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Volume 80 Edition 125A ©SS 2021

CONTINGENCY EDITION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2021

Free to Deployed Areas



ABDULLAH SAHIL/AP

People view the damage inside of a mosque following a bombing in Kunduz province in northern Afghanistan on Friday.

**BY SAMYA KULLAB
AND TAMEEM AKHGAR**
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A blast went off Friday at a mosque packed with Shiite Muslim worshippers in northern Afghanistan, killing at least 46 people and

wounding dozens in the latest security challenge to the Taliban as they transition from insurgency to governance.

The explosion tore through a mosque in the city of Kunduz during noon prayers, the highlight of the Muslim religious week. It blew

out windows, charred the ceiling and scattered debris and twisted metal across the floor. Blood stains covered the front steps.

Area resident Hussaindad Rezayee said he rushed to the mosque when he heard the explosion, just as prayers started. “I

came to look for my relatives, the mosque was full,” he said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for what Kunduz police said may have been a suicide attack. But militants from a local Islamic State affiliate have a long history of attacking Afghan-

istan’s ethnic and religious minorities.

The worshippers targeted Friday were Hazaras, who have long suffered from double discrimination as an ethnic minority and as

SEE BLAST ON PAGE 4

China warns US over reports of American forces stationed in Taiwan

**BY CHRISTIAN SHEPHERD
AND MICHAEL E. MILLER**
The Washington Post

TAIPEI, Taiwan — China reiterated calls for the United States to cut off military ties with Taiwan on Friday, in a cautious response to reports that U.S. Marines have been stationed on the self-ruled is-

land for more than a year to strengthen its defenses against intensifying Chinese aggression.

Asked about the reports, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian avoided attacks on Washington and instead repeated standard Beijing talking points, saying that the United States

should recognize the “high sensitivity” of the issue and halt military contact with Taiwan.

“China will take all necessary measures to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity,” Zhao said.

China claims the island of 24 million people as part of its sov-

eign territory, threatening to take control by force if Taiwan’s government formally declares independence. But proudly democratic Taiwan considers itself a country and has shown no interest in submitting to Chinese Communist Party rule.

About two dozen U.S. troops, in-

cluding a special-operations unit and a contingent of Marines, have been in Taiwan to train military forces for more than a year, the Wall Street Journal reported Thursday, citing unnamed U.S. officials.

SEE TAIWAN ON PAGE 3

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Tesla to move HQ from California to Texas

Associated Press

Tesla will relocate its headquarters from Palo Alto, Calif., to Austin, Texas, though the electric car maker will keep expanding its manufacturing capacity in the Golden State, CEO Elon Musk said Thursday.

Musk, who last year said he was moving to Texas from California, gave no timeline for the move when he addressed shareholders at Tesla's annual meeting.

In the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, Musk clashed with

San Francisco Bay Area health authorities trying to enforce shelter-in-place orders. At the time, he threatened to relocate Tesla's operations to Texas or Nevada.

On Thursday, however, Musk cited the cost of housing in the Bay Area that has made it tough for many people to become homeowners, translating into long commutes.

"We're taking it as far as possible, but there's a limit how big you can scale it in the Bay Area," he said Thursday. "Just to be clear, though,

we will be continuing to expand our activities in California. This is not a matter of leaving California."

Musk stressed he plans to expand the company's factory in Fremont, Calif., where Tesla's Models S, X, Y and 3 vehicles are built, in hopes of increasing its output by 50%.

The announcement drew cheers and applause from the small audience at Tesla's manufacturing plant in Austin, where Musk delivered his remarks, which were web-cast live.

EXCHANGE RATES		
Military rates		
Euro costs (Oct. 11)	\$1.13	
Dollar buys (Oct. 11)	0.8431	
British pound (Oct. 11)	\$1.33	
Japanese yen (Oct. 12)	109.00	
South Korean won (Oct. 12)	1162.00	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	
Britain (Pound)	1.3627	
Canada (Dollar)	1.2506	
China (Yuan)	6.4397	
Denmark (Krone)	6.4350	
Egypt (Pound)	15.7002	
Euro	0.8648	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7840	
Hungary (Forint)	311.82	
Israel (Shekel)	3.2253	
Japan (Yen)	111.88	
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3016	
Norway (Krone)	8.5498	
Philippines (Peso)	50.53	
Poland (Zloty)	3.99	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7501	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3546	
South Korea (Won)	1194.03	
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9281	
Thailand (Baht)	33.81	
Turkey (NewLira)	8.9081	
(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	3.25	
Interest Rates Discount rate	0.75	
Federal funds market rate	0.09	
3-month bill	0.05	
30-year bond	2.13	

WEATHER OUTLOOK



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MILITARY

US sub hits object in South China Sea

By **JON HERSKOVITZ**
Bloomberg

A U.S. nuclear-powered attack submarine struck an object while submerged in international waters in the Indo-Pacific region last week, the Navy said, adding that no life-threatening injuries were reported.

“The submarine remains in a safe and stable condition. USS Connecticut’s nuclear propulsion plant and spaces were not affected and remain fully operational,” U.S. Pacific Fleet said in a statement late Thursday, adding that the extent of the damage from the Oct 2. incident is being assessed.

A U.S. Naval Institute News report, citing an unnamed defense official, said 11 sailors suffered minor to moderate injuries when the submarine hit an unknown underwater object in the South China Sea. The last known incidence of a U.S. submarine striking an underwater object took place in 2005, when the USS San



LARRY STEAGALL, KITSAP SUN/AP

USS Connecticut sailors tie up the ship at the Delta Pier at Naval Base Kitsap in Bremerton, Wash.

Francisco struck an underwater mountain in a collision that killed one sailor aboard, it said.

The U.S. Navy’s surface fleet has suffered several accidents in

the busy Western Pacific in recent years, including back-to-back collisions involving two guided-missile destroyers in 2017. Those incidents prompted

the dismissal of the Seventh Fleet’s commander and extensive investigations into naval training, policies and equipment.

The USS Connecticut is one of

three Seawolf-class submarines, which the U.S. Navy describes as “exceptionally quiet, fast, well-armed, and equipped with advanced sensors.” The vessels have eight torpedo tubes and can hold as many as 50 weapons in its torpedo room.

The incident occurred at about the same time as a large training exercise by U.S. allies with three aircraft carriers sailing in the nearby East Philippine Sea. The exercises were among several gestures toward Taiwan by the Biden administration and its allies in recent days.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said the U.S. should release details of the collision, adding American assertiveness in the region was ultimately to blame. “The U.S. side has been making waves in the South China Sea under the banner of freedom of navigation. This is the source of this accident,” Zhao Lijian, said Friday at a regular news briefing in Beijing.

Taiwan: China has flown aproximately 150 warplane across air defense space

FROM PAGE 1

Taiwan’s foreign and defense ministries declined to comment on the report, which was a rare confirmation from U.S. officials of the nature of training programs in Taiwan. The Pentagon last year denied Marine special operatives were training in Taiwan after the island’s military tacitly acknowledged the change to regular exchanges.

In a speech at the Yushan military forum in Taipei on Friday, Taiwan’s President Tsai Ing-wen did not address the matter but noted that developments in the Indo-Pacific were creating new tensions that “could have a devastating effect on international security and the global economy if they are not handled carefully.”

The revelation threatens to undermine the tentative start of a detente in the years-long diplomatic feud between Washington and Beijing, as well as to set off a spiral of military tension as the United States and its allies counter China’s efforts to gain a military advantage in the region.

Response on Chinese social media was muted on Friday, suggesting censors were tamping down discussion. The relative silence about Taiwan on Weibo, China’s Twitter-like service, contrasted with a flurry of nationalist commentators jumping on news of damage to a U.S. nuclear-powered Navy submarine that collided with

an object in the South China Sea.

The few who did post about the Taiwan training program called for a stern response from Beijing, with users asking why China “was not striking back?” or calling for Taiwan to be “liberated” immediately by the People’s Liberation Army.

On Weibo, Hu Xijin, editor in chief of Chinese state-backed Global Times, a stridently nationalist tabloid, taunted Washington for only sending 24 soldiers without fanfare, instead of openly setting up a base. “Roll the dice,” he jeered.

“See whose willpower is ultimately stronger when it comes to the Taiwan issue.”

China, angered by growing international sympathy and support for Taiwan from the United States and its allies, has sharply escalated its military aggression toward the island. In the past week, the Chinese air force flew a record 150-odd warplanes into Taiwan’s air defense identification zone.

Taiwan’s Defense Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng, in response to the warplane drills, said that military tensions across the Taiwan Strait were at their most serious in more than 40 years.

Chiu further predicted, without providing details, that China’s military capacity would significantly reduce obstacles to a “full scale” invasion of Taiwan within the next four years. “By 2025, Chi-

na will bring the cost and attrition to its lowest. It has the capacity now, but it will not start a war easily, having to take many other things into consideration,” he said.

The dire warning comes as Beijing has vocally opposed efforts by Washington to strengthen support for Taiwan’s defenses, creating a delicate balancing act for the White House as it attempts to honor commitments to Taipei without sparking a potentially dangerous response from China.

In response to questions about Chinese military threats to Taiwan, the State Department has underscored that its commitments to Taiwan are “rock solid,” while President Biden said that he and Chinese President Xi Jinping had agreed to stick with the “Taiwan agreement,” an apparent reference to a U.S. policy that acknowledges China’s position of claiming Taiwan without taking sides in the dispute.

China has also poured scorn on the emerging Quad partnership and a new pact known as Aukus for the United States and Britain to provide Australia with technology to build nuclear-powered submarines — both efforts to counter Chinese military aggression in the South China Sea and broader Indo-Pacific region.

Speaking last month after the Aukus announcement, former Australian Prime Minister Kevin



Ng HAN GUAN/AP

In an effort to ease tensions, Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Joe Biden are expected to hold a virtual meeting before year’s end, according to the White House.

Rudd told The Washington Post it was “hypocritical” for China to criticize Australia’s acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines given the rapid expansion of its own Naval fleet.

“China is yet to provide a publicly convincing strategic rationale as to why such an extensive, forward leaning military posture is necessary,” Rudd said, adding that Beijing’s actions had created a “great regional arms bazaar” in the Asia Pacific “as people seek to arm themselves to defend against what they perceive as a growing Chinese military challenge.”

Pushback against Chinese military adventurism was evident in a speech on Friday at the Yushan forum in Taipei by former Austra-

lian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, who warned that “it’s quite possible that Beijing could lash out disastrously very soon.”

His visit to Taipei, and pointed critique of Beijing, attracted controversy in Australia, where some commentators said the trip was unnecessarily provocative toward China and created a fresh headache in the already troubled bilateral relationship. Senior Australian political leaders have said Abbott made the trip in a private capacity.

Abbott was unapologetic, saying that “nothing is more pressing right now” than showing support for Taiwan. “I don’t think America could stand by and watch Taiwan [be] swallowed up,” he added.

AFGHANISTAN

Blast: Islamic State claims responsibility for attack

FROM PAGE 1

followers of Shiite Islam in a majority Sunni country.

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing. The claim was carried by the ISIS-linked Aamaq news agency and cited by the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors militant postings.

The local ISIS affiliate has been behind a rise in attacks, including against the Taliban, since the departure of U.S. and NATO forces from Afghanistan at the end of August. ISIS and the Taliban, who seized control of the country with the exit of the foreign troops, are strategic rivals. ISIS militants have targeted Taliban positions and attempted to recruit members from their ranks.

In the past, the Taliban managed to contain the ISIS threat in tandem with U.S. and Afghan airstrikes. Without these, it remains unclear whether the Taliban can suppress what appears to be a growing ISIS footprint. The militants, once confined to the east, have penetrated the capital of Kabul and other provinces with new attacks.

This comes at a critical moment, as the Taliban attempt to consolidate power and transform their guerrilla fighters into a structured police and security force. But while the group attempts to project an air of authority through reports of raids and arrests of ISIS members, it remains unclear if it has the capability to protect soft targets, including religious institutions.



ABDULLAH SAHIL/AP

People carry a body from a mosque following a bombing in Kunduz province, northern Afghanistan, Friday.

In Kunduz, police officials were still picking up the pieces Friday at the Gozar-e-Sayed Abad Mosque.

Citing preliminary reports, the deputy Taliban police chief of Kunduz province, Dost Mohammad Obaida, said more than 100 people had been killed or wounded, and that he believed the dead outnumbered the wounded.

Hours after his initial statement, Taliban spokesman Bilal Karimi said 46 worshipers were killed and 143 wounded in the explosion. He said an investigation

was underway to determine the perpetrators.

The death toll of 46 is the highest in an attack since foreign troops left Afghanistan.

The United Nations mission in Afghanistan condemned the attack as “part of a disturbing pattern of violence” targeting religious institutions.

Obaida, the deputy police chief, pledged to protect minorities in the province. “I assure our Shiite brothers that the Taliban are prepared to ensure their safety,” he said.

A prominent Shiite cleric, Sayed Hussain Alimi Balkhi, condemned the attack and called on the Taliban to provide security for the Shiites of Afghanistan. “We expect the security forces of the government to provide security for the mosques since they collected the weapons that were provided for the security of the worship places,” he said.

The new tone struck by the Taliban, at least in Kunduz, is in sharp contrast to the well-documented history of Taliban fighters committing a litany of atrocities

against minorities, including Hazaras.

The Taliban, now feeling the weight of governing, employed similar tactics to those of ISIS during their 20-year insurgency, including suicide bombings and shooting ambushes.

And they have not halted attacks on Hazaras.

Earlier this week, a report by Amnesty International found the Taliban unlawfully killed 13 Hazaras, including a 17-year-old girl, in Daykundi province, after members of the security forces of the former government surrendered.

In Kunduz province, Hazaras make up about 6% of the province’s population of nearly 1 million people.

The province also has a large ethnic Uzbek population that has been targeted for recruitment by ISIS, which is closely aligned with the militant Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan.

Friday’s attack was the third to target a place of worship or religious study in a week.

ISIS has also claimed two deadly bombings in Kabul, including the horrific Aug. 26 bombing that killed at least 169 Afghans and 13 U.S. military personnel outside of Kabul airport in the final days of the chaotic American pullout from Afghanistan.

ISIS also claimed a bombing on Sunday outside Kabul’s Eid Gah Mosque that killed at least five civilians.

Another attack on a madrassa, a religious school, in Khost province on Wednesday was not claimed.

US, Pakistani officials hold strained meetings over Taliban

By KATHY GANNON

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — U.S. and Pakistani officials held difficult talks on Friday in Pakistan’s capital amid a worsening relationship between Washington and Islamabad as each searches for a way forward in a Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

The meeting between Washington’s deputy secretary of state and Pakistan’s leaders came amid an array of unsettled issues. They include questions such as the level of future engagement with the Taliban in Afghanistan, and the ongoing evacuation of foreign nationals and Afghans who want to flee the country’s new Taliban rulers.

Another question on the agenda is who will provide funds to stave off a full economic meltdown and looming humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Since the Taliban takeover, billions of dollars in aid have been frozen. Nearly 80% of the former Afghan government’s budget was funded by international do-

nors.

Even as it shies away from any unilateral formal recognition, Pakistan has been pressing for greater engagement with the all-male, all-Taliban Cabinet that the insurgents set up after they overran Afghanistan in mid-August, in the final weeks of the U.S. and NATO pullout from the country.

Pakistan has also urged Washington to release billions of dollars to the Taliban so that they can pay salaries of the many Afghan ministries and avoid an economic meltdown. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has warned that such a crash could unleash a mass migration.

Washington, which spent almost two full years negotiating peace with the Taliban, is still smarting from its dramatic exit from Afghanistan, after 20 years of war. Images of desperate Afghan men, running alongside a departing American C-17, some falling to their death from the wheel well, have come to represent the mayhem of the U.S. withdrawal.

Still, the United States is quietly talking to some Taliban leaders and current Taliban Cabinet ministers to secure the evacuation of American nationals remaining in Afghanistan and others. At home, Republican senators are pressing for legislation that would sanction Afghanistan’s new rulers.

The legislation introduced late last month by 22 Republican senators also calls for sanctions on Pakistan for providing safe haven for the Taliban. That has raised hackles among Pakistan’s leaders, who have slammed Washington for what they say is the unjust blaming of Pakistan for America’s losses in Afghanistan — especially after seeking and receiving Islamabad’s help in the protracted peace talks with the Taliban.

Pakistan has also opened doors to tens of thousands of evacuees from Afghanistan, providing temporary shelter for both foreigners and Afghans fleeing Taliban rule.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman on Friday held meetings with Pakistan’s army

chief, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, considered the leading architect of Pakistan’s Afghan strategy. She also met with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

Little information has emerged from the meetings. A statement from Pakistan’s foreign ministry said “an inclusive and broad-based political structure reflecting the ethnic diversity of Afghan society was essential for Afghanistan’s stability and progress.”

That was a clear message to the Taliban: An acceptable Afghan government is one that includes representatives of all Afghan minorities.

The statement also had a message for the world, saying “the current situation required positive engagement of the international community, urgent provision of humanitarian assistance, release of Afghan financial resources, and measures to help build a sustainable economy to alleviate the sufferings of the Afghan people.”

The international community has repeatedly expressed concern

over Taliban restrictions on access to education for girls and women, both at the high school and university level. It has warned against a return to the the harsh Taliban rule from the 1990s, when they first controlled Afghanistan and banned women from school, the workplace and a public life.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan also featured prominently at a national security meeting Friday attended by Pakistan’s military leaders and Prime Minister Imran Khan. A statement warned that instability in Afghanistan would have “severe implications for Pakistan.” Khan ordered that a “special cell” be set up to coordinate humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and manage Pakistan’s border with its neighbor.

Sherman, who arrived on Thursday for a two-day visit, also met with Pakistan’s Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf late on Thursday, to discuss “developments in Afghanistan and ways to advance cooperation across the bilateral relationship.”

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Request to OK shots for kids a relief for parents

Associated Press

Parents tired of worrying about classroom outbreaks and sick of telling their elementary school-age children no to sleepovers and family gatherings felt a wave of relief Thursday when Pfizer asked the U.S. government to authorize its COVID-19 vaccine for youngsters ages 5 to 11.

If regulators give the go-ahead, reduced-dose kids' shots could begin within a matter of weeks.

That could bring many families a step closer to being done with remote learning, virus scares and repeated school shutdowns and quarantines.

"My son asked about playing sports. 'After you're vaccinated.' He asked about seeing his cousins again. 'After you're vaccinated.' A lot of our plans are on hold," said Sarah Staffiere of Waterville, Maine, whose 7-year-old has a rare immune disease that

has forced the family to be extra cautious throughout the pandemic.

"When he's vaccinated, it would give our family our lives back," she said.

Expanding vaccine availability to roughly 28 million more U.S. children is seen as another milestone in the fight against the virus and comes amid an alarming rise in serious infections in youngsters because of the extra-contagious delta variant.

It would also push the U.S. vaccination drive further ahead of much of the rest of the world at a time when many poor countries are desperately short of vaccine.

The Food and Drug Administration must decide whether the shots are safe and effective in younger children.

Many parents and pediatricians are clamoring for protection for youngsters under 12, the



ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP

Sarah Staffiere puts a face covering on her daughter, Natalie, before school Thursday in Waterville, Maine.

current age cutoff for COVID-19 vaccinations in the U.S.

Nine-year-old Audrey Moulder, who lives in the Philadelphia suburb of Drexel Hill, is looking forward to visiting her grandmother without worrying she will give the older woman COVID-19.

"She's excited because she thinks it's a responsibility," said her father, Justin Moulder. "She

wants to keep her friends safe and her family safe."

Dr. Amanda Powell, an internist and pediatrician who runs a clinic in Portland, Maine, is eager to set up worry-free play dates and plan a family trip again once her 9-year-old son is vaccinated.

"We want to be able to resume some normal activities," she said.

But there are also plenty of par-

ents who are wary about getting the shot themselves and are in no hurry to have their children vaccinated.

Heather Miller, a mother of four from Dexter, Maine, said she wants to wait for follow-up studies on the vaccine. "I'm not 100% against getting it eventually, but I kind of fall into the 'not right now, wait and see' category," she said.

More than 120,000 US kids had caregivers die during pandemic

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The number of U.S. children orphaned during the COVID-19 pandemic may be larger than previously estimated, and the toll has been far greater among Black and Hispanic Americans, a new study suggests.

More than half the children who lost a primary caregiver during the pandemic belonged to those two racial groups, which make up about 40% of the U.S. population, according to the study published Thursday by the medical journal *Pediatrics*.

"These findings really highlight those children who have been left most vulnerable by the pandemic, and where additional resources should be directed," one of the study's authors, Dr. Alexandra Blenkinsop of Imperial College London, said in a statement.

During 15 months of the nearly 19-month COVID-19 pandemic, more than 120,000 U.S. children lost a parent or grandparent who was a primary provider of financial support and care, the study found. Another 22,000 children experienced the death of a secondary caregiver — for example,

a grandparent who provided housing but not a child's other basic needs.

In many instances, surviving parents or other relatives remained to provide for these children. But the researchers used the term "orphanhood" in their study as they attempted to estimate how many children's lives were upended.

Federal statistics are not yet available on how many U.S. children went into foster care last year. Researchers estimate COVID-19 drove a 15% increase in orphaned children.

The new study's numbers are based on statistical modeling that used fertility rates, death statistics and household composition data to make estimates.

An earlier study by different researchers estimated that roughly 40,000 U.S. children lost a parent to COVID-19 as of February 2021.

The two studies' findings are not inconsistent, said Ashton Verdery, an author of the earlier study. Verdery and his colleagues focused on a shorter time period than the new study. Verdery's



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

A funeral director arranges flowers on a casket before a service in Tampa, Fla. According to a study published Thursday, by the medical journal *Pediatrics*, the number of U.S. children orphaned during the COVID-19 pandemic may be larger than previously estimated.

group also focused only on deaths of parents, while the new paper also captured what happened to caregiving grandparents.

"It is very important to understand grandparental losses," said Verdery, a researcher at Penn State, in an email. "Many children live with grandparents," a living arrangement more common among certain racial groups.

About 32% of all kids who lost a primary caregiver were Hispanic and 26% were Black. Hispanic and Black Americans make up much smaller percentages of the population than that. White children accounted for 35% of the

kids who lost primary caregivers, even though more than half of the population is white.

The differences were far more pronounced in some states. In California, 67% of the children who lost primary caregivers were Hispanic. In Mississippi, 57% of the children who lost primary caregivers were Black, the study found.

The new study based its calculation on excess deaths, or deaths above what would be considered typical. Most of those deaths were from the coronavirus, but the pandemic has also led to more deaths from other causes.

Finland curbs Moderna shot use for some

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Finland has joined other Nordic countries in suspending or discouraging the use of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine in certain age groups because of an increased risk of heart inflammation, a rare side effect associated with the shot.

The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare said Thursday that authorities won't give the shot to males under age 30. They will be offered the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine instead. The government agency said it found that young men and boys were at a slightly higher risk of developing myocarditis.

The move by Finland followed similar decisions by three neighboring countries on Wednesday. Sweden suspended the use of Moderna for people under 30, Denmark said those under 18 won't be offered the Swiss-made vaccine, and Norway urged those under 30 to get the Pfizer vaccine instead.

All four countries based their decision on an unpublished study with Sweden's Public Health Agency saying that it signals "an increased risk of side effects such as inflammation of the heart muscle or the pericardium."

NATION

Senate avoids US debt crisis, votes to extend

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate has dodged a U.S. debt disaster, voting to extend the government’s borrowing authority into December and temporarily avert an unprecedented federal default that experts warned would devastate the economy and harm millions of Americans.

The party-line Democratic vote of 50-48 in support of the bill to raise the government’s debt ceiling by nearly a half-trillion dollars brought instant relief in Washington and far beyond. However, it provides only a reprieve. Assuming the House goes along with the Senate’s Thursday night vote, which it will, Republican and Democratic lawmakers will still have to tackle their deep differences on the issue once more before yearend.

That debate will take place as lawmakers also work to fund the federal government for the new fiscal year and as they keep up their bitter battling over President Joe Biden’s top domestic priorities — a bipartisan infrastructure plan with nearly \$550 billion in new spending as well as a much more expansive, \$3.5 trillion effort focused on health, safety net programs and the

environment.

Easing the crisis at hand — a disastrous default looming in just weeks — the Republican Senate leader, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, offered his support for allowing a short-term extension of the government’s borrowing authority after leading solid GOP opposition to a longer extension. He acted as Biden and business leaders ramped up their concerns that a default would disrupt government payments to millions of Americans and throw the nation into recession.

The GOP concession to give up its blockade for now was not popular with some members of McConnell’s Republican caucus, who complained that the nation’s debt levels are unsustainable.

“I can’t vote to raise this debt ceiling, not right now, especially given the plans at play to increase spending immediately by another \$3.5 trillion,” Sen. Mike Lee of Utah said shortly before the vote.

Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas said the Democrats had been on “a path to surrender” on the process used to lift the debt cap, “and then unfortunately, yesterday, Republicans blinked.”



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., center, departs the Senate floor on Thursday.



From left to right, U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland tours near ancient dwellings along the Butler Wash trail with Sen. Mitt Romney and Utah Gov. Spencer Cox during a visit to Bears Ears National Monument near Blanding, Utah, on April 8.

President to restore 3 national monuments reduced by Trump

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden will restore two sprawling national monuments in Utah that have been at the center of a long-running public lands dispute, and a separate marine conservation area in New England that recently has been used for commercial fishing. Environmental protections at all three monuments had been stripped by former President Donald Trump.

The White House announced the changes Thursday night ahead of a ceremony expected Friday.

Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, a Republican, expressed disappointment in Biden’s decision to restore Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments, which the Trump administration downsized significantly in 2017.

The monuments cover vast expanses of southern Utah where red rocks reveal petroglyphs and cliff dwellings and distinctive buttes bulge from a grassy valley. Trump invoked the century-old Antiquities Act to cut 2 million acres from the two monuments, calling restrictions on mining and other en-

ergy production a “massive land grab” that “should never have happened.”

His actions slashed Bears Ears, on lands considered sacred to Native American tribes, by 85%, to just over 200,000 acres. They cut Grand Staircase-Escalante by nearly half, leaving it at about 1 million acres. Both monuments were created by Democratic presidents.

The White House said in a statement that Biden was “fulfilling a key promise” to restore the monuments to their full size and “upholding the longstanding principle that America’s national parks, monuments and other protected areas are to be protected for all time and for all people.”

His actions were among a series of steps the administration has taken to protect public lands and waters, the White House said, including moves to halt oil leasing in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and prevent road-building in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, the nation’s largest federal forest.

Biden’s plan also restores pro-

tections in the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument in the Atlantic Ocean, southeast of Cape Cod. Trump had made a rule change to allow commercial fishing at the marine monument, an action that was heralded by fishing groups but derided by environmentalists who pushed Biden and Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to restore protections against fishing.

Arizona Rep. Raul Grijalva, a Democrat and chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, also praised the Biden administration in a statement, saying restoring the monuments shows its dedication to “conserving our public lands and respecting the voices of Indigenous Peoples.”

But Utah’s governor called Biden’s decision a “tragic missed opportunity.” The president’s action “fails to provide certainty as well as the funding for law enforcement, research and other protections which the monuments need and which only Congressional action can offer,” Cox said in a statement released with other state leaders.

Abortions resume in some Texas clinics after law halted

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Abortions quickly resumed in at least six Texas clinics after a federal judge halted the most restrictive abortion law in the U.S., but other physicians remained hesitant, afraid the court order would not stand for long and thrust them back into legal jeopardy.

It was unclear how many abortions Texas clinics rushed to perform Thursday after U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman suspended the law known as Senate Bill 8, which

since early September had banned abortions once cardiac activity is detected, usually around six weeks.

Prior to the blistering 113-page order late Wednesday, other courts had declined to stop the law, which bans abortions before some women even know they are pregnant.

“There’s actually hope from patients and from staff, and I think there’s a little desperation in that hope,” said Amy Hagstrom Miller, president of Whole Woman’s Health, which operates four clinics in Texas. She

said some of those clinics performed abortions Thursday but did not reveal how many.

“Folks know this opportunity could be short-lived,” she said.

By all accounts, the ruling did not usher in a fast return to normal in Texas.

At least six Texas clinics resumed abortion services Thursday or were gearing up to offer them again, said Kelly Krause, spokeswoman for the Center for Reproductive Rights. There were roughly two dozen abortion clinics in Texas before the law took ef-

fect Sept. 1.

Planned Parenthood, the state’s largest abortion provider, did not say Thursday whether it had resumed abortions, stressing the ongoing uncertainty and the possibility of an appeals court quickly reinstating the law in the coming days. Fund Choice Texas, which covers travel expenses for women seeking abortions, was still receiving a high volume of calls Thursday from patients needing help to make out-of-state appointments.

NATION

US employers add a weak 194,000 jobs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. employers added just 194,000 jobs in September, a second straight tepid gain and evidence that the pandemic still has a grip on the economy with many companies struggling to fill millions of open jobs.

Friday's report from the Labor Department also showed that the unemployment rate fell sharply to 4.8% from 5.2% in August.

The economy is showing some signs of emerging from the drag of the delta variant of the coronavirus, with confirmed new COVID-19 infections declining, restaurant traffic picking up slightly and consumers eager to spend.

But new infections remained high as September began, and em-

ployers are still struggling to find workers because many people who lost jobs in the pandemic have yet to start looking again. Supply chain bottlenecks have also worsened, slowing factories, restraining homebuilders and emptying some store shelves.

Many economists still think that most of the roughly 3 million people who lost jobs and stopped looking for work since the pandemic struck will resume their searches as COVID wanes. It took years after the 2008-2009 recession, they note, for the proportion of people working or seeking work to return to pre-recession levels. The government doesn't count people as unemployed unless they're actively looking for jobs.

Some of the factors that have kept many jobless people on the sidelines may be starting to ease. According to a survey by the Census Bureau, for example, the number of people who aren't working because they must stay home to care for a child declined by half in September compared with June. That figure had barely dropped last fall, when many schools remained closed and conducted virtual learning. The new census figures suggest that more parents, particularly mothers, might have rejoined the workforce last month as the school year began and their children returned to school.

In addition, an August survey by the job listings website Indeed found that the proportion of unem-

ployed Americans who said they'd like to find a job once the school year began had more than doubled from just two months earlier.

Yet there are also signs that it might be too soon to expect a flood of parents to have rejoined the labor market. Lael Brainard, a member of the Fed's Board of Governors, noted in a recent speech that COVID-19 outbreaks in late September caused 2,000 schools to close for an average of six days in 39 states.

Several enhanced unemployment benefits ended in early September, including a \$300-a-week federal supplement as well as programs that, for the first time, covered gig workers and people who were jobless for six months or

more. So far, the ending of those programs appears to have had only a small effect on the number of people seeking work.

Governors in about 25 states ended the \$300 benefit before the nationwide expiration in September. Research by economists at Goldman Sachs found that unemployed people who were looking for work were much more likely to take jobs when their benefits ended. But the early cut-offs did not cause people on the sidelines to start searching again, Goldman concluded.

In addition, fear of COVID continues to keep some would-be job seekers on the sidelines, notably those who had worked in restaurants, bars, hotels and retailers.

Mystery lingers around cause of oil pipeline leak off California coast

Associated Press

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. — Investigators searching for the cause of an oil pipeline break off the Southern California coast have pointed to the possibility that a ship anchor dragged the line across the seabed and cracked it, but two videos released so far provide only tantalizing clues about what might have happened 100 feet below the ocean surface.

A Coast Guard video released Thursday appears to show a trench in the seafloor leading to a bend in the submerged line, but experts offered varied opinions of the significance of the brief, grainy shots. An earlier video revealed a 13-inch rupture in the line, but the pipe showed no evidence of damage that they said would be expected from a collision with a multi-ton anchor from cargo ships that routinely move through the area off the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

The slight bow in the line displayed in one video "doesn't necessarily look like anchor damage," Frank G. Adams, president of Houston-based Interface Consult-

ing International, said in an email. When a pipeline is hit by an anchor or other heavy object "that typically results in physical damage that may lead to a fracture."

Ramanan Krishnamoorti, a petroleum engineering professor at the University of Houston, said he considered the video that runs along a bend in the line "revealing."

"It seems to me you've got something that was dragged in the sand that might have impacted the pipeline," he said.

However, he remained puzzled that the leak came from a crack and not a larger gash, assuming it was hit by an anchor or some other object.

Key questions remain: Could the line have been hit days before the leak started? What ship is responsible? And if a ship anchor is not the culprit, what else could it be?

Investigators, meanwhile, continued to hunt for the cause of the break that spilled tens of thousands of gallons of crude oil off the famed surf breaks of Huntington Beach, as well as determine what



Ringo H.W. Chiu/AP

Bags of crude oil collected by workers sit on a beach Thursday after an oil spill in Newport Beach, Calif.

happened in the crucial early hours after reports of a possible oil spill first came in.

The 13-inch-long, narrow gash seen in one video could explain why signs of an oil slick were seen Friday night, but the spill eluded

detection by the pipeline operator until Saturday morning, experts said.

"My experience suggests this would be a darned hard leak to remotely determine quickly," said Richard Kuprewicz, a private

pipeline accident investigator and consultant. "An opening of this type, on a 17-mile-long underwater pipe is very hard to spot by remote indications. These crack-type releases are lower rate and can go for quite a while."

Microsoft finds Russia was behind 58% of detected state-backed hacks

Associated Press

BOSTON — Russia accounted for most state-sponsored hacking detected by Microsoft over the past year, with a 58% share, mostly targeting government agencies and think tanks in the United States, followed by Ukraine, Britain and European NATO members, the company said.

The devastating effectiveness of

the long-undetected SolarWinds hack — it mainly breached information technology businesses including Microsoft — also boosted Russian state-backed hackers' success rate to 32% in the year ending June 30, compared with 21% in the preceding 12 months.

China, meanwhile, accounted for fewer than 1 in 10 of the state-backed hacking attempts Micro-

soft detected but was successful 44% of the time in breaking into targeted networks, Microsoft said in its second annual Digital Defense Report, which covers July 2020 through June 2021.

While Russia's prolific state-sponsored hacking is well known, Microsoft's report offers unusually specific detail on how it stacks up against that by other U.S. adver-

saries.

The report also cited ransomware attacks as a serious and growing plague, with the United States by far the most targeted country, hit by more than triple the attacks of the next most targeted nation. Ransomware attacks are criminal and financially motivated.

By contrast, state-backed hack-

ing is chiefly about intelligence gathering — whether for national security or commercial or strategic advantage — and thus generally tolerated by governments, with U.S. cyber operators among the most skilled. The report by Microsoft Corp., which works closely with Washington government agencies, does not address U.S. government hacking.

Loss of giant sequoias in fires ‘heartbreaking’

By ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Northern California wildfires may have killed hundreds of giant sequoias as they swept through groves of the majestic monarchs in the Sierra Nevada, an official said Wednesday.

“It’s heartbreaking,” said Christy Brigham, head of resource management and science for Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks.

The lightning-caused KNP Complex that erupted on Sept. 9 has burned into 15 giant sequoia groves in the park, Brigham said.

More than 2,000 firefighters were battling the blaze in sometimes treacherous terrain. On Wednesday afternoon, four people working on the fire were injured when a tree fell on them, the National Park Service reported.

The four were airlifted to hospitals and “while the injuries are serious, they are in stable condition,” the report said. It didn’t provide other details.

The KNP Complex was only 11% contained after burning 134 square miles of forest. Cooler weather has helped slow the flames and there was a possibility of slight rain on Friday, forecasters said.

The fire’s impact on giant sequoia groves was mixed. Most saw low- to medium-intensity fire behavior that the sequoias have evolved to survive, Brigham said.

However, it appeared that two groves — including one with 5,000 trees — were seared by high-intensity fire that can send



NOAH BERGER/AP

Flames burn up a tree Sept. 19 as part of the Windy Fire in the Trail of 100 Giants grove in Sequoia National Forest, Calif.

up 100-foot flames capable of burning the canopies of the towering trees.

That leaves the monarchs at risk of going up “like a horrible Roman candle,” Brigham said.

Two burned trees fell in Giant Forest, which is home to about 2,000 sequoias, including the General Sherman Tree, which is considered the world’s largest by volume. However, the most notable trees survived and Brigham said the grove appeared to be mostly intact.

Firefighters have taken extraordinary measures to protect the sequoias by wrapping fire-resistant material around the bases of some giants, raking and clearing vegetation around them, installing sprinklers and dousing some with water or fire retardant gel.

However, the full extent of the damage won’t be known for months, Brigham said. Firefighters are still occupied protecting trees, homes and lives or can’t safely reach steep, remote groves that lack roads or even

trails, she said.

To the south, the Windy Fire had burned at least 74 sequoias, Garrett Dickman told the Los Angeles Times. The wildfire botanist has recorded damage as part of a sequoia task force preparing and assessing trees in the fire zone.

In one grove, Dickman counted 29 sequoias that were “just incinerated,” he told CNN.

“There were four of those that had burned so hot that they’d fallen over,” he said.

The 152-acre fire was 75% contained. Giant sequoias grow naturally only in the Sierra Nevada. The world’s most massive trees, they can soar to more than 250 feet with trunks 20 feet in diameter and live for thousands of years.

The trees need low-intensity fire to reproduce. Flames thin out the forest of competitors such as cedars, clearing away shade, and the heat causes the seedlings to open. But fire officials say recent blazes have been much more intense because fire suppression efforts left more undergrowth that’s turned bone dry from drought, driven by climate change.

While some groves may have received only patchy fire damage and will recover, every burned giant sequoia is a loss, Brigham said.

“When you stand by a tree that big and that old, 1,000 to 2,000 years old, the loss of any is a heartbreak,” she said. “You can’t get it back; it’s irreplaceable.”

Toymakers struggling to get products on shelves

By ANNE D’INNOCENZIO
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Running out of time to get its products on store shelves ahead of the holidays, the Basic Fun toy company made an unprecedented decision: It’s leaving one-third of its iconic Tonka Mighty Dump Trucks destined for the U.S. in China.

Why? Given surging prices for shipping containers and clogs in the supply network, transportation costs to get the bulky yellow toy to U.S. soil is now 40% of the retail price, which is roughly \$26. That’s dramatically up from 7% a year ago. And it doesn’t even include the cost of getting the product from U.S. ports to retailers.

“We’ve never left product behind in this way,” says Jay Foreman, CEO of Basic Fun. “We really had no choice.”

Toy companies are racing to get their products to retailers as they grapple with a severe supply-network crunch that could mean sparse shelves for the holidays.

They’re trying to find containers to ship their goods while searching for alternative ports. Some are flying in some of the toys instead of shipping by boat to ensure delivery before Dec. 25.

And in cases like Basic Fun,

they are leaving toys behind in China and waiting for costs to come down.

Like all manufacturers, toy companies have been facing supply chain woes since the pandemic started and temporarily closed factories in China in early 2020.

Then, U.S. stores temporarily cut back or halted production amid lockdowns.

The situation has only worsened since the spring, with companies having a hard time meeting surging demand for all sorts of goods from shoppers re-entering the world.

Manufacturers are wrestling with bottlenecks at factories and key ports like Long Beach, Calif. — and all points in between. Furthermore, labor shortages in the U.S. have made it difficult to get stuff unloaded from ships and onto trucks.

But for toymakers that heavily rely on holiday sales, there’s a lot at stake for the nearly \$33 billion U.S. industry.

The fourth quarter accounts for 70% of its annual sales. On average, holiday sales account for 20% of the overall retail industry. And 85% of the toys are made in China, estimates Steve Pasierb, CEO of The Toy Association.

Canada invited Chelsea Manning to visit — in order to deport her

By AMY CHENG
The Washington Post

Former U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning has waited four years to visit Canada. But when an invitation from the Canadian government finally came, it turned out that immigration authorities just wanted the chance to physically remove her from the country.

This odd turn of events took place shortly ahead of Manning’s hearing this week before a Canadian immigration tribunal. Manning is contesting a ban on her entering Canada: Border agents barred her entrance through a Quebec crossing in 2017, citing her conviction on espionage charges after what The Washington Post called “one of the most notorious leaks of classified documents in U.S. history.”

Last week, attorneys for the Canadian government requested that Manning’s hearing, scheduled for Thursday and Friday, be delayed so that she could attend the proceedings in person instead of via videoconference from the United States. They reasoned that should she lose the case, border agents could only remove her from Canada if she were already in the country.



RICKY CARIOTT/The Washington Post

Former Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning, shown in 2018, is trying to overturn a ban on her entering Canada.

Marisa Musto, an adjudicator for Canada’s immigration board, rejected Ottawa’s argument on Monday, calling the government’s motion “confounding.”

“If [Manning] were physically in Canada when the order was made, the requirement would be that she leave Canada. Given that she is already outside Canada ... it can be said that the ‘objective’ of [immigration laws] ... would, de facto, be fulfilled,” she wrote in a decision.

News of Musto’s ruling was first

reported by Canada’s National Post newspaper.

In 2013, Manning was sentenced to 35 years in military prison for passing on a vast trove of classified diplomatic and U.S. military cables to the WikiLeaks website. Her disclosure, later dubbed the “War Logs,” shed light on the civilian casualties committed by U.S. forces, while alleging America ignored accusations of torture and murder in Iraq.

After serving seven years in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Manning’s sentence was commuted by President Barack Obama in 2017. She was a cause celebre for anti-war and government transparency advocates, while others alleged she put U.S. lives and operations at risk as an attention-getting antic.

Manning later spent 11 months in a detention facility in Alexandria, Va., for refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. She attempted suicide in jail and was released in March 2020, when the grand jury disbanded.

A final decision on whether Manning can enter Canada is likely to be made in one or two months, her lawyer said.

NATION

Report details Trump's bid to undo election

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's extraordinary effort to overturn his 2020 election defeat brought the Justice Department to the brink of chaos, and prompted top officials there and at the White House to threaten to resign, a Senate Judiciary Committee report found.

The report released Thursday by the Democratic-run committee offers new insight into how the Republican incumbent tried to undo the vote and exert his will on the department, asking leaders to declare the election "corrupt" and disparaging its top official for not doing anything to overturn the results. Trump's actions led to a near-revolt at department headquarters that receded only after senior officials warned of a mass resignation, with one White House lawyer describing efforts to undo the election as a "murder-suicide pact."

"In attempting to enlist DOJ for personal, political purposes in an effort to maintain his hold on the White House, Trump grossly abused the power of the presidency" and arguably violated a federal law that prevents anyone from

commanding federal employees to engage in political activity, the report says.

While the broad outlines of what took place after the Nov. 3 election have long been known, the Senate investigation based on a review of documents and interviews with former officials lays bare the extent of Trump's all-out campaign to remain in the White House. It shows how Trump benefited from the support of a little-known Justice Department lawyer who championed the then-president's efforts to challenge the vote but how, in the end, other senior officials stood together to face down Trump. The outcome suggests how reliant the fragile U.S. election system is on the integrity of government officials.

Trump's effort, now the subject of a Justice Department inspector general investigation, did not succeed and Biden took office on Jan. 20. Even so, the false claims over the election have fractured the nation, with millions of Americans wrongly believing the contest was stolen.

Rage about the election compelled a mass of Trump supporters to violently storm the Capitol



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally for Senate Republican candidates in Valdosta, Ga., on Dec. 5, 2020.

on Jan. 6 in an effort to disrupt the congressional certification of Biden's victory. The rioters beat and bloodied an overwhelmed police force, sent lawmakers running for their lives and caused \$1 million in damage. More than 630 people have been charged criminally in the riot, the largest prosecution in Justice Department history.

Republicans, who have mostly stayed loyal to Trump since the insurrection, issued their own report that downplays the concerns raised by Democrats and paints Trump as a hero who ignored the suggestions from the lawyer, Jeffrey Clark, and who refused to fire top Justice Department officials.

Their rebuttal makes the astonishing claim that Trump was concerned about the election system

writ large and not about himself, even though he was publicly fighting to stay in office and pressured Vice President Mike Pence to help him.

The Democrats' report chronicles Trump's relentless prodding of the Justice Department during a turbulent stretch in December and early January to investigate suspected voter fraud and to support his efforts to undo the results. Trump had laid the groundwork for that effort even before the election when he attacked the vote-by-mail process.

But he escalated it significantly after Election Day and particularly after the December resignation of Attorney General William Barr, who weeks before he left the Justice Department told The Associated Press that the depart-

ment had not found fraud that could affect the outcome of the election.

In one White House meeting recounted for Senate investigators, Jeffrey Rosen, who served as Barr's deputy and briefly led the department after Barr left, described how Trump, in an effort to initiate a department inquiry, showed videos of "somebody delivering a suitcase of ballots."

Rosen said he recalled saying to Trump, "I really want to suggest to you, sir, respectfully, that it would be a better thing for everyone to use this last month to focus on some of the things that had been accomplished in the last four years, a — tax reform and the vaccine, Operation Warp Speed, and not go into this 'the election was corrupt.'"

Group studies scourge of missing, killed Native Hawaiians

By AUDREY McAVOY
Associated Press

HONOLULU — At first, he was just a boyfriend. He gave Ashley Maha'a gifts and attention. But then he gave her drugs and became controlling and abusive. He would punish her for breaking ambiguous, undefined "rules," only to later say he was sorry and shower her with flowers and lavish presents.

After a while, he led the Honolulu high school senior — a 17-year-old minor — into Hawaii's commercial sex industry.

"I shouldn't be here with everything that was going on. I should be dead. And the majority of the people who are in my situation are missing or dead," said Maha'a, who is Native Hawaiian.

Maha'a got out of that world years ago and is now a married mother of four. But it's on her mind as she joins a new task force studying the issue of missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls. She reminds herself of her plight every day so she can fight for others similarly trapped and vulnerable.

The panel, created by the state House earlier this year, aims to gather data and identify the reasons behind the problem. As



AUDREY McAVOY/AP

Ashley Maha'a sits in a park in Honolulu on June 22.

of now, few figures exist, but those that do suggest Native Hawaiians are disproportionately represented among the state's sex trafficking victims.

Its work comes amid renewed calls for

people to pay more attention to missing and killed Indigenous women and girls and other people of color after the recent disappearance of Gabby Petito, a white woman, triggered widespread national media coverage and extensive searches by law enforcement. Petito's body was later found in Wyoming.

Several states formed similar panels after a groundbreaking report by the Urban Indian Health Institute found that of more than 5,700 cases of missing and slain Indigenous girls in dozens of U.S. cities in 2016, only 116 were logged in a Justice Department database.

Wyoming's task force determined 710 Indigenous people disappeared there between 2011 and September 2020 and that Indigenous people made up 21% of homicide victims even though they are only 3% of the population. In Minnesota, a task force led to the creation of a dedicated office to provide ongoing attention and leadership on the issue.

Its task force is being led by representatives from the Hawaii State Commission on the State of Women and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a semi-autonomous state agency directed by Native Hawaiians. The

panel also includes members from state agencies, county police departments and private organizations.

Khara Jabola-Carolus, executive director of the commission and co-chairperson of the task force, suspects its work will show Hawaii's large tourism industry and military presence fuel sex trafficking. Money to be made from these sectors gives people an incentive to take girls and women from their families, she said.

"It's not like someone is kidnapped off the street. It's that person is enticed and convinced to cut off their family if they're a child, or a teenager," Jabola-Carolus said.

State Rep. Stacelynn Eli, a Native Hawaiian and a Democrat who sponsored the resolution creating the task force, said she has friends and classmates who were trafficked. She doesn't want her nieces to face the same thing because no one knew enough to take action.

"We are surviving, and I would like to see our people get to a point where we are thriving. And I think we won't get to that point until we know for sure that we are protecting our Native women and children and holding those who try to harm them accountable," she said.

WORLD

Russian, Filipino get Peace Prize for media efforts

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Journalists Maria Ressa of the Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia won the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for their fight for freedom of expression in countries where media outlets have faced persistent attacks and reporters have been murdered.

In making the award, the Norwegian Nobel Committee stressed that an independent press is vital in promoting peace.

“Free, independent and fact-based journalism serves to protect against abuse of power, lies and war propaganda,” said Berit Reiss-Andersen, chair of the committee, explaining why the prize was awarded to two journalists.

“Without freedom of expression and freedom of the press, it will be difficult to successfully promote fraternity between nations, disarmament and a better world order to succeed in our time,” she said.

The Nobel committee noted that Ressa in 2012 co-founded Rappler, a news website that has focused critical attention on President Rodrigo Duterte “controversial, murderous anti-drug campaign” in the Philippines.

She and Rappler “have also documented how social media is being used to spread fake news, harass opponents and manipulate public discourse.”

Reacting to the news, Ressa told Norway’s TV2 channel that “the government will obviously not be happy.”

“I’m a little shocked. It’s really emotional,” she added. “But I am happy on behalf of my team and would like to thank the Nobel Committee for recognizing what we are going through.”

The award-winning journalist was convicted last year of libel and sentenced to jail in a decision seen as a major blow to press global freedom. She was the first woman awarded a Nobel this year.

Muratov was one of the founders in 1993 of the independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta, which the Nobel committee described as “the most independent newspaper in Russia today, with a fundamentally critical attitude towards power.”

“The newspaper’s fact-based

journalism and professional integrity have made it an important source of information on censurable aspects of Russian society rarely mentioned by other media,” it added.

Muratov said he would use his win to help independent journalists who have faced a growing pressure from the authorities, including those who were officially declared “foreign agents” — a designation that carries pejorative connotations and implies additional government scrutiny.

“We will use it to shore up Russian journalism that has faced repressions,” he said in comments carried by a Russian messaging app channel. “We will try to help the people who have been designated as agents, have faced persecution and have been forced out of the country.”

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 17 media workers were killed in the Philippines in the last decade and 23 in Russia.

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev used some of his prize money from winning the Nobel in 1990 to help what would become Novaya Gazeta buy office equipment and computers.

The Nobel committee noted that since the launch of the newspaper, six of its journalists have been killed, among them Anna Politkovskaya, who covered Russia’s bloody conflict in Chechnya.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov praised Muratov as a “talented and brave” person.

“We can congratulate Dmitry Muratov — he has consistently worked in accordance with his ideals,” Peskov said in a conference call with reporters.

Ressa has been particularly critical also of the role of tech companies such as Facebook in manipulating public debate, and their failure to curb hate speech.

Speaking on Rappler’s site after the award was announced, Ressa said that the “virus of lies that has been introduced through the algorithms of the social media platforms, it infects real people and changes.”

Media rights group Reporters Without Borders celebrated the announcement, expressing “Joy and urgency” in reaction to the news.



Ressa



Muratov



ANMAR KHALIL/AP

Security forces gather to vote during the early voting session for security forces ahead of Sunday’s parliamentary election in Najaf, Iraq, on Friday.

Security forces vote in Iraq’s general election before public

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi security personnel across the country cast their ballots Friday, two days before the rest of the nation votes in parliamentary elections.

The vote is being held six months before schedule, in line with a promise made by Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi when he assumed office in 2020. He is seeking to appease anti-

government protesters who rose up in October 2019 in Baghdad and Iraq’s south.

Friday’s so-called “special voting” two days ahead of the election is meant to free police and soldiers so they can provide security on Election Day. A government advisor for election affairs, Hussein al-Hendawi, said more than 1.5 million security personnel were eligible to vote, as well

as 120,126 displaced persons and hundreds of hospital patients and prisoners.

There are 3,449 candidates vying for 329 seats in parliament in Sunday’s vote, which will be the fifth held since the fall of Saddam Hussein after the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

More than 24 million of Iraq’s estimated 38 million people are eligible to vote.

5.9 earthquake shakes Tokyo area

Associated Press

TOKYO — A powerful magnitude 5.9 earthquake shook the Tokyo area on Thursday night, injuring at least 17 people and halting trains and subways. Officials said there was no major damage or danger of a tsunami.

The Meteorological Agency said the quake was centered in Chiba prefecture, just east of Tokyo, at a depth of 48 miles.

It caused buildings to sway and hanging objects such as signs to swing violently. Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said there were no abnormalities at nuclear power facilities in the area.

He said a total of 17 people were injured, including one who was seriously hurt.

He did not describe the injuries of the others, but Chiba prefecture-

ral police said two women in separate locations sprained their ankles when they were thrown to the floor during the quake. NHK public television said a commuter train partially derailed when it made an emergency stop, causing three passengers to fall and get slightly injured.

Others were injured in Kanagawa prefecture, near Tokyo, according to media reports.

Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings said about 250 homes in downtown Tokyo temporarily lost power.

“Shinkansen” super express trains in and out of Tokyo were halted for safety checks but later resumed operation, East Japan Railway Co. said. Tokyo’s Yamanote loop line and subways also restarted.

Outside of Tokyo’s Shinagawa

station, where local trains were temporarily halted, there was a long line of people trying to get taxis home.

Many elevators automatically stopped, including those at Tokyo’s metropolitan government building, temporarily trapping some people.

Fire and disaster officials said underground water pipes were damaged in dozens of locations in Tokyo. In one district, water was gushing from the ground.

New Prime Minister Fumio Kishida posted a message on Twitter urging people to “check the latest information and take action to protect your lives.” He said it was the strongest shaking in Tokyo since March 2011.

Kishida returned to his office late Thursday to lead the government’s response.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Dolly Parton, businesses donate to flood victims

TN PIGEON FORGE — Country star Dolly Parton and her Smoky Mountain businesses have raised \$700,000 to help residents impacted by the catastrophic flooding in Middle Tennessee.

According to a Wednesday news release, Parton chose United Way of Humphreys County to receive and distribute the donation at the suggestion of her friend and fellow country music legend Loretta Lynn. A foreman at Lynn’s ranch was among those who died in the flood.

Parton says she was compelled to help out after the support the Smokies received following the 2016 Sevier County wildfires.

High-altitude balloon test vehicle crashes

AZ TUCSON — A high-altitude balloon test vehicle flown by a Tucson-based company crashed in the Rincon Mountains east of the city Wednesday, but no injuries were reported.

World View Enterprises officials told the Arizona Daily Star that the unmanned flight took off from the company’s headquarters and launch pad south of Tucson International Airport and crashed about 10:30 a.m.

According to the newspaper, World View has been flying unmanned stratospheric balloon missions from its Tucson site and other sites for research and commercial customers since 2014, logging more than 100 missions.

The company announced plans Monday to begin offering \$50,000 tourist flights aboard special manned capsules by 2024.

Convicted sheriff gives 5-star review of jail he ran

AL HUNTSVILLE — A longtime Alabama sheriff removed from office after being convicted of theft and ethics violations is giving five-star reviews to the jail where he spent more than two weeks in custody. Perhaps he should: He ran it for decades.

Ousted Limestone County Sheriff Mike Blakely addressed the news media on Tuesday in his most extensive public comments since being convicted in August. Free on bond while appealing, Blakely maintained his innocence but had no complaints about doing time in the Limestone County jail in Athens.

“Best jail in the state of Alabama — that’s another thing I’m proud of,” Blakely said during a news conference outside his attorney’s office in Huntsville. “The food was real good, the staff took very good care of me.”

Blakely, 70, was convicted in August of taking no-interest loans from a Limestone County jail fund that held prisoners’ money and of stealing \$4,000 from his campaign account. He was in his 10th



KRISTOPHER RADDER, THE BRATTLEBORO REFORMER/AP

Limber in the timber

Serenity Smith Forchion, co-founder and creative director for Nimble Arts, dances up in the trees at her Brattleboro, Vt., home while practicing her routine for Circus in Place on Wednesday.

straight term at the time of his removal from office, making him Alabama’s longest-serving sheriff at the time.

Airport’s \$195K grant to be used on security

WV CHARLESTON — West Virginia’s Yeager Airport is increasing security at the facility, using a \$195,000 grant from the state Emergency Management Division.

Part of the work will add a gunshot detection system in the main terminal building and the General Aviation terminal, the airport said in a news release. Yeager said it will be the first airport in the state to have a gunshot detection system, providing a faster response to an active shooter incident.

The \$245,000 project will also add more security cameras throughout the airport complex and enhance radio and communication capabilities of the Airport Response Coordination Center, the release said.

Campaign encourages seat belts, safe driving

KY FRANKFORT — Kentucky officials are participating in a campaign to encourage safe driving practices including the use of seat belts.

The high-visibility enforcement campaign called Operation Crash Reduction will run Oct. 8 to 11 and emphasize seat belt use to save

THE CENSUS

\$10M The amount an alumnus and Board of Trust member has donated to the law school at Vanderbilt University. Justin Ishbia graduated from the Vanderbilt School of Law in 2004 and is the founder and managing partner of Shore Capital Partners, according to a news release from the school. Law school Dean Chris Guthrie said the donation will be used to recruit and support top students. It will also fund a building renovation project that will add classroom space and create a student support suite.

lives, a statement from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet said.

“While drivers can never control who they share the road with, one thing within everyone’s control is the decision to buckle up and put the phone down every time you get in a vehicle to keep yourself safer no matter what,” Gov. Andy Beshear said in the statement.

The Transportation Cabinet is partnering with state and local law enforcement and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to support the initiative.

From 2015 to 2019, October was the most likely month for fatal crashes, officials said.

Crane collapse at station halts city train lines

IL CHICAGO— Several city train lines were halted Wednesday after a crane collapsed at a Chicago Transit Authority station on the city’s North Side, according to authorities.

No major injuries were immediately reported.

Chicago fire officials said a 200-

ton capacity drill head construction crane tipped over while it was being used around 3:30 p.m.

The crane fell off the tracks into an alley, according to transit officials.

A building nearby was evacuated and some area residents were without power.

Transit officials warned of major delays on train lines. Officials were investigating what caused the crane to tip over.

Restored nesting island wildly popular with birds

LA RABBIT ISLAND — Restoration of an island in Louisiana’s fragile coastal area is proving wildly popular with the birds it was rebuilt for, their numbers exploding on the recently added land, authorities said Wednesday.

Pelicans, egrets, herons, ibis, terns, and other colonial water birds built about 6,100 nests on Rabbit Island — more than 16 times the number biologists had expected, a news release from the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority said.

The island supports the only brown pelican colony in southwest Louisiana, and about 1,500 pairs of pelicans were among the nesting birds. They included many of the 322 pelicans banded there this year and last, the agency said.

Company gets approval to build new hotel-casino

NV LAS VEGAS — A casino company with six properties currently open in and around Las Vegas got the go-ahead Wednesday from county lawmakers to build a new hotel-casino in a neighborhood southwest of the Strip.

Clark County Commission approval means construction could start early next year for the 200-room tower dubbed “Durango, a Station Casinos Resort” near the 215 Beltway, company officials said.

Bob Finch, chief operating officer for Station parent company Red Rock Resorts, termed the project a next-generation attraction for local residents. He said it could open late next year.

A cost estimate is expected in coming weeks.

Plans call for a 216-foot-tall hotel, casino, pool with an event lawn, four restaurants and bars, a race and sports betting area, meeting and convention space, a parking structure and electric vehicle charging stations.

MUSIC

BY MICHAEL RIETMULDER

The Seattle Times

A lot of things have changed for Brandi Carlile in the past three years.

The strength of 2018's "By the Way, I Forgive You" (and that Grammys high note heard round the country) opened new doors. The stages grew bigger, the spotlights brighter. The dreams a little wilder and closer within reach.

There's been no shortage of rewarding turns on the road to Carlile's highly anticipated follow-up, "In These Silent Days," which was released Friday. Being a part of Highwomen, the country supergroup with a purpose. Tanya Tucker's comeback album. Tribute shows for her new jam buddy Joni Mitchell. And then there's that bestselling memoir Carlile suddenly had a few more stories for.

And yet it felt like for all the milestones, Carlile and longtime collaborators Phil and Tim Hanseroth were really just getting started. Even "By the Way, I Forgive You" ended on a new beginning when, rising to a challenge from co-producer Dave Cobb, Carlile delivered the gutsiest vocal performance of her career with "The Joke," earning song and record of the year nominations at the Grammys.

"I've never really been good at relaying emotion in studio performances," Carlile said. "It's always really hard for me without the audience. ... And when I finished 'By the Way, I Forgive You' on 'The Joke,' it was kinda sad 'cause it was like, 'Ah man, I just finally got there. I think I know how to do this now.' And then it was over."

Laying her heart down on studio tracks certainly isn't a problem on her soul-baring "In These Silent Days," Carlile's seventh studio album. Song for song, it's the most dynamic and unflinching collection of her career. Through all the side adventures (and subsequent pandemic isolation) of the past few years, Carlile "had it in my head that I wanted to go right back to the same place, with exactly the same people, and start where I left off," she said. "So I went into [this album] ready to lay bare my feelings about those words and about this book and about this time in my life — these crazy silent days."

Armed with a fresh clarity afforded by her memoir's reflection and self-examination, Carlile began writing songs with "a lot more awareness" and intention. It was a break from her usual style, where a song's meaning might not reveal itself to her until months later.

Early in the process, she told the Hanseroths this record was going to be different. She didn't want to hold anything back.

"We never really get direction for writing, but it was just sort of encouraged, like, 'Hey, don't be afraid to get ugly, get personal and get real,' which we did," Tim said.

The first two songs set the tone, or perhaps more accurately, cleared a path for the rest of the album. While much of it was inspired by memories and emotions stirred up by the book, Carlile seemed to unleash all the metaphors she avoided using in her memoir, which was intentionally written in the "straight-shooter" prose fans know from her stage banter. On arresting closer "Throwing Good After Bad," Carlile delivers one of the most evocative metaphors on a record full of them: "You've got a beautiful mind and the soul of a coyote, hunger driving you mad," she sings with beautiful precision.

After the heavy-hearted piano ballad, a

Growth chart

Armed with fresh clarity, Brandi Carlile holds nothing back on dynamic, unflinching new studio album, 'In These Silent Days'



Neil Krug

mode Carlile nails as well as any first-rate pop vocalist, came the fiery "Broken Horses," which shares a title with her book. One night, Carlile was listening to Elton John's "Tumbleweed Connection" and plugged an electric guitar into an old Standel amp inherited from her great-uncle Sonny.

"I was having some generational, genetic, queer, maternal anger about the world making me or my kids feel marginalized in some way, while also knowing how much better it is and it would have been if I had tried to do this 50 years ago," Carlile said. "I just wanted to scream and yell about it, and had a pretty amazing all-nighter, rock 'n' roll evening of exorcising demons."

It's a barreling outlaw rocker unlike anything else they've written, kissed with co-producer Shooter Jennings' piano work and guitar leads that wail like a pissed-off Lynyrd Skynyrd disciple. With its own power-note haymakers, theatrical lead single "Right on Time" might garner more attention for Carlile's vocal might. But here, her voice whips and burns like a desert wind smacking you across the face.

The song really took off when Phil joined Carlile in her garage-barn studio with his bass.

"Every time we played it, it got a little more free and a little more experimental," Phil said. "Honestly, that may have set the tone musically for going in to make the record, like it was the reason we thought it was OK to try something different."

"In These Silent Days" isn't exactly a radical reinvention for Carlile and the twins, so much as it is a distillation of myriad elements and influences already in their arsenal, formed into something new. But "Broken Horses" is hardly the only song that distinguishes itself from their past work.

After "Broken Horses," "there was a trajectory from there away from sadness and anger, and into celebration and acceptance and empathy," Carlile said. "The book put me in touch with some righteous anger and grief that I wanted to reconcile, and I did." By the end, Carlile was mining more uplifting moods with "Right on Time," lovely folk number "Stay Gentle" and the change-of-pace "You and Me on the Rock" — a feathery soft rocker that sounds like Paul Simon and the Haim sisters came over to jam after getting their hands dirty in Carlile's tomato garden.

"Those are celebrations and realizations that there's a foundation in my life that I'm proud of," Carlile said of the songs.

The word "unlocked" has assumed a prominent place in Carlile's vocabulary in recent years, particularly when discussing Joni Mitchell. The two struck up a friendship and Carlile helped organize all-star jam sessions at Mitchell's house before the pandemic.

She uses the word to describe an almost mystic quality possessed by some of the truly great artists — a deeper connection with "the source of where music comes from, the muse," as Carlile explained it.

Carlile's quick to refute any suggestion she's reached such a plane herself, but said she's managed to "absorb some of that stardust coming off of [Mitchell] and put it in practice."

The idea of being "unlocked" also came up while making the new record, according to Tim, who defined it as a sort of musical freedom.

"I think our next record is gonna be like a bridge to that place," he said.

VIDEO GAMES



NBA 2K22 polishes gameplay experience, visuals to create a winner

BY EBENEZER SAMUEL
New York Daily News

Luka Doncic is perhaps the finest all-around player in the NBA, capable of scoring, rebounding and playmaking with the best of them. So it's fitting that he lands the cover of the NBA 2K franchise in the year that the game delivers one of its finest all-around efforts.

NBA 2K22 signals a reascension for the finest sports gaming franchise of the past two decades. Last year, the game had strengths, but it had gaps too: Franchise mode wasn't always stable, the on-court gameplay had a series of minor frustrations and several star players didn't look like, well, themselves. Chalk it up to the first year of next-gen consoles, perhaps, and the challenges of developing in the COVID-19 era.

And with NBA 2K22, watch as the game evolves. This year's game pushes NBA 2K back to where it should be, and overall, feels like a much cleaner, more polished experience. That improvement starts on the court, where subtle adjustments make the game feel more realistic, and far less difficult. It starts with a more robust shot meter that finally gives you the feedback you need to understand why shots are made and missed. It's vertically oriented instead of horizontal, so it takes some getting used to, but once you've adapted, shooting feels far more natural and fair in NBA 2K22.

That's not to say that it isn't challenging, because it is. Different situations shrink and grow the shot meter, even for the finest jump shooters — and one such situation that's seen hefty attention is fatigue. Now, the effective portion of the shot meter will shrink as player fatigue increases, making even open shots that much harder. Suddenly, there are legitimate consequences for riding a single NBA star too hard, so you're forced to manage roster minutes more carefully. In previous years, I might push, say, Steph Curry to play the full game. Now, that can't be the case; much like the real NBA, you must carefully manage and allocate minutes, and rotations suddenly matter.

Another place of serious adjustment: The blocked shot. New blocking animations and variety make

playing defense more fun, and they allow you to challenge shooters in new ways. Coupled with more varied steals animations, offense no longer feels completely overpowered. There's virtue to playing good, steady defense in NBA 2K22. And it's fun and rewarding to do that when the end result might be a volleyball swat of a block, or a perfectly timed steal that rolls on the ground until you pick it up seamlessly and float in for a breakaway score.

Coupled with consistently splendid visuals, it's a recipe for solid on-court play, and that's bolstered by a strong off-court collection of options. The franchise mode returns and it's much the same as it was a year ago, but slight tweaks have been made. To mirror an NBA era that has coaches for just about everything, from shooting to sleeping, NBA 2K22's franchise mode has you hire a full complement of coaches in the offseason.

You can now fill out a scouting lead, domestic and international scouts, and everything from sleep trainers to post shooting and post defense experts. And sure, it can seem a bit dry, but NBA 2K22 keeps it fun; former players are often available for hire. The menus here can be a bit overwhelming; it would be great if 2K22 helped you sort for former players or search for specific coaches more easily.

Another slight blind spot for the franchise mode: Fake players. Right now, the G-League rosters are filled with fake players, and those players very easily grow in ratings to become factors as your franchise mode rolls on. Dealing with this can be annoying and ruin the immersion of the mode. Ideally, NBA 2K would roll out a full G-league roster, but in lieu of that, you have the current annoyance, at least to gaming purists.

The WNBA also returns for a second season, and this time, 2K gives it the full franchise treatment via MyWNBA, and the package there delivers just about everything in the MyNBA mode. MyWNBA is only available in its full glory on the PS5 and Xbox Series X/S consoles, though. Still, it's a wealth of content. (Next move: Let players match WNBA and NBA teams in exhibition matches.)

Add in a host of strong legends teams for a second straight year, and the overall package for NBA 2K22 is a strong one. Tiny missteps aside, it's the ultimate basketball video game. Fitting, given the guy on the cover.

Platforms: PlayStation platforms, Xbox platforms, Nintendo Switch

Online: nba.2k.com

Sable: Where art meets adventure

BY CHRISTOPHER BYRD
The Washington Post

Of the many games that have drawn inspiration from the Zelda series, few have enriched the formula like Sable, an exquisite adventure game that forgoes combat mechanics in favor of exploration and a take-it-or-



primarily from the strikingly-colored, fine-lined visuals — an homage to the French artist Jean Giraud, more commonly known as Moebius — and its mellow, nimbly modulated soundtrack by the indie band Japanese Breakfast. Here is an art game for people who also like adventure games, or vice versa.

Set among the dunes of the desert planet of Midden, Sable follows the titular heroine as she leaves her nomadic tribe and goes on a journey to learn about the world and fulfill a rite of passage — her symbolic entry into adulthood. At the start, we see her stride into a temple and sit contemplatively before a statue of the face of a woman. Exiting the temple, Sable rejoins her tribe, whose members greet her expectantly since it's her day to become a Glider. Through a series of tasks and the performance of a ritual, she acquires a hoverbike and the ability to descend gently through the air enveloped in a red bubble.

After gaining her gliding ability, Sable finds that her tribe has decamped from the nearby area and left her to her own devices. Her only imperative is to explore the world and, if she chooses, earn masks. The masks will play a part in an initiation ceremony when she rejoins her tribe and

chooses what mask or identity she will adopt as an adult.

Most of the masks in the game are acquired through earning badges by performing tasks for some of the people Sable meets along her journey — innkeepers, machinists, etc. Earn three badges of a particular kind, and Sable can take them to a “mask caster” who will fashion her a mask.

As Sable explores the world around her, she'll come across abandoned spaceships, which take the form of puzzle boxes. Similar to the puzzles in the Zelda games, these areas require her to manipulate power sources to raise and move platforms. Successfully doing so allows her to access the ships' A.I. systems to uncover information. Other quests require Sable to perform fanciful tasks such as collecting beetle droppings and engaging in a bit of light detective work.

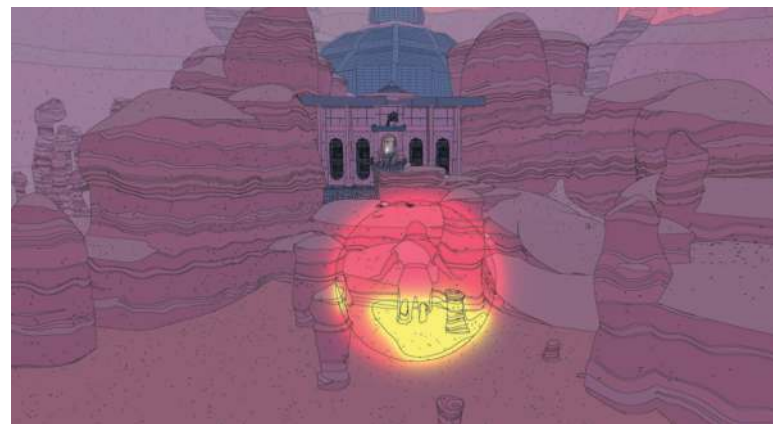
After some time has passed, Sable will receive a note informing her that her tribe has returned and that she can begin the initiation right. Sable can be completed without anything approaching an exhaustive plumbing of its content. I salute the developers for adopting one of the most easygoing approaches to an endgame I've come across in an open-world game.

Sable excels at evoking the joy of movement and a feeling of calm. Driving the hoverbike over large stretches of desert is a pleasure. The sand dunes have a way of tossing Sable around as if she were on an arid sea of varied and beautiful shades. I found it easy to lose myself in the joy of traveling an unfamiliar world.

Sable's art style embraces a sumptuous minimalism. Every line and every hue seems purposeful. Sable is not a game that feels as if it were designed by committee. I don't foresee it requiring a remastered version “with improved visuals.”

Platforms: PC, Xbox Series X/S, Xbox One

Online: rawfury.com/games/sable



RAW FURY/The Washington Post

Sable invites players to explore and solve puzzles — if they feel like it.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Better health by building muscle mass

Weightlifting underrated as a form of exercise despite its many physical, mental and social benefits

By ARMIN BROTT
Tribune News Service

Surefire, get-in-the-best-shape-of-your-life-or-your-money-back fitness fads have been around for thousands of years. Just in my lifetime, I've seen boot camps, Bowflex, CrossFit, hula hooping, Insanity, Jazzercise, kettle bells, P90X, Pilates, pole dancing, spinning, Tabata — and that's by no means a complete list. Over the years — centuries, really — one method won't ever show up on a list of fads, but, despite the lack of hype, it may very well be the most beneficial of the bunch: good, old-fashioned weightlifting. Let's take a look at some of the proven benefits of weight training.

Testosterone

In excessive quantities, testosterone can be problematic. But in normal quantities, it motivates us, gives us energy, helps us take the initiative and gives us a sex drive (women have testosterone, too). Below-normal levels of testosterone have been linked with depression, lack of drive, concentration problems, fatigue, irritability, physical weakness, diminished or absent sex drive, sleep problems, trouble coping with stress, your overall risk of mortality and more. Strength training boosts the body's natural testosterone production.

Overall health

Weight training has been shown to increase bone density (thereby reducing the risk of fractures in older adults), improve balance (which reduces the risk of falls that might cause fractures), reduce the risk of stroke by as much as 40%, lower blood pressure (some studies

show that two weight-training sessions per week is as effective as blood-pressure-lowering meds), strengthen the heart, reduce diabetes risk and cancer and improve longevity. University of California, Los Angeles, researcher Arun Karlamangla, M.D. summed it up like this: "The greater your muscle mass, the lower your risk of death. Thus, rather than worrying about weight or body mass index, we should be trying to maximize and maintain muscle mass."

Physical performance

Strength training helps offset the half-pound of muscle mass we lose every year after about age 30. It also increases your strength, flexibility and endurance. That makes us less likely to get injured doing other athletic activities. Strength, flexibility and stamina are also quite helpful to maintaining your sex life.

Theoretically, we spend about 30% of our life sleeping. But in reality, many of us are chronically tired. Regularly getting less than 6 hours of sleep is associated with a host of serious health risks: heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, obesity, mental illness, car accidents and general cognitive impairment (see below). Researchers Patrick O'Connor, Matthew Herring, and Amanda Carvalho found that people with sleep problems who did regular strength training for 8-10 weeks had a 30% improvement in the quantity of their sleep. Older adults who did regular weight training reduced the number of times they got up at night compared to those who didn't do any exercise.

Mental health

By changing the shape of your body in

a good way, weight training may improve your self-esteem. It also triggers a release of endorphins, which help reduce the symptoms of anxiety and depression. A little anxiety is a good thing — it keeps us aware, makes us focus and gives us the energy to run away from dangerous situations. But too much anxiety can ruin your sleep, cause physical pain and have a negative effect on your whole life. O'Connor, Herring and Carvalho found that people who did weight training and cardio three times per week experienced less depression than those who didn't get that exercise.

Cognitive function

Strength training builds strong brains as well as strong muscles and bones. People who lift weights tend to have a larger hippocampus, the part of the brain that helps with verbal processing and memory. According to O'Connor, Herring and Carvalho, resistance training is especially beneficial to older adults, especially in memory and memory-related functions. Other researchers have found that weight training improves executive function, which is the brain's capacity to keep us organized and on task.

Social status

Like it or not, we're animals. And like most other animals, we have a social structure that in many ways operates out of our control. Here's how it works: Physically strong men tend to be more confident. Confident (and muscular) men tend to be more respected by others and are seen as better leaders and more competent in general. As a result, they're able to motivate others to work harder, they get more promotions and they make more

money. They're also seen as more attractive than their less-confident (and less-muscular) brothers.

"Studies have demonstrated that people assign positive personality traits to drawings or photographs of mesomorphic (muscular) men and mostly negative traits to nonmesomorphic men," say researchers Timothy Judge from the University of Florida and Daniel Cable from the London Business School.

For example, traits ascribed to mesomorphic men were very positive (i.e., best friend, has lots of friends, polite, happy, helps others, brave, healthy, smart and neat). By contrast, ectomorphic men were described with a set of negative traits (i.e., nervous, sneaky, afraid, sad, weak and sick).

Future of the species

Besides making men more attractive to the opposite sex, weight training can have an influence on future generations. Weight training gives our DNA an improved capacity to repair itself. That keeps our genes healthy. And since our children get half of their genes from dad, at least some of our healthy genes will be passed on to our children, thereby making them healthier too. In addition, a 2004 study of Danish men found that muscular men had more semen volume, a greater number of healthy sperm and were more fertile than either skinny or obese men.

Easy implementation

Tapping into the benefits of weight training isn't all that complicated. While cardio exercise, almost by definition, can take a lot of time, many experts say that 30-60 minutes of weight training per week is plenty.



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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published week-days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located. The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

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OPINION

Pence did right on Jan. 6. Why undo it now?

By KAREN TUMULTY
The Washington Post

No one understands better than former Vice President Mike Pence the corrosive forces of disinformation that led to the attack on the Capitol on Jan. 6. Pence’s refusal that day to bend to President Donald Trump’s demands that he make an unconstitutional effort to overturn a fair election stands as his most significant service to the nation during the four years he spent in its second-highest office. So how to explain the comment Pence made Monday night during an interview with Sean Hannity on Fox News? “I know the media wants to distract from the Biden administration’s failed agenda by focusing on one day in January,” Pence said. “They want to use that one day to try and demean the character and intentions of 74 million Americans who believed we could be strong again and prosperous again and supported our administration in 2016 and 2020.” “That one day” — the day when Pence, in his duties as vice president, was to preside over certifying the official count of electoral votes — some 800 rioters breached the Capitol. Some roamed the halls screaming “Hang Mike Pence!” and “Where is Pence? Find him!” Secret Service agents had to whisk Pence out of the Senate chamber. The Trump supporters who fought their way into the Capitol directed their rage at Pence because Trump claimed — falsely — that his vice president had the power to reject electors submitted by the states. “All Mike Pence has to do is send them back to the States,

AND WE WIN,” Trump tweeted that morning. “Do it Mike, this is a time for extreme courage!” New details have come to light about the intensity of the pressure Trump put on Pence, the unscrupulous means that Trump and his allies proposed, and Pence’s own torment as he reached the decision that he had no choice but to do the right thing. These and other backstage dramas were revealed in “Peril,” a chronicle of the turbulent transition from Trump to President Joe Biden, written by The Washington Post’s Bob Woodward and Robert Costa. Pence knows what’s right. “There is almost no idea more un-American than the notion that any one person could choose the American president,” Pence said during a June speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. “And I will always be proud that we did our part on that tragic day to reconvene the Congress and fulfilled our duty under the Constitution.” But his comments during his interview with Hannity suggest that the toadying and servility Pence engaged in nearly every day as Trump’s vice president are difficult to shake. His suggestion that the horror of Jan. 6 was simply a media creation plays into two unhinged storylines that have taken root in the GOP. The first is the lie that Trump actually won the election, which poll after poll has shown most Republicans still believe. The second is that the violent insurrection was no big deal. That shows up in surveys such as one CBS and YouGov conducted in July, which found that a quarter of Republicans said they approved of the thugs who trashed the Capitol.

This type of pandering, by the way, is unlikely to rehabilitate Pence in the eyes of Trump’s most ardent supporters, or rekindle his prospects as a potential presidential contender in a party that still genuflects at Trump’s behest. In June, the former vice president was greeted with boos when he took the stage at a Florida gathering of the Faith & Freedom Coalition, an organization of conservative evangelical Christian activists. As security cleared the room of hecklers, someone shouted: “Traitor!” What Pence now describes as “one day” was the culmination of a disgraceful campaign by Trump and his allies to undermine public trust in the electoral system, one that continues in Washington and in state capitals across the country. Jan. 6 was not a media confection. More than 600 people have been charged for their alleged unlawful actions. The select House committee that is investigating the insurrection has also issued subpoenas to top Trump officials and organizers of a rally that preceded the attack on the Capitol. During his interview with Hannity, Pence called Jan. 6 “a tragic day in the history of our Capitol building.” But as Pence surely knows, it was also a tragic day for people who were there — including those who lost their lives, the police officers who were assaulted, and the lawmakers and staffers who were terrorized. History will record that Pence played a heroic role that day. It is confounding that he would sully his own legacy this way.

Karen Tumulty is a Washington Post columnist covering national politics.

Republicans, be careful how you oppose Biden’s bill

By HENRY OLSEN
Special to The Washington Post

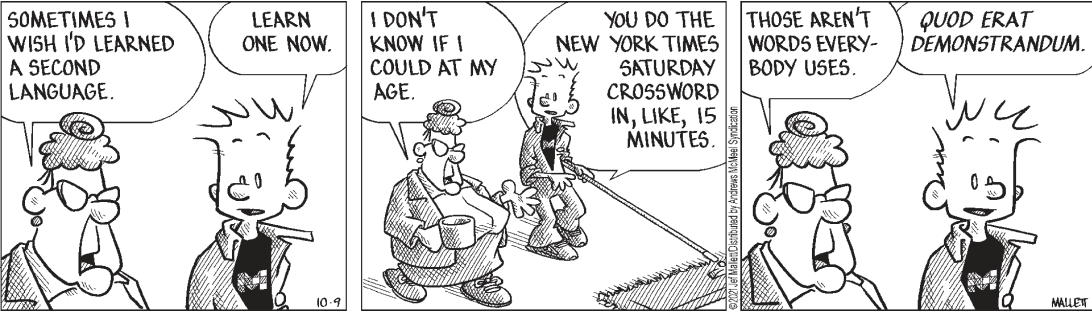
Democrats, in time, will probably come together and pass a massive reconciliation bill that dramatically expands federal government domestic spending. That means Republicans will have to decide what to do with those programs should they regain full control in Washington after the 2024 election. As the debacle over how to “repeal and replace” Obamacare showed, that’s going to be a big challenge — one that will require the GOP to decide what it’s for as much as what it’s against. The failure to not only repeal and replace Obamacare, but also pass any significant legislation amending the law shows starkly the Republican problem. It’s one thing to “just say no” when in opposition, but that mantra gives party leaders no guidance when they are in power. Attempting to repeal everything Democrats pass in reconciliation is not likely to pass political muster given that legislators are notoriously reluctant to remove benefits from people once they have been conferred. The opposite formulation, however, is also unappealing. Simply accepting everything Democrats pass in toto means government always ratchets up — a phenomenon the conservative base is well aware of. Republicans will have to do something significant to move the needle back in the direction of smaller government once they hold all the political cards. Doing this intelligently will require diving into policy detail. But the Obamacare defeat shows the peril that comes with pristine devotion to libertarian anti-government principles. You can’t beat something with nothing,

the adage goes, and governing parties have nothing to offer if they don’t understand policy alternatives. Navigating between the Scylla of full repeal and the Charybdis of supine acceptance of whatever Democrats enact requires a theory of what the federal government should and should not do. Republicans looking for such a theory to guide their deliberations need look no further than Ronald Reagan. Reagan was never opposed to federal action per se. He endorsed initiatives targeted at people truly in need. Reagan backed Social Security, for example, in his famous speech endorsing Barry Goldwater’s presidential candidacy because “destitution should not follow unemployment by reason of old age.” He also endorsed the Kerr-Mills Act, an alternative to Medicare, because it would direct federal subsidies through state-drafted plans to meet the genuine need poor seniors faced in paying emergency medical bills. Applying Reagan’s principles to Democrats’ proposals today would give Republicans a road map of how to proceed once they regain power. For example, President Joe Biden’s proposal to give everyone two years of free community college could be repealed because it is an untargeted program that provides subsidies for all. His desire to increase the maximum Pell Grant, however, could be retained in some form because that is a targeted program to help poor and working-class students afford higher education. Alternatively, Republicans could design their own program to address whatever genuine issue there is with community college unaffordability, a program that could direct aid to prospective students likeliest to complete their stud-

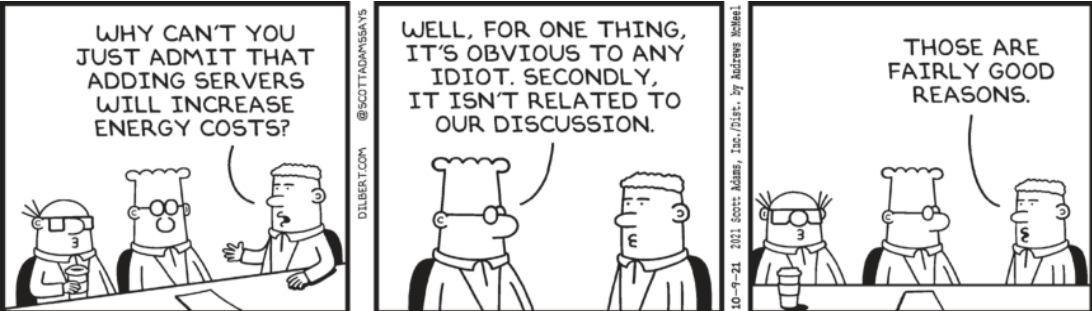
ies. This principled approach gives Republicans flexibility to reformulate Democratic programs entirely. Biden’s entire approach toward child care, for example, is premised on the notion that publicly subsidized and regulated child care and education are better for children than informal family or neighborhood arrangements or having a parent stay at home with their children. A Reagan-inspired alternative might be to reform federal child care programs so they give subsidies to parents they can use on arrangements of their choosing, something that would likely provide greater parental satisfaction and save significant sums of money. Conservatives should not take this as a warrant to simply pass a dime-store New Deal. Trimming around the edges of something progressives design is not what Reagan would have wanted nor what conservatives will accept. These principles require real thought about what government can and should do and would likely put in motion a fundamental reevaluation of the edifice Democrats have built during the past 90 years. The aim would not be to destroy, but instead to “build back better,” to borrow a phrase. Reagan, in his speech that made him a star, chided his “liberal friends” for wrongly saying that conservatives were “always ‘against’ things” and “never ‘for’ anything.” The GOP’s response to whatever Democrats finally decide to pass will show whether his optimistic vision of conservatism still holds sway.

Henry Olsen is a Washington Post columnist and a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

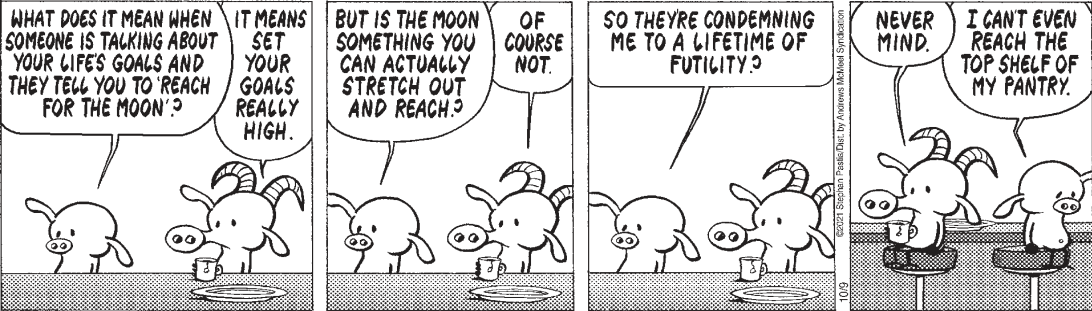
Frazz



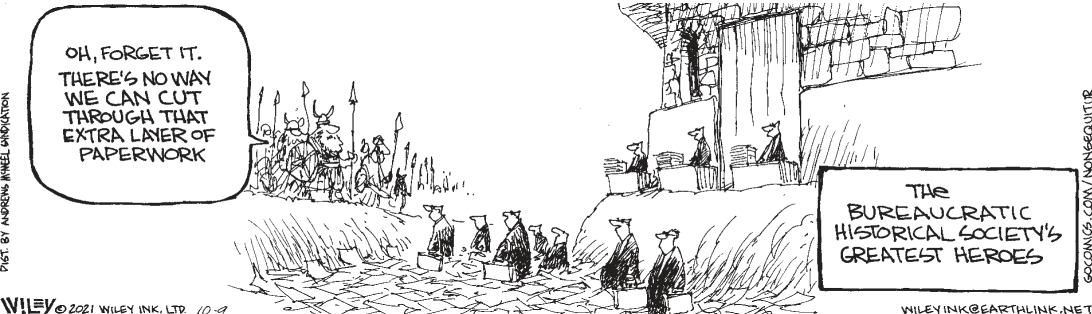
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



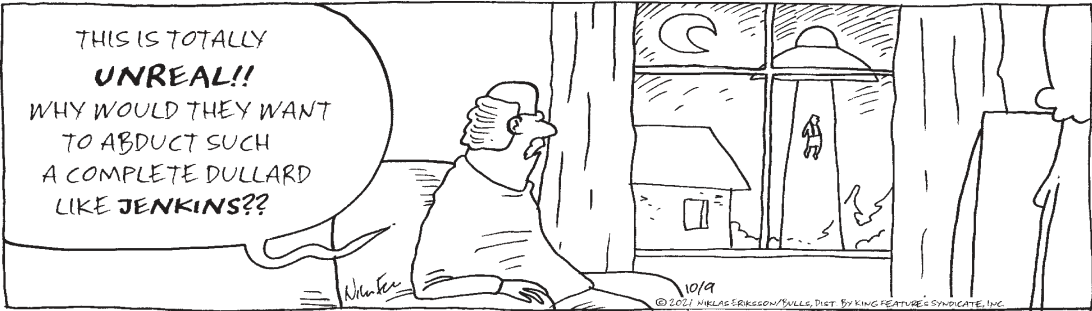
Non Sequitur



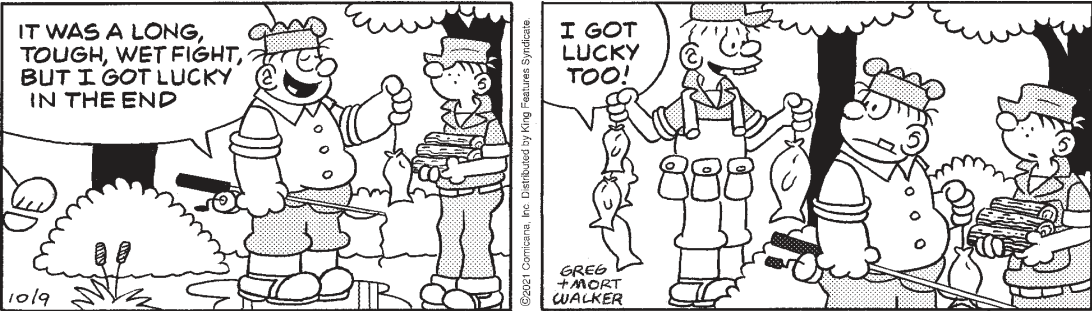
Candorville



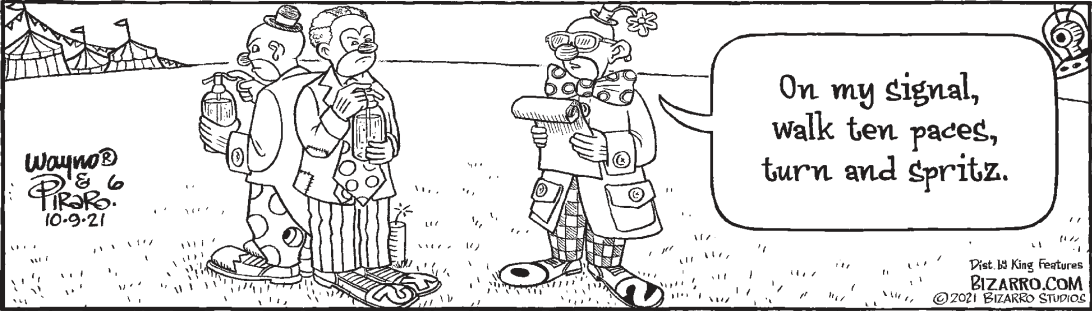
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

ACROSS

1 Salon request
5 "Fernando" group
9 — tai
12 Lotion ingredient
13 Peruse
14 Gore and Green
15 Engrossed
16 Scoundrels
17 Male swan
18 Leg joint
19 Calendar abbr.
20 Avoid
21 Possess
23 Martian mover
25 Hank of "The Birdcage"
28 Rebuke to an informer
32 Not hollow
33 Ouzo flavor
34 Chinese meal cupful
36 "JFK" actor Gary
37 Hosp. areas
38 PC port
39 Rustic wine vessels
42 Check-cashing needs
44 Mosque leader
48 Actress Ortiz
49 Lure
50 Skater Lipinski

DOWN

10 Matty of baseball
11 Dust jacket ID
20 Pithy quotes
22 More broad
24 Young horses
25 Fire sign?
26 Menagerie
27 PC key
29 Brink
30 Red — beet
31 Sawbuck
35 Italian cheese
36 Expulsion
39 Pokes
40 A law — itself
41 Old France
43 Tragic
45 Emporium
46 La Scala solo
47 Oodles
49 Short do

Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	A	R		L	E	E	S		S	H	A	G
A	L	E		I	L	L	S		H	O	R	A
B	A	D	H	A	B	I	T		I	S	E	E
			C	A	R	E			O	N	E	A
H	A	R	T	S		C	E	N	T			
A	L	O	E		B	I	T	C	O	I	N	S
D	O	S		N	O	V	A	E		N	E	O
J	U	S	T	A	B	I	T		A	S	A	N
			W	I	S	C			G	U	P	P
M	O	D	E	L				S	A	R	I	
O	D	E	A		B	I	T	P	A	R	T	S
T	O	C	K		O	P	I	E		E	O	N
H	M	O	S		W	O	R	D		D	E	L

10-9

CRYPTOQUIP

XEXGARO JMODWSEO LVE TRJD
TEBMDI IDS DKWAGIMBDAC
MU R UEOSVLDIS TDKMWRU
ISRSD: IEUEOR DXVOEU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN THIS NEW WHODUNIT MOVIE, THE MAID COMMITTED THE CRIME. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT BUTLER!
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals X

SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Thursday's scores
SOUTH
Houston 40, Tulane 22
SOUTHWEST
Cent. Oklahoma 49, Northeastern St. 9
Coastal Carolina 52, Arkansas St. 20

Schedule
Saturday's games
EAST
Elon (2-3) at Maine (1-3)
Bryant (3-2) at Duquesne (3-1)
Michigan St. (5-0) at Rutgers (3-2)
Stetson (2-2) at Marist (1-2)
Bucknell (1-3) at Lafayette (1-4)
Colgate (2-3) at Brown (0-3)
Cornell (0-3) at Harvard (3-0)
Wagner (0-5) at Fordham (2-3)
Princeton (3-0) at Monmouth (NJ) (3-2)
Columbia (2-1) at CCSU (1-3)
Lehigh (0-5) at Penn (1-2)
Delaware (3-1) at Rhode Island (4-0)
LIU Brooklyn (0-3) at St. Francis (Pa.) (2-3)
Yale (2-1) at Dartmouth (3-0)
Old Dominion (1-4) at Marshall (2-3)
Merrimack (3-2) at Sacred Heart (2-3)
Va. Lynchburg (0-1) at Delaware St. (2-3)
Charleston Southern (1-2) at Robert Morris (1-2)
Wake Forest (5-0) at Syracuse (3-2)
Uconn (0-6) at Umass (0-5)
SMU (5-0) at Navy (1-3)
Stony Brook (1-4) at Towson (1-3)

SOUTH
South Carolina (3-2) at Tennessee (3-2)
Vanderbilt (2-3) at Florida (3-2)
Arkansas (4-1) at Mississippi (3-1)
Georgia Tech (2-3) at Duke (3-2)
North Alabama (0-5) at NC A&T (2-2)
SE Louisiana (3-1) at Nicholls (2-2)
Morehead St. (2-2) at Presbyterian (2-2)
Chattanooga (2-2) at VMI (3-2)
Furman (2-2) at Wofford (1-3)
Tennessee Tech (1-4) at NC Central (2-3)
Kennesaw St. (3-1) at Hampton (2-2)
Villanova (3-1) at James Madison (4-0)
Virginia (3-2) at Louisville (3-2)
Jackson St. (3-1) at Alabama A&M (3-1)
Murray St. (2-2) at UT Martin (3-1)
Grambling St. (2-3) at Alcorn St. (2-2)
Ark.-Pine Bluff (1-3) at Alabama St. (2-2)
Georgia (5-0) at Auburn (4-1)
Middle Tennessee (2-3) at Liberty (4-1)
FAU (3-2) at UAB (3-2)
Florida St. (1-4) at North Carolina (3-2)
Albany (NY) (0-4) at William & Mary (3-1)
Mercer (3-1) at W. Carolina (0-5)
Stephen F. Austin (3-2) at Jacksonville St. (2-3)
SE Missouri (1-4) at Austin Peay (2-3)
The Citadel (2-2) at ETSU (5-0)
MVSU (1-3) at Bethune-Cookman (0-5)
Texas Southern (1-3) vs. Southern U. (2-2) at Arlington, Texas
Campbell (2-2) at Gardner-Webb (2-3)
Abilene Christian (3-2) at E. Kentucky (3-2)
SC State (1-3) at Florida A&M (2-2)
East Carolina (3-2) at UCF (2-2)
Georgia Southern (2-3) at Troy (2-3)
UTEP (4-1) at Southern Miss. (1-4)
UTSA (5-0) at W. Kentucky (1-3)
LSU (3-2) at Kentucky (5-0)
Notre Dame (4-1) at Virginia Tech (3-1)
Georgia St. (1-4) at Louisiana-Monroe (2-2)

MIDWEST
Akron (1-4) at Bowling Green (2-3)
San Diego (1-4) at Butler (2-3)
N. Illinois (3-2) at Toledo (3-2)
Maryland (4-1) at Ohio St. (4-1)
W. Illinois (1-4) at Indiana St. (2-3)
Dayton (2-2) at Drake (2-3)
N. Iowa (3-1) at N. Dakota St. (4-0)
Valparaiso (1-4) at St. Thomas (Minn.) (2-2)
Missouri St. (3-1) at Youngstown St. (1-3)
North Dakota (2-2) at South Dakota (3-2)
S. Illinois (4-1) at S. Dakota St. (4-0)
Wisconsin (1-3) at Illinois (2-4)
Cent. Michigan (2-3) at Ohio (1-4)
Ball St. (2-3) at W. Michigan (4-1)
Miami (Ohio) (2-3) at E. Michigan (3-2)
Penn St. (5-0) at Iowa (5-0)
North Texas (1-3) at Missouri (2-3)
Buffalo (2-3) at Kent St. (2-3)
Michigan (5-0) at Nebraska (3-3)

SOUTHWEST
Oklahoma (5-1) vs. Texas (4-1) at Dallas
West Virginia (2-3) at Baylor (4-1)
Lamar (2-2) at Sam Houston St. (4-0)
Northwestern St. (0-4) at Houston Bap-tist (0-4)
TCU (2-2) at Texas Tech (4-1)
South Alabama (3-1) at Texas State (1-3)
Alabama (5-0) at Texas A&M (3-2)
Memphis (3-2) at Tulsa (1-4)
FAR WEST
E. Washington (5-0) at N. Colorado (2-3)
Dixie St. (0-4) at Montana (3-1)
UC Davis (5-0) at Idaho St. (0-4)
Boise St. (2-3) at BYU (5-0)
San Jose St. (3-2) at Colorado St. (1-3)
Oregon St. (4-1) at Washington St. (2-3)
Cal Poly (1-4) at Montana St. (4-1)
Portland St. (2-3) at Idaho (1-3)
Wyoming (4-0) at Air Force (4-1)
Utah (2-2) at Southern Cal (3-2)
New Mexico (2-3) at San Diego St. (4-0)
S. Utah (1-4) at Sacramento St. (2-2)
UCLA (3-2) at Arizona (0-4)
New Mexico St. (1-5) at Nevada (3-1)

Shriners Children's
PGA Tour
Thursday
At TPC Summerlin
Las Vegas
Purse: \$7 Million
Yardage: 7,255; Par: 71
First Round
Sung Kang 30-31-61 -10
Sungjae Im 32-31-63 -8

NFL injury report
NEW YORK — The National Football League injury report, as provided by the league (DNP: did not practice; LIMITED: limited participation; FULL: Full participation):

SUNDAY
BUFFALO BILLS at KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — **BUFFALO:** DNP: RB Taiwan Jones (hamstring), LB Matt Milano (hamstring), WR Emmanuel Sanders (not injury related - resting player). **LIMITED:** DE A.J. Epenesa (foot), DT Star Lotulelei (not injury related - resting player), S Jordan Poyer (ankle), CB Tre'Davious White (shoulder). **FULL:** T Spencer Brown (knee), G Jon Feliciano (concussion), CB Dane Jackson (knee), CB Taron Johnson (groin), DE Efe Obada (ankle), DE Gregory Rousseau (toe). **KANSAS CITY:** DNP: DT Chris Jones (wrist). **FULL:** S Armani Watts, (illness), CB DeAndre Baker, (quad), T Orlando Brown (groin), DE Frank Clark (hamstring), CB Rashad Fenton (concussion), WR Tyreek Hill (knee), CB Charvarius Ward (quad).

CHICAGO BEARS at LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — **CHICAGO:** DNP: TE Jesse James (personal), DL Akiem Hicks (groin), TE J.P. Holtz (quad), LB Joel Iyiegbuniwe (hamstring), LB Khalil Mack (ribs/foot), RB David Montgomery (knee). **LIMITED:** WR Darnell Mooney (groin). **FULL:** DB Deon Bush (shoulder), QB Andy Dalton (knee), DB Tashaun Gipson (hamstring), TE Jesper Horsted (knee), RB Damien Williams (quad). **LAS VEGAS:** DNP: CB Damon Arnette (groin), RB Peyton Barber (toe), TE Derek Carrier (pectoral), CB Trayvon Mullen (toe), DE Yannick Ngakoue (not injury related - rest/knee). **LIMITED:** S Johnathan Abram (shoulder). **FULL:** DB Nate Hobbs (shoulder), FB Alec Ingold (shoulder), RB Josh Jacobs (ankle), LB Cory Littleton (shoulder/rib), T Kolton Miller (knee), WR Hunter Renfrow (ankle), TE Darren Waller (knee), DB Casey Hayward (knee).

CLEVELAND BROWNS at LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — **CLEVELAND:** DNP: DE Jadeveon Clowney (elbow), T Chris Hubbard (triceps), DE Takkarist McKinley (ankle/knee), CB Greg Newsome (calf), TE David Njoku (knee), LB Malcolm Smith (abdomen), C JC Tretter (knee/back), T Jedrick Wills (ankle). **LIMITED:** T Jack Conklin (knee), LB Tony Fields (shoulder), DE Myles Garrett (not injury related - rest knee/ankle), CB Troy Hill (toe), CB Denzel Ward (neck). **FULL:** WR Odell Beckham (shoulder), DT Malik Jackson (not injury related - rest). **LOS ANGELES CHARGERS:** DNP: RB Justin Jackson (groin). **FULL:** WR Keenan Allen (ankle), RB Austin Ekeler (ankle), CB Chris Harris (shoulder), S Derwin James (toe/shoulder), LB Drue Tranquill (illness).

DENVER BRONCOS at PITTSBURGH STEELERS — **DENVER:** DNP: TE Albert Okwuegbunam (hamstring). **LIMITED:** QB Teddy Bridgewater (concussion), RB Melvin Gordon (lower leg), WR Diontae Spencer (chest), CB Pat Surtain (chest), LB Baron Browning (back), G Graham Glasgow (knee), OLB Andre Mintze (hamstring), G Dalton Risner (ankle). **FULL:** DE Shelby Harris (wrist), S Justin Simmons (hand). **PITTSBURGH:** DNP: T Rashaad Coward (ankle), DT Carlos Davis (knee), CB Cameron Sutton (groin). **LIMITED:** WR Chase Claypool (hamstring), WR James Washington (groin). **FULL:** G Kevin Dotson (hip), DT Cameron Heyward (neck), T Chukwuma Okorafor (concussion), QB Ben Roethlisberger (pectoral, hip), WR Juju Smith-Schuster (ribs), G Trai Turner (illness).

DETROIT LIONS at MINNESOTA VIKINGS — **DETROIT:** DNP: T Penei Sewell (ankle).

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA playoffs
(x-if necessary)
First Round
Thursday, Sept. 23
No. 6 Chicago 81, No. 7 Dallas 64
No. 5 Phoenix 83, No. 8 New York 82
Second Round
Sunday, Sept 26
No. 5 Phoenix 85, No. 4 Seattle 80, OT
No. 6 Chicago 89, No. 3 Minnesota 76
Semifinals
(Best-of-five)
No. 6 Chicago 3, No. 1 Connecticut 1
Chicago 101, Connecticut 95, 2OT
Connecticut 79, Chicago 68
Chicago 86, Connecticut 83
Chicago 79, Connecticut 69
No. 5 Phoenix 2, No. 2 Las Vegas 2
Las Vegas 96, Phoenix 90
Phoenix 117, Las Vegas 91
Phoenix 87, Las Vegas 60
Las Vegas 93, Phoenix 76
Friday: Phoenix at Las Vegas
Finals
(Best-of-five)
No. 6 Chicago, No. 5 Phoenix-No. 2 Las Vegas winner
Sunday: at Phoenix/Las Vegas winner
Wednesday: at Phoenix/Las Vegas winner
Friday, Oct. 15: at Chicago
x-Sunday, Oct 17: at Chicago

GOLF

Charley Hoffman 31-32-63 -8
Chad Ramey 34-29-63 -8
Adam Schenk 31-33-64 -7
Talor Gooch 32-32-64 -7
Chesson Hadley 32-32-64 -7
Matt Jones 32-32-64 -7
Matthew Wolff 33-31-64 -7
Nick Taylor 31-34-65 -6
Hideki Matsuyama 33-32-65 -6
Louis Oosthuizen 32-33-65 -6

PRO FOOTBALL

LIMITED: DE Michael Brockers (shoulder), LB Trey Flowers (knee), TE T.J. Hockenson (knee), RB D'Andre Swift (groin), RB Jamaal Williams (hip). **MINNESOTA:** DNP: WR Ihmir Smith-Marsette (toe), DT Michael Pierce (elbow), RB Dalvin Cook (ankle). **FULL:** LB Nick Vigil (ankle), CB Bashaud Breeland (illness), LB Eric Kendricks (elbow), WR Dede Westbrook (quadriceps), G Olisaemeka Udoh (neck), CB Kris Boyd (hamstring), S Camryn Bynum (abdomen), K Greg Joseph (right hip), LB Anthony Barr (knee).

GREEN BAY PACKERS at CINCINNATI BENGALS — **GREEN BAY:** DNP: CB Jaire Alexander (shoulder), C/G Josh Myers (finger), LB Chauncey Rivers (knee), TE Marcedes Lewis (not injury related), T Dennis Kelly (illness). **LIMITED:** DL Jack Heflin (ankle), G Elgton Jenkins (ankle), RB Aaron Jones (ankle), CB Kevin King (concussion). **FULL:** LB Krys Barnes (concussion), RB AJ Dillon (back), DL Dean Lowry (ankle), CB Isaac Yiadom (quadricep). **CINCINNATI:** DNP: C Trey Hopkins (knee), HB Joe Mixon (ankle), G Zvier Su'a-Filo (knee), G D'Ante Smith (illness). **LIMITED:** CB Chidobe Awuzie (groin), WR Tee Higgins (shoulder), WR Stanley Morgan (ribs), DT Larry Ogunjobi (knee), WR Mike Thomas (ankle). **FULL:** S Jessie Bates (neck), LB Akeem Davis-Gaither (trap), CB Trae Wayne (hamstring).

MIAMI DOLPHINS at TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — **MIAMI:** **LIMITED:** CB Xaivein Howard (shoulder/groin), CB Byron Jones (quad/achilles), WR DeVante Parker (shoulder/hamstring). **FULL:** S Brandon Jones (ankle), C Greg Mancz (neck), TE Adam Shaheen (neck). **TAMPA BAY:** DNP: CB Carlton Davis (quad), TE Rob Gronkowski (ribs), DL Patrick O'Connor (calf), S Antoine Winfield (concussion). **LIMITED:** RB Giovanni Bernard (knee), CB Jamel Dean (knee), OLB Jason Pierre-Paul (shoulder/hand). **FULL:** WR Antonio Brown (knee), WR Chris Godwin (thump).

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS at HOUSTON TEXANS — **NEW ENGLAND:** DNP: T Trent Brown (calf), G Shaq Mason (abdomen), CB Shaun Wade (concussion). **LIMITED:** LB Ja'Whaun Bentley (shoulder), DB Cody Davis, (knee), S Kyle Dugger (hamstring), K Nick Folk (left knee), CB Jonathan Jones (ankle), DB Jalen Mills (hamstring), LB Ronnie Perkins (ankle), LB Kyle Van Noy (groin). **HOUSTON:** DNP: RB Rex Burkhead (hip), T Marcus Cannon (back), WR Chris Conley (not injury related - personal matter), QB Deshaun Watson (not injury related - personal matter). **LIMITED:** WR Danny Amendola (thigh), OL Justin Britt (knee). **FULL:** CB Jimmy Moreland (illness), RB Scottie Phillips (illness).

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS at WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM — **NEW ORLEANS:** DNP: T Terron Armstead (elbow), C Erik McCoy (calf). **LIMITED:** S J.T. Gray (back). **FULL:** CB Marshon Lattimore (hand). **WASHINGTON:** DNP: WR Dyami Brown (knee), WR Curtis Samuel (groin), G Brandon Scherff (knee), WR Cam Sims (hamstring). **LIMITED:** DT Jonathan Allen (knee), S Deshaazor Everett (knee), RB Antonio Gibson (shin), LB Cole Holcomb (shoulder), DT Matt Ioannidis (knee). **FULL:** RB J.D. McKissic (ankle), DE James Smith-Williams (toe), CB Benjamin St-Juste (concussion).

NEW YORK GIANTS at DALLAS COWBOYS — **NEW YORK GIANTS:** DNP: S Jabrill Peppers (hamstring), WR Sterling Shepard (hamstring), WR Darius Slayton (hamstring). **LIMITED:** TE Kaden Smith (knee), OL Andrew Thomas (foot). DL Leonard Williams (knee), OL Ben Bredeson (hand), DB Nate Ebner (quad). **FULL:** RB Saquon Barkley (knee), WR Kenny Golladay (groin), WR C.J. Board (clavicle). **NEW YORK GI-**

ANTS: DNP: DE Dorance Armstrong (ankle), S Donovan Wilson (groin). **LIMITED:** WR Amari Cooper (hamstring), RB Ezekiel Elliott (knee), DE Randy Gregory (knee), T Ty Nsekhe (illness), DT Carlos Watkins (knee). **FULL:** CB Trevon Diggs (back).

NEW YORK JETS vs. ATLANTA FALCONS — **NEW YORK JETS:** DNP: S Adrian Colbert (concussion), TE Tyler Kroft (back), S Marcus Maye (ankle), WR Jeff Smith (concussion). **LIMITED:** CB Brandin Echols (concussion), DL Nathan Shepherd (knee). **FULL:** WR Denzel Mims (illness (non-COVID), WR Elijah Moore (concussion), S Jarrod Wilson (rib). **ATLANTA:** DNP: DT Marlon Davidson (ankle), WR Russell Gage (ankle), S Erik Harris (calf), WR Calvin Ridley (not injury related - personal matter). **LIMITED:** CB Avery Williams (hamstring).

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES at CAROLINA PANTHERS — **PHILADELPHIA:** DNP: T Lane Johnson (not injury related - personal matter), CB Darius Slay (not injury related - personal matter). **LIMITED:** T Jordan Mailata (knee). **FULL:** C Jason Kelce (foot, not injury related - resting player), CB Avonte Maddox (neck), WR Quez Watkins (knee). **CAROLINA:** DNP: LB Shaq Thompson (foot), T Cameron Erving (neck), C Matt Paradis (illness). **LIMITED:** RB Christian McCaffrey (hamstring). **FULL:** DE Yetur Gross-Matos (ankle), G John Miller (shoulder), OLB Haason Reddick (neck).

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS at ARIZONA CARDINALS — **SAN FRANCISCO:** DNP: DL Samiran Ebukam (hamstring), QB Jimmy Garoppolo (calf), TE George Kittle (calf), CB K'Waun Williams (calf), DL Arik Armstead (not injury related), DL D.J. Jones (not injury related). **LIMITED:** DT Javon Kinlaw (knee), RB Elijah Mitchell (shoulder), CB Josh Norman (chest). **FULL:** C Alex Mack (not injury related), T Trent Williams (shoulder). **ARIZONA:** DNP: CB Byron Murphy (ribs), RB Chase Edmonds (shoulder), OL Justin Murray (back). **LIMITED:** OL Kelvin Beachum (ribs), CB Antonio Hamilton (ankle), TE Maxx Williams (shoulder), OL Justin Pugh (hip), RB Eno Benjamin (hamstring), CB Marco Wilson (ribs). **FULL:** OLB Dennis Gardeck (hand).

TENNESSEE TITANS at JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — **TENNESSEE:** DNP: DE Denico Autry (hip), C Aaron Brewer (knee), LB Jayon Brown (knee), RB Derrick Henry (not injury related - resting player), TE Tommy Hudson (ankle), WR Julio Jones (hamstring), P Brett Kern (right groin), T Taylor Lewan (toe), WR Racey McMath (quadricep). **LIMITED:** C Ben Jones (neck), T Ty Sambrailo (foot), WR Nick Westbrook-Ikhine (hamstring). **FULL:** RB Khari Blasingame (ankle), WR A.J. Brown (hamstring), LB Bud Dupree (knee), LB Rashaan Evans (quadricep), CB Caleb Farley (shoulder), LB Sharif Finch (concussion), CB Chris Jackson (shoulder), RB Jeremy McNichols (hamstring), G Rodger Saffold (concussion), DT Jeffery Simmons (back), DT Teair Tart (shoulder). **JACKSONVILLE:** DNP: DT Roy Robertson-Harris (ankle). **LIMITED:** CB Tyson Campbell (toe), DE Lerentee McCray (hamstring). **FULL:** RB Carlos Hyde (shoulder).

MONDAY
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS at BALTIMORE RAVENS — **INDIANAPOLIS:** DNP: RB Nyheim Hines (shoulder), LB Darius Leonard (ankle), DE Kwity Paye (hamstring), T Braden Smith (foot/thumb). **LIMITED:** S Khari Willis (ankle/groin), CB Rock Ya-Sin (ankle). **FULL:** QB Caron Wentz (ankle). **BALTIMORE:** DNP: OLB Justin Houston (NIR-resting player), CB Jimmy Smith (NIR-resting player), T Ronnie Stanley (ankle), S Geno Stone (thigh), T Alejandro Villanueva (knee). **LIMITED:** S DeShon Elliott (quad). I

PRO HOCKEY

NHL preseason
Wednesday's games
Columbus 4, Detroit 2
N.Y. Rangers 6, New Jersey 2
Washington 4, Boston 3, OT
Minnesota 4, St. Louis 3, OT
Winnipeg 3, Calgary 2
Los Angeles 6, Anaheim 3
Thursday's games
Tampa Bay 6, Florida 2
Ottawa 5, Montreal 4, SO
Detroit 4, Pittsburgh 2
Dallas 3, Colorado 1
Minnesota 3, Chicago 2, OT
Edmonton 3, Vancouver 2
Arizona 3, Vegas 1
Friday's games
Philadelphia at Washington
Columbus at St. Louis
Winnipeg at Calgary
Saturday's games
Detroit at Buffalo
Carolina at Nashville
Tampa Bay at Florida
Dallas at Colorado
N.Y. Rangers vs. N.Y. Islanders at Webster Bank Arena
Ottawa at Toronto
Pittsburgh at Columbus
Vegas at San Jose
Minnesota at Chicago
Edmonton at Vancouver
Anaheim at Los Angeles

DEALS

Thursday's transactions
BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Reassigned 2B Jonathan Arauz, C Connor Wong and CF Jarren Duran to the minor leagues. Reinstated LF Danny Santana from the 10-day IL. Activated LHP Chris Sale and LF J.D. Martinez. Reassigned RHP Matt Barnes to the minor leagues. Activated LHP Martin Perez.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Reassigned RHPs Ryan Burr, Matt Foster and LHP Dallas Keuchel to the minor leagues. Recalled SS Danny Mendick from Charlotte (Triple-A East).

HOUSTON ASTROS — Reassigned RHP Seth Martinez, Jake Odorizzi, LHP Blake Taylor and 2B Marwin Gonzalez to the minor leagues.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Reassigned LHP Ryan Yarbrough, RHP Chris Mazza and CF Brett Phillips to the minor leagues. Recalled OF Jordan Luplow from Durham (Triple-A East).

National league
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Sent OF Henry Ramos, RHP Brandyn Sittinger and INF/OF Ildemarco Vargas outright to Reno (Triple-A West).

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
ATLANTA HAWKS — Waived G A.J. Lawson.

HOUSTON ROCKETS — Waived F Sekou Doumbouya.

ORLANDO MAGIC — Waived C Jon Teske.

FOOTBALL

National Football League
CHICAGO BEARS — Signed WR Nsimba Webster to the practice squad. Released OT Alex Taylor from the practice squad.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Waived DE Joe Jackson.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed LB Jaylon Smith. Placed OLB Chauncey Rivers on injured reserve.

NEW YORK JETS — Released OL Jimmy Murray from the practice squad. Released DB Jarrod Wilson.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Promoted WR Phillip Dorsett to the active roster from the practice squad. Placed WR D'Wayne Eskridge on injured reserve.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Placed CB Carlton Davis III on injured reserve.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League

ANAHEIM DUCKS — Sent RW Alexander Volkov to San Diego (AHL).

BOSTON BRUINS — Assigned G Troy Grosenick to Providence (AHL). Sent RW Steven Fogarty to Providence (AHL).

BUFFALO SABRES — Assigned Fs Brett Murray, Jack Quinn, G Aaron Dell and D Jimmy Schultz to Rochester (AHL).

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Recalled D Gavin Bayreuther, Cs Tyler Sikura, Josh Dunne, Tyler Angie, RW Carson Meyer and LW Brendan Gaurce from Cleveland (AHL).

DETROIT RED WINGS — Waived Ds Brian Lashoff and Ryan Murphy. Assigned Ds Jared McIsaac, Wyatt Newpower, Donovan Sebrango and G Victor Brattstrom to Grand Rapids (AHL). Released Fs Turner Elson, Jon Martin, Dominik Shine, Tyler Spezia, Kirill Tyutyayev, Hayden Verbeek and Dennis Yan to Grand Rapids.

MINNESOTA WILD — Assigned Fs Mitchell Chaffee, Joseph Cramarossa, Connor Dewar, Nick Swaney, Dominic Turgeon and Ds Joe Hicketts and Jon Lizotte to Iowa (AHL). Placed G Andrew Hammond and F Kyle Rau on waivers.

MONTREAL CANADIENS — Granted G Carey Price Leave of Absence assistance program.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Assigned Fs Graeme Clarke, Nolan Foote, Aarne Talvitie, Fabian Zetterland, Ds Kevin Bahl, Riley Walsh and G Nico Davis to Utica (AHL). Placed F A.J. Greer on waivers.

NEW YORK RANGERS — Assigned D Zac Jones to Hartford (AHL).

OTTAWA SENATORS — Signed LW Tyler Ennis to a one-year contract.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Waived G Louis Domingue.

ST. LOUIS BLUES — Waived LW Nathan Walker, D Calle Rosen, G Charlie Lindgren, C Sam Anas and RW Michael Frolik. Assigned C Nikita Alexandrov to Springfield (AHL).

SAN JOSE SHARKS — Claimed LW Jonah Gadjovich off waivers.

SEATTLE KRAKEN — Sent G Joey Daccord to Charlotte (AHL).

SOCCER
National Women's Soccer League

ORLANDO PRIDE — Re-signed F Emily van Egmond and G Kaylie Collins through the remainder of the season.

AP SPORTLIGHT

Oct. 9
1943 — Bob Hoernschemeyer throws six touchdown passes, an NCAA record for a freshman, to lead Indiana past Nebraska 54-13.
1974 — The Washington Capitals lose their first NHL game, 6-3 to the Rangers at New York's Madison Square Garden.
1982 — Al Del Greco kicks six field goals for all of Auburn's points in an 18-3 triumph over Kentucky.
1991 — The San Jose Sharks gain their first NHL victory, defeating the Calgary Flames 4-3.
1993 — Minnesota's Scott Eckers passes for 402 yards and a school-record six touchdowns in his first college start, sending the Gophers past Purdue 59-56.
1993 — Carey Bender rushes 33 times for 417 yards, setting an NCAA all-division single-game rushing record, in Coe's 69-7 Division III victory over Grinnell.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE PREVIEW

Path to Cup still runs through 'Champa Bay'

But no team has won three straight in 40 years

It's going on 40 years since the NHL last celebrated a three-peat Stanley Cup champion as part of the New York Islanders' run of four straight titles from 1980-83.

The Lightning have won two straight, and defenseman Victor Hedman doesn't see why Tampa Bay can't make it three in a row despite another offseason of salary cap-forced subtractions.

"We're not satisfied," Hedman said. "We don't want to see anybody else raising that Cup, that's for sure."

With several Eastern Conference teams such as the Islanders, Carolina and Florida — all three lost to Tampa Bay in the playoffs last season — poised to close the gap, the reality is this season's Cup still runs through "Champa Bay."

Though the Lightning were forced to unload their entire third line, while plugging holes with modestly priced veterans, captain Steven Stamkos said he believes the team's window of opportunity hasn't shut yet, especially if the salary cap begins nudging upward after staying flat the past two years.

"You just hope that the way things are trending, the salary cap is going to creep up," Stamkos said. "But at this point, right now, we're not thinking about that. You're thinking about what do we have to do to win it again."

FanDuel Sportsbook favors the Lightning to win the East, but the Islanders might top the list of teams wanting to have a word with the oddsmakers after having each of their last two seasons end by losing to Tampa Bay in the semifinals, including a 1-0 loss in Game 7 in June.

The Panthers upgraded their lineup by adding forward Sam Reinhart in a trade with Buffalo, and resigned unrestricted free agent defenseman Brandon Montour, whom they acquired in a trade with Buffalo in April.

Then there's the Hurricanes, whose Sebastian Aho-led core of young stars remains in place despite the team shuffling other parts of its roster this summer. If only they can get their goaltending set with the offseason additions of Antti Raanta and Frederik Andersen, best known for playing a role in Toronto's playoff collapses during his five seasons with the Maple Leafs.

Never count out Pittsburgh, though Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin will miss the start of the season recovering from injuries. And don't forget Alex Ovechkin and the Washington Capitals, so long as their aging roster remains healthy after injuries led to their third consecutive first-round exit in May.

Behind the benches

Gerard Gallant lands his fourth head-coaching job in taking over the New York Rangers, and the East will feature three relative first-timers behind the bench.

Montreal's Dominique Ducharme and Buffalo's Don Granato were promoted to full-time jobs after spending last season as their teams' interim coaches. In Columbus, Brad Larsen takes over the Blue Jackets after spending the past seven seasons as an assistant under John Tortorella and Todd Richards.

Can-do Canadiens

The Canadiens had a tumultuous offseason after their surprise Stanley Cup run ended in five games to the Lightning. Captain Shea Weber's career is uncertain because of injuries. Montreal lost top defensive forward Phillip Danault and Corey Perry in free agency, and had Carolina poach forward Jesperi Kotkaniemi by signing him to an offer sheet.

Then there's the uncertain status of goalie Carey Price, who had offseason knee surgery.

Montreal added center Christian Dvorak in a trade with Arizona and signed defenseman David Savard in free agency.

Toront-oh, not again

Auston Matthews and the Maple Leafs won't have the pandemic-created North Division to pad their regular-season record as happened last year. Not that it helped in the playoffs, when the Maple Leafs squandered a 3-1 first-round series lead to Montreal. Toronto hasn't won a playoff round since 2004.

Phi-guring it out

The Flyers opened training camp debuting T-shirts with, "Something To Prove" written on them. A year after finishing second in the Metropolitan Division, the Flyers missed the playoffs last sea-

son following a second-half meltdown.

Philadelphia retooled its roster by acquiring forward Cam Atkinson and defensemen Ryan Ellis and Rasmus Ristolainen in trades.

"Two years ago, we felt like we took a big step forward, and last year we took a few steps back," captain Claude Giroux said. "That is not the team we believe we are."

Bringing up the rear

After trading Reinhart and Ristolainen, losing starting goalie Linus Ullmark to free agency and with Jack Eichel stripped of his captaincy and future in Buffalo in limbo over a dispute on how to treat a neck injury, the Sabres are already in jeopardy of missing the playoffs for what would be an NHL record 11th consecutive season.

AP hockey writers Stephen Whyno and Larry Lage, and AP sports writers Fred Goodall and Dan Gelston contributed.



KARL B. DEBLAKER, ABOVE, AND MARK HUMPHREY, BELOW/AP

Above: Carolina's core of young players, led by Sebastian Aho, remains intact. Below: Tampa Bay defenseman Victor Hedman said he believes the Lightning have the pieces in place to win a third straight Stanley Cup — something that hasn't happened in 40 years.



SPORTS BRIEFS/SOCCER

BRIEFLY

18 ex-NBA players charged with fraud

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Eighteen former NBA players were charged Thursday with pocketing about \$2.5 million illegally by defrauding the league’s health and welfare benefit plan in a scam that authorities said involved claiming fictitious medical and dental expenses.

According to an indictment returned in Manhattan federal court, the ex-players teamed up to defraud the supplemental coverage plan by submitting fraudulent claims to get reimbursed for medical and dental procedures that never happened.

The conspiracy was led by Terrence Williams, who began his career as a first-round NBA Draft pick in 2009. The indictment said he submitted \$19,000 in fraudulent claims to the plan in November 2017 for chiropractic care. The claims led to a \$7,672 payout for Williams.

Among others charged was Tony Allen, a six-time All-Defensive team selection and a member of the 2008 champion Boston Celtics. His wife was also indicted.

Another former player charged in the scheme was Sebastian Telfair, a one-time high school star in New York who was highly touted when he turned pro, though his NBA career with eight franchises never brought the stardom some had expected.

Milt Palacio, one of those charged, was placed on administrative leave from his role as an assistant coach with the Portland Trail Blazers, the team said Thursday.

Those charged also included three NBA champions besides Allen. Glen Davis was also part of that 2008 title team in Boston. Shannon Brown won two championships with the Los Angeles Lakers, and Melvin Ely won a title with San Antonio in 2007.

Among others who were charged, Anthony Wroten, Ruben Patterson and Darius Miles were the only players who averaged double figures in their NBA careers.

Habs’ Price steps away for mental health help

MONTREAL — Canadiens goaltender Carey Price has voluntarily entered the NHL/NHL Players’ Association joint player assistance program, a stunning announcement Thursday less than a week before the start of the season and just three months after the former NHL MVP backstopped Montreal to the Stanley Cup Final.

The league and players’ union

said the 34-year-old Price will be away from the team while he takes part in the program. The union did not specify why he entered the program, but Price’s wife, Angela, cited mental health as a reason in an Instagram post showing Price and their three children.

Canadiens general manager Marc Bergevin said Price would be in the program for at least 30 days. He said the news caught him by surprise, but he encouraged everyone to seek help when needed.

The NHL and NHLPA started the player assistance program in 1996, with players able to call a confidential phone line. The jointly funded group assists players and their families with mental health, substance abuse and other matters. Counselors are available in each NHL city.

In other NHL news:

■ Aleksander Barkov and the Florida Panthers have agreed on an \$80 million, eight-year contract extension with an annual salary cap hit of \$10 million, according to two people with direct knowledge of the negotiations.

Barkov and the Panthers had been working for several days to complete the deal, said the people, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the terms were not immediately released by the team.

Barkov has been Florida’s captain since 2018, the leader on the ice and off, and securing this deal was the biggest piece of offseason business for a team that hopes to spend the next few years contending for the Stanley Cup.

He’s now under contract through 2029-30.

Source: Browns’ Mayfield has torn labrum

BEREA, Ohio — For now, Baker Mayfield’s going to play through the pain — and maybe some painful-looking passes.

Cleveland’s quarterback has a partially torn labrum in his left, non-throwing shoulder that does not require surgery at this time, a person familiar with the injury told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Mayfield, who had his shoulder pop out while he attempted to make a tackle last month against Houston, will continue to play as long as the injury doesn’t worsen, said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

It’s possible Mayfield can make it through the season and then undergo a procedure to fix the tear. But nothing is guaranteed and Mayfield’s injury will make him even more of a target.



PHOTOS BY ERIC GAY/AP

Jamaica’s Kemar Lawrence, left, and the United States’ Paul Arriola compete for the ball during Thursday’s FIFA World Cup qualifying match in Austin, Texas. The U.S. won 2-0 and has eight points in qualifying.

Pepi scores two goals, lifts US over Jamaica

BY RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Ricardo Pepi and the young Americans saw a red, white and blue crowd, a scene seldom at past U.S. World Cup qualifiers, then dominated Jamaica behind the new 18-year-old sensation and moved into first place.

“We’re just sitting there and we’re on the train,” U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said Thursday night after Pepi scored in the 49th and 62nd minutes in a 2-0 victory over Jamaica. “It’s amazing. I mean, an 18-year-old gets an opportunity and takes advantage of it. What you see, and I think what I really like, he has this instinct, and it’s really hard to teach that to players. And he has an instinct to score.”

Pepi, an El Paso native whose goal broke a second-half tie at Honduras in his international debut on Sept. 8, became the youngest American to score in consecutive qualifiers.

With family and friends in the stands, he got the first goal from a flowing movement as good as can be produced by the U.S., which outshot the Reggae Boyz 17-5.

Goalkeeper Matt Turner rolled the ball to his right flank, where Sergiño Dest ran onto it just outside his own penalty area. In a burst of about 10 seconds, Dest sprinted forward while taking five touches and centered the ball to Yunus Musah, who was on the run.

Making his qualifying debut, Musah took four touches and dis-



Ricardo Pepi scored both goals for the U.S. during the second half.

hed wide to Dest, who one-timed a cross. Pepi broke away from Lowe and from about 8 yards glanced a downward header that went in on a bounce to the right of goalkeeper Andre Blake.

“Jamaica was so compact, we needed to go to the wings,” Pepi said. “We unlocked them.”

The Americans took advantage of space.

“We just didn’t quite get our press right,” Jamaica defender Adrian Mariappa said. “At times just got a little bit naive.”

Pepi scored again when he redirected a cross from Brenden Aaronson past Blake from 6 yards after Antonee Robinson quickly moved up the flank.

“It’s a special feeling being able to just score here in Texas,” Pepi said.

Pepi made his Major League Soccer debut for Dallas in June 2019 and decided just before the start of qualifying this summer to play for the U.S. over Mexico. His sudden rise on the international stage has sparked interest in European clubs interested in a transfer.

“I felt like it’s coming,” he said of all the attention. “I don’t know if it’s too fast or if it’s too slow. I feel like it’s coming and whatever is going to come is going to come, and I feel like I have to be ready for it.”

Playing without injured attackers Christian Pulisic and Gio Reyna, the 13th-ranked U.S. improved to eight points after four of 14 matches in the final round of the North and Central American and Caribbean region.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Pitt's Pickett set to join other ACC QBs ready for NFL

By CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Kenny Pickett's decision to return for his redshirt senior season is working out well for Pittsburgh, the nation's top-scoring team.

Pitt coach Pat Narduzzi believes the decision also will pay off for Pickett in the next NFL Draft.

"He's made himself a lot of money coming back," Narduzzi said.

Pickett is poised to join North Carolina's Sam Howell, Virginia's Brennan Armstrong and possibly others in the next wave of Atlantic Coast Conference quarterbacks on NFL Draft boards.

The ACC, which may be out of the national championship picture, already sits atop all other conferences in the NFL quarterback derby. Nine NFL quarterbacks with at least one start this season are from ACC schools, the most of any conference.

That list doesn't include the inactive Deshaun Watson, whose status is in limbo following allegations of sexual assault and harassment. With Watson, the ACC would claim almost one-third of the NFL's starting QBs, including this year's No. 1 overall pick, Trevor Lawrence.

The list of former ACC starters includes MVPs Lamar Jackson and Matt Ryan, plus Russell Wilson, who's usually in the MVP discussion. The others: Daniel Jones, Jameis Winston, Teddy Bridgewater, Jacoby Brissett and Tyrod Taylor.

There's a list of candidates who could be next in line.

Howell has had an uneven season. He was sacked a combined 14 times in road losses at Virginia Tech and Georgia Tech.



Pittsburgh quarterback Kenny Pickett is poised to join North Carolina's Sam Howell, Virginia's Brennan Armstrong and possibly others in the next wave of Atlantic Coast Conference quarterbacks on NFL Draft boards.

Virginia Tech opened the season by sacking Howell six times and forcing him into the first three-interception game of his career in a 17-10 Hokies win.

Then, after the Tar Heels offense rolled in a 59-point output in a win against Virginia, Georgia Tech sacked Howell eight times. He lost three fumbles in the 45-22 loss to the Yellow Jackets.

North Carolina lost receivers Dazz Newsome and Dyami Brown and running backs Javonte Williams and Michael Carter in this year's NFL Draft, so perhaps some decline in Howell's production may have been expected.

Howell is still passing for almost 300 yards per game. He said he's working to get the ball to young receiver Josh Downs.

"I think for us this year, obviously, we want to get Josh the ball as much as possible from the type of player he is," Howell said Tuesday. "I think we can do still do some more stuff to try to get these outside guys involved as well."

Pickett has emerged as a Heisman candidate. He ranks second in the nation in passing efficiency and with 19 touchdown passes. Pitt (4-1, 1-0) leads the nation with 52.4 points per game following last week's 52-21 win at Georgia Tech.

Pickett has thrown 19 TD passes with only one interception.

"He's just a smart football player," Narduzzi said. "... He's put the work in, and he deserves what he's getting right now."

Pickett impressed Georgia Tech coach Geoff Collins, who said Tuesday "I think that quarterback is the real deal."

AP sports writers Aaron Beard, Jimmy Golen, Will Graves, John Kekis and Hank Kurz contributed to this report.



Penn State wide receiver Jahan Dotson has 446 receiving yards on a Big Ten-leading 35 catches this season. Dotson and quarterback Sean Clifford have 18 touchdown connections over three seasons.

Iowa's defense primed to face Penn State duo

By JOHN BOHNENKAMP
Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Iowa leads the nation in interceptions, and Penn State features one of the most dynamic passing combinations in Sean Clifford and Jahan Dotson.

How the third-ranked Hawkeyes fare in their showdown with No. 4 Penn State at Kinnick Stadium on Saturday could hinge on whether they can keep Clifford and Dotson under control.

"Dotson's got that big play-making ability," safety Kaevon Merriweather said Tuesday. "And you've got a quarterback like Sean Clifford who puts the ball in places where only his receivers can get it."

Clifford has thrown for 1,336 yards and 11 touchdowns. Six of those have gone to Dotson, who has 446 receiving yards on a Big Ten-leading 35 catches.

In the 28 games Clifford and Dotson have played in together since 2019, they've connected a program-record 18 times for touchdowns.

"It's pretty cool to hear when you break some sort of record," Dotson said. "Coming from a historic program like Penn State is literally what I came here for. Just have fun. Have fun with the guys, break records. It's all fun."

Clifford and Dotson broke the record of 17 TD connections set by Todd Blackledge and Kenny Jackson in 1980-82.

"There's been really good football played here for a long time,"

No. 4 Penn State (5-0) at No. 3 Iowa (5-0)
AFN-Atlantic
10 p.m. Saturday CET
5 a.m. Sunday JKT

Nittany Lions coach James Franklin said, "so when you can break a record or do something that's never been done here before, to me, it says something, so that's a great stat."

Of the 18 touchdowns Clifford and Dotson have teamed up on, all but two have come with Clifford set in the pocket. At least six have been deep balls where Dotson easily beat one-on-one coverage.

"I think the first thing is Jahan's good," Franklin said. "That helps. Then, I think the combination of Jahan's talent and the time that Sean and Jahan have spent together, whether it's on the practice field, whether it's watching film, whether it's in meetings. And then, they've played a lot of games."

Dotson is adept at creating space between himself and the defender, Clifford said, and he has great hands.

"And then he's fast," Clifford said. "I mean, he's just the whole package. He's the best wide receiver in the country."

Clifford and Dotson have played against the Hawkeyes the last two seasons.

In 2020, a 41-21 Iowa win, Clifford threw for 174 yards and two touchdowns but was picked off twice, and Dotson had eight catches for 139 yards and a TD.

In 2019, a 17-12 Penn State win, Clifford was just 12-for-24 for 117 yards with a touchdown, and Dotson wasn't much of a factor with two catches.

Merriweather said he's confident the Hawkeyes will be prepared for what Clifford and Dotson throw at them. They also have to contend with another talented receiver in Parker Washington, who has 25 catches for 331 and two touchdowns.

"It's just film study," Merriweather said. "We're in the film room with each other every single day, making sure we're on the same page with what we're reading, what our keys are, everything else."

The Hawkeyes picked off six passes in last Friday's 51-14 win at Maryland. The Terrapins' Taulia Tagovailoa was taken out of the game in the second half, making him the fourth starting quarterback who hasn't made it through an entire game against Iowa this season.

Tagovailoa had entered the game with 10 touchdowns against just one interception. But Iowa made him look bad.

Six different players picked off a pass, tying a school record for most players with a pick in a single game. The six interceptions were Iowa's most in a game since it had a school-record seven against Wisconsin in 1982.

AP freelance writer Travis Johnson in State College, Pa., contributed.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Coastal Carolina defenders C.J. Brewer, left, and Jeffrey Gunter celebrate after sacking Arkansas State quarterback James Blackman during the first half of Thursday's game in Jonesboro, Ark.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL WOODS/AP

No. 15 Coastal Carolina wallops Arkansas State

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

JONESBORO, Ark. — Grayson McCall threw a 99-yard touchdown pass on his first attempt and No. 15 Coastal Carolina beat Arkansas State 52-20 on Thursday night for its 11th straight victory.

McCall completed 18 of 23 passes for a career-high 365 yards and four touchdowns without an interception.

Isaiah Likely also had a big night, catching eight passes for 232 yards and four touchdowns — all career highs — and kicking the game off with the school-record 99-yarder.

He became the first tight end in Sun Belt Conference history with four touchdown catches in a game.

“I got the best quarterback in the nation, the best O-Line in the nation. The reason we score 50 points in a game is the chemistry,” Likely said. “Our mantra is to score as many points as we can. Score 50 points and get a burger. I love burgers.”

Coastal Carolina (6-0, 2-0 Sun Belt) also got scoring runs of 64 yards from Reese White and 67 yards from backup quarterback Bryce Carpenter — both career longs.

“I thought we played really well the first half and clamped them down,” Chanticleers coach Jamey Chadwell said.

The Chanticleers forced a punt on Arkansas State's game-opening drive and took over on the 1. A run up the middle went nowhere and on second down, McCall, standing in the middle of the end zone, lofted a pass to tight end Likely, who made the catch in stride just past the 20 and raced downfield untouched for the score.

“That was a great way to start,” Chadwell said.

Shermari Jones, back after missing two games to injury, rushed for 113 yards on 10 carries and dragged a defender into the end zone on a touchdown run from the 8.

Coastal Carolina rushed for 294 yards, averaging 8.2 yards per carry. The Chanticleers piled up 685 yards of total offense, holding Arkansas State (1-5, 0-2) to 273, including 18 on the ground.

“We've got to stop the run, we emphasized that all week,” Coastal Carolina defensive tackle C.J. Brewer



Coastal Carolina quarterback Bryce Carpenter breaks away from Arkansas State defenders as he runs for a touchdown.

said. “We want to make them one-dimensional and held them to 18 yards rushing.”

The takeaway

Coastal Carolina: The Chanticleers are 2-3 versus Arkansas State, earning their first win in Jonesboro. ... The Chanticleers entered Thursday's game allowing 286.6 yards per game, 16th-best in the nation. ... The defense held Arkansas State to minus-19 yards rushing in the first half, thanks in large part to three sacks, and ended with 18 yards rushing allowed ... Likely's four TD catches were the most in a game since Matt Hazel had three TD catches in 2010.

Arkansas State: Starting quarterback James Blackman, a transfer from Florida State, was in street clothes on the sideline when the teams came back for the second half. Blackman was 7-for-12 passing for 70 yards and was sacked three times for a loss of 35 yards.

WEEKEND PREVIEW

UConn brings 10-game losing streak to UMass

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

The last time UConn faced UMass was 2019 and it was a wild game.

The teams combined for 91 points and more than 900 yards as the Huskies beat the Minutemen 56-35. That was the last time UConn won a football game.

The Huskies bring a 10-game losing streak into the Saturday's game against UMass, which has lost 16 straight.

It won't be the best game of Week 6, but one of the longest losing streaks in the country will be broken and since neither team plays much defense it could be another wild one.

Elsewhere around the country, a top-five matchup in the Big Ten and the Big 12's biggest rivalry — at least for now — highlight the schedule.

Best game

No. 4 Penn State at No. 3 Iowa:

The first regular-season top-five matchup in the Big Ten that does not involve Michigan or Ohio State since a Wisconsin-Minnesota game in 1962 has both conference and playoff implications.

This probably won't be the prettiest game, with two of the Big Ten's best defenses facing offenses that have have various limitations.

The Hawkeyes have an 11-game winning streak in which they have allowed an average 12.8 points per game. The Nittany Lions come to Kinnick Stadium a week after shutting out Indiana and having held opponents scoreless on almost half their trips into the red zone.

Penn State senior Sean Clifford has been playing some of the best football of his career with 11 touchdown passes, but he'll need to be especially careful against an Iowa defense that leads the country in interceptions with 12.

Heisman watch

The Red River Rivalry between No. 6 Oklahoma and No. 21 Texas matches one rising Heisman Trophy contender against another who is still looking for a breakout game.

Sooners quarterback Spencer Rattler has been good, completing 76.2% of his passes with 10 touchdowns and four interceptions, but not quite the Heisman favorite he was touted as entering the season.

There's still time for the sophomore to surge and no better time to do it than against the rival Longhorns in a game that will go a long way toward sorting out the Big 12.

Meanwhile, Texas running back Bijan Robinson is second in

the nation in rushing at 130.4 yards per game and has scored nine touchdowns.

Numbers to know

0-9 — Utah's record at Southern California. The Utes visit the L.A. Coliseum on Saturday.

14 — Number of consecutive games against ranked teams Nebraska has lost. The Cornhuskers host No. 9 Michigan on Saturday.

100 — No. 1 Alabama's winning streak against unranked teams. The Tide can extend that streak at Texas A&M, which definitely wasn't what was expected when the Aggies started the season No. 6 in the country.

125 — The number of times No. 3 Georgia and No. 18 Auburn have played in the Deep South's Oldest Rivalry. Game 126 will be Saturday on The Plains. It will be just the second since 1936 that the Bulldogs and Tigers will play outside the month of November.

1944 — The last year No. 19 Wake Forest started a season 6-0. The unbeaten Demon Deacons look for their sixth victory at Syracuse.

Under the radar

UTSA at Western Kentucky:

The Roadrunners are 5-0 and look like Conference USA's best team. The Hilltoppers are 1-3.

Don't be fooled, though. Western Kentucky's losses have come against Army and two Big Ten teams (Indiana and Michigan State).

The Hilltoppers have the nation's leading passer in Bailey Zappe, averaging 428 yards per game, and UTSA has C-USA's best defense.

Hot seat

Geoff Collins is in his third season trying to transition Georgia Tech (2-3) from the option team it had been under



Collins

Paul Johnson. It's time to show progress, but the Yellow Jackets have been wildly inconsistent. They have lost to Northern Illinois and beaten

North Carolina. They played Clemson close in a low-scoring game and allowed 52 points in a blowout loss to Pittsburgh.

Georgia Tech goes to Duke on Saturday. The Blue Devils are 3-2, but that includes victories against Kansas, Northwestern and an FCS school.

This is a game Collins and Georgia Tech need if they're going to reach a bowl game.

NFL

Seahawks in limbo after loss of Wilson

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Of all the attributes that have made Russell Wilson one of the top quarterbacks in the NFL for several years, his durability has ranked high on the list. He has never missed a start, and only rarely not taken a snap. That streak of always being under center for the Seahawks could be at risk, depending on the severity of the finger injury sustained in Thursday night’s 26-17 loss to the Los Angeles Rams.

Seattle coach Pete Carroll called the injury to the middle finger on Wilson’s throwing hand a “badly sprained finger.” It was injured enough that Wilson couldn’t grip the ball the way he needed to in order to throw as Seattle needed while trying to rally in the fourth quarter.

So, Wilson became a spectator and Geno Smith took over. “He’s a great competitor. Guy didn’t want to come out of the game, and that says a lot about this man,” Smith said of Wilson. “He’s tough as nails. And when I was out there, he was as supportive as I am for him.”



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

According to Seahawks coach Pete Carroll, quarterback Russell Wilson suffered a “badly sprained finger” on his throwing hand, which caused him to have to sit out as Seattle tried to rally in the fourth quarter of Thursday’s 26-17 loss to the Los Angeles Rams.

The last time someone other than Wilson took a meaningful snap for the Seahawks was the 2011 season. He has missed only a handful of plays here and there during his career, playing through numerous injuries that may have sidelined other QBs.

Wilson may have no choice this time. He stayed on the sideline during the fourth quarter as Smith tried to engineer a comeback, meaning the team had not put Wilson through the run of tests needed to determine the severity of the injury.

Wilson was hurt during the

third quarter, when his fingers hit Aaron Donald’s arm on the follow through of a pass that nearly went for a touchdown, but was slightly overthrown.

Wilson remained in for one more series and attempted one pass. He was sacked on third-and-5 by Donald and never took another snap.

“The marvelous part about it is his attitude about how he approaches it,” Carroll said. “I mean, he is going to heal himself, and he is the epitome of the mentality taking control of how your body functions.”

Smith finished 10-for-17 for 131 yards in one quarter of action. Seattle has the benefit of a long weekend to set its plans moving forward. But sitting at 2-3, the next three weeks with games at Pittsburgh and home against New Orleans and Jacksonville seem like must-win games for the Seahawks playing in the NFC West.

“I went right to Geno afterward and just said you’ve been waiting a long time for your opportunity, the faith that you’ve shown in our program and us, to stay with us and all that,” Carroll said. “So proud that when he got in there, he did great.”

Manage: Rams finish with 476 yards of offense

FROM PAGE 24

first lead of the game.

And after Seattle (2-3) pulled to 16-14 in the fourth quarter, Stafford was 4-for-4 for 71 yards on the ensuing drive leading to Sony Michel’s 2-yard touchdown run with 6:08 remaining.

Robert Woods had 12 catches for 150 yards and the Rams won their second straight in Seattle after last January’s playoff victory over the Seahawks.

“He was big when we were backed up, made some explosive plays,” Stafford said about Woods. “He played great tonight.”

The Rams finished with 476 yards of offense, the most they’ve amassed in their last 20 games since Week 3 vs Buffalo in 2020 when they had 478. It’s also their third-biggest offensive game in the last two calendar years since Week 5 at Seattle in 2019 when they posted 477 yards.

Seattle pulled to 23-17 on Jason Myers’ field goal from 32 yards with 2:45 left. Seattle forced a quick punt after Carlos Dunlap batted down Stafford’s third-down pass.

But Smith couldn’t lead a storybook final drive, with his first pass intercepted by Nick Scott as Tyler Lockett tripped making his break. Smith was 10-for-17 for 131 yards in the fourth quarter.

“I really thought we had a chance and I thought we were going to come back and get it done. Unfortunately, we didn’t,” Smith said.



STEPHEN BRASHEAR/AP

Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford threw for 365 yards and a touchdown in a 26-17 win over the Seahawks on Thursday.

Smith was needed because Wilson’s fingers hit Aaron Donald’s arm on the follow through of a pass that nearly went for a touchdown but was slightly overthrown midway through the third quarter.

Wilson remained in for one more series and attempted one pass. He was sacked on third-

and-5 by Donald, No. 88½ of his career setting a new franchise record — although the Rams’ records don’t include Deacon Jones as sacks weren’t an official stat when he played. Wilson never took another snap and finished 11-for-16 for 152 yards, one touchdown and his first interception of the season.

“It felt good and it’s a blessing. It’s even better when you can accomplish something like that coming off a divisional win,” Donald said of the record.

Smith entered with Seattle backed up at its own 2. Since arriving in Seattle at the start of the 2019 season, Smith had thrown a total of five passes, all of them coming in a blowout win over the Jets last season.

On his first drive, Smith was perfect. He was 5-for-5 for 72 yards, the last a 23-yard strike to DK Metcalf for his second touchdown of the game with 9:23 remaining to pull Seattle to 16-14.

Key penalty: Seattle appeared to take a 14-3 lead at the end of the first half but a 15-yard touchdown pass to Lockett was called back on a holding penalty against Duane Brown. Jason Myers then missed a 35-yard field goal and the Seahawks had to settle for a 7-3 halftime advantage.

Injuries: Rams CB Darious Williams suffered an ankle injury in the fourth quarter and did not return. ... Seattle played without starting RB Chris Carson due to a neck issue.

Scoreboard

American Conference							
East							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Buffalo	3	1	0	.750	134	44	
Miami	1	3	0	.250	62	109	
N.Y. Jets	1	3	0	.250	47	94	
New England	1	3	0	.250	71	70	
South							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Tennessee	2	2	0	.500	95	111	
Houston	1	3	0	.250	67	116	
Indianapolis	1	3	0	.250	83	97	
Jacksonville	0	4	0	.000	74	115	
North							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Baltimore	3	1	0	.750	105	92	
Cincinnati	3	1	0	.750	92	75	
Cleveland	3	1	0	.750	100	67	
Pittsburgh	1	3	0	.250	67	93	
West							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Denver	3	1	0	.750	83	49	
L.A. Chargers	3	1	0	.750	95	74	
Las Vegas	3	1	0	.750	104	100	
Kansas City	2	2	0	.500	134	125	
National Conference							
East							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Dallas	3	1	0	.750	126	97	
Washington	2	2	0	.500	101	122	
N.Y. Giants	1	3	0	.250	83	95	
Philadelphia	1	3	0	.250	94	106	
South							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Carolina	3	1	0	.750	97	66	
Tampa Bay	3	1	0	.750	122	105	
New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	94	69	
Atlanta	1	3	0	.250	78	128	
North							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Green Bay	3	1	0	.750	95	100	
Chicago	2	2	0	.500	64	91	
Minnesota	1	3	0	.250	94	92	
Detroit	0	4	0	.000	81	119	
West							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Arizona	4	0	0	1.000	140	85	
L.A. Rams	4	1	0	.800	141	116	
San Francisco	2	2	0	.500	107	102	
Seattle	2	3	0	.400	120	126	

Thursday’s game

L.A. Rams 26, Seattle 17

Sunday’s games

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

Monday’s game

Indianapolis at Baltimore



CRAIG MITCHELLEDYER/AP

Rams tight end Tyler Higbee celebrates after scoring against the Seahawks on Thursday.

MLB PLAYOFFS



STEVE HELBER/AP

The Tampa Bay Rays' Randy Arozarena slides past Boston Red Sox catcher Christian Vazquez as he steals home Thursday during the seventh inning of Game 1 of their American League Division Series in St. Petersburg, Fla. Arozarena also hit a home run in the Rays' 5-0 victory.

Arozarena shines, Rays blank Boston in Game 1

By FRED GOODALL
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Randy Arozarena is off and running in October again.

The rookie showstopper became the first player to hit a home run and steal home in a postseason game, propelling the Tampa Bay Rays to a 5-0 victory over the Boston Red Sox in their AL Division Series opener Thursday night.

The breakout star of October last year, Arozarena made a breathtaking dash to the plate for the first straight steal of home in the postseason since Jackie Robinson did it for the Brooklyn Dodgers against Yogi Berra and the New York Yankees in the 1955 World Series, according to the FS1 broadcast.

"I noticed the pitcher wasn't really keeping his attention to me. So I was able to take a big enough lead and be able to take that base," Arozarena said through a translator. "That's the first time I've ever stolen home."

Nelson Cruz also homered — off a Tropicana Field catwalk — and rookie Shane Bieber pitched five stellar innings for the AL East champions. Looking comfortable and confident all night, several Rays even snacked on popcorn in the dugout during the game.

Game 2 in the best-of-five series was Friday night.

Wander Franco also sparkled in his playoff debut, delivering an

Scoreboard

Playoffs	
x-if necessary	
WILD CARD	
American League	
Boston 6, New York 2	
National League	
Los Angeles 3, St. Louis 1	
DIVISION SERIES (Best-of-five)	
American League	
Tampa Bay 1, Boston 0	
Thursday: Tampa Bay 5, Boston 0	
Friday: at Tampa Bay	
Sunday: at Boston AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.	
x-Monday: at Boston	
x-Wednesday: at Tampa Bay	
Houston 1, Chicago 0	
Thursday: Houston 6, Chicago 1	
Friday: at Houston	
Sunday: at Chicago AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.	
Monday CET; 9 a.m. Monday JKT	
x-Monday: at Chicago	
x-Wednesday: at Houston	
National League	
San Francisco vs. Los Angeles	
Friday: at San Francisco	
Saturday: Los Angeles (TBD) at San Francisco (Gausman 14-6) AFN-Sports, 3 a.m. Sunday CET; 10 a.m. Sunday JKT	
Monday: at Los Angeles	
x-Tuesday: at Los Angeles	
x-Thursday, Oct. 14: at San Francisco	
Milwaukee vs. Atlanta	
Friday: at Milwaukee	
Saturday: Atlanta (Fried 14-7) at Milwaukee (Woodruff 9-10) AFN-Sports, 11 p.m. Saturday CET; 6 a.m. Sunday JKT	
Monday: at Atlanta	
x-Tuesday: at Atlanta	
x-Thursday, Oct. 14: at Milwaukee	

early RBI double that sent the speedy Arozarena home from first base to get the defending AL champs off to a quick start.

Arozarena, a 26-year-old Cuban who still qualifies as a rookie despite setting postseason records with 10 homers and 29 hits in 20 games a year ago, capped another exhilarating performance by stealing home against lefty reliever Josh Taylor to make it 5-0 in the

seventh inning.

"I think it just happens. You know, I just focus a little bit more," Arozarena said about his postseason prowess. "Luckily, it's happening in October. That means it's closer to the World Series."

It was the first steal of home of any kind in a playoff game since Javier Báez did it for the Chicago Cubs against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 1 of the 2016 NLCS.

Báez took a big lead off third base, drawing a pickoff attempt from catcher Carlos Ruiz. As soon as Ruiz let go of the ball, Báez scampered home and beat an off-balance throw from third baseman Justin Turner to the plate.

Marquis Grissom stole home for Cleveland to end Game 3 of the 1997 ALCS against Baltimore when Omar Vizquel missed a squeeze bunt and the ball deflected off the catcher's mitt.

"This game is all about history, and any time you are putting your name in those categories like Randy has, I've never seen anything like it in 2020, and hopefully I'll say that here at the end of 2021," Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash said.

With one of the lowest payrolls in baseball and a roster lacking household names, the Rays are in the playoffs for a third straight year after winning a franchise-record 100 games and their second consecutive AL East title.

McCullers, Astros outduel White Sox

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Lance McCullers Jr. was terrific. Yordan Alvarez delivered, and Jose Altuve scored on a nifty slide.

The Houston Astros sure love October.

McCullers pitched scoreless ball into the seventh inning, and the Astros beat Lance Lynn and the Chicago White Sox 6-1 in Game 1 of their AL Division Series on Thursday.

Michael Brantley added two hits and two RBIs as the AL West champions showed off their playoff experience in an impressive opening performance. McCullers allowed four hits in 6⅔ innings in his eighth career postseason start.

"You get the ball in Game 1 and your team is expecting this from you," McCullers said.

While Houston is in the playoffs for the fifth straight season, winning the World Series in 2017 and making it to the AL Championship Series last year, Chicago is making a second straight playoff appearance for the first time in franchise history. It lost to Oakland in the first round in 2020.

Game 2 of the best-of-five series was Friday in Houston. The teams also met in the 2005 World Series, with the White Sox sweeping the Astros for the title.

It was Houston's eighth straight win in the opener of the division series dating to Game 1 of the 2004 NLDS against Atlanta.

"Everyone did their part, did their thing and we came out with a great win," McCullers said.

McCullers, playing the role of staff ace after the Astros lost Gerrit Cole in free agency and Justin Verlander to injury in recent years, struck out four and walked none. He set career highs with 13 wins, a 3.16 ERA and 185 strikeouts during the regular season, but he also led the AL with 76 walks.

The 28-year-old McCullers didn't allow a hit until Yoán Moncada singled with one out in the



PHOTOS BY DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Astros starter Lance McCullers Jr. pitched scoreless ball into the seventh inning Thursday during Game 1 of their American League Division Series against the Chicago White Sox in Houston.

fourth. The right-hander left to a standing ovation after giving up consecutive singles with two outs in the seventh. He waved to the cheering fans just before entering the dugout.

"The numbers speak for themselves," White Sox manager Tony La Russa said. "We didn't do much with him."

Alvarez hit an RBI double in the third and a solo homer in the fifth. Manager Dusty Baker is thrilled to have the 2019 AL Rookie of the Year back this season after he missed all but two games last year after surgery on both knees.

"You don't know when he's going to leave the yard and he's going to drive in some big runs," Baker said. "So, yeah life wasn't too pleasant last year without Yordan."

The 24-year-old Alvarez watched Houston's 2020 playoff run on television.

"To be able to be back with the team and be able to help it out is really special for me," he said through a translator.



Houston Astros designated hitter Yordan Alvarez runs the bases after hitting an RBI double that scored Alex Bregman during the third inning. Alvarez also homered in the Astros' 6-1 victory.

SPORTS



Can Lightning strike thrice?
'Champa Bay' favored to win third straight championship » **NHL, Page 18**



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN BRASHEAR, TOP, AND CRAIG MITCHELLDYER, BOTTOM/AP
Los Angeles Rams RB Sony Michel, left, and QB Matt Stafford celebrate scoring against the Seahawks as TE Tyler Higbee (89) looks on during Thursday's 26-17 victory in Seattle.

Rams manage way past Seahawks

QB Stafford pushes through injury to throwing hand, leads LA to win over division rival

By **TIM BOOTH**
Associated Press

Mattew Stafford was able to manage the discomfort with the finger on his throwing hand and pick apart the Seattle Seahawks' beleaguered defense.

Meanwhile, Russell Wilson was left as a spectator. His own finger injury was too severe for Seattle's star quarterback to continue against the division rival.

"It was just a little bit out of place and was able to put it back in and keep going," Stafford said. "It didn't affect me too much, to be honest with you."

Stafford seemed just fine, throwing for 365 yards and a touchdown and the Rams beat the Seahawks 26-17 on Thursday night in a game Wilson left in the second half with the finger injury on his throwing hand.

Wilson missed significant game time due to injury for the first time after injuring the middle finger on his throwing hand. Wilson was hurt by contact on a follow-through mid-

way through the third quarter. He attempted to direct one more drive before turning the game over to backup Geno Smith.

Seattle coach Pete Carroll said it was a "badly sprained finger," and that further tests would be coming.

"He wasn't able to hold on to the football the way he needed to, to throw," Carroll said.

Held to just three points in the first half for only the fifth time in the regular season under Sean McVay, the Rams (4-1) woke up in the final 30 minutes and rebounded from their first loss of the season last Sunday to Arizona.

Stafford said his finger first started bothering him in the second quarter, but was manageable. He threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Higbee late in the third quarter to give the Rams a 16-7 lead. Stafford hit DeSean Jackson for 68 yards earlier in the quarter on third-and-10 that led to Darrell Henderson's 5-yard run that gave Los Angeles its

SEE MANAGE ON PAGE 22



Seattle Seahawks QB Russell Wilson

INSIDE

Wilson's injury leaves Seattle in limbo following loss to LA » **Page 22**

Rays top BoSox, Astros beat White Sox in openers » **MLB playoffs, Page 23**