infiltrate it.

"So, collectively, one attacks, one tries to defend, and then they compare notes, and they do it again," Harris said.

Harris declined to provide details on what lessons were learned from the red-on-blue challenges, but he described the depth of knowledge and expertise in personnel from Indonesia, Singapore and the U.K. as "remarkable."

"We didn't really realize we had such resources," he said.

PACIFIC

Yagi hits Vietnam after killing dozens in Philippines, China

Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — At least 14 people have died and 176 others injured in Vietnam after Typhoon Yagi slammed the country's north, state media said Sunday, as officials warned of heavy downpours despite its waning power.

Described by Vietnamese officials as one of the most powerful typhoons to hit the region over the last decade, Yagi left more than 3 million people without electricity in northern Vietnam. It also damaged vital agricultural land, nearly 116,192 hectares where rice and fruits are mostly grown. Hundreds of flights were canceled after four airports were closed.

The typhoon made landfall in Vietnam's northern coastal prov-

inces of Quang Ninh and Hai Phong with wind speeds of up to 92 mph on Saturday afternoon. It raged for roughly 15 hours before gradually weakening into a tropical depression early Sunday morning. Vietnam's meteorological department predicted heavy rain in northern and central provinces and warned of floods in low-lying areas, flash floods in streams and landslides on steep slopes.

Municipal workers along with army and police forces were busy in the capital, Hanoi, clearing uprooted trees, fallen billboards, toppled electricity poles and rooftops that were swept away, while assessing damaged buildings.

Yagi was still a storm when it blew out of the northwestern Philippines into the South China Sea



MINH QUYET, VNA/AP

People walk past a broken light post after Typhoon Yagi hit the city in Hai Phong, northern Vietnam, on Sunday. Yagi has killed at least 14 people and injured 176 others in the country.

on Wednesday, leaving at least 20 people dead and 26 others missing mostly in landslides and widespread flooding in the archipelago nation. It then made its way to China, killing three people

and injuring nearly a hundred others, before landing in Vietnam.

Storms like Typhoon Yagi were "getting stronger due to climate change, primarily because

warmer ocean waters provide more energy to fuel the storms, leading to increased wind speeds and heavier rainfall," said Benjamin Horton, director of the Earth Observatory of Singapore.

NCIS probes death of Marine's family member on Hawaii base

By Wyatt Olson

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Agents with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service are investigating the death on Sunday of a Marine's family member at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Investigators have not released the names of the two individuals.

"Out of respect for the investigative process, NCIS will not comment further while the investigation remains ongoing," Darwin Lam, a spokesman for NCIS, said in an email Friday.

"No charges have been filed at this time," Lam said.

The base is located on the windward side of Oahu on Kaneohe Bay.



AIDAN HEKKER/U.S. Marine Corps

NCIS is investigating the death of a Marine's family member at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The base is located on the windward side of Oahu.

Hawaii News Now reported earlier last week that the deceased

was the wife of a Marine and that he is being held on Ford Island,

which is adjacent to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The Honolulu Medical Examiner Office said on Friday that no information was available about the death.

The Honolulu Police Department is not involved in the investigation, HPD spokeswoman Michelle Yu said in an email Friday.

A Marine Corps sergeant who had also been stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii remains in a Honolulu jail two years after being charged with killing his wife on July 20, 2022.

Authorities say that Sgt. Bryant Tejada-Castillo repeatedly stabbed Dana Alotaibi while on the side of a road near the base.

Tejada-Castillo has pleaded not guilty to charges of second-degree

murder. He is being held on a \$1 million bond, and a trial date is set for June.

Meanwhile, Pfc. Dewayne Arthur Johnson II, a soldier stationed at Schofield Barracks in central Oahu, is being held in the brig at Ford Island and was charged late last month for making false statements, obstructing justice and distributing child pornography in connection with his missing wife, Mischa Johnson.

Mischa Johnson, 19, who was six months pregnant when she disappeared in late July, has not been found.

Agents with the Army Criminal Investigation Division have told the family of the missing woman that they believe she was killed.

Deceased boat master left behind in risky Navy rescue remains adrift

By Wyatt Olson

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — French authorities have not been able to recover the body of a dead man left aboard a sailboat drifting near Hawaii that was the scene of a perilous rescue of a mother and her child by a U.S. Navy destroyer late last month.

The master of the French-flagged sailboat Albroc died while the vessel was about 900 miles east of Honolulu, leaving a woman and small child stranded aboard.

Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point in Hawaii received a distress call in the early hours of Aug. 24 from the sailboat, the Navy said in

an Aug. 29 news release. The Coast Guard launched an HC-130 Hercules plane, and upon reaching the scene crew members spotted the Albroc, a 47-foot sailboat.

It was then that the crew heard a mayday call on VHF-FM channel 16 from a 47-year-old woman aboard the vessel reporting that she and her 7-year-old daughter were in dire need of rescue, reporting that the master of the boat was dead.

The plane crew was unable to communicate directly with the woman.

Winds of roughly 20 mph were churning up waves of about six feet that were splashing over the side of the sailboat.

The Coast Guard requested further assistance from the Seri Emperor, a Singapore-flagged, 754-foot liquid petroleum gas tanker that was located about 290 miles south of the sailboat. The transit to the sailboat took about 18 hours.

At 9 a.m. on Aug. 25, another Coast Guard crew aboard a Hercules arrived on the scene and saw the mother and daughter waving their arms before they sought safety inside the boat's cabin.

The U.S. Navy diverted the USS William P. Lawrence, a guided-missile destroyer homeported in Pearl Harbor, to the sailboat's position.

The Seri Emperor arrived late in the afternoon on Aug. 25, but its

crew was unable to safely transfer the woman and child from the vessel due to worsening weather ahead of the approaching Hurricane Gilma.

The tanker remained on the scene until early Aug. 26, when the Navy destroyer arrived.

"With seas greater than 25 feet forecast within 12 hours of their position and the damaged condition of the Albroc, the William P. Lawrence had a six-hour window to safely conduct small boat recovery operations," the news release states.

A small boat crew from the Navy ship launched in 10-foot waves and rescued the woman, girl, a cat and tortoise from the sailboat.

They were unable to recover the body of the dead man aboard the boat.

Lea Goigoux, a spokeswoman for the French Consulate in San Francisco, said in an email Friday that French authorities have not yet been able to recover the boat or the boat master, who was not related to the passengers.

The Navy destroyer arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Honolulu on Aug. 28, where members of the Coast Guard and the Honorary Consul of France in Hawaii provided care for the pair of survivors.

Neither required hospitalization, Goigoux said.

MILITARY

DOD set to overhaul job training program

Pentagon wants to emphasize immediate employment for transitioning service members

By LINDA F. HERSEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is overhauling a job training program for transitioning service members with tougher requirements for employers, the creation of a centralized tracking system to measure outcomes and a greater focus on moving participants into full-time work after an internship.

The new mandates were implemented in August and require companies that participate in a program called SkillBridge to demonstrate a “high probability” of immediate employment after the six-month program, according to the department.

While the Defense Department has maintained the changes are needed to help more participants connect with jobs, some veterans and companies have questioned whether the goal is to scale back participation in a popular jobs program to ensure troop readiness.

The Defense Department has not provided data on performance rates or outcomes for SkillBridge to validate the changes. But the program was paused in the summer of 2023 over concerns about balancing troop readiness with demand for the jobs program by service members in their final months of duty.

SkillBridge is a voluntary program for troops leaving the service that has proven to be more popular than the military anticipated, the department said. More than 12,000 exiting service members enrolled in SkillBridge during the first two quarters of fiscal



ANTONINO MAZZAMUTO/U.S. Marine Corps

Robyn Cameron, a Recruitment Specialist with Southeast Lineman Training Center, speaks with U.S. Marines during a SkillBridge expo at Camp Lejeune, N.C., in February 2023.

2024, according to the Government Accountability Office, which examined program participation in a report published in August.

Under SkillBridge, companies provide unpaid internships to service members who are in their final six months of active duty, while the Defense Department continues to pay their wages and full benefits.

William O’Neil, a Marine Corps veteran and founder of Greater Heights Capital, predicted business participation likely will scale back under the new priorities to hire job trainees.

“SkillBridge is an amazing opportunity for businesses. It is hard to turn down free labor. But it also

will be hard for business owners to forecast future hirings and be certain it is feasible,” said O’Neil, a former staff sergeant who served from 2008-2022.

Greater Heights Capital, a company that invests in small businesses, has not participated in SkillBridge, but O’Neil assisted another company that was applying to participate in SkillBridge.

Under the new rules, companies will have to guarantee they can offer a specified number of internships annually based on the organization’s size. They will also need to show 75% or more of service members who successfully complete a SkillBridge internship receive immediate of-

fers of employment.

When service members are six months from separation, they can request to participate in SkillBridge. The training is considered official duty during regular working hours.

Bridgestone, a multinational manufacturing company, piloted two internships in 2023 at stores near Fort Campbell, Ky. The company hired one intern as an auto mechanic after the six-month program. Bridgestone said Thursday that it plans to continue offering the program under the new requirements.

Since SkillBridge started in 2011, more than 50,000 service members have participated. SkillBridge was created as a response to job loss from the national recession in 2008 and 2009.

A new process for collecting and analyzing SkillBridge data on internship participation, performance and outcomes is scheduled to begin in fiscal 2025, according to the Defense Department.

The DOD stated it will “issue new guidance and track data by military service,” according to the GAO report, which looked at the need for improving data analysis for program oversight.

The Defense Department could not provide figures on how many SkillBridge participants completed their programs or were hired by their employers, according to the GAO report. It also described current data collection methods on SkillBridge as ad-hoc.

Each service branch is responsible for data collection, according to the GAO, which found centralized analysis does not exist.

Auditors concluded the Defense Department lacks the evidence to determine whether the 13-year-old job training program meets the needs of exiting service members seeking new careers as civilians.

“Moreover, this absence of data, analysis and corrective action plans could make it difficult for key decision makers to provide oversight of the program,” auditors wrote.

New requirements for SkillBridge bring the program into alignment with the Defense Department’s two other major programs for separating service members, according to the GAO report. They are the Transition Assistance Program, called TAP, a mandated course for all exiting military members, and the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program that supports transitioning members of the National Guard and Reserve.

The DOD’s Military-Civilian Transition Office assumed oversight of SkillBridge in 2023 and assessed the program’s strengths and challenges through interviews with stakeholders.

“[The transition office] is taking steps to identify if SkillBridge program opportunities are resulting in interviews and job offers for services members in the program, a key piece of data,” the GAO report said. “More fully leveraging available information would better position the military services to identify shortcomings with SkillBridge or challenges facing service members participating in the program and why those challenges occur.”

Runway: Restoration finished several months ahead of schedule

FROM PAGE 1

and secure an airfield.”

Initial estimates said the restoration work could take up to six months, but the team’s surveyors and equipment operators graded and packed down the soil in just over one month, an Air Force statement said.

The Super Hercules, with its four Rolls-Royce turboprop engines, can weigh as much as

164,000 pounds, so any dirt runway it lands on must be rated to handle the load.

There are no current plans to use the airstrip for anything outside of training, training command spokesman Capt. Harold Shorter said Friday.

Saber Junction is an annual multinational land warfare exercise. This year’s participants include Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina,

Croatia, Georgia, Italy, Lithuania, Montenegro, Moldova, North Macedonia and the United Kingdom.

On Wednesday, Brig. Gen. Steven Carpenter, who leads the training command, said they were incorporating tactics and technology as a result of lessons learned from observing the war in Ukraine.

Toole and 180 fellow “Sky Sol-

diers” parachuted into the small German village of Eglsee on Wednesday morning. They then marched several miles to their positions in the training area.

Before they could get situated, the Army training center’s resident opposition force, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, attacked at midnight with a 45-minute blitz from a platoon-sized element.

They initially got the upper hand before they could be pushed back, Toole said. He watched another Super Hercules take off after offloading a tank-killing TOW Improved Target Acquisition System.

“American paratroopers don’t stay in the defense for very long,” Toole said. “We’re going to stop the enemy and immediately go in to the offense.”

Coed: Navy has seen huge increase in female submarine sailors, officers in last 5 years

FROM PAGE 1

submarines, and 19 nuclear-powered attack boats, according to Submarine Forces Atlantic.

The increase follows the 2010 lift of the ban that barred women from serving aboard submarines.

A decade later, in 2021, the Navy announced a long-term plan to integrate female officers on 33 submarine crews and female enlisted sailors on 14 submarine crews by 2030.

“To support women serving on-

board submarines, the submarine force, starting with [the Pre-Commissioning Unit] New Jersey, is building all future [nuclear-powered attack submarines] and the new Columbia-class, [ballistic-missile submarines] gender-neu-

tral from the keel up,” Gaucher said.

Construction on the New Jersey began in 2019 at HII’s Newport News Shipbuilding division in Virginia. The warship was christened in 2021 and delivered in April to

the Navy at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia.

Before construction of the New Jersey, the Navy retrofitted existing Ohio-class submarines with extra doors and designated washrooms.

WAR IN UKRAINE

US believes Iran provided Russia with its missiles

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States has informed allies that it believes Iran has transferred short-range ballistic missiles to Russia for its war in Ukraine, according to two people familiar with the matter.

They did not offer any details about how many weapons have been delivered or when the transfers may have occurred, but they confirmed the U.S. intelligence finding. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a matter that has not been publicly disclosed.

The White House declined to confirm the weapons transfer but reiterated its concern that Iran is deepening its support of Russia. The White House has been warning Iran for months not to transfer ballistic missiles to Russia.

“Any transfer of Iranian ballistic missiles to Russia would represent a dramatic escalation in Iran’s support for Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and lead to the killing of more Ukrainian civilians,” National Security Council spokesman Sean Savett said in a statement. “This partnership threatens European security and illustrates how Iran’s destabilizing influence reaches beyond the Middle East and around the world.”

The U.S. finding comes as the Kremlin tries to repel Ukraine’s surprise offensive that has led to the seizure of about 500 square miles of Russia’s Kursk region. Meanwhile, Ukraine’s president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is pressing allies to allow his country to use Western-supplied missiles to strike deep inside Russia and hit sites from which Moscow launch-

es aerial attacks.

Iran, as it has with previous U.S. intelligence findings, denied providing Russia with weapons for its war in Ukraine.

“Iran considers the provision of military assistance to the parties engaged in the conflict — which leads to increased human casualties, destruction of infrastructure, and a distancing from ceasefire negotiations — to be inhumane,” according to a statement from Iran’s mission to the United Nations. “Thus, not only does Iran abstain from engaging in such actions itself, but it also calls upon other countries to cease the supply of weapons to the sides involved in the conflict.”

CIA Director William Burns, who was in London on Saturday for a joint appearance with his British intelligence counterpart, warned of the growing and “troubling” defense relationship involving Russia, China, Iran and North Korea that he said threatens both Ukraine and Western allies in the Middle East.

The White House has repeatedly declassified and publicized intelligence findings that show North Korea has sent ammunition and missiles to Russia to use against Ukraine, while Iran supplies Moscow with attack drones and has assisted the Kremlin with building a drone-manufacturing factory.

China has held back from providing Russians with weaponry but has surged sales to Russia of machine tools, microelectronics and other technology that Moscow in turn is using to produce missiles, tanks, aircraft and other weaponry, according to U.S. officials.



ALEXANDER RIEDEL/Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy attend a Ukraine Defense Contact Group meeting at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Friday.

Zelenskyy asks a US-led coalition for OK to attack further into Russia

Associated Press

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s pleas for long-range weapons meant to strike deeper into Russia were met with a cool response from Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Friday at a gathering of more than 50 nations involved in planning military aid to war-torn Ukraine.

Zelenskyy, who made his first in-person appearance for the latest meeting at Ramstein Air Base, asked for armaments he said were needed to take back territory in the eastern Donetsk region from Russia.

In recent weeks, Moscow launched some of its most devastating air attacks on Ukraine since beginning of its full-scale invasion in 2022.

“We need to have this long-range capability, not only on the divided territory of Ukraine, but also on the Russian territory, so that Russia is motivated to seek peace,” Zelenskyy said. “We need

to make Russian cities and even Russian soldiers think about what they need: peace or Putin.”

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who is hosting the meeting, said following Zelenskyy’s morning speech that “we hear your urgency and we share it.”

But during afternoon remarks, Austin rebuffed the idea of enabling Ukraine to expand its battle on Russia’s turf.

“I think for the foreseeable future we’re going to remain focused on ... doing those things that will enable them to be effective in defending their sovereign territory,” Austin said.

Austin added that no one capability will prove decisive in the war, a point he’s made at previous meetings of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group when countries providing security assistance were reluctant to deliver specific weaponry.

However, the U.S. and other nations have repeatedly provided tanks, fighter aircraft and other

weapons that were once considered off the table out of concern for expanding the war and endangering NATO allies.

For now, Austin maintained that Ukraine has “a pretty significant capability of its own” to address targets that are out of range of its air defense arsenal.

Earlier, Austin said President Joe Biden was set to announce an additional \$250 million security package for Ukraine.

With winter approaching, “time is of the essence ... we must all step up our support and quickly,” he said.

Since 2022, the U.S. has provided \$56 billion in security assistance to Ukraine. Other member nations have contributed a combined \$50 billion worth of weapons, aid and training.

The U.S. is also focused on resourcing a variety of air-to-ground missiles that newly delivered F-16 fighter jets can carry, according to the Associated Press.

NATO member Romania: Russian drone violated airspace

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — A Russian drone violated Romania’s airspace during nighttime attacks on neighboring Ukraine, the NATO member reported Sunday, urging Moscow to stop what it described as an escalation.

The incident occurred as Russia carried out attacks on “civilian targets and port infrastructure” across the Danube River in Ukraine, Romania’s Ministry of National Defense said.

Romania deployed F-16 warplanes to monitor its airspace, and

NATO allies were kept informed, the ministry said. Romanian emergency authorities also issued text alerts to residents of two eastern regions.

Preliminary data indicates there may be an “impact zone” in an uninhabited area near the Romanian village of Periprava, the ministry said. It added that an investigation is underway.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Romania has confirmed drone fragments on its territory on several occasions and as recently as July this year.

The Romanian Defense Ministry strongly condemned the Russian attacks on Ukraine, calling them “unjustified and in serious contradiction with the norms of international law.”

Mircea Geoana, NATO’s outgoing deputy secretary-general and Romania’s former top diplomat, said the military alliance also condemned Russia’s violation of Romanian airspace. “While we have no information indicating an intentional attack by Russia against Allies, these acts are irresponsible and potentially dangerous,” he

wrote on X.

In Ukraine, two civilians died and four more suffered wounds in a nighttime Russian airstrike on the northern city of Sumy, the regional military administration reported. Two children were among those wounded, the administration said. In the Kharkiv region in the east, overnight shelling killed two elderly women, according to local Gov. Oleh Syniehubov.

During the night, Ukrainian air defenses shot down one of four cruise missiles and 15 of 23 Iranian-made Shahed drones

launched by Russia, Ukraine’s air force reported. It added that none of the cruise missiles had hit targets.

Later on Sunday, three women were killed after Russian forces shelled a village in the eastern Donetsk region, Gov. Vadym Filashkin reported on the Telegram messaging app. Elsewhere in the province, rescue teams pulled the bodies of two men from the rubble of a hotel destroyed on Saturday evening in a Russian airstrike, according to Ukraine’s state emergency service.

NATION

Harris plans aggressive outreach in swing states

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Vice President Kamala Harris plans a four-day campaign trip through major swing states after the Democrat's debate Tuesday with Republican Donald Trump.

Her "New Way Forward" tour will include a new television spot, rallies, canvassing events and programs designed to target important voting groups, the campaign said Sunday, adding that the tour will culminate at the start of Hispanic Heritage Month on Sept. 15.

In a tight race against the former president, the Harris campaign sees itself as having the room to persuade voters before focusing more intently on turnout with the beginning of early voting before the Nov. 5 election. Trump has also stepped up his outreach with rallies and interviews in seemingly friendly forums.

The period after the debate in Philadelphia marks the start of the aggressive sprint toward the end of what has been a dramatic race.

"Our campaign will take the vice president's message directly to the voters wherever they are —



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, second from left, takes a photo as she visits Penzeys Spices on a campaign stop on Saturday in Pittsburgh.

REBECCA DROKE/AP

on the airwaves, on the doors, and online," said Michael Tyler, the campaign's communications director. "With so much at stake in this election, we are blitzing the

battlegrounds and leaving it all out on the field."

Trump, who campaigned Saturday in Wisconsin, posted on social media that "when" he wins,

anyone who he deems as having been "involved in unscrupulous behavior" tied to the election "will be sought out, caught, and prosecuted at levels, unfortunately,

never seen before in our Country."

After the debate, political leaders on Wednesday are set to commemorate the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Harris kicks off her tour Thursday in North Carolina and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, will be in Michigan. On Friday, Harris will return to Pennsylvania while Walz is in Michigan and Wisconsin.

The candidates' spouses will also be part of the tour. Doug Emhoff, Harris' husband, will go to Nevada, Arizona and Florida. Gwen Walz is scheduled to be in Georgia, New Hampshire and Maine.

Harris' campaign will start running a new television ad that will speak to her plans for middle-class tax cuts, limiting prescription drug prices and addressing the housing shortage. The ads are part of a broader \$370 million media investment and will be tailored state by state for voters in Arizona, Nevada, Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Nebraska.

Trump threatens to jail adversaries in escalating rhetoric

Associated Press

MOSINEE, Wis. — With just days to go before his first and likely only debate against Vice President Kamala Harris, former President Donald Trump posted a warning on his social media site threatening to jail those "involved in unscrupulous behavior" this election, which he said would be under intense scrutiny.

"WHEN I WIN, those people that CHEATED will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the Law, which will include long term prison sentences so that this Depravity of Justice does not happen again," Trump wrote late Saturday, sowing doubt once more about the integrity of the election, even though cheating is incredibly rare.

"Please beware," he went on, "that this legal exposure extends to Lawyers, Political Operatives, Donors, Illegal Voters, & Corrupt Election Officials. Those involved in unscrupulous behavior will be sought out, caught, and prosecuted at levels, unfortunately, never seen before in our Country."

Trump's message represents his latest threat to use the office of the presidency to exact retribution if he wins a second term. There is no evidence of the kind of fraud he continues to insist marred the 2020 election; in fact, dozens of courts, Republican state officials and his own administration have said he lost fairly.

Just days ago, Trump himself acknowledged in a podcast inter-



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump waves as he departs a campaign event at Central Wisconsin Airport, Saturday in Mosinee, Wis.

MORRY GASH/AP

view that he had indeed "lost by a whisker."

While Trump's campaign aides and allies have urged him to keep his focus on Harris and make the election a referendum on issues like inflation and border security, Trump in recent days has veered far off course.

On Friday, he delivered a stunning statement to news cameras in which he brought up a string of past allegations of sexual misconduct, describing several in graphic detail, even as he denied his accusers' allegations. Earlier, he had voluntarily appeared in court for a hearing on the appeal of a decision that found him liable for sexual abuse, turning focus to his

legal woes in the campaign's final stretch.

Earlier Saturday, Trump had leaned into familiar grievances about everything from his indictments to Russia's meddling in the 2016 election as he campaigned in one of the most deeply Republican swaths of battleground Wisconsin.

"The Harris-Biden DOJ is trying to throw me in jail — they want me in jail — for the crime of exposing their corruption," Trump claimed at an outdoor rally at Central Wisconsin Airport, where he spoke behind a wall of bulletproof glass due to new security protocols following his July assassination attempt.

There's no evidence that Presi-

dent Joe Biden or Harris have had any influence over decisions by the Justice Department or state prosecutors to indict the former president.

Trump has eschewed traditional debate preparation, choosing to hold rallies and events while Harris has been cloistered in a historic hotel in downtown Pittsburgh, working with aides since Thursday.

Harris has agreed so far to a single debate, which will be hosted by ABC.

At the rally, Trump outlined his plans to "Drain the swamp" — a throwback to his winning 2016 campaign message as he ran as an outsider challenging the status quo. Though Trump spent four years in the Oval Office, he vowed anew to "cast out the corrupt political class" if he wins again and to "cut the fat out of our government for the first time, meaningfully, in 60 years."

As part of that effort, he repeated his plan, announced Thursday, to create a new "Government Efficiency Commission" headed by Elon Musk that will be charged with conducting "a complete financial and performance audit of the entire federal government" to root out waste.

After again maligning the Congressional committee that investigated the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the nation's capitol by his supporters after his election loss in 2020, Trump told the crowd of thousands that he would "rapidly re-

view the cases of every political prisoner unjustly victimized by the Harris regime" and sign their pardons on his first day back in office.

Trump has repeatedly defended those who have been jailed for crimes including violent attacks on law enforcement.

And he said he would "completely overhaul" what he labeled "Kamala's corrupt Department of Justice."

"Instead of persecuting Republicans, they will focus on taking down bloodthirsty cartels, transnational gangs, and radical Islamic terrorists," he said.

Harris campaign spokesperson Sarafina Chitika responded to his comments with a statement warning that, if Trump is reelected, he will "use his unchecked power to prosecute his enemies and pardon insurrectionists who violently attacked our Capitol on January 6."

Both Harris and Trump have been frequent visitors to Wisconsin this year, a state where four of the past six presidential elections have been decided by less than a percentage point. Several polls of Wisconsin voters conducted after Biden withdrew showed Harris and Trump in a close race.

Democrats consider Wisconsin to be one of the must-win "blue wall" states. Biden, who was in Wisconsin on Thursday, won the state in 2020 by just under 21,000 votes. Trump carried it by a slightly larger margin, nearly 23,000 votes, in 2016.

NATION

Manhunt underway for person linked to shootings in Ky.

By **BRUCE SCHREINER**
Associated Press

LONDON, Ky. — Authorities searched a rugged and hilly area of southeastern Kentucky on Sunday for a man who they believe may be linked to the shooting of nine vehicles and wounding of five people on a busy highway.

Although they said they could not yet name him a suspect in Saturday's shootings along Interstate 75, authorities said they consider 32-year-old Joseph A. Couch a "person of interest" and were searching for him in a remote area north of London, a community of about 8,000 people roughly 75 miles south of Lexington.

"We're going to go in and we're going to find this guy," Deputy Gilbert Acciardo, a spokesperson for the Laurel County Sheriff's Office, told reporters Sunday.

Authorities consider Couch, who is white, to be armed and dangerous, and they cautioned members of the public who might spot him not to approach him. Acciardo said law enforcement got a "lucky break" that led them to ze-

ro in on Couch as a person of interest, but that he couldn't elaborate.

Acciardo said authorities were notified at about 5:30 p.m. Saturday about gunshots along the highway near exit 49. An individual who was "off that exit" fired multiple rounds into the northbound and southbound lanes, striking nine vehicles and wounding five people, he said.

The shooter was not in a vehicle at the time.

"When our first two units got to the scene there, they said it was a madhouse: people on the sides of the road, emergency flashers going, bullet holes, windows shot out, nine vehicles shot. Can you imagine that? Just chaotic," Acciardo said during a news conference.

The wounded were hospitalized in stable condition early Sunday. Some had "very serious" injuries, including one person who was shot in the face, Acciardo said.

Residents of Laurel County were on edge as authorities searched on foot Sunday in a re-



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP

Deputy Gilbert Acciardo, Public Information Officer with the Laurel County Sheriff's Office, updates the progress of the investigation of the shooting along I-75 at a press conference in London, Ky., on Sunday.

mote wooded area near the highway that has only one business and a few houses nearby. London Laurel Rescue squad sent a drone to assist. State lawmakers from Laurel County urged residents in the area to stay home during the search.

"We had numerous calls throughout the county and we're still getting them this morning," Acciardo said, of calls from concerned community members. "This is a remote area. If he was going to target some place that he

wanted to do something like this, it was the perfect spot."

Rodney Goodlett, pastor of Faith Assembly of God in London, was helping direct traffic as parishioners gathered for a service Sunday morning. He said he expected the search to hold down attendance.

"There's definitely people ... that probably won't be here today — just nervous with the suspect still at large," he said.

Goodlett said the congregation was going to pray for the commun-

ity, the wounded and the first responders, some of whom attend Faith Assembly, where around 275 parishioners pray each week.

"This is tragic, obviously, that somebody would randomly do violent acts," he said. "You hear media things taking place all around our country, but then when it hits home, it's a little bit of a wake-up call."

Authorities believe there was only one shooter, and Acciardo said they do not think the shooting was sparked by road rage.

Aunt: Mother of Ga. shooting suspect called school before killings

Associated Press

The mother of the 14-year-old who has been charged with murder over the fatal shooting of four people at his Georgia high school called the school before the killings, warning staff of an "extreme emergency" involving her son, a relative said.

Annie Brown told the Washington Post that her sister, Colt Gray's mother, texted her saying she spoke with a school counselor and urged them to "immediately" find her son to check on him.

Brown provided screen shots of the text exchange to the newspaper, which also reported that a call log from the family's shared phone plan showed a call was made to the school about 30 minutes before gunfire is believed to have erupted.

Brown confirmed the reporting to The Associated Press on Saturday in text messages but declined to provide further comment.

Colt Gray, 14, has been charged with murder over the killing of two students and two teachers at Apalachee High School in Barrow County, outside Atlanta, on Wednesday. His father, Colin Gray, is accused of second-degree murder for providing his son with

a semiautomatic AR 15-style rifle.

Their attorneys declined to immediately seek bail during their first court appearance on Friday.

The Georgia teenager had struggled with his parents' separation and taunting by classmates, his father told a sheriff's investigator last year when asked whether his son posted an online threat.

"I don't know anything about him saying (expletive) like that," Gray told Jackson County sheriff's investigator Daniel Miller, according to a transcript of their interview obtained by the AP. "I'm going to be mad as hell if he did, and then all the guns will go away."

Jackson County authorities ended their inquiry into Colt Gray a year ago, concluding that there wasn't clear evidence to link him to a threat posted on Discord, a social media site popular with video gamers.

The records from that investigation provide at least a narrow glimpse into a boy who struggled with his parents' breakup and at the middle school he attended at the time, where his father said others frequently taunted him.

"He gets flustered and under pressure. He doesn't really think

straight," Colin Gray told the investigator on May 21, 2023, recalling a discussion he'd had with the boy's principal.

Middle school had also been rough for Colt Gray. He had just finished the seventh grade when Miller interviewed the father and son. Colin Gray said the boy had just a few friends and frequently got picked on. Some students "just ridiculed him day after day after day."

"I don't want him to fight anybody, but they just keep like pinching him and touching him," Gray said. "Words are one thing, but you start touching him and that's a whole different deal. And it's just escalated to the point where like his finals were last week and that was the last thing on his mind."

Shooting guns and hunting, he said, were frequent pastimes for father and son. Gray said he was encouraging the boy to be more active outdoors and spend less time playing video games on his Xbox. When Colt Gray killed a deer months earlier, his father swelled with pride. He showed the investigator a photo on his cellphone, saying: "You see him with blood on his cheeks from shooting

his first deer."

There's no mention in the investigator's report and interview transcript of either Gray owning an assault-style rifle. Asked if his son had access to firearms, the father said yes. But he said the guns weren't kept loaded and insisted he had emphasized safety when teaching the boy to shoot.

"He knows the seriousness of weapons and what they can do," Gray said, "and how to use them and not use them."

An eviction upended the Grays' family in summer 2022. On July 25 of that year, a sheriff's deputy was dispatched to the rental home on a suburban cul-de-sac where Colin Gray, his wife, Colt and the boy's two younger siblings lived. A moving crew was piling their belongings in the yard.

The Jackson County deputy said in a report that the movers found guns and hunting bows in a closet in the master bedroom. They turned the weapons and ammunition over to the deputy for safekeeping, rather than leave them outside with the family's other possessions outside.

The deputy wrote that he left copies of receipt forms for the weapons on the front door so that Gray

could pick them up later at the sheriff's office. The reason for eviction is not mentioned in the report. Colin Gray told the investigator in 2023 that he had paid his rent.

It was following the eviction, he said, that his wife left him, taking the two younger siblings with her. Colt Gray "struggled at first with the separation and all," said the father, who worked a construction job.

"I'm the sole provider, doing high rises downtown," he told the investigator. Two days later, there was a follow-up interview with Colin Gray while he was at work. He said by phone: "I'm hanging off the top of a building. ... I've got a big crane lift going, so it's kind of noisy up here."

The investigator also interviewed the boy, then 13, who was described in a report as quiet, calm and reserved.

He denied making any threats and said that months earlier he'd stopped using the Discord platform, where the school threat was posted. He later told his father his account had been hacked.

"The only thing I have is TikTok, but I just go on there and watch videos," the teen said.

MIDEAST

How lethal are Iran's ballistic missiles?

Danger of program is in question amid past performance, threat against Israel

By **JON GAMBRELL**
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — As Iran threatens to attack Israel over the assassination of a Hamas leader in the Iranian capital, its long-vaunted missile program offers one of the few ways for Tehran to strike back directly, but questions loom over just how much of a danger it poses.

The program was behind Iran's unprecedented drone-and-missile assault on Israel in April, when Iran became the first nation to launch such a barrage since Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein lobbed Scud missiles at Israel in the 1991 Gulf War.

But few of the Iranian projectiles reached their targets. Many were shot down by a U.S.-led coalition, while others apparently failed at launch or crashed while in flight. Even those that reached Israel appeared to miss their marks.

Now a new report by experts shared exclusively with The Associated Press suggests one of Tehran's most advanced missiles is far less accurate than previously thought.

The April assault showed "some ability to strike Israel," said Sam Lair, a research associate at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies who worked on the analysis. But "if I were supreme leader, I would probably be a little disappointed."

If Iranian missiles are not able to hit targets precisely "that recasts their role," Lair added. "They're no longer as valuable for conducting conventional military operations. They may be more valuable simply as terror weapons."

Iran has repeatedly said it will retaliate for the killing of Ismail Haniyeh. Israel is widely suspected of carrying out the assassination, though it has not claimed it.

The Iranian mission to the United Nations did not respond to a request for comment. But Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei tacitly acknowledged the country's failure to strike anything of importance in Israel.

"Debates by the other party about how many missiles were fired, how many of them hit the target and how many didn't, these are of secondary importance," Khamenei said. "The main issue is the emergence of the Iranian nation" and the Iranian military "in an important international arena. This is what matters."

Missile, drone barrage

Retaliation had been expected for days after a suspected Israeli strike on April 1 hit an Iranian diplomatic compound in Damascus, Syria, killing two Iranian generals and

five officers, as well as a member of the Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah.

Footage aired on state television showed that Iran's April 13 assault began with Revolutionary Guard commander Gen. Hossein Salami speaking by telephone with Brig. Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the Guard's aerospace division.

"Start the 'True Promise' operation against Zionist regime's bases," he ordered.

As the missiles headed skyward, people across Iran stopped what they were doing and pointed their mobile phones at the launch noise from their cars and the balconies of their homes. Videos analyzed by the AP showed multiple launch sites, including on the outskirts of Arak, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kermanshah, Shiraz, Tabriz and Tehran.

Grainy footage later released through pro-Iranian military social media accounts showed missiles thundering off truck-based mobile launchers. Iran's bomb-carrying Shahed drones, widely used by Russia in its war on Ukraine, leaped off metal stands, their engines whirring like lawnmowers through the night sky. Some were launched by pickup trucks racing down runways.

The triangle-shaped drones went first, taking hours to reach their targets. Then came the Paveh cruise missiles, taking a shorter time, and finally the Emad, Ghadr and Kheibar Shekan ballistic missiles, which needed only minutes, according to an analysis by the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control. Drones and missiles also came from Yemen, likely fired by the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels.

Israeli officials estimated that Iran launched 170 drones, 30 cruise missiles and 120 ballistic missiles. In Jordan, an AP journalist filmed what appeared to be a ballistic missile being intercepted above the Earth's atmosphere, likely by an Israeli Arrow 3 missile, with the blast radiating out like a circle.

The U.S., the United Kingdom, France and Jordan all shot down incoming fire. The Americans claimed to have downed 80 bomb-carrying drones and at least six ballistic missiles. Israeli missile defenses were also activated, though their initial claim of intercepting 99% of the projectiles appeared to be an exaggeration.

The attack "was very clearly not something symbolic and not something trying to avoid damage," said Fabian Hinz, a missile expert and research fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies who studies Iran. It was "a major at-



HEIDI LEVINE/For The Washington Post

Israeli 1st Lt. Masha Michelson stands beside an Iranian ballistic missile that was intercepted in southern Israel in April.

tempt to overcome Israeli defenses."

U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters, told the AP they assessed that 50% of the Iranian missiles failed at launch or crashed before reaching their target.

Poor accuracy suspected

In the aftermath, analysts at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies examined the strike on the Nevatim Air Base some 40 miles south of Jerusalem in the Negev Desert. The center's experts long have studied Iran and its ballistic missile program.

The base came into immediate focus after the suspected Israeli strike on the Iranian diplomatic mission in Syria. Iran's ambassador to Syria, Hossein Akbari, claimed that the strike was conducted by Israeli F-35Is, which are based at Nevatim.

The air base also figured into Iranian military propaganda. Iranian state television aired footage in February of a Revolutionary Guard test that targeted a mock-up resembling F-35I hangars at Nevatim. Ballistic missiles, including some of the kinds used in the April attack on Israel, destroyed the mock-up.

In the attack, at least four Iranian missiles struck Nevatim, as seen in satellite images and footage released by the Israeli military.

The only debris found in the area — collected from the Dead Sea — suggests Iran used Emad missiles to target Nevatim, the analysts said. The liquid-fueled Emad, or "pillar" in Farsi, is a variant of Iran's Shahab-3 missile built from a North Korean design with a reported range of 1,240 miles. That indicates the Emads were likely fired from the Shiraz area, which is within the estimated limits of the missile's likely

capabilities, the analysts said.

Based on Iran's focus on the F-35I, the James Martin analysts assumed the likely target point for the Iranian fire would be a cluster of aircraft hangars. The position also serves as a near-central point within the Nevatim base itself.

That offers "a much more valuable target" than just "poking holes in the runway," Lair said. But none of the Iranian missiles directly hit those hangars.

Assuming Iran targeted the hangars, the James Martin analysts measured the distance between the hangars and the impact zones of the missiles. That gave an average of about 0.75 miles for the "circular error probable" — a measurement used by experts to determine a weapon's accuracy based on the radius of a circle that encompasses 50% of where the missiles landed.

That's far worse than a 1,640-foot error circle first estimated by experts for the Emad. After a U.N. weapons ban on Iran ended in 2020, Iran separately advertised the Emad to potential international buyers as having a 164-foot circle — a figure that is in line with top missile specifications for systems deployed elsewhere, said Hinz, the IISS missile expert.

The results from April's attack were nowhere near that precise.

"This means the Emad is much less accurate than previous estimates indicated," Lair said. "This indicates the Iranians are a generation behind where previous assessments thought they were in accuracy."

What's next

In the past, Iranian threats to retaliate against Israel generally took the form of either attacks by Iranian-backed forces in the Mideast

or assaults aimed at Israeli targets elsewhere, such as embassies or tourists aboard.

Geography limits the options for a direct Iranian military attack. Iran shares no border with Israel, and the two countries are some 620 miles apart at the shortest distance.

Iran's air force has an aging fleet led by F-14 Tomcats and Mikoyan MiG-29 fighter jets from the Cold War, but they would be no match for Israel's F-35Is and its air defenses. That means Iran again would need to rely on missiles and long-range drones.

It could also enlist help from allied militias such as Lebanon's Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthi rebels to overwhelm Israel's defenses. Israel and Hezbollah exchanged heavy fire on Aug. 25.

Always present in the background is the risk that Tehran could develop a nuclear weapon, a threat that Iranian officials have repeated in recent months. While Iran insists its nuclear program is peaceful, Western intelligence agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency say Tehran had an organized military nuclear program until 2003.

U.S. intelligence agencies said in a report in July that Iran has "undertaken activities that better position it to produce a nuclear device, if it chooses to do so." However, building a weapon and miniaturizing it to put on a ballistic missile could take years.

"Iran has the largest inventory of ballistic missiles in the region and continues to emphasize improving the accuracy, lethality and reliability of these systems," the report from the director of national intelligence said. "Iran probably is incorporating lessons learned" from the April attack.

WORLD

Pope revels in visiting remote Papua New Guinea

Associated Press

VANIMO, Papua New Guinea — Pope Francis traveled to the remote jungles of Papua New Guinea on Sunday to celebrate the Catholic Church on the peripheries, bringing with him a ton of medicine, musical instruments and a message of love for the people who live there.

Francis flew aboard a Royal Australian Air Force C-130 transport plane from Port Moresby to Vanimo, on the northwest coast of the South Pacific nation. There, Francis met with the local Catholic community and the missionaries from his native Argentina who have been ministering to them.

For an Argentine pope who marveled in 2013 at having been chosen from the “end of the Earth” to lead the church, it was a voyage to another end of the Earth on the longest, farthest trip of Francis’ pontificate.

Francis has previously traveled to the edge of the Arctic (to apologize to the Inuit people for church abuses), and into the Peruvian Amazon (to draw attention to its plight), and to the plains of Ur, Iraq (to boost Christian-Muslim ties). But even by his standards, Sunday’s trip to remote Vanimo was extraordinary.

A crowd of an estimated 20,000 people gathered on the field in front of the Vanimo cathedral singing and dancing when Francis arrived, and he promptly put on a feathered headdress that had been presented to him.

In remarks from a raised stage, Francis



GREGORIO BORGIA/AP

Pope Francis, left, meets with indigenous people at the Holy Trinity Humanistic School in Baro, near Vanimo, Papua New Guinea, on Sunday. Francis brought medicine and toys and a message of love overcoming violence for the people who live there.

praised the church workers who go out to try to spread the faith. But he urged the residents of Vanimo to work at home at being good to one another. He urged them to be like an orchestra, so that all members of the community unite harmoniously to overcome rivalries.

Doing so, he said, would help to “drive out

fear, superstition and magic from people’s hearts, to put an end to destructive behaviors such as violence, infidelity, exploitation, alcohol and drug abuse, evils which imprison and take away the happiness of so many of our brothers and sisters.”

It was a reference to the tribal violence over

land and other disputes that have long characterized the country’s culture but have grown more lethal in recent years. Francis arrived in Papua New Guinea to urge an end to the violence, including gender-based violence, and for a sense of civic responsibility to prevail.

Francis had started the day with a Mass before an estimated 35,000 people at the stadium in the capital, Port Moresby. In his homily, Francis told the crowd that they may well feel themselves distant from both their faith and the institutional church, but that God was near to them.

“You who live on this large island in the Pacific Ocean may sometimes have thought of yourselves as a far away and distant land, situated at the edge of the world,” Francis said. “Yet ... today the Lord wants to draw near to you, to break down distances, to let you know that you are at the center of his heart and that each one of you is important to him.”

Francis was elected pope largely on the strength of a speech he gave to his fellow cardinals in 2013 about the need for the church to go out to the “peripheries” where people need God most. In keeping with that philosophy, Francis has largely shunned trips to European capitals, preferring instead far-flung communities where Catholics are often a minority.

Vanimo, population 11,000, is located near Papua New Guinea’s border with Indonesia, and is for the most part only reachable by plane or boat.

Morocco’s High Atlas marks one year since record quake

Associated Press

IMIN’TALA, Morocco — The rescue crews and bystanders are long gone but the remnants of homes still sit in piles off to the side of the jagged roads.

A year after nearly 3,000 people died when a record earthquake shook communities throughout Morocco’s High Atlas, it still looks like a bomb just went off in villages like Imi N’tala, where dozens of residents died after a chunk of mountainside cracked off and flattened the majority of buildings.

Broken bricks, bent rods of rebar and pieces of kitchen floors remain but have been swept

into neater piles alongside plastic tents where the displaced now live. Some await funds to reconstruct their homes. Others await approval of their blueprints.

The region shaken by the earthquake is full of impoverished agricultural villages like Imi N’tala, accessible only via bumpy, unmaintained roads. Associated Press reporters revisited half a dozen of them last week ahead of the first anniversary.

In some places, residents who say they’re awaiting governmental action have begun reconstructing buildings on an ad hoc basis. Elsewhere, people tired of the stuffiness of

plastic tents have moved back into their cracked homes or decamped to larger cities.

The rhythms of normal life have somewhat resumed in some of the province’s larger towns, where rebuilding efforts on roads, homes, schools and businesses are underway and some residents have been provided metal container homes. But many of those displaced from the more than 55,000 homes destroyed by the temblor remain vulnerable to summer’s heat and winter’s cold, living in plastic tents, impatient to return.

Mohamed Soumer, a 69-year-old retiree who lost his son in last year’s earthquake, is an

gry because local authorities have forbidden him from rebuilding his home on the same steep mountainside due to safety concerns.

“Residents want to stay here because they have land where they grow vegetables to make a living,” he said. “If they go somewhere else and abandon this place, they will not be able to live there.”

Officials have said rebuilding will cost \$12 billion and take about five years. The government has rebuilt some rural roads, health centers and schools but last week the commission tasked with reconstruction acknowledged the need to speed up some home rebuilding.

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WORLD

Former presidential candidate flees Venezuela for Spain

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — Former Venezuelan presidential candidate Edmundo González fled into exile in Spain on Sunday after being granted asylum there, delivering a major blow to millions who placed their hopes in his opposition campaign to end two decades of single-party rule.

The surprise departure of the man considered by Venezuela's opposition and several foreign governments to be the legitimate winner of July's presidential race was announced late Saturday by Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez.

She said the government decided to grant González safe passage out of the country, just days after ordering his arrest, to help restore "the country's political peace and tranquility."

González arrived Sunday at a military airport near Madrid, accompanied by his wife and Spanish officials, Spain's foreign ministry said.

Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado said González feared for his life if he stayed in Venezuela.



ARIANA CUBILLOS/AP

Venezuelan opposition presidential candidate Edmundo Gonzalez waves to supporters during a political event at a square in the Hatillo municipality of Caracas, Venezuela, on June 19.

"His life was in danger, and the growing threats, legal citations, arrest orders, and even blackmail attempts that he was subjected to demonstrate that the regime has no scruples or limits in its obsession to silence him and try to break

him," Machado wrote on X.

Spain's center-left government said the decision to leave Venezuela was González's alone, and he departed on a plane sent by the country's air force. González stayed at the Spanish embassy in

Caracas before leaving.

Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares told Spanish national broadcaster RTVE that his government will grant González political asylum as he requested. Albares spoke from Oman while en route to China with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on a state visit.

"I have been able to speak to (González), and once he was aboard the airplane, he expressed his gratitude toward the Spanish government and Spain," Albares said. "Of course, I told him we were pleased that he is well and on his way to Spain, and I reiterated the commitment of our government to the political rights of all Venezuelans."

In a speech before González's departure was announced, Sánchez said the opposition leader was "a hero whom Spain is not going to abandon."

The European Union's foreign affairs chief, Josep Borrell, in a statement Sunday described it as "a sad day for democracy in Venezuela."

Borrell added that González

"appears to be the winner of the presidential elections" and that the EU will maintain its support of the Venezuelan people "in their democratic aspirations."

In a letter sent Sunday to lawmakers, Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister Caspar Veldkamp said that the Netherlands had given González refuge shortly after the election at its embassy. He added that González said at the beginning of September that he wanted to leave the country "and continue his fight from Spain."

González, a 75-year-old former diplomat, was a last-minute stand-in when Machado was banned from running.

Previously unknown to most Venezuelans, he nonetheless rapidly ignited the hopes of millions of Venezuelans desperate for change after a decade-long economic free fall.

While President Nicolás Maduro was declared the winner of the July vote, most Western governments, including Spain, have yet to recognize his victory and are instead demanding that authorities publish a breakdown of votes.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man dies after liver taken out instead of spleen

FL MIRAMAR — An Alabama man died last month when a surgeon in Florida mistakenly removed his liver instead of his spleen during an emergency procedure, his family said.

William Bryan, 70, and his wife Beverly, of Muscle Shoals, Ala., were visiting their property in Okaloosa County, Fla., when he started feeling pain on the left side of his abdomen, personal injury firm Zarzaur Law said in a statement.

He was admitted to Ascension Sacred Heart Emerald Coast hospital in Miramar for spleen abnormalities. Dr. Thomas Shaknovsky, a general surgeon, and Dr. Christopher Bacani, the hospital's chief medical officer, persuaded Bryan to undergo surgery at the hospital on Aug. 21.

Beverly Bryan claims that Shaknovsky said her husband's spleen was diseased, oversized and moved to the opposite side of his body. But according to the law firm, the surgeon removed his liver instead, which caused "immediate and catastrophic blood loss resulting in death."

Suit: Law thwarts impact of school choice decision

ME PORTLAND — A Christian school at the center of a Supreme Court decision that required Maine to include religious schools in a state tuition program is appealing a ruling upholding a requirement that all participating facilities abide by a state antidiscrimination law.

An attorney for Crosspoint Church in Bangor accused lawmakers of applying the antidiscrimination law to create a barrier for religious schools after the Supreme Court victory.

The lawsuit is one of two in Maine that focus on the collision between the 2022 U.S. Supreme Court ruling and the state law requiring that schools participating in the tuition program abide by the Maine Human Rights Act, which includes protections for LGBTQ+ students and faculty.

Another lawsuit raising the same issues was brought on behalf of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland; a Roman Catholic-affiliated school, St. Dominic's Academy in Auburn; and parents who want to use state tuition funds to send their children to St. Dominic's. That case is also being appealed to the 1st Circuit.

Newlyweds charged after groomsmen killed by SUV

MI FLINT — A newlywed couple has been charged in the death of a groomsmen who was struck by a vehicle on the wedding day, authorities in Michigan said Thursday.

The groom, James Shirah, was at the wheel when the SUV hit



DON CAMPBELL, THE (ST. JOSEPH, MICH.) HERALD-PALLADIUM/AP

Water dogs

Dixie Flesher, right, and Ann Trzop, of South Bend, Ind., walk their dogs Ruby and Poppy through the Whirlpool Compass Fountain during Dog Day at the Fountain last week in St. Joseph, Mich.

Terry Taylor Jr. in Flint on Aug. 30, police said.

"After the wedding (Taylor) was involved in an argument, which led to him being intentionally struck by a large SUV that was traveling at a high rate of speed," police said.

Shirah, 22, was charged with second-degree murder.

Police described Taylor, 29, as a groomsman.

County prosecutor David Leyton, citing the police report, said the wedding was at a pizzeria. The argument occurred at a house where the celebration continued. Taylor was in the street in front of the house when he was hit by the SUV, Leyton said.

The bride and groom left the scene and didn't go to police until the next day, he added, making it "more difficult to unravel what happened."

Phones taken from police boss, top mayoral aides

NY NEW YORK — Federal investigators recently seized phones from New York City's police commissioner and at least four top deputies to New York Mayor Eric Adams, according to people familiar with the matter.

FBI agents seized the devices Wednesday from the homes of several high-ranking city officials, said two people who spoke on condition of anonymity because they

were not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation. The officials include First Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright; Philip Banks, the deputy mayor for public safety; his brother David Banks, the city's schools chancellor; and Timothy Pearson, a mayoral adviser and former high-ranking New York Police Department official.

Federal investigators also seized devices from the home of Police Commissioner Edward Caban, one of the people said.

The searches add to a flurry of investigative activity around Adams' administration, his campaign and the first-term Democrat himself. He previously received subpoenas and had his electronics seized in federal inquiries.

Federal authorities haven't accused him or any of his officials of any crimes, and Adams, a retired police captain, has denied any wrongdoing.

Legislators grill DA for releasing violent criminals

LA BATON ROUGE — Louisiana legislators interrogated New Orleans District Attorney Jason Williams over reform policies that have allowed several hundred people to have their convictions voided or sentences reduced in the past few years, during a fiery Senate hearing Thursday at the state capitol.

Conservative lawmakers, Re-

publican Attorney General Liz Murrill and several former prosecutors said Williams failed to fulfill his duty to defend convictions for violent crimes. They highlighted cases of convicted murderers and rapists released from prison through post-conviction relief, which allows new information to be considered after all appeals have been exhausted.

Williams, a Democrat who took office in 2020 on a progressive platform, defended his record and said his office is seeking to restore trust in the legal system. He has pushed for expanding the use of post-conviction relief to review cases where his office believes unconstitutional or unjust procedures were employed to reach convictions.

Judge rejects RFK Jr.'s request to change ballots

NC RALEIGH — A North Carolina judge refused to take Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s name off presidential ballots in the battleground state on Thursday, a day before the first batches of November absentee ballots are slated to be sent to registered voters who requested them.

Wake County Superior Court Judge Rebecca Holt denied the temporary restraining order sought by Kennedy to prevent county elections boards from distributing ballots affixed with his name and requiring it to be re-

moved. State law directs the first absentee ballots for the Nov. 5 elections be mailed to requesters starting Friday. A Kennedy attorney said the decision would be appealed and Holt gave him 24 hours, ordering election officials not to send out ballots before noon Friday.

Kennedy got on the ballot in July as the nominee of the new We The People party created by his supporters. But Kennedy suspended his campaign two weeks ago and endorsed Republican nominee Donald Trump.

Rediscovered Rembrandt painting sells for \$1.4M

ME THOMASTON — A Rembrandt discovered in an attic sold for \$1.4 million.

The 17th century painting, "Portrait of a Girl," by Dutch artist Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn was discovered by art appraiser and auctioneer Kaja Veilleux in an attic in an estate in Camden. A label on the back of the frame noted that it was loaned to the Philadelphia Museum of Art for an exhibition in 1970.

An auction by Thomaston Place Auction Galleries yielded a fierce competition on Aug. 24, he said. In the end, a European collector paid \$1.41 million for the painting.

FACES

Jelly Roll plays for inmates at Oregon prison

Associated Press

Country singer Jelly Roll has been playing sold-out shows across the U.S. as part of his “Beautifully Broken” tour. But last week, his venue wasn’t a massive arena: it was the Oregon State Penitentiary.

The award-winning artist posted a video and photos of his visit to the Salem prison on Instagram, showing him singing a cover of Johnny Cash’s “Folsom Prison Blues” and signing autographs for people incarcerated at the prison.

According to Jelly Roll, it was the first live music in the prison yard in 20 years.

“I am a firm believer that if we commit crimes we should do our time and be held accountable for our actions, but I also believe that every human deserves love no matter how bad of a decision they have made,” the 39-year-old wrote on Instagram.

Jelly Roll, who was incarcerated in his youth, said he wrote his first song while behind bars. “It never feels better than to come back behind a wall and sing a song for you’all,” he told the crowd.

His lyrics often touch on his troubled past and issues of addiction, and in his video from the prison, one man speaks about how Jelly Roll’s music changed his life.

“I heard ‘Save Me’ on the radio, and I got clean that day,” the man said, referring to a song on Jelly Roll’s most recent album.

Jelly Roll, whose real name is Jason DeFord, began his musical career as a rapper before becoming an acclaimed country artist. In 2023, he won New Artist of the Year at the Country Music Association Awards.

“I remember being in a dark place and no one ever coming through and showing us any hope of changing the path of our lives,” he said. “It felt so good bringing a little light to such a dark place.”



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

Jelly Roll, shown June 6, is open about his troubled past.



JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP

Emily Armstrong, left, and Mike Shinoda of Linkin Park perform Sept. 5 in Los Angeles. The band is releasing an album Nov. 15.

New life, music for Linkin Park

Band reuniting 7 years after Chester Bennington’s death, with new album, tour planned

BY MARIA SHERMAN

Associated Press

Linkin Park is back with a new lineup and debuting their first new music since the 2017 death of lead singer Chester Bennington.

On Sept. 5, the band kicked off a live-stream showcasing new singer Emily Armstrong and drummer Colin Brittain, who will join returning members Mike Shinoda, Brad Delson, Phoenix and Joe Hahn in Linkin Park’s new lineup. Shinoda and Armstrong share vocal duties.

The new lineup launched into a new single, “The Emptiness Machine,” at the top of the stream. Armstrong’s performance style comfortably continues the band’s legacy: Her full-throated vocals recall Bennington without attempting parody, immediately evidenced on the second song of the set: “Somewhere I Belong.”

“This is a very special day for us,” Shino-

da said as he led introductions, mentioning that guitarist Alex Feder was filling in for Delson for the night. “In the role of Chester Bennington this afternoon is each of you,” Shinoda addressed the crowd.

The new Linkin Park also announced a new album, “From Zero.” It releases Nov. 15.

The rock-rap band is one of the most commercially successful acts of the 2000s, aided by Bennington’s vocals. At 41, he died by suicide shortly after the release of the group’s last album, “One More Light.” In the years since, Linkin Park has dropped a number of re-releases, including 20th anniversary editions of “Hybrid Theory,” “Metemora” and, this year, the career-spanning greatest hits collection, “Papercuts.”

“Before Linkin Park, our first band name was Xero. This album title refers to both this humble beginning and the journey we’re currently undertaking,” Shinoda said

in a statement announcing the release.

Armstrong comes from alt-rock band Dead Sara and Brittain is a songwriter and producer who has worked with Papa Roach, One OK Rock and All Time Low, among others. He replaces original drummer Rob Bourdon, who “has decided to step away,” a band representative said.

“The more we worked with Emily and Colin, the more we enjoyed their world-class talents, their company, and the things we created,” Shinoda said. “We feel really empowered with this new lineup and the vibrant and energized new music we’ve made together. We’re weaving together the sonic touchpoints we’ve been known for and still exploring new ones.”

The band also announced the “From Zero World Tour,” featuring five arena shows in Los Angeles; New York; Hamburg, Germany; London and Seoul this month, and a sixth in November in Bogotá, Colombia.

Veterans’ fundraiser Stand Up for Heroes draws top celebrity support

Associated Press

Jerry Seinfeld, Bruce Springsteen, Jim Gaffigan, Norah Jones, Questlove and Jon Stewart will stand up later this year at the annual Stand Up for Heroes fundraiser.

The fundraiser, which benefits injured veterans and their families, will also feature comedian Mark Normand and musician Patti Scialfa, who is married to Springsteen. Stewart has been a steady presence at the annual event.

This year’s event will take place Nov. 11 at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City. Since its inception, Stand Up for Heroes has raised \$84 million to help veterans and military families.

Stand Up for Heroes was first held in 2007 and is produced by the New York Comedy Festival and the Bob Woodruff Foundation. Woodruff was nearly killed during a 2006 attack in Iraq while embedded with U.S. troops for ABC News.

“Our 18th Stand Up for Heroes promises to be another great evening of laughter, music and entertainment, as well

as a time to recognize our veterans, service members, and their families,” Suni Harford, board chair of the Bob Woodruff Foundation, said in a statement.

Sleuth Sam Spade returns in upcoming novel

The story of one of the great fictional sleuths, Dashiell Hammett’s Sam Spade, will be continued by prize-winning crime writer Max Allan Collins.

The publisher Hard Case Crime announced Sept. 5 that Collins’ “The Return of the Maltese Falcon” will be released in January 2026, when the Hammett classic featuring Spade, “The Maltese Falcon,” enters the public domain. “The Maltese Falcon,” published in 1930 and known to movie fans for the 1941 adaptation starring Humphrey Bogart, is widely regarded as a model for the hard-boiled detective novel.

“It has been an inspiration to authors and filmmakers, actors and illustrators and musicians — and to me, for the entire 50-plus years I’ve been a novelist,” Collins said in a

statement. “Not that writing about the world Hammett created, and those immortal, sometimes immoral characters isn’t challenging — Hammett’s best mystery also happens to be one of the greatest American novels, period.”

When copyright protection ends for a book, anyone is free to use the characters and story line.

Various authorized Spade projects have been released, including a 2009 prequel, Joe Gores’ “Spade & Archer.” Spade was featured this year in an AMC miniseries, “Monsieur Spade,” starring Clive Owen in a sequel that finds the detective retired and living in the South of France.

Other news

■ Sergio Mendes, the Grammy-winning Brazilian musician whose hit “Mas Que Nada” made him a global legend, has died after months battling the effects of long COVID. He was 83. The Sept. 5 death of the Brazilian pianist, songwriter and arranger was confirmed in a statement by his family.

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OPINION

Liz Cheney makes a weak case for Harris

BY RAMESH PONNURU

Special to The Washington Post

Given that she has spent the last few years decrying the threat that Donald Trump poses to our constitutional order, Liz Cheney's endorsement of Kamala Harris came as no shock. Nor is it surprising that the Trump campaign responded with a fact-free tirade that ignored the substance of Cheney's argument. But that doesn't mean the former Republican congresswoman's case for Harris is entirely convincing.

Asked about Cheney's stance, GOP vice-presidential nominee JD Vance said that her "entire career has been about sending other people's children off to fight and die for her military conflicts" and accused her and Harris of getting "rich when America loses wars instead of winning wars."

Vance offered no evidence for either statement, or even for the implied claim that Cheney's endorsement was primarily motivated by foreign-policy concerns. If opposition to Trump's foreign policy was what moved her, then it was peculiar for her to support his election in 2016 and again in 2020. Trump was less inclined to intervene abroad than the Democrats back then, too. What's different since the 2020 election is that, in the interim, Trump campaigned to overturn its result, culminating in a riot at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. That's the core of Cheney's stated case against Trump.

Her political trajectory during the Trump years has been the opposite of Vance's. She supported Trump even while Vance was likening him, in private, to Adolf Hitler. Now, the two have switched places. Vance's shift has worked out well for his career, to say the least: It got him into the Senate and then onto a presidential ticket. People who are appalled by his turn see him as a cynic who believes in nothing. I suspect, though, that he genuinely

believes that what he is doing now will ultimately benefit Americans.

Cheney has evidence for the sincerity of her move: It did not coincide with her self-interest. If she had decided to let Trump's lies about 2020 slide — to keep her objections private, as most Republican representatives who shared them did — she would likely still be in the House GOP leadership today. Instead, she voted to impeach Trump and served on a committee to investigate the events leading to the Capitol riot. It cost her what had been a safe House seat and led to such intense hostility from Republicans that leading members of her own party do not hesitate to launch absurd personal attacks against her. Very few people in our politics have been as willing to pay such costs for something they believe.

Cheney's hits against Trump land. There are, however, two holes in her argument for Harris. The first is the inevitable gap between the circumstances of the individual voter and those of the country as a whole. The country faces a binary choice between Trump and Harris, but the individual does not.

Cheney says that Trump poses so great a threat that she doesn't "believe we have the luxury of writing in candidates' names, particularly in swing states." Even in swing states, though, one person's vote is unlikely to determine the election. If that person objects to both major candidates, why not use legal means to express that view?

The more important problem is that Cheney, while professing her continued conservatism, sidestepped conservative concerns about Harris in her endorsement. The closest she came was clarifying that she was not speaking "as someone who agrees with policies on the left most of the time." As she describes it, then, she has mere policy differences with Harris but grave constitutional objections to Trump. That framing makes her choice too easy.

Harris has endorsed term limits for the Supreme Court. What that means — according to the leading Democratic bill on the subject, which has occasioned no whisper of disagreement from Harris — is stripping Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Clarence Thomas of their ability to take part in most constitutional cases. What's more, it means doing so without constitutional amendment. Never mind that the Constitution says that federal judges hold their offices for life unless they are impeached and removed by Congress. A supermajority of Senate Democrats, including their leader, Chuck Schumer of New York, has also sponsored legislation to force the courts to violate Supreme Court rulings.

These would be radical and dangerous changes in our form of government. Someone with a conservative view of the Constitution, as Cheney insists she is, should also be alarmed by the goal of this change: the destruction of the court's conservative supermajority. Even if that goal were pursued by normal means, such as judicial appointments, most conservatives rightly find it inimical to the Constitution.

It is always possible that a President Kamala Harris would not really try to oust judges who disagree with her, or that a Republican Senate would restrain her. But Trump apologists have offered similar assurances about his risks, and the point of Cheney's argument was to provide something more than just a difference of degree of danger between them. And besides, she is also campaigning for Democratic senators.

The tragedy of this election, for conservatives and everyone else, is that Cheney's case against Trump is strong — but her case for Harris isn't.

Ramesh Ponnuru, a contributing columnist for The Washington Post, is the editor of National Review and a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

Presidential debates have changed, but still crucial

BY ARTHUR I. CYR

Special to Stars and Stripes

Televized debates between presidential candidates can be crucial. President Joe Biden's ineffectiveness against Donald Trump led to the decision to abandon reelection. The scheduled Tuesday debate between Vice President Kamala Harris and Trump may prove decisive.

The very first such debates provide worthwhile background and context.

During the intense 1960 presidential contest, Sen. John F. Kennedy and Vice President Richard M. Nixon made history by debating face to face on nationwide TV, and on radio. The faceoff, in September in a CBS studio in Chicago, redefined American politics in terms of how candidates compete and communicate. The broadcast battle was the first of four debates, each notably in-depth by comparison with today's superficial visual posturing and sound bite statements. Each man had a relatively lengthy eight-minute opening presentation, with follow-up rebuttal statements.

These path-breaking battles drew a then-unprecedented television audience. The estimated viewers for each debate was at least 65 million people, with an overall total greater than the 90 million who saw the 1959 World Series between the Dodgers and the White Sox.

The first debate was to be about domestic policy, but Kennedy ignored that restriction. Repeatedly, he compared U.S. performance

in economic growth, education, space exploration and other fields to that of the Soviet Union.

None of the panel of reporters who questioned the candidates pointed this out. Since FDR's time, working reporters had moved toward the Democratic Party. Kennedy was especially skillful in cultivating them.

The Cold War was intense, and Kennedy's emphasis on Soviet strength reflected contemporary opinion. The Eisenhower administration had successfully relied on "massive retaliation," but pressures were growing in a changing situation for much greater conventional military capabilities. Kennedy skillfully exploited this, combined with the promise of a more aggressive foreign policy.

A quarter century later, Japan was supposed to be burying us economically. Today, many assign that alarming role to China. Successful politicians reflect contemporary public sentiments and concerns, and times change.

John Kennedy's on-camera ease, polished style and smooth body language contrasted with Richard Nixon's apparent tension. Television highlights visual dimensions and such surface differences. By contrast, a review of the transcripts of the encounter shows Nixon was more orderly and logical, more organized and specific.

Yet Kennedy enjoyed the political triumph. The political partisanship of television, news-

paper and other reporters can account for only a small part of this result. Journalists of that era were far more professional, and muted their own biases as a matter of expectation.

By 1960, a plurality of the electorate lived in the suburbs. Though each candidate paid tribute to the American farmer, the sharp historic divisions between rural and urban, and between workers and the wealthy, were declining as the middle class expanded enormously. Old cleavages were fading.

Kennedy presented a fresh, sophisticated image seemingly more in tune with these newly suburban Americans. Author Norman Mailer captured this in an impressionistic but insightful Esquire magazine article titled "Superman Comes to the Supermarket."

Nixon constantly presented himself as more mature and experienced, at the right hand of President Dwight Eisenhower. Using TV, Kennedy sharply defined himself and equalized standing with Nixon. Debates among early contenders as well as nominated candidates have now become central to presidential campaigns.

Rich insights resonate from the epic 1960 interchange of two talented politicians. You should review the programs, especially if you never have watched — or listened to — the contest, and evaluate 2024 contenders against this high standard.

Arthur I. Cyr is author of "After the Cold War."

Bizarro

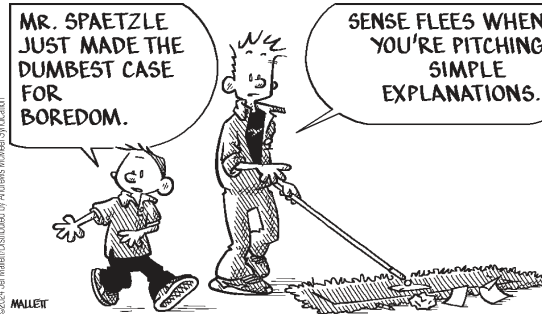
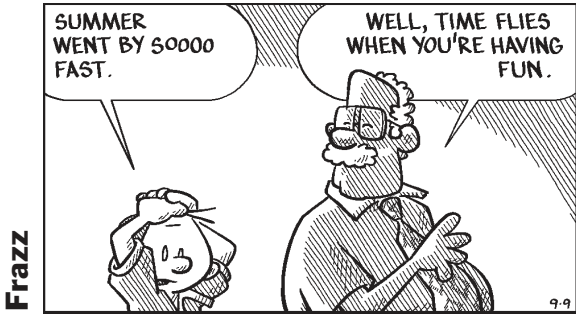


Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

Grid for Eugene Sheffer Crossword with numbered squares from 1 to 51.



ACROSS

- 1 Part of Q.E.D.
5 Kilmer of "The Doors"
8 Heap
12 Throbbing headache
14 During
15 One of eight
16 Abel's brother
17 Billy — Williams
18 Nixon daughter
20 iTunes

- 50 HBO rival
51 Deli loaves

- 21 Really, really
22 Tide type
23 Ballet leaps
25 Disappointments
26 Caboose
27 Type
29 Hawaiian island
31 Ultimate
33 "Fine by me" for one
34 Joan of Arc, relaxed
36 Relaxed
37 British big shots
38 "Oops!"
39 Cleopatra's Oriver
40 DVR brand
43 Fan's cry
44 Nonclerical
45 Before
46 QBs' goals

DOWN

- 1 Moody music
2 Documentarian Burns
3 Literary rep
4 Plod
5 Loathsome
6 Chemical suffix
7 Iceberg and romaine, e.g.
8 "Serpico" star
9 Apple variety
10 Ovid's 53
11 Author Ferber
13 Tarzan's clique
19 "Phooey!"
20 Boot camp VIP

Frazz

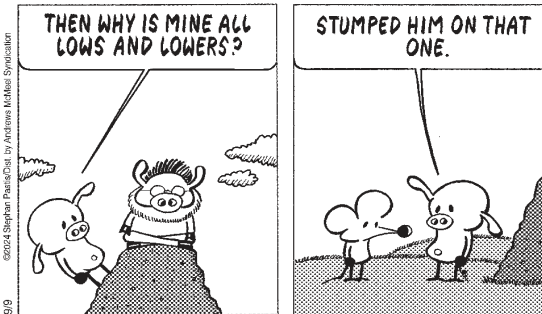
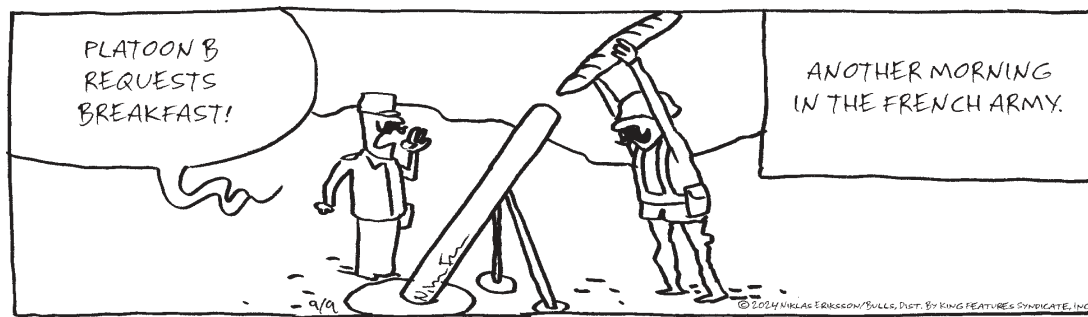
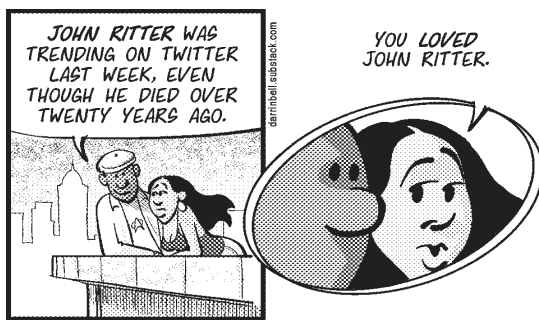
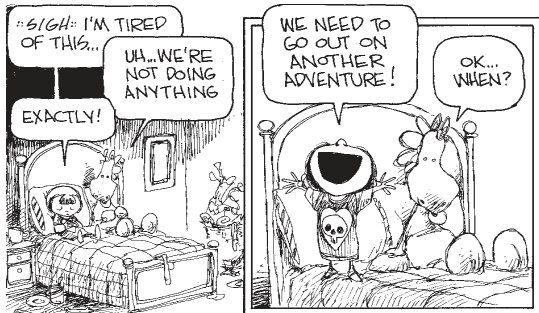
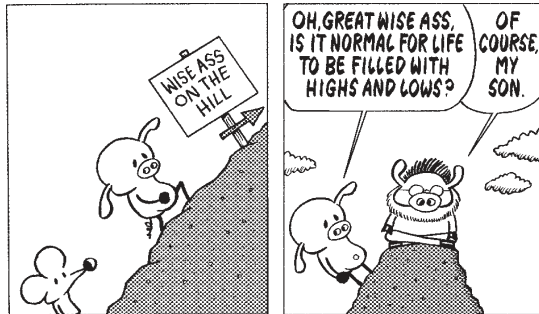
Pearls Before Swine

Non Sequitur

Candorville

Carpe Diem

Beetle Bailey



Answer to Previous Puzzle

Word search grid with words like SHAH, BARE, MOD, HOPI, ALAS, AGO, OLEG, DAYS, TLC, WASH, ERG, LEEK, MSG, UNO, BOXING, NEWAGE, ALINE, UPTOP, ADIDAS, ERRATA, EKE, BOO, TEND, LEO, FOOD, ADE, AFRO, IRMA, TAS, DISK, LEAD, AMT, DEES, EONS.

9-9

CRYPTOQUIP

QE UBKQYQWHL RBA QA ZGGBIL
ZUB OUVSHNQAY LZKDI LAZNTL
RZSB EUWR OWDZDWBL, ZUB
DMBI NMQO RWATL?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHAT IS IT CALLED WHEN PEOPLE WORK ON THEIR MEDITATIVE MANTRA-CHANTING SKILLS? OM IMPROVEMENT. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals G

SCOREBOARD/WNBA

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Miami	0	0	0	.000	0	0
N.Y. Jets	0	0	0	.000	0	0
New England	0	0	0	.000	0	0

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Jacksonville	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Tennessee	0	0	0	.000	0	0

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Cincinnati	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Pittsburgh	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Baltimore	0	1	0	.000	20	27

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	1	0	0	1.000	27	20
Denver	0	0	0	.000	0	0
L.A. Chargers	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Las Vegas	0	0	0	.000	0	0

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	34	29
Dallas	0	0	0	.000	0	0
N.Y. Giants	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Washington	0	0	0	.000	0	0

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Carolina	0	0	0	.000	0	0
New Orleans	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Detroit	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	1	0	.000	29	34

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	0	0	0	.000	0	0
L.A. Rams	0	0	0	.000	0	0
San Francisco	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Seattle	0	0	0	.000	0	0

Thursday's game

Kansas City 27, Baltimore 20

Friday's game

Philadelphia 34, Green Bay 29

Sunday's games

Arizona at Buffalo
Carolina at New Orleans
Houston at Indianapolis
Jacksonville at Miami
Minnesota at N.Y. Giants
New England at Cincinnati
Pittsburgh at Atlanta
Tennessee at Chicago
Denver at Seattle
Las Vegas at L.A. Chargers
Dallas at Cleveland
Washington at Tampa Bay
L.A. Rams at Detroit

Monday's game

N.Y. Jets at San Francisco

Thursday, Sept. 12

Buffalo at Miami

Sunday, Sept. 15

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

Monday, Sept. 16

Atlanta at Philadelphia

GOLF

Ascension Charity Classic

Champions Tour
Saturday
At West Course
St. Louis
Purse: \$2.1 million
Yardage: 6,992; Par: 71
Second Round

Stewart Cink	67-67-134	-8
Y.E. Yang	65-69-134	-8

DEALS

Saturday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Agreed to terms with INF/OF Terrin Vavra on a minor league contract. Sent LF Heston Kjerstad to Aberdeen (SAL) on a rehab assignment.
BOSTON RED SOX — Reinstated SS Trevor Story from the 60-day IL. Optioned C/INF Mickey Gasper to Worcester (IL). Recalled RHP Isaiah Campbell from Worcester and placed him on the 60-day IL. Sent LHP Cam Booser to Portland (EL) on a rehab assignment.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Sent LHP Josh Taylor to NW Arkansas (TL) on a rehab assignment. Sent RHP Dan Altavilla outright to Omaha (IL).

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Placed OFs Kevin Pillar and Jo Adell on the 10-day IL. Transferred RHP Jose Soriano from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL. Recalled Jordyn Adams from Salt Lake (PCL). Selected the contract of OF Bryce Teodosio from Salt Lake.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Reinstated RHPs Clarke Schmidt and Ian Hamilton from the 60-day IL. Designated RHPs Phil Bickford and Nick Burdi for assignment. Sent LHP Josh Maciejewski outright to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Sent RHP Janson Junk outright to Jacksonville (IL).

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Sent C Alex Jackson outright to Durham (IL).

TEXAS RANGERS — Sent RHP Max Scherzer to Round Rock (PCL) on a rehab assignment. Sent RHP Jacob deGrom to Frisco (TL) on a rehab assignment.

National League

MIAMI MARLINS — Reinstated RHP Anthony Bender from the 15-day IL. Recalled RHPs George Soriano and Lake Bachar from Jacksonville (IL). Selected the contracts of LHP Jonathan Bernudez and UTL Javier Sanoja from Jacksonville. Placed RHP Max Meyer on the 15-day IL, retroactive to Sept. 4. Placed RHP Calvin Faucher on the 15-day IL, retroactive to Sept. 5. Placed OF Derek Hill on the 10-day IL, retroactive to Sept. 5. Transferred LHP Andrew Nardi from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL. Optioned RHP Anthony Maldonado to Jacksonville. Designated LHP Austin Kitchen for assignment.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Claimed RHP Jose Cuas off waivers from Toronto. Designated RHP Nick Nelson for assignment. Selected the contract of C Aramis Garcia from Lehigh Valley (IL). Recalled INF Rodolfo Castro from Lehigh Valley and placed him on the 60-day IL.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Optioned RHP Kyle Leahy to Memphis (IL). Recalled RHP Chris Roycroft from Memphis.

BASKETBALL

Women's National Basketball Association

LOS ANGELES SPARKS — Released G Odyssej Sims. Signed G Odyssej Sims to a rest-of-season contract.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Placed TE Ian Thomas on injured reserve. Signed TE Felipe Franks and DT Jayden Peevy to the active roster. Elevated RB Mike Boone and CB Lonnie Johnson from the practice squad to the active roster. Waived CB Keenan Isaac.

CHICAGO BEARS — Elevated DL Byron Cowart and LS Scott Daly from the practice squad to the active roster.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Elevated WR Kendrick Pryor from the practice squad to the active roster.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed WR Jaelon Darden to the active roster. Elevated CB Mike Ford Jr. and T Germain Iffedi from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed WR David Bell to the practice squad.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Activated WR CeDee Lamb from the exempt list. Elevated LB Nick Vigil from the practice squad to the active roster.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Elevated S Terrell Edmunds from the practice squad to the active roster.

LOS ANGELES RAMS — Elevated OL AJ Arcuri from the practice squad to the active roster.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed CB Jalen Ramsey to a contract extension through the 2028 season. Elevated WR Robbie Chosen from the practice squad to the active roster.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Elevated S Bobby McCain and RB Myles Gaskin from the practice squad to the active roster.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Elevated DT Trysten Hill and G Michael Jorday from the practice squad to the active roster.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Elevated LBs Carter Coughlin and Ty Summers from the practice squad to the active roster.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Elevated LB Luke Gifford and DL James Lynch from the practice squad to the active roster.

SOCCER

National Women's Soccer League

GOTHAM FC — Signed F Cece Kizer to a multi-year contract through 2025.

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-New York	28	6	.824	—
x-Connecticut	24	10	.706	4
x-Indiana	18	17	.514	10½
Atlanta	12	22	.353	16
Chicago	12	22	.353	16
Washington	11	23	.324	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Minnesota	25	9	.735	—
x-Las Vegas	22	12	.647	3
x-Seattle	21	14	.600	4½
x-Phoenix	17	19	.472	9
Dallas	9	25	.265	16
Los Angeles	7	27	.206	18

x-clinched playoff spot

Saturday's game

Seattle 90, Phoenix 66

Sunday's games

Minnesota at Washington
Atlanta at Indiana
Las Vegas at New York
Dallas at Chicago
Connecticut at Los Angeles

Monday's games

No games scheduled.

AUTO RACING

Focused Health 250

NASCAR Xfinity Series

Saturday

At Atlanta Motor Speedway

Hampton, Ga.

Lap length: 1.54 miles

(Start position in parentheses)

- (4) Austin Hill, Chevrolet, 163 laps, 50 points.
- (16) Parker Kligerman, Chevrolet, 163, 35.
- (6) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 163, 44.
- (8) Chandler Smith, Toyota, 163, 38.
- (21) Corey Heim, Toyota, 163, 0.
- (1) Jesse Love, Chevrolet, 163, 42.
- (19) Sammy Smith, Chevrolet, 163, 39.
- (13) Josh Williams, Chevrolet, 163, 29.
- (18) Brandon Jones, Chevrolet, 163, 32.
- (7) Ryan Truex, Toyota, 163, 27.
- (37) Kyle Weatherman, Chevrolet, 163, 26.
- (17) Parker Retzlaff, Chevrolet, 163, 25.
- (22) Lawless Alan, Ford, 163, 0.
- (15) Anthony Alfredo, Chevrolet, 163, 23.
- (26) Brennan Poole, Chevrolet, 163, 22.
- (28) Kyle Sieg, Ford, 163, 21.
- (35) Leland Honeyman, Chevrolet, 163, 20.
- (27) Mason Maggio, Chevrolet, 163, 0.
- (24) Blaine Perkins, Ford, 163, 18.
- (25) Nick Leitz, Chevrolet, 163, 17.
- (34) Ryan Ellis, Chevrolet, 163, 16.
- (33) David Starr, Ford, 163, 15.
- (30) Garrett Smithley, Chevrolet, 163, 14.
- (20) Jeb Burton, Chevrolet, 162, 13.
- (5) Sheldon Creed, Toyota, 160, 19.
- (9) Riley Herbst, Ford, 158, 26.
- (12) Shane Van Gisbergen, Chevrolet, 157, 12.
- (2) Taylor Gray, Toyota, suspension, 154, 0.
- (36) Jeremy Clements, Chevrolet, suspension, 149, 8.
- (10) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, accident, 146, 23.
- (3) Cole Custer, Ford, accident, 144, 17.
- (14) Ryan Sieg, Ford, accident, 144, 5.
- (32) Morgen Baird, Ford, 142, 4.
- (23) CJ McLaughlin, Chevrolet, engine, 112, 3.
- (29) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, garage, 80, 2.
- (11) Sam Mayer, Chevrolet, accident, 77, 6.
- (31) Dawson Cram, Chevrolet, engine, 18, 0.

Race statistics

Average speed of race winner: 118.503 mph.

Time of race: 2 hours, 7 minutes, 5 seconds.

Margin of victory: 0.340 seconds.

Caution flags: 6 for 36 laps.

Lead changes: 12 among 9 drivers.

Lap leaders: J.Love 0-15; S.Creed 16; J.Love 17-24; J.Allgaier 25-43; A.Allmendinger 44-82; L.Honeyman 83; T.Gray 84-95; C.Smith 96-107; C.Custer 108-131; A.Allmendinger 132; C.Custer 133-135; C.Smith 136-151; A.Hill 152-163

Leaders summary (driver, times led, laps led): A.Allmendinger, 2 times for 40 laps; C.Smith, 2 times for 28 laps; C.Custer, 2 times for 27 laps; J.Love, 2 times for 23 laps; J.Allgaier, 1 time for 19 laps; A.Hill, 1 time for 12 laps; T.Gray, 1 time for 12 laps; L.Honeyman, 1 time for 1 lap; S.Creed, 1 time for 1 lap.

Wins: A.Hill, 3; S.Van Gisbergen, 3; J.Allgaier, 2; C.Smith, 2; S.Mayer, 2; R.Truex, 2; C.Custer, 1; R.Herbst, 1; J.Love, 1; A.Almirona, 1.

Top 16 in points: 1. J.Allgaier, 866; 2. C.Custer, 832; 3. C.Smith, 799; 4. A.Hill, 795; 5. A.Allmendinger, 744; 6. S.Creed, 723; 7. R.Herbst, 693; 8. J.Love, 693; 9. P.Kligerman, 674; 10. S.Smith, 644; 11. R.Sieg, 600; 12. S.Van Gisbergen, 574; 13. S.Mayer, 542; 14. B.Jones, 505; 15. A.Alfredo, 479; 16. B.Poole, 417.

PRO SOCCER

MLS

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LA Galaxy	15	6	7	52	53	38
LAFC	14	6	6	48	48	32
Real Salt Lake	13	6	8	47	53	36
Colorado	13	9	5	44	53	45
Seattle	12	9	7	43	41	32
Vancouver	12	8	6	42	44	35
Houston	11	8	8	41	37	31
Portland	11	9	7	40	55	46
Minnesota	10	11	6	36	44	45
FC Dallas	9	12	7	34	44	45
Austin FC	9	11	7	34	30	38
Sporting KC	7	14	7	28	45	53
St Louis City	5	10	13	28	40	53
San Jose	5	20	2	17	34	63

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	18	4	5	59	62	40
Cincinnati	16	8	3	51	48	36
Columbus	14	5	7	49	52	28
New York	10	5	13	43	44	35
NYFC	11	10	6	39	40	36
Charlotte FC	10	9	8	38	31	29
Orlando City	10	10	7	37	42	41
Toronto FC	10	15	3	33	36	50
D.C. United	8	12	8	32	43	56

MLB

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	82	60	.577	—
Baltimore	82	61	.573	½
Boston	72	70	.507	10
Tampa Bay	70	72	.493	12
Toronto	68	75	.476	14½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	81	61	.570	—
Kansas City	78	65	.545	3½
Minnesota	76	66	.535	5
Detroit	72	71	.503	9½
Chicago	32	111	.224	49½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	77	65	.542	—
Seattle	72	71	.503	5½
Texas	69	74	.483	8½
Oakland	62	81	.434	15½
Los Angeles	59	83	.415	18
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	85	57	.599	—
New York	78	64	.549	7
Atlanta	77	65	.542	8
Washington	64	78	.451	21
Miami	53	89	.373	32
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	82	60	.577	—
Chicago	72	70	.507	10
St. Louis	72	70	.507	10
Cincinnati	68	75	.476	14½
Pittsburgh	66	76	.465	16
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	85	57	.599	—
San Diego	81	63	.563	5
Arizona	79	64	.552	6½
San Francisco	70	73	.490	15½
Colorado	53	90	.371	32½
Saturday's games				
N.Y. Yankees 2, Chicago Cubs 0				
Washington 5-8, Pittsburgh 3-6				
L.A. Dodgers 7, Cleveland 2				
Tampa Bay 7, Baltimore 1				
Detroit 2, Oakland 1				
Houston 11, Arizona 5				
N.Y. Mets 4, Cincinnati 0				
Miami 9, Philadelphia 5				
Texas 6, L.A. Angels 4				
Milwaukee 5, Colorado 2				
St. Louis 2, Seattle 0				
Kansas City 4, Minnesota 2				
Boston 7, Chicago White Sox 5				
Toronto 9, Atlanta 5				
San Francisco 6, San Diego 3				
Sunday's games				
Tampa Bay at Baltimore				
Washington at Pittsburgh				
Chicago White Sox at Boston				
Toronto at Atlanta				
Philadelphia at Miami				
Cincinnati at N.Y. Mets				
Minnesota at Kansas City				
Colorado at Milwaukee				
Seattle at St. Louis				
N.Y. Yankees at Chicago Cubs				
L.A. Angels at Texas				
Detroit at Oakland				
Cleveland at L.A. Dodgers				
San Francisco at San Diego				
Arizona at Houston				
Monday's games				
Tampa Bay (Springs 2-2) at Philadelphia (Sánchez 10-9)				
Cincinnati (Martinez 7-6) at Atlanta (Morton 8-7)				
Miami (Bellozo 2-2) at Pittsburgh (Skene 9-2)				
Kansas City (Singer 9-10) at N.Y. Yankees (Rodón 14-9)				
N.Y. Mets (Blackburn 5-4) at Toronto (Bassitt 9-13)				
Baltimore (Povich 2-7) at Boston (Bello 12-7)				
Cleveland (Lively 11-9) at Chicago White Sox (Nastri 0-7)				
L.A. Angels (Detmers 3-6) at Minnesota (Festa 2-5)				
Chicago Cubs (TBD) at L.A. Dodgers (Buehler 1-4)				
Tuesday's games				
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia				
Colorado at Detroit				
Miami at Pittsburgh				
Atlanta at Washington				
Kansas City at N.Y. Yankees				
N.Y. Mets at Toronto				
Baltimore at Boston				
L.A. Angels at Minnesota				
Cleveland at Chicago White Sox				
Cincinnati at St. Louis				
Oakland at Houston				
San Diego at Seattle				
Texas at Arizona				
Milwaukee at San Francisco				
Chicago Cubs at L.A. Dodgers				

ROUNDUP

Yankees shut out Cubs once again

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Clarke Schmidt and Nestor Cortes combined on a four-hitter, and the New York Yankees clinched their 32nd straight winning season by blanking the Chicago Cubs 2-0 on Saturday.

Schmidt pitched 4⅓ innings of four-hit ball in his first big league game since May 26. Cortes (9-10) closed it out in his first relief appearance since 2021.

Coupled with Baltimore's 7-1 loss to Tampa Bay, New York moved back into first in the AL East. The Yankees (82-60) lead the Orioles by a half-game.

Cortes admitted he was upset when he learned he was going to pitch in relief.

"I'm never going to back down from a challenge," Cortes said. "I'm never going to leave my teammates out to dry. You're always going to get my best effort no matter if I'm happy or not. That's what I did today. I came out there and proved I can be put in any situation. From here on out, if that's my role, I'll accept it."

Schmidt had been sidelined by a right lat strain. He threw 75 pitches, 44 for strikes.

"I felt like I still had a lot of strength and I wasn't fatiguing at all," Schmidt said.

Chicago (72-70) has lost four of five on a crucial homestand as it tries to rally in the race for the third NL wild card. It beat Pittsburgh 12-0 on Wednesday, but it has managed a total of three other runs in its last five games, getting shut out three times.

"We feel like we have a good enough ballclub to be in the playoffs and in the picture, but we're going to have to play a little bit better and keep pushing here," left fielder Ian Happ said.

Nationals 5-8, Pirates 3-6: Il-demaro Vargas hit a two-run double off Aroldis Chapman in visiting Washington's four-run ninth inning, and the Nationals beat Pittsburgh for a doubleheader sweep.

The Nationals won 5-3 in the first game. DJ Herz pitched five hitless innings and fellow rookie Dylan Crews homered.

Washington put together a two-out rally against Chapman (5-5) in the second game. James Wood singled in Drew Millas to get the Nationals within one.

With runners on second and third, Vargas was sent up to hit for Luis García Jr. With the Nationals down to their last strike, Vargas hit a sinking liner into right field that bounced off the glove of a diving Connor Joe.

Dodgers 7, Guardians 2: Andy Pages hit a two-run homer to cap a six-run first inning, and host Los Angeles defeated Cleveland in an



PAUL BEATY/AP

New York Yankees pitcher Nestor Cortes, right, celebrates with catcher Austin Wells after defeating the Cubs in Chicago on Saturday.

interleague matchup of division leaders.

Mookie Betts also went deep for the Dodgers, who extended their lead in the NL West to five games over San Diego, which lost 6-3 to San Francisco.

Lane Thomas launched a two-run homer for the Guardians in the second. The AL Central leaders fell to 3-2 on their nine-game trip and have a 3½-game lead over second-place Kansas City.

Rays 7, Orioles 1: Yandy Diaz homered among his three hits and drove in two runs, Jose Siri denied Gunnar Henderson a potential go-ahead home run with a leaping grab and visiting Tampa Bay beat Baltimore, knocking the Orioles from the AL East lead.

Taylor Walls also homered and had two RBIs as the Rays evened the series and dropped the Orioles a half-game behind the Yankees.

Tigers 2, Athletics 1: Brant Hurter (4-1) pitched 5⅓ innings of one-run ball, and visiting Detroit beat Oakland.

Detroit moved back over .500 after losing three of its previous four games. The Tigers (72-71) haven't had a winning season since they went 86-75 in 2016.

Astros 11, Diamondbacks 5: Jose Altuve and Jeremy Peña homered as host Houston improved to 7-0 in games started by Yusei Kikuchi by beating scuffling Ari-

Smith's sharp liner to right field capped a three-run outburst that made it 5-4, immediately following Marcus Semien's RBI single that came after a 5-for-39 stretch for the Texas leadoff hitter.

Brewers 5, Rockies 2: Willy Adames and Gary Sánchez hit back-to-back homers in the first inning, William Contreras later added a two-run shot and host Milwaukee defeated Colorado.

Rookie right-hander Tobias Myers (7-5) recorded a career-high 11 strikeouts over six innings to help Milwaukee avoid a fourth consecutive loss. The NL Central-leading Brewers are the only major league team without a losing streak of at least four games this season.

Cardinals 2, Mariners 0: Pedro Pagés hit a two-run homer off Logan Gilbert (7-11) in the eighth inning, helping host St. Louis top Seattle.

Jordan Walker was hit by a pitch before Pagés connected for his sixth homer, a drive to left-center on a 1-1 slider.

Royals 4, Twins 2: Bobby Witt Jr. hit a tiebreaking single in a four-run eighth inning, and host Kansas City open a 1½-game lead over Minnesota for the second AL wild-card spot.

Held to one hit over seven innings by Bailey Ober, the Royals rallied against Jhoan Durán (6-9) and Griffin Jax, winning their third straight following a season-high seven-game losing streak.

Red Sox 7, White Sox 5: Tyler O'Neill homered twice for host Boston in a win Saturday night that sent Chicago to its 111th loss.

The White Sox (32-111) are nine defeats shy of tying the 1962 New York Mets for the most losses since 1900 and are on pace to finish 36-126. The 1899 Cleveland Spiders hold the loss record at 20-134. Chicago has lost 14 of its last 15 games and 44 of 49.

Blue Jays 9, Braves 5: Spencer Horwitz homered twice among his four hits, José Berríos (15-9) pitched six effective innings and visiting Toronto beat Atlanta to knock the Braves out of the final NL wild-card spot.

With just 20 games left to play, the Braves fell one game behind the Mets with New York's 4-0 win over Cincinnati.

Giants 6, Padres 3: San Francisco rookie Grant McCray homered twice and drove in five runs as the visiting Giants beat San Diego.

McCray, who made his major league debut Aug. 14, put the Giants ahead 3-2 on his drive deep into the seats in right field off Dylan Cease (12-11) with two outs in the second inning. Patrick Bailey and Brett Wisely were aboard on singles.

US OPEN/NFL

Sabalenka tops Pegula for 3rd slam

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aryna Sabalenka left the U.S. Open in tears 12 months ago as the runner-up. She exited in the semifinals each of the two years before that, other losses that were difficult to digest. On Saturday, Sabalenka was in a joking mood after winning her first championship at Flushing Meadows and the third Grand Slam title of her career.

Sabalenka, the No. 2 seed, got past No. 6 Jessica Pegula 7-5, 7-5 in a rollicking final under a closed retractable roof at Arthur Ashe Stadium, displaying her typical power while sprinkling in some variation to add this triumph to those at the Australian Open each of the past two seasons.

"I had a lot of tough lessons here ... especially last year," Sabalenka, a 26-year-old from Belarus, said after grabbing the last two games of the first set and the last four of the match. "In those tough moments (Saturday), I was just trying to stay strong and trying to remind myself that I have been through a lot and I'm strong enough to hold under this pressure."

Sitting near the U.S. Open trophy at her news conference, Sabalenka alluded to "a lot of challenges" away from the court. There was the death of her father in 2019. The death of an ex-boyfriend this March. A right shoulder problem that forced her to withdraw from Wimbledon right before it began this July.

"After I lost my father, it's always been my goal to put our family name in the history of tennis," she said. "Every time I see my name on that trophy, I'm so proud of myself, I'm proud of my family that they never gave up on my dream and that they were doing everything they could to keep me going."

Also driving her: what she called "all those tough losses in the past here."

That includes semifinal defeats in 2021 against Leylah Fernandez and in 2022 against No. 1 Iga Swiatek.

Most poignant, of course, was last year, when Sabalenka was rattled by the Ashe crowd, blew a set advantage and was defeated by Coco Gauff. Like Gauff, Pegula is an American, but the spectators were far more generous toward Sabalenka this time, applauding her best efforts and even obliging when she waved her arms to ask for extra noise.

After extending her winning streak to 12 matches, Sabalenka thanked the fans for cheering for her — which probably (wink, wink) was unrelated to her kidding offer of "Drinks on me" after an earlier victory.

There were light moments Saturday evening, too. After her coach, Anton Dubrov, was awarded a smaller version of the champion's trophy for his role in her success, Sabalenka teased that its size "actually looks sad" compared to the real thing. She also laughed after pointing out that if both guzzle booze out of their respective trophies, "I'll have a hangover tomorrow, more than you're going to have."

Pegula, a native New Yorker whose parents own the NFL's Buffalo Bills and NHL's Buffalo Sabres, was participating in a major final for the first time at age 30. She's won 15 of her past 17 matches over the past month; both losses came against Sabalenka.



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

Aryna Sabalenka, of Belarus, reacts during the women's singles final of the U.S. Open on Saturday against Jessica Pegula, of the United States.

"Everyone is like, 'Congrats! Amazing tournament!'" Pegula said. "I'm like, 'Eh, whatever.'"

To Pegula's credit, she did not fold after Sabalenka reeled off five consecutive games to grab the opening set and move ahead 3-0 in the second. In the next game, Pegula dropped a point and showed her frustration by whacking a ball off the video wall behind the baseline, dislodging a little square panel.

Maybe that released some tension, because suddenly Pegula asserted herself, using her own five-game run to go up 5-3. But when she served at 5-4 with a chance to force a third set, Pegula let Sabalenka break.

"She played some big tennis in big moments," Pegula said.

Sabalenka is as demonstrative as anyone, her body language usually a spot-on barometer of whether things are going well. But as she sputtered at the start Saturday, it was tough to read what she was thinking against Pegula, who eliminated Swiatek in the quarterfinals.

Even while down an early break, Sabalenka reacted to mistakes by calmly turning her back and breathing deeply.

Once Sabalenka calibrated her booming strokes — her forehands were the fastest of the past two weeks, speedier than any woman's or man's — it was apparent the outcome would be determined by her.

By the close, the statistics made that obvious: Sabalenka finished

with far more winners than Pegula, 40-17, and also more unforced errors, 34-22. Sabalenka controlled most exchanges, but also sprinkled in the occasional drop shot or deft volley.

"I was happy I was able to fight back and give myself a chance," Pegula said, "but in the end, it wasn't enough."

There was one moment of clear anger from Sabalenka. It came at 5-all in the first set, when she double-faulted to face a break point, then leaned forward and cracked her racket against the court four times.

Seemed to work. She saved that break point, wound up taking that game, then broke Pegula to own the opening set.

A year ago, Sabalenka blew that sort of lead against Gauff. The year before, Sabalenka did the same against Swiatek.

Didn't let it happen again.

"In that second set, honestly, I was just praying there," said Sabalenka, who collected a \$3.6 million winner's check. "I was literally standing there and praying."

Packers QB Love has MCL injury

By STEVE MEGARGEE
Associated Press

Green Bay Packers quarterback Jordan Love injured his medial collateral ligament in the team's season-opening game, but didn't suffer damage to his ACL and should return at some point this season, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the team hasn't announced the severity of Love's injury. A timetable for Love's return wasn't specified.

ESPN and NFL Network first reported the update on Love, who hurt his knee on the third-to-last play of the Packers' 34-29 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles in Brazil on Friday night. ESPN reported Love could miss three to four weeks, while NFL Network estimated it at three to six weeks.

The injury occurred as Love was attempting to drive the Packers to a game-winning touchdown in the closing seconds. He had just thrown a 33-yard completion to Jayden Reed that got them near midfield. On the next play, Love faced major pressure from Jalen Carter and Josh Sweat as he threw a backward pass to Josh Jacobs.

Carter was lying down and had a hold of Love's left leg when Sweat pushed the quarterback to the ground. Love remained on the ground for several seconds, then slowly got up and limped to the sideline with assistance.

Malik Willis, who was acquired from the Tennessee Titans, replaced Love for the final two plays of the game. Willis got sacked as time expired before he could attempt a Hail Mary pass.

The 25-year-old Love was playing his first regular-season game

since signing a four-year, \$220 million contract extension this summer. The Packers entered the season with Super Bowl aspirations largely because of the emergence of Love, who led the NFL's youngest team to a surprising playoff berth last season as a first-year starter.

The Packers believe Love is on track to continue the franchise's three-decade run of outstanding quarterback production, a tradition that began in the 1990s with Hall of Famer Brett Favre and continued with four-time MVP Aaron Rodgers. The Packers traded Rodgers in the spring of 2023 to make way for Love, who completed 64.2% of his passes for 4,159 yards with 32 touchdowns and 11 interceptions last season.

The only other quarterbacks to throw for at least 4,000 yards and 32 touchdowns in their first season making multiple starts were Kurt Warner in 1999 and Patrick Mahomes in 2018. The only quarterbacks to throw more than 32 touchdown passes in their first season with multiple starts were Mahomes (50), Warner (41) and Daunte Culpepper (33 in 2000).

Now, the Packers must try to win without Love as their franchise quarterback begins his recovery.

Willis, a 2022 third-round pick from Liberty, is the only other quarterback on the Packers' 53-man roster. He made three starts his rookie year and didn't throw for as many as 100 yards in any of them.

The Packers acquired Willis from the Tennessee Titans for a 2025 seventh-round draft pick in a trade that was completed less than two weeks ago. Green Bay also has 2023 fifth-round draft pick Sean Clifford on its practice squad.



DOUG BENC/AP

Packers quarterback Jordan Love is helped off the field after getting hurt late in the fourth quarter against the Eagles on Friday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Iowa State defensive back Cam Smith celebrates Saturday's 20-19 victory over in-state rival Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa.

Konrardy's 54-yard FG lifts Iowa St. over Iowa

By JOHN BOHNENKAMP
Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Kyle Konrardy made a 54-yard field goal with six seconds left to give Iowa State a 20-19 victory over No. 21 Iowa on Saturday, only the Cyclones' third victory in the last 11 games against the Hawkeyes.

Konrardy, who had missed a 41-yard field-goal attempt in the second quarter, got his chance when the Cyclones (2-0) drove 42 yards on three pass completions from quarterback Rocco Becht after getting the ball at their own 22 with 34 seconds remaining.

"You've got to focus, not on the mistakes, but focus on what's next," Konrardy said. "Part of it was just not even think about the mistake, but focus on what I could do now."

The key, Konrardy said, was "not think."

"That's it," he said. "Just go out there and not think and just do what you do."

Asked if he was able to do that, Konrardy smiled and said, "Yes sir."

"It's just like practice," Becht said. "He hits those all of the time in practice. He has no doubt."

Iowa (1-1) got a 35-yard return from Max White on the ensuing kickoff, but Cade McNamara's pass was intercepted by Darien Porter.

The Hawkeyes led 19-7 with 4:47 left in the third quarter after Kaleb Johnson's 4-yard touchdown run. McNamara's two-point conversion pass was incomplete, a play that proved to be important at the end.

"I felt like we were teetering on the edge the whole time," Iowa State coach Matt Campbell said.

But the Cyclones rallied, with Becht throwing a 75-yard touchdown pass to Jaylin Noel late in the third quarter and Konrardy adding a 46-yard field goal early in the fourth.

"The real win is when you see young men respond to adversity," Campbell said. "Life is going to be hard. There's going to be tough moments. But you have to respond to adversity."

Johnson, who rushed for 187 yards, opened the scoring for Iowa with a 27-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. The Hawkeyes led 13-0 at halftime, but they squandered chances to get more points in the first half. They had first-and-goal at the Iowa State 1 early in the second quarter, and another first-and-goal situation at the 3 in the quarter, but only came away with two field goals from Drew Stevens.

"I really felt that was the game," Campbell said. "When we were able to make those stands down there, I thought, man, we can get the momentum going our way in the second half."

Bump: Year 3 historically big season for Notre Dame coaches

FROM PAGE 24

under-thrown interception that set up the Huskies at midfield with about six minutes left, you could almost feel the dread setting in under Touchdown Jesus.

Even with the aid of a couple of pretty clear officiating mistakes in the final minute — a poorly spotted ball cost NIU a first down and then officials forgot to run the clock after a measurement — the Irish couldn't pull it out in the end.

Northern Illinois outgained Notre Dame by 102 yards, was better on third down and held the ball for almost 10 more minutes.

But how?

Freeman was hired with much enthusiasm when Brian Kelly bolted for LSU. Yes, he was a first-time head coach, but he appeared to be the antithesis of Kelly in all the best ways. He connected with players and fans in a way Kelly never did. He was present, passionate and charismatic.

Over 12 years, Kelly won more games than any coach in Notre Dame's storied history, but was never beloved in South Bend.

It took Kelly several years to figure out the formula for success at Notre Dame and he took plenty of these types of losses early to the likes of Tulsa, Navy and South Florida.

It clicked for Kelly in 2017 and the Irish reeled off seven straight 10-win seasons and two four-team playoff appearances.

The knock on Kelly became that his teams couldn't win the biggest

games or hang with the very best teams.

But he cleaned up in the games he was supposed to win and the Irish fans could not help but appreciate him.

It's not the sexiest trait in a college football coach, but avoiding being the biggest story of the weekend by losing to a huge underdog keeps the peace.

According to Fox Sports' Chris Fallica, there have been 28 losses by a home favorite of at least 16 points in college football since 2022. Freeman's teams now account for three of them.

Year 3 is historically a big one for Notre Dame coaches, filled with national titles and championship game appearances.

By all accounts this looked like Freeman's highest-ceiling team — though maybe we underrated the problems an entirely rebuilt offensive line would present. Still, that can't get exposed against a MAC team in the home opener.

"We're 1-1. We have to accept that fact. But we have a long season ahead of us," safety Xavier Watts told reporters.

He's right. The 12-team College Football Playoff changes everything this year, but Notre Dame was already in danger of facing intense scrutiny from the selection committee for a schedule that is less than loaded.

Maybe that changes. Louisville is ranked No. 22. No. 13 USC is off to a good start after beating Kelly's LSU team. Feels like a stretch.

"We've got to own this. Every coach. Every person in here. We all have to own this," Freeman said.

Oh, you most definitely will.

Michigan's miss

You could say No. 3 Texas' blowout No. 10 Michigan was settled in the first half, but in reality it was probably decided last December when the Wolverines sat out the transfer portal.

To be fair, Michigan was on its way to winning a national title with a head coach in Jim Harbaugh, who anybody with internet knew was very likely heading back to the NFL.

Not exactly an ideal way to start the process of reconstructing a roster that was about to send more than a dozen players into the NFL.

Still, in this era of college football free agency it's difficult to believe new Michigan coach Sherrone Moore went into a season with this quarterback situation.

Davis Warren is a great story, a cancer survivor who is better than a typical walk-on, but right now he doesn't look like a player who should be starting for a team considered a playoff contender.

Alex Orji seemed like the heir apparent to first-round draft pick J.J. McCarthy, despite having only thrown six career passes during his first two seasons at Michigan. If nothing else, the 6-foot-3, 235-pound Texan would bring a running threat to the Wolverines' offense. But he was beaten out by

Warren, who threw two interceptions against Texas and had just 73 yards passing through three quarters.

A transfer quarterback is no sure thing, as Kentucky and Florida State are finding out. But how would Ohio State transfer Kyle McCord (eight touchdown passes in two games for Syracuse) have looked in a maize and blue winged helmet this year?

How about something more along the lines of a developmental player? Alabama transfer Eli Holstein has six touchdown passes and two 300-yard passing games in leading Pitt to a 2-0 start. Texas transfer Maalik Murphy has Duke 2-0, with five touchdown passes.

Of course, this isn't just a quarterback issue for Michigan's offense. It is the most-glaring issue.

"I never really thought about the growing pains, more so just what can we do to get better?" Moore said. "We knew we were a new team. We never try to rest on our laurels that we won the national championship last year."

Around the country

There are currently three Southeastern Conference teams in the top four of the AP rankings: No. 1 Georgia, No. 3 Texas and No. 4 Alabama. No. 14 Tennessee might be closer to that group than its ranking suggests. The Volunteers overwhelmed No. 24 NC State. ... Freeman could use some advice from Penn State coach James Franklin. The eighth-

ranked Nittany Lions allowed 24 points and 289 yards and trailed Bowling Green (another MAC team) in the first half before fixing whatever was wrong at halftime and winning a one-score game. Surely, Penn State fans were not thrilled but almost losing is still winning so Happy Valley is a better place to be this weekend than South Bend. ... Big 12 contenders No. 16 Oklahoma State and No. 17 Kansas State both needed second-half rallies to win tough nonconference games. The Cowboys allowed 648 yards to Taylen Green (another pretty good-looking transfer quarterback) and Arkansas but took advantage of a boat load of Razorbacks mistakes to win in double overtime.... The Wildcats needed a late scoop-and-score, and benefited from an offensive pass interference penalty on Tulane, to get out of New Orleans unbeaten. ... A couple of ranked teams were not so fortunate against unranked teams: Iowa State rallied to beat No. 21 Iowa with a 54-yard field goal from red-shirt freshman kicker Kyle Konrardy in the closing seconds. Illinois beat No. 19 Kansas for its first victory against a ranked nonconference opponent since 2019. ... No. 11 Utah was rolling against Baylor before sixth-year QB Cam Rising went out with a hand injury. The Utes closed out the victory and said after that Rising's injury wasn't serious. It best not be considering how Utah's offense operates without him.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Daily throws for TD, Army's ground game stymies FAU

Associated Press

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Bryson Daily threw for a surprise touchdown as Army's running game dominated and the Black Knights iced the game with another trick play to debut in the American Athletic Conference with a 24-7 win over Florida Atlantic on Saturday.

A play after what would have been Daily's second touchdown pass was dropped in the end zone on hird-and-12, holder Matthew Rhodes scored on a 23-yard run around the left end on a fake field goal with 13:57 left in the fourth.

If that 15-play, 96-yard, 10½-minute drive following an interception by Max DiDomenico didn't salt the game away, DiDomenico's stop of FAU quarterback Cam Fancher on 4th-and-goal from the 1 with 8:44 to go on the ensuing possession sure did.

Army (2-0, 1-0) used 14 plays to run out the clock and finished with 38-minutes, 39-seconds time of possession.

The Black Knights, who began playing football in 1890, are in a conference for just the second time ever. They played in Conference USA from 1998-2004. They joined the AAC as a football-only member, joining rival Navy, which joined in 2015.

Kanye Udoh capped an 82-yard drive on Army's first possession with an 8-yard run.

The next possession Daily found Casey Reynolds wide open behind the defense for a 44-yard score.

The Owls (0-2, 0-1) capitalized on a fumble with Fancher hitting Omari Hayes just before halftime.

Army opened the second half with a field goal before DiDomen-



DOUG MURRAY/AP

Army quarterback Bryson Daily (13) runs with the ball during Saturday's game against Florida Atlantic in Boca Raton, Fla.

ico's pick set up the key drive.

Noah Short, who came in with less than 100 career yards, beat that by halftime before finishing with 160 for the Black Knights. Army had 405 on the ground, 117 by Daily on 18 keepers.

Navy 38, Temple 11: Quarterback Blake Horvath tallied 234 total yards and four touchdowns and the host Midshipmen beat the Owls in the American Athletic Conference opener.

Horvath ran for 122 yards on 15 carries and three touchdowns and threw for 112 yards and a touchdown. Navy (2-0, 1-0) outgained Temple (0-2, 0-1) 409-312 and committed just four penalties.

The Midshipmen's defense scored the game's first points on a safety when it sacked Temple quarterback Forest Brock in the end zone.

Navy made it 9-0 when Horvath

ran it in from the 2 to end an 11-play, 58-yard drive to close the first quarter.

Jaxson Campbell intercepted Brock and Horvath ran for a 62-yard score on the ensuing play to make it 16-0.

Running back Alex Tecza tacked on a 65-yard touchdown run to make it 23-0 with 8:04 before halftime.

San Jose State 17, Air Force 7: Emmett Brown completed 17 of 32 passes for 262 yards and two touchdowns, including a 58-yard TD connection with Jackson Canaan that lifted the visiting Spartans over the Falcons.

All of the touchdowns were scored in the first quarter.

Cade Davis scored the only Air Force touchdown on a 6-yard run to tie the game.

Brown hit Nick Nash for an 18-yard score and then hit Canaan after the Falcons tied it.

Nebraska dominates Colorado

BY ERIC OLSON

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Dylan Raiola passed for 185 yards and a touchdown, Nebraska turned a smothering defensive performance into a big early lead, and the Cornhuskers went on to beat Colorado 28-10 in a game that turned into a slog in the second half Saturday night.

"That's how we wanted to come out. Dominance," defensive lineman Ty Robinson said. "We wanted them to feel us."

The Huskers (2-0) sacked She-deur Sanders five times and pressured him throughout while winning the final meeting of a four-game home-and-home series. The Buffaloes (1-1) had won the first three.

"We expected this score, and we expected this to be like this," sec-

ond-year Nebraska coach Matt Rhule said. "We have a good team."

Nebraska fans had this game circled on their calendars since last year's 36-14 loss in Boulder, and there was a palpable big-game vibe in the lead-up to kickoff between the old Big Eight-Big 12 rivals.

Nebraska's 1994 national championship team and undefeated world boxing champion and Omaha resident Terence Crawford led the Huskers onto the field.

And though the current programs are far removed from where they were 30 years ago — when Nebraska won a matchup of top-three teams here on its way to Tom Osborne's first title — there were hints of the past for the Huskers with their amped sellout crowd and stout defense. The stu-

dent section came running onto the field when the game ended.

"The way we started is just not indicative of who we are, and we just never got it together," CU coach Deion Sanders said. "Sometimes you have those games."

The Buffs didn't record a first down until their fifth possession, netted minus-2 yards in the first quarter and finished with 260. Robinson's sack forced a three-and-out on Colorado's game-opening series, and later he blocked Alejandro Mata's 29-yard field-goal try. The Buffs also got stuffed on fourth-and-1, twice, and Tommi Hill picked off Shedeur Sanders' pass from the end zone for an easy 7-yard pick-6.

The Huskers' 28-0 halftime lead was their biggest since they led Northwestern 35-7 in 2021.

Scoreboard

Saturday's scores

EAST

Alfred St. 13, Anderson (Ind.) 0
Allegheny 20, Bethany (WV) 14
American International 28, Shippensburg 3
Bentley 20, West Chester 17
Bluefield State 22, Concord 13
Boston College 56, Duquesne 0
Bryant 21, Franklin Pierce 17
CCSU 33, Fordham 3
Carnegie Mellon 58, Thiel 0
Case Western 41, Waynesburg 7
Castleton 14, Norwich 12
Charleston (WV) 23, California (Pa.) 19
Coast Guard 36, New England 24
College of NJ 34, Eastern 12
Cortland 76, Hilbert 0
Edinboro 23, Robert Morris 21
Endicott 44, St. Lawrence 13
Fitchburg St. 12, Dean 0
Georgetown 31, Marist 10
Gettysburg 61, Juniata 41
Grove City 41, Geneva 0
Hartwick 62, Maine Maritime 6
Howard 32, Mercyhurst 31
Husson 56, Framingham St. 14
Johns Hopkins 27, Ithaca 23
Lafayette 40, Monmouth (NJ) 35
Lehigh 49, Wagner 13
Lock Haven 31, Glenville St. 9
Lycoming 48, Widener 12
MIT 37, Bridgewater (Mass.) 17
Marietta 55, St. John Fisher 0
Mass.-Dartmouth 64, Nichols 24
Merchant Marine 44, W. Connecticut 27
Michigan St. 27, Maryland 24
Misericordia 24, Keystone 14
Morrisville St. 7, Kean 0
Muhlenberg 33, Moravian 7
Navy 38, Temple 11
New Hampshire 21, Holy Cross 20
Penn St. 34, Bowling Green 27
Rutgers 49, Akron 17
Sacred Heart 10, St. Anselm 3
Salisbury 48, Washington & Lee 26
Slippery Rock 22, New Haven 7
Stony Brook 37, Stonehill 10
Syracuse 31, Georgia Tech 28
Townson 14, Morgan St. 9
Uconn 63, Merrimack 17
Villanova 28, Colgate 3
Washington & Jefferson 59, St. Vincent 7
West Virginia 49, Albany (NY) 14
Wilkes 43, Kings (Pa.) 28

SOUTH

Alabama 42, South Florida 16
Alabama A&M 49, Kentucky St. 7
Alabama St. 24, Miles 3
Anderson Trojans 51, St. Andrews 14
Apprentice 44, S. Virginia 9
Army 24, FAU 7
Averett 41, NC Wesleyan 29
Berry 43, Huntingdon 7
Bethel (Tenn.) 20, Mary Hardin-Baylor 10
Bucknell 35, VMI 28
Butler 19, Murray St. 17
California 21, Auburn 14
Campbell 24, W. Carolina 16
Charleston Southern 24, Furman 20
Clark Atlanta 26, Allen 22
Clemson 66, Appalachian St. 20
Coastal Carolina 40, William & Mary 21
Davenport 24, Thomas More 17
Davidson 49, Catawba 14
Del. Valley 41, Hampden-Sydney 21
Delta St. 55, Missouri S&T 18
ETSU 61, Virginia-Wise 0
East Carolina 20, Old Dominion 14
Elizabeth City St. 12, Chowan 9
Elon 41, NC Central 19
FIU 52, Cent. Michigan 16
Fayetteville St. 35, UNC-Pembroke 31
Florida 45, Samford 7
Georgia St. 24, Chattanooga 21
Grambling St. 37, Tuskegee 20
Guilford 14, Greensboro 0
Hampton 33, Virginia Union 21
Hendrix 43, Centenary Gents 20
Illinois St. 24, North Alabama 17
Jackson St. 58, Lane 7
James Madison 13, Gardner-Webb 6
Johnson C. Smith 37, Morehouse 13
Kansas St. 34, Tulane 27
LSU 44, Nicholls 21
Lenoir-Rhyne 32, Bowie St. 19
Louisiana-Lafayette 34, Kennesaw St. 10
Louisiana-Monroe 32, UAB 6
Louisville 49, Jacksonville St. 14
Maryville (Tenn.) 23, Sewanee 9
Memphis 38, Troy 17
Mercer 31, Bethune-Cookman 2
Miami 56, Florida A&M 9
Mississippi 52, Middle Tennessee 3
Morehead St. 48, Kentucky Christian 7
Mount Union 55, Ferrum 6
NC A&T 27, Winston-Salem 20, OT
Norfolk St. 28, Virginia St. 23
North Carolina 38, Charlotte 20
Prairie View 37, Northwestern St. 31
Presbyterian 31, Erskine 14
S. Illinois 31, Austin Peay 17
SC State 23, The Citadel 20
Shaw 43, Albany St. (Ga.) 40
Shenandoah 33, Methodist 14
South Carolina 31, Kentucky 6
Southern Miss. 35, SE Louisiana 10
Southern U. 42, Savannah St. 10
Stetson 35, Warner University 0
Tennessee 51, NC State 10
UCF 45, Sam Houston St. 14
Valdosta St. 27, Newberry 14
Vanderbilt 55, Alcorn St. 0
Virginia 31, Wake Forest 30
Virginia Tech 31, Marshall 14
W. Kentucky 31, E. Kentucky 0
Washington (Mo.) 44, Rhodes 20
West Alabama 45, Tusculum 9
Wofford 26, Richmond 19

MIDWEST

Adrian 55, Elmhurst 20
Albion 31, Wis.-Stevens Pt 23
Augustana (Ill.) 30, Simpson 13
Ball St. 42, Missouri St. 34
Benedictine (Ill.) 34, Buena Vista 7
Calvin Knights 50, Oberlin 6
Cent. Arkansas 34, Lindenwood (Mo.) 13
Cent. Missouri 63, Northeastern St. 21

Cent. Oklahoma 72, Langston 0
Central 49, Illinois Wesleyan 14
Centre 27, Hanover 12
Christopher Newport 42, Trine 6
Coe 55, Cornell (Iowa) 10
Dakota St. 41, Nebraska Wesleyan 25
DePauw 57, Rose Hulman 14
E. Illinois 27, Indiana St. 20
Emporia St. 17, Angelo St. 12
Ferris St. 56, Lake Erie 3
Findlay 37, Truman St. 21
Fort Hays St. 30, Missouri Western 16
Greenville 54, Concordia (Ill.) 23
Hamline 35, Crown (Minn.) 14
Hope 49, Loras 0
Illinois 23, Kansas 17
Illinois College 46, Millikin 21
Indianapolis 42, Hillsdale 16
Iowa St. 20, Iowa 19
Kalamazoo 26, Austin 20
Kenyon 13, Bluffton 6
Knox 7, Eureka 6
Lake Forest 21, Wis. Lutheran 7
Lyon 48, Grinnell 28
Martin Luther 35, Lawrence 7
Minn.-Morris 17, Macalester 16
Minnesota 48, Rhode Island 0
Minnesota St. 31, Bemidji St. 29
Minot St. 42, SW Minnesota 9
Missouri 38, Buffalo 0
Muskingum 42, Mount St. Joseph 35
N. Dakota St. 52, Tennessee St. 3
N. Illinois 16, Notre Dame 14
N. Iowa 17, St. Thomas (Minn.) 10
Neb.-Kearney 21, NW Missouri St. 14
Nebraska 28, Colorado 10
North Dakota 27, Montana 24
North Park 42, Ripon 41
Ohio 27, South Alabama 20
Ohio Northern 45, Franklin 7
Ohio St. 56, W. Michigan 0
Ohio Wesleyan 26, Otterbein 7
Pittsburgh St. 42, Missouri Southern 17
Pittsburgh St. Cincinnati 27
Quincy 46, Lincoln (Mo.) 5
Rochester 28, Olivet 21
Rockford 43, Beloit 17
S. Dakota St. 45, Incarnate Word 24
SE Missouri 45, UT Martin 42, 20T
Sioux Falls 34, Northern St. 10
St. Francis (Pa.) 23, Kent St. 17
St. John's (Minn.) 49, Carthage 0
St. Olaf 39, Northwestern (Minn.) 21
Texas 31, Michigan 12
Toledo 38, UMass 23
Upper Iowa 33, Concordia (St.P.) 7
Wabash 31, St. Norbert 0
Wartburg 38, Monmouth (Ill.) 24
Westminster (Mo.) 23, Manchester 3
Wheeling Jesuit 14, Walsh 10
Whitworth 40, Gustavus Adolphus 7
Wis.-Eau Claire 21, Concordia (Mo.) 10
Wis.-Oshkosh 21, Wheaton (Ill.) 14
Wis.-Platteville 65, Lakeland 0
Wis.-River Falls 41, Alma 35
Wis.-Whitewater 34, John Carroll 7
Wisconsin 27, South Dakota 13
Wooster 56, Wilmington (Ohio) 13
Youngstown St. 59, Valparaiso 25

SOUTHWEST

Abilene Christian 38, West Georgia 24
Ark.-Pine Bluff 73, Arkansas Baptist Buffaloes 0
Arkansas St. 28, Tulsa 24
Hardin Simmons 38, Howard Payne 6
Lamar 28, MVSU 14
North Texas 35, Stephen F. Austin 20
Oklahoma 16, Houston 12
Oklahoma St. 39, Arkansas 31, OT
Rice 69, Texas Southern 7
S. Utah 27, UTEP 24, OT
Southwestern (Texas) 24, McMurry 20
TCU 45, LIU Brooklyn 0
Tarleton St. 35, Houston Christian 18
Texas A&M 52, McNeese St. 10
Texas Lutheran 35, Trinity (Texas) 20
Texas State 49, UTSA 10

FAR WEST

Arizona 22, N. Arizona 10
Arizona St. 30, Mississippi St. 23
Baldwin Wallace 24, Wittenberg 14
Black Hills St. 24, SW Baptist 14
CSU-Pueblo 40, Texas-Permian Basin 23
Chapman 43, Pacific (Ore.) 23
Claremont Mudd 24, Chicago 0
Colorado St. 38, N. Colorado 17
Drake 35, E. Washington 32, OT
E. New Mexico 36, Sul Ross St. 17
Fresno St. 46, Sacramento St. 30
Georgia Southern 20, Nevada 17
Idaho 17, Wyoming 13
Idaho St. 50, W. Oregon 10
Lewis & Clark 59, Puget Sound 21
Liberty 30, New Mexico St. 24
Linfield 31, Denison 7
Montana St. 41, Maine 24
Oregon 37, Boise St. 34
Oregon St. 21, San Diego St. 0
Pomona Pitzer 28, Carleton 12
San Diego 26, Cent. Washington 7
San Jose St. 17, Air Force 7
Southern Cal 48, Utah St. 0
Stanford 41, Cal Poly 7
UC Davis 36, Texas A&M Commerce 22
UNLV 72, Utah Tech 14
Utah 23, Baylor 12
W. Colorado 38, Midwestern St. 33
Washington 30, E. Michigan 9
Washington St. 37, Texas Tech 16
Weber St. 43, Portland St. 16
Willamette 27, La Verne 24, OT

Friday's scores

EAST

Albright 17, Gallaudet 6
FDU-Florham 37, William Paterson 9
Franklin & Marshall 30, Leb. Valley 10
Randolph Macon 47, Dickinson 21
SUNY Maritime 22, Mass. Maritime 14
Susquehanna 41, Bridgewater (Va.) 7
Ursinus 45, Alvernia 14
Utica 41, Union (NY) 26
WPI 14, Worcester St. 9

MIDWEST

Indiana 77, W. Illinois 3
SOUTHWEST
BYU 18, SMU 15

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Ewers throws for 3 TDs as Texas pounds Michigan

BY LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Quinn Ewers has led Texas to road wins in two of the toughest places to play in college football in consecutive seasons.

Ewers threw for 246 yards and three touchdowns, helping No. 3 Texas rout No. 10 Michigan 31-12 on Saturday a year after the QB and the Longhorns won at Alabama.

“I just enjoy big moments,” he said.

Texas became the first school to beat Michigan and Alabama on the road in consecutive seasons since Notre Dame pulled off the feat in 1979 and 1980 with different quarterbacks, according to Sportradar.

The Longhorns (2-0) moved the ball at will through the air and on the ground against the defending national champions, whose turnover-prone offense failed to throw or run the ball effectively.

The Wolverines (1-1) had three streaks snapped in the first regu-

lar-season matchup of the traditional college football powerhouses.

Michigan had won a Big Ten-record 29 consecutive regular-season games, 23 straight home games and a national-best 16 games in a row since losing to TCU in the 2022 College Football Playoff.

While the stretches of success are over, defensive end Josaiah Stewart said the Wolverines have not lost their opportunity to repeat as national champions thanks to the expanded 12-team playoff.

“Our season’s not over, so one loss doesn’t kick us out of the playoff like it probably would last year,” he said.

Davis Warren was 22-for-33 for 204 yards, to go along with a touchdown when the game was out of reach and two interceptions. Pre-season All-America tight end Colston Loveland had eight receptions for 70 yards and an unforced fumble for the overmatched Wolverines.



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Texas quarterback Quinn Ewers smiles while acknowledging the crowd after beating Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Saturday. Ewers threw for 246 yards in No. 3 Texas’ 31-12 rout of No. 12 Michigan.

“It was on us,” Warren said. “They’re a good football team, they played well today, but we shot ourselves in the foot and let them win that football game.”

After the victory, linebacker David Gbenda took Texas’ white flag with an orange longhorn and tried to plant it into the maize block M at midfield, but it didn’t stick in the turf.

That was the only play the Long-

horns didn’t make all day.

Texas led 24-3 at halftime and didn’t give up a touchdown until Warren threw a 31-yard pass to Semaj Morgan with 1:54 left.

Ewers threw a 21-yard touchdown pass to Gunnar Helm in the first quarter. Helm, a senior tight end, set career highs with seven catches for 98 yards, showing off for 15 NFL teams in attendance.

Ewers found Matthew Golden

for a 5-yard touchdown late in the second quarter and passed to Jaydon Blue for a 7-yard TD in the third as the Longhorns coasted to a lopsided victory with little resistance.

The former Ohio State quarterback completed 24 of 36 passes without an interception, a week after he had 260 yards passing and three touchdowns in a 52-0 win over Colorado State.

Oregon beats Boise State on last-second field goal

BY ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — Oregon is clearly still trying to find an identity.

For the second straight week the Ducks struggled, but ultimately prevailed. Atticus Sappington kicked a 25-yard field goal as time expired to give No. 7 Oregon a 37-34 victory over resilient Boise State on Saturday night.

Dillon Gabriel threw for 243 yards and two touchdowns for the Ducks (2-0), who trailed the Broncos (1-1) with 10 minutes left.

Last week, Oregon beat Idaho 24-14, another game that was closer than expected.

“As a team that’s finding our identity together, I think you see a bunch of guys being more and more connected as the weeks go on, through practice, through games,” Gabriel said. “And then you go through adversity and you find a way to win.”

Ashton Jeanty ran for 192 yards and three touchdowns for Boise State, which went into the game as 18½-point underdogs but nearly pulled off the upset.

The Broncos (1-1) went back ahead 34-27 early in the fourth quarter on Jeanty’s 8-yard scoring run, but Noah Whittington had a



LYDIA ELY/AP

Oregon place kicker Atticus Sappington is congratulated by teammates after his field goal defeated Boise State on Saturday at Autzen Stadium in Eugene, Ore. The late score avoided overtime as Oregon won 37-34.

99-yard kickoff return that ended with Jayden Limar’s recovery in the end zone to tie it 16 seconds later.

Despite the struggles, Oregon extended its nonconference home

winning streak to 34 games, best nationally among active teams.

“I have a sense of relief because of the result,” Oregon coach Dan Lanning said. “But try to focus on the process, and there’s a lot of

things I think we can go and attack and fix. And there’s certainly some things to fix, right? There’s certainly some things to improve.”

Boise State took the early lead with Jonah Dalmas’ first-quarter field goal. Oregon’s offense sputtered at the start, but Gabriel hit Evan Stewart with a 67-yard pass and then scored on a keeper.

Jeanty ran for a 3-yard TD early in the second quarter before Dillon hit Stewart with a 34-yard scoring pass to give Oregon a 14-10 edge.

The Broncos went ahead on Maddux Madsen’s 17-yard TD pass to Cameron Camper. They added a 20-yard field goal to lead 20-14 at halftime.

The Ducks were ranked No. 3 in the AP Top 25 heading into the season, but dropped to No. 7 after an underwhelming 24-14 victory over Idaho in the opener.

Issues on the Ducks’ offensive line appeared to continue against Boise State. Gabriel was sacked four times in the first half alone, including on Oregon’s first series. The line was shuffled several times during the game.

Boise State safety Alexander Teubner was ejected for targeting early in the third quarter. On the same drive, Gabriel passed to Traeshon Holden, who sprinted

downfield untouched for a 59-yard TD. Oregon missed the extra point, knotting the score at 20.

Tez Johnson had an 85-yard punt return to give the Ducks a 27-20 lead, but Jeanty tied it up again with a 70-yard touchdown dash early in the fourth quarter after Boise State recovered an Oregon fumble.

Last season Jeanty scored 19 touchdowns (14 via receptions and five on the run) and averaged 159.7 all-purpose yards per game, second in the nation. He ran for 267 yards and six touchdowns, both school records, in Boise State’s season-opening victory over Georgia Southern.

Jeanty’s 8-yard run put Boise State briefly in front with 10:15 to play before Limar’s TD recovery tied it.

“I’m proud of our team,” Boise State coach Spencer Danielson said. “We didn’t finish the way we need to, we need to find a way to win that game. We’re going to look at it, learn and grow from it, and we’re going to be a better football team because of what we went through tonight.”

The Broncos had won the three previous meetings with Oregon with the last of those games coming in 2017.

SPORTS

Third Grand Slam title

Sabalenka outlasts Pegula to claim women's crown » **US Open, Page 20**



TOP 25 TAKEAWAYS



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL CATERINA/AP

Northern Illinois quarterback Ethan Hampton celebrates with fans after beating No. 5 Notre Dame 16-14 Saturday in South Bend, Ind. The Huskies were 28-point underdogs.



In his three years as head coach, Notre Dame's Marcus Freeman has endured upsets at home by Marshall and a 3-9 Stanford team.

Irish hit bump in road

Three years in, Freeman left to explain another stunning loss

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman still has not mastered the most underrated part of being a college football coach at a blue-blood school: Beat the teams you're supposed to beat.

It's not always easy. Just ask No. 7 Oregon and No. 8 Penn State.

Freeman can now add Saturday's stunning home loss to 28-point underdog Northern Illinois to a résumé that already includes being upset at home by Marshall and a Stanford team that was in the midst of a 3-9 season back in 2022.

INSIDE

Texas hammers Michigan
Page 23

"We've been here before," Freeman told reporters.

Sort of. This one is far worse.

This is Year 3 of Freeman leading the Fighting Irish. He's still a young coach at 38 years old, but inexperience isn't an excuse anymore. Neither for Freeman nor his team.

"It's our job as coaches to make sure these guys are ready to go. I've always said performance is a reflection of preparation," he said.

Notre Dame came in ranked fifth, coming

off an impressive road win over Texas A&M and looking like a team with maybe the most manageable path to the College Football Playoff in the country — starting with a Mid-American Conference team at home.

The Fighting Irish scored a touchdown the first time they touched the ball and then scored only one more time the rest of the day, a third-quarter hurdling TD run by Jeremiah Love to go up 14-13.

It looked like it was going to be enough for a while, but new Notre Dame transfer quarterback Riley Leonard and the offense could never add on. When Leonard threw a ghastly,

SEE BUMP ON PAGE 21

Yankees blank Cubs for second straight day » MLB, Page 19

