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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

General: China aims to exploit troops

US warns current, ex-service members of Beijing's sly attempts to cull defense experience

BY DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

China's military is conducting a sophisticated exploitation campaign designed to "fill gaps" in its capabilities by targeting current and former U.S. service members and harvesting specialized knowledge they've gained, a top general



Brown

warned in a message obtained by The Washington Post.

The document was distributed to Air Force personnel on Friday. It marks the

Pentagon's most direct attempt yet to call out and counter what U.S. officials characterized as an aggressive ploy by Beijing to leverage international firms that hire Americans to teach advanced military skills and tactics.

Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., who heads the Air Force and is Presi-

dent Joe Biden's nominee to lead the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in the message that foreign companies doing business with the Chinese government are "targeting and recruiting U.S. and NATO-trained military talent across specialties and career fields."

"By essentially training the

trainer, many of those who accept contracts with these foreign companies are eroding our national security, putting the very safety of their fellow service members and the country at risk," Brown wrote, appealing to the recipients' sense

SEE EXPLOIT ON PAGE 7

Crews scour for survivors after quake in Morocco

BY SAM METZ
AND MOSA'AB ELSHAMY
Associated Press

AMIZMIZ, Morocco — An aftershock rattled Moroccans on Sunday as they prayed for victims of the nation's strongest earthquake in more than a century and toiled to rescue survivors while soldiers and workers brought water and supplies to desperate mountain villages in ruins. The disaster killed more than 2,100 people — a number that is expected to rise.

The United Nations estimated that 300,000 people were affected by Friday night's magnitude 6.8 quake and some Moroccans complained on social networks that the government wasn't allowing more help from outside. International aid crews were prepared to deploy, but waited for the Morocco government to request their assistance.

"We know there is a great urgency to save people and dig under the remains of buildings," said Arnaud Fraisse, founder of Res-



MOSA'AB ELSHAMY/AP

SEE QUAKE ON PAGE 12

People affected by an earthquake camp outside their homes in Moulay Brahim village, near Marrakech, Morocco, on Saturday.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Strike deadline looms as auto union rejects offers

Associated Press

DETROIT — The United Auto Workers union on Friday rejected wage and benefit offers from all three Detroit automakers, raising tensions just days before a strike deadline for 146,000 employees. Union President Shawn Fain told workers in a Facebook Live appearance that he filed proposals from Ford, General Motors and Stellantis in a wastebasket.

Negotiations were continuing through the weekend, but Fain warned that if there aren't agree-

ments by 11:59 p.m. Thursday “there will be a strike at all three if need be.”

On Friday, Stellantis, formerly Fiat Chrysler, made its first counteroffer to the union's demands with a bigger pay raise than offers from Ford and General Motors. Stellantis offered wage increases in each year of a new four-year contract totaling 14.5%.

Ford increased its offer from 9% to 10% raises over four years, but it also included lump sum payments, while GM's offered 10%

plus lump sums. All three companies offered additional lump sum payments to cover inflation.

The wage increases would be for most workers, said Mark Stewart, chief operating officer of Stellantis North America, said in a letter to employees.

The proposal by Stellantis also includes a \$6,000 one-time inflation protection payment in the first year of the contract and \$4,500 in inflation protection payments over the final three years of the contract.

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| Euro costs (Sept. 11) | \$1.04 | Switzerland (Franc) | 0.8935 |
| British pound (Sept. 11) | \$1.22 | Thailand (Baht) | 35.62 |
| Japanese yen (Sept. 11) | 144.00 | Turkey (NewLira) | 26.8482 |
| South Korean won (Sept. 11) | 1300.00 | | |
| Commercial rates | | | |
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3769 | | |
| Britain (Pound) | 1.2452 | | |
| Canada (Dollar) | 1.3643 | | |
| China (Yuan) | 7.3437 | | |
| Denmark (Krone) | 6.9706 | | |
| Egypt (Pound) | 30.9019 | | |
| Euro | 1.0698 | | |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.8397 | | |
| Hungary (Forint) | 360.43 | | |
| Israel (Shekel) | 3.8443 | | |
| Japan (Yen) | 147.84 | | |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.3085 | | |
| Norway (Krone) | 10.6855 | | |
| Philippines (Peso) | 56.71 | | |
| Poland (Zloty) | 4.31 | | |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7511 | | |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.3663 | | |
| South Korea (Won) | 1336.90 | | |

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

| INTEREST RATES | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Prime rate | 8.50 |
| Interest Rates Discount rate | 6.00 |
| Federal funds market rate | 5.33 |
| 3-month bill | 5.47 |
| 30-year bond | 4.37 |

WEATHER OUTLOOK



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PACIFIC



KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, KOREA NEWS SERVICE/AP

A conference gathers Friday to mark the nation's 75th founding anniversary in Pyongyang, North Korea.

Kim hosts Chinese, Russian guests at North Korea's 75th anniversary

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea invited visiting Chinese delegates and Russian artists to a paramilitary parade featuring rocket launchers pulled by trucks and tractors, state media said Saturday, in leader Kim Jong Un's latest effort to display his ties with Moscow and Beijing in the face of deepening confrontations with Washington.

The event in the capital, Pyongyang, which began Friday night to celebrate North Korea's 75th founding anniversary that fell on Saturday, came amid expectations that Kim will travel to Russia soon for a meeting with President Vladimir Putin that could focus on North Korean arm sales to refill reserves drained by the Kremlin's war on Ukraine.

While China has sent a delegation led by Vice Premier Liu Guozhong to North Korea's anniversary celebrations, Russia sent a military song and dance group.

South Korean media speculated that the lack of Russian government officials at the festivities in Pyongyang could be related to preparations for a summit between Kim and Putin, which Washington expects within the month.

Putin is expected to attend an international forum that runs from Sunday to Wednesday in the eastern city of Vladivostok, which was also the site of his first summit with Kim in 2019 and is now seen as a possible venue for their next meeting.

South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers in a closed-door briefing Thursday that North Korea and Russia could also be arranging an unexpected "surprise" route for Kim's visit to avoid potential venues reported by media.

North Korea has not confirmed any plans for Kim to visit Russia.

"Whether or not a Putin-Kim summit soon follows, the United States is attempting to deter serious violations of international law

by preemptively releasing intelligence," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

The growing cooperation between China, Russia and North Korea, and Chinese President Xi Jinping's decision to skip the Group of 20 Summit in India, give the appearance of a widening fissure in Asia's geopolitical landscape, he said.

Still, a major Russia-North Korea arms deal, which would breach numerous international sanctions, should worry Beijing because "association with an emerging pariah state bloc could have negative repercussions for China's globalized but struggling economy," Easley said.

KCNA said Kim received letters from Putin and Xi on the anniversary, where both leaders said that their countries' strengthening ties with North Korea would contribute to the region's peace and stability.

US, S. Korea, Japan to speed missile warnings

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Defense chiefs from the United States, South Korea and Japan agreed Thursday to "accelerate" the sharing of real-time, missile-warning data and to plan additional joint military drills.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, South Korean Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup and Japanese Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada called Thursday for increased military cooperation amid ongoing threats from North Korea, which "is highly likely to continue provoking in the future," according to a summary of their talks from Seoul's military.

North Korea has fired 19 ballistic missiles so far this year in 13 separate days of testing.

The communist regime last fired two short-range ballistic missiles that flew roughly 220 miles before splashing into the Sea of Japan, or East Sea, on Aug. 30.

The defense chiefs agreed that North Korea's failed Aug. 24 launch of a military reconnaissance satellite, which fell into the Yellow Sea, was "an illicit act to flagrantly breach" U.N. Security Council resolutions prohibiting the country from testing rockets using ballistic missile technology, the readout said.

The chiefs planned to address the regime's actions by "further strengthening the three countries' reaction capabilities and posture against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats" and to conduct trilateral military drills "as soon as possible," the readout added.

The three nations' armed forces trained together Aug. 29, five days after North Korea's failed satellite launch.

Three warships equipped with the Aegis Combat System — the USS Benfold, South Korea's Yulgok Yi I and Japan's JS Haguro — tracked a simulated North Korean ballistic missile in international waters south of Jeju Island, a South Korean territory, to improve the navies' ability to react, Seoul's National Defense Ministry said at the time.

Austin, Lee and Hamada agreed to accelerate a process for sharing information about North Korean missile launches as they happen.

During their first summit at the Camp David presidential retreat last month, President Joe Biden, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida agreed to "operationalize our sharing of missile warning data on [North Korea] in real-time" by the end of 2023, according to a joint statement on Aug. 18.

The allies' plan for more trilateral drills follows reports that North Korea, Russia and China may carry out similar exercises.

South Korean National Intelligence Service director Kim Kyounghyun told lawmakers at a closed-door briefing that Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu floated the idea to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in July, a Seoul lawmaker who attended the meeting told reporters Monday.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.
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N. Korea says latest sub can launch nukes, but some doubt

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Friday its new submarine has nuclear attack capabilities after years of development. Leader Kim Jong Un described the milestone as crucial in his efforts to build a nuclear-armed navy to counter the United States and its Asian allies.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said the vessel, named "Hero Kim Kun Ok," is designed to launch tactical nuclear weapons from underwater but did not specify the number of mis-

siles it could carry and fire.

South Korean officials were skeptical that the submarine would work as North Korea described and said it likely wasn't ready for operational duty. Still, the vessel's development underscored how the North continues to potentially extend the range of its nuclear arsenal with systems that are harder to detect in advance.

Based on Kim Jong Un's comments and photos by North Korean state media, it's likely the submarine is the same one Kim inspected in 2019 while it was under construction. At the time, experts

assessed it as an effort to convert an existing Romeo-class submarine.

The submarine appears to have at least 10 launch tubes — four of them apparently larger than the other six — that are possibly designed for missiles.

"This submarine, though heavily modified, is based on 1950s Soviet-origin technology and will have inherent limitations. Nevertheless, in terms of complicating the targeting challenges that the U.S. and its allies will face, the submarine will serve North Korea's purposes," said Ankit Panda,

an expert with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In recent years, North Korea tested a variety of missiles designed to be fired from submarines as it pursued the ability to conduct nuclear strikes from underwater.

In theory, such capacity would bolster its deterrent by ensuring a survivable capability to retaliate after absorbing a nuclear attack on land.

Ballistic missile submarines would also add a maritime threat to the North's growing collection of solid-fuel weapons fired from

land vehicles that are designed to overwhelm missile defenses in South Korea and Japan.

Still, it would take considerable time, resources and technological improvements for the heavily sanctioned nation to build a fleet of at least several submarines that could travel quietly and execute attacks reliably, analysts say.

Satellite photos analyzed by The Associated Press on Friday placed the submarine and the ceremony that Kim took part in the eastern port city of Sinpo, where North Korea runs a major shipyard developing submarines.

MILITARY

Yokota base rehearses mass evacuation

BY KELLY AGEE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Air Force spouse Stephanie Saylor volunteered to take part in a two-day evacuation drill recently for families and other noncombatants at this airlift hub in western Tokyo.

Saylor, of Poquoson, Va., is new to Japan.

“I’ve never lived on an island, and there are some potential earthquakes and volcanoes ... I just wanted to know what would happen if we did need to evacuate,” she told Stars and Stripes on the first day of the exercise Thursday.

“I wanted to have more information so that, hopefully, I can better prepare our family for the possibility, which hopefully is not really a need,” she said.

The exercise tests Yokota’s plan to evacuate some of its people from harm’s way, be it an earthquake, volcanic eruption or a conflict with another country. Maj. Jazmine Hood, emergency evacuation program manager for the drill, told Stars and Stripes on Friday.

Yokota evacuated some of its people after the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan that crippled a nuclear power plant and released radiation into the atmosphere.

The base became a transportation hub for thousands of military dependents who returned to the United States, and the primary logistical hub for Operation Tomodachi, the U.S. humanitarian assistance effort after the disaster.



AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

Service members and their families take part in an evacuation exercise at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Thursday.

“So, we are fortunate in the sense that some of our leadership was here for the earthquake in 2011 and their families actually evacuated,” Capt. Mark Moore, director of the evacuation control center, said Friday. “So, it is very near and dear to our leaderships’ hearts; the wing here takes it

very seriously.”

The 79 volunteers role-played as evacuees; another 60 people set up and ran the evacuation center. The Yujo Community Center served as the processing center where the volunteers went through the steps of providing correct documentation

and acquiring financial, medical and spiritual support.

David Garrison, regional program manager for the American Red Cross, manned a Red Cross booth during the drill. He helped with disaster relief during the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

“I think if people had been a little bit more prepared, things would have gone a little smoother,” he said Thursday. “There were so many people that weren’t prepared. It could happen here, and it is likely it is going to happen again.”

Aki Iwata, a veterinarian at Yokota, was also present during the 2011 disaster that killed tens of thousands of Japanese people. At the drill, she reminded people to make pets part of their evacuation plan.

Pet owners should ensure their pets’ rabies shots and health certificates are up to date and have a noncombatant emergency evacuation card ready for the animals, she said. Printing services may be disabled during a disaster.

“No one wants to leave a pet, they are a part of the family,” Iwata said.

Yokota plans to hold the drill every year, according to Hood.

“We really want military members to understand that this impacts not only them but their families,” she said. “Thank goodness we have leadership support to actually get us to a place where we can say that Yokota is ready.”

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Japanese military mechanics learn US vehicle service

BY JUAN KING
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Training on vehicle maintenance with their Japanese counterparts is an insurance policy for airmen at this U.S. airlift hub in western Tokyo.

From bulldozers to airfield-repair vehicles, the 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron maintains approximately 1,000 government machines worth about \$180 million, according to Staff Sgt. Kevin Saelor, a squadron maintenance supervisor.

“If we were to go into wartime with minimal manning, if we needed assistance from our Japanese counterparts, conducting this training with them would essentially help us out,” he said during Thursday’s training.

Saelor and his colleagues joined their counterparts in the Japan Air Self-Defense Force for their first joint training session Thursday at Yokota. They

covered the fundamentals of maintenance and the regular service of government vehicles.

Saelor, Airman 1st Class Devin Downs and civilian mechanic Hitoshi Kobayakawa helped train four Japanese airmen at the Vehicle Management and Ground Transportation building. The day included shop familiarization, safety requirements and how to service aircraft deicers and snow brooms.

“Since we have our Japan Air Self-Defense Force on base, doing this training is good to build a close relationship with our counterparts here,” Saelor said.

Airmen keep government vehicles up and running on the installation year-round with extensive maintenance and seasonal rebuilds after heavy use, Master Sgt. Steffan Gray, the vehicle maintenance superintendent, said during the training.

The vehicles are mainly used to support missions at Yokota and several other Indo-Pacific



JUAN KING/Stars and Stripes

U.S. Air Force mechanics teach Japanese airmen about the Global Deicer and maintenance at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Thursday.

locations, including in Australia, Diego Garcia and Singapore.

“We plan to conduct this training with Japan’s Air Self-Defense Force as needed,” Gray said by email Thursday. “We are also coordinating to receive

training on their vehicles.”

Both services benefit from working together, said Capt. Ei-ichi Okubo, an Air Self-Defense Force security manager who took part in Thursday’s training.

“The partnership between Ja-

pan and U.S. is very important, so this type of opportunity is very good, and I am very happy about it,” he said.

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MILITARY

First upgraded Apaches arrive at Germany base

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The Army's mission in Europe now boasts the military's most state-of-the-art attack helicopter, with the recent delivery of the first of 24 new Apaches to the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade in Germany, U.S. Army Europe and Africa said Friday.

Two of the new models were delivered Sept. 1 at the Army's airfield in Wiesbaden, home to USAREUR-AF headquarters and a 12th CAB battalion.

Known as the AH-64E Version 6 Apache Guardian, the helicopter comes equipped with upgraded sensors, software and weapon systems.

"This new aircraft gives us so many more capabilities," 1st Lt. Brigit Duffy, a maintenance platoon leader with 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack Battalion), said in the USAREUR-AF statement. "There are upgrades on so many different aspects of the aircraft, which will better aid our abilities to support our allies here in the European theater."

The brigade, which is headquartered in Ansbach and has battalions at airfields in Katterbach, Grafenwoehr and Wiesbaden, is expected to eventually receive a total of two dozen new model



THOMAS MORT/U.S. Army

An Air Force C-17 transport plane lands at Wiesbaden Army Airfield in Germany on Sept. 1, carrying two AH-64E Apache Guardian helicopters for the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Apaches, the Army said.

Built by Boeing, the Apache has served as the backbone of the service's attack helicopter fleet for decades and can fire an array of armor-destroying rockets and missiles.

The Apache's upgraded instruments also will enhance troops' ability to navigate in bad weather, said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mi-

chael Weisskopf, the standardization officer for the brigade.

Pilots have received updated training at the Army Aviation Center of Excellence in Alabama to prepare to fly the new aircraft, the service said.

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Troops in Niger relocate to drone base

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

U.S. military personnel and equipment are moving out of a small base near Niger's capital of Niamey in a precautionary move that concentrates American forces at a more remote hub, the Pentagon said.

The repositioning, which is underway, comes amid a coup in Niger that has brought a halt to U.S. military operations in the country.

"There is no perceived threat ...

to U.S. troops and no threat of violence on the ground," Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said at a news briefing Thursday.

The move means nearly all of the roughly 1,100 American military personnel in Niger will be located at a base in Agadez, a \$110 million facility that serves as an intelligence gathering hub for U.S. Air Force drones. The site, which became operational in 2019, plays a key role in regional counterterrorism activities. But operations have stopped since the July coup.

"Our position remains the same, that we hope that the situation on the ground gets resolved diplomatically," Singh said.

Around the time of the military takeover, the U.S. military moved some of its nonessential personnel and contractors out of the country, Singh said. However, the military's "force posture" and total number of personnel remains unchanged, she said.

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Sergeant found dead on Marine base in Va.

By DOUG G. WARE
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Marine who was found dead earlier this month at a base in northern Virginia was identified as Sgt. Jaen Deshun Davis, 24, Marine officials said Thursday.

Davis, assigned to a reserve unit, 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, in Selfridge, Mich., was found inside his vehicle on Sept. 2

at Marine Corps Base Quantico, where he was attending a course at the Marine Corps University, a Marine statement said.

No cause of death was released.

Before joining the Michigan unit, Davis was assigned to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and 1st Marine Logistics Group at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, near San Diego.

The Marine Corps said Davis

had earned several decorations, including the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

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PHOTOS BY COLBY MOTHERSHEAD/U.S. Navy

The guided-missile destroyer USS Rafael Peralta fires an SM-2 missile during a Talisman Sabre drill in the Coral Sea on July 22.

Navy rearms warship at Australian port for 1st time

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy recently rearmed a warship with a missile at a port in southeast Australia, a sign of its increasing logistics options Down Under.

The guided-missile destroyer USS Peralta took on an SM-2 missile for the first time at the Australian navy wharf in Eden on Aug. 22, the 7th Fleet said in a news release Thursday. The port is about 230 miles south of Sydney.

The reloaded SM-2 — an air and surface defense missile — replaced one launched July 22 during at the start of the Talisman Sabre exercise in eastern Australia, Task Force 70 spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Seth Koenig told Stars and Stripes by email Friday.

"There is tremendous value in expanding the range of locations throughout the Indo-Pacific where U.S. Navy ships can rearm missiles while deployed," the Peralta's skipper, Cmdr. Charles Cooper, said in the release. "Increasing our options for reload sites provides increased flexibility across our mission sets and operating areas. Working closely with our Australian allies, we were able to successfully demonstrate this capability at Eden."

The Navy coordinated with the Australian Defence Force to transport and briefly store the missile ahead of the Rafael Peralta's arrival at Eden, Koenig said. He declined, citing concern for operational security, to say where the missile originated or how the process was coordinated.

"Our U.S.-Australia team then worked together to ensure the safe transportation to Eden, where a U.S. team from Navy Munitions Command Unit East Asia Division worked with the Royal Australian Navy to prepare it for the rearm and onload it to Rafael Peralta," he said.

After Talisman Sabre concluded Aug. 4, the Rafael Peralta, homeported at Yokosuka, remained close to Australia. It made a Sydney port call before heading to the sea phase of the Malabar exercise off Australia's eastern coast, according to the news release.

"We've worked hand-in-hand with the Australians through multiple exercises and engagements over the past month," Cooper said in the release. "It is inspiring to see how our teams have ... operated as a unified force."

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U.S. and Australian sailors and contractors inspect and prep an SM-2 missile to be loaded aboard the USS Rafael Peralta in Eden, Australia, on Aug. 22.

WAR IN UKRAINE

Russian shelling kills 2 foreign aid workers

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Two foreign aid workers were reportedly killed in eastern Ukraine on Sunday as Russian shelling hit a van carrying a team of four working with a Ukrainian nongovernmental organization, while dozens of Russian drones targeted Kyiv and wounded at least one civilian.

The four volunteers from the Road to Relief group, which helps evacuate wounded people from front-line areas, were trapped inside the van as it flipped over and caught fire after being struck by shells near the town of Chasiv Yar, the organization said on its Instagram page.

Road to Relief said that Anthony Ihnat of Canada died in the attack, while German medical volunteer Ruben Mawick and Swedish volunteer Johan Mathias Thyr were seriously wounded, it said.

Road to Relief added that it couldn't trace the whereabouts of the van's fourth passenger, Emma Igual, a Spanish national who was the organization's director. Hours later, Spain's acting Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares told Spanish media that authorities in Madrid had received "verbal confirmation" of the 32-year-old Igual's death.

The volunteers were on their way to assess the needs of civilians on the outskirts of Bakhmut, Road to Relief said, in reference to the eastern town that saw the war's longest and bloodiest battle before falling to Moscow in May. Ukrainian forces have held on to Bakhmut's western suburbs and are pushing a counteroffensive in the area.

Also on Sunday, Ukrainian officials reported that Russia launched "dozens" of drones at Kyiv and the surrounding region early in the

morning, wounding at least five civilians.

Ukraine's air force later said it had brought down 26 out of a total of 33 drones. The head of Kyiv's military administration, Serhii Popko, reported that debris from Iranian-made Shahed drones fell in several districts of the city and wounded at least one civilian. Popko said there was no risk to the person's life, and added that most of the wreckage fell in open ground, although one high-rise apartment was damaged.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko later confirmed that one civilian was wounded in the city's historic center and received help on the spot.

The governor of the Kyiv region, which surrounds but doesn't include the capital, also reported that the drone strike wounded four people across the province, one of whom had to be hospitalized. In a Facebook post, Gov. Ruslan Krav-

chenko said that the drones damaged an infrastructure facility as well as civilian buildings including homes and stores, a hospital, a rehabilitation center, a school and a kindergarten.

Russia's Defense Ministry said in the early hours of Sunday that Moscow's forces earlier destroyed three U.S.-supplied speedboats carrying Ukrainian soldiers that had been traveling toward Russian-occupied Crimea. The claim couldn't be independently verified. Earlier on Sunday, the ministry said in a separate statement that Russian air defenses shot down eight Ukrainian drones targeting Crimea, as well as another that flew over the Bryansk region bordering Ukraine.

On Aug. 24, Ukrainian military intelligence said that its special forces landed in Crimea, which Moscow illegally took from Ukraine in 2014, and raised the Ukrai-

nian flag along the peninsula's western shore before leaving "without casualties."

Ukrainian army representatives on Sunday reported further small gains near Robotyne in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, where Kyiv has mounted a counteroffensive, days after Russian-installed authorities acknowledged that Russian forces had left the village.

Oleksandr Shtupun, a press officer for Ukraine's Tauride Defense Forces, said on Ukrainian TV that Kyiv's troops had retaken a further 0.6 square miles near Rabotyne, and that heavy fighting is ongoing.

"The Russians are clinging to every meter of our Ukrainian land ... however, the Ukrainian Defense Forces are trying to make it as difficult as possible to supply the Russian army, and in certain areas this is bearing fruit," Shtupun said, without giving details.

Arcane Thunder an exercise in using, stopping tech

By PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

USTKA, Poland — Human-sized drones and a giant observation balloon took to the skies of northern Poland last week as a unit at the forefront of the Army's modernization process held its first major reconnaissance exercise.

Arcane Thunder is focused on using technology on earth and in space — while stopping an enemy from using theirs — and coordinating electronic means with conventional battlefield attacks.

The drills were scheduled to end Friday and involved soldiers from several Army units and partner countries. The 2nd Multi-Domain Task Force, which is running Arcane Thunder, was activated two years ago and is headquartered in Wiesbaden, Germany.

The task force is "taking things from the cyber world, from the space world, from the electronic warfare world and trying to figure out how to fuse all that stuff together," said Lt. Col. Aaron Ritzema, commander of the 2nd Multi-Do-



PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes

From right, Army Sgt. Justin Sestan, Staff Sgt. Karlos Vasquez and Spc. Jason Xia work with a satellite and monitoring device during exercise Arcane Thunder in Ustka, Poland, on Sept. 4.

main Effects Battalion.

"No one has ever done this on this scale and across all these different platforms," he said.

The 2nd Multi-Domain Task Force is one of three such units, which the Army deems vital to battlefield success as it focuses on

competition with larger and sophisticated forces, such as Russia and China.

The units are designed to allow the Army to synchronize electronic warfare, intelligence and cyber elements with long-range, precision artillery fire.

Inside the Arcane Thunder command post, soldiers search the electromagnetic spectrum for signals in an effort to pinpoint enemy targets. In another corner, members of the battalion's space company monitor satellites.

"The speed of data drives everything at this point," battalion operations officer Maj. Joe Mueller said. "If you are able to pass data quickly, you are able to make decisions quickly and you are able to have that edge and stay ahead."

Task force members have been experimenting with new and existing technologies, and new ways to merge these technologies, as they determine what best supports their nascent mission.

Many specifics of the exercise were classified or restricted for security reasons. Photography also was prohibited throughout much of the command post.

The 2nd Multi-Domain Task Force hopes eventually to get day-to-day operations at its headquarters to mirror the activity seen over the last two weeks in Poland, Ritzema said.

For now, the task force remains in its "initial build phase," as Ritzema described it. It still doesn't have a long-range fires battalion, a critical artillery component of the unit.

Both of the Army's other multi-domain task forces focus on the Pacific region. One is headquartered at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state and the other in Hawaii.

Europe was chosen as the site of the 2nd Multi-Domain Task Force in part to counter Russia on the Continent. Moscow began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine about five months after the unit's activation in September 2021.

"I think there is a sense of urgency for us to figure out how we can contribute," Ritzema said, when asked about the task force's role in Europe. "And I think the current crisis gives us some additional context and information that we can use to really figure out how specifically we would want to do things."

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Ammo, demolition equipment included in new \$600M Pentagon aid package

By DOUG G. WARE

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Thursday announced a new security aid package for Ukraine worth \$600 million that includes more hardware to improve the country's air defenses and electronic warfare capabilities.

The Defense Department said the new package is intended to "support Ukraine's battlefield needs" and "demonstrate unwavering U.S. support" for Kyiv in the

war against Russia, now in its 19th month.

"The United States will continue to work with its allies and partners to provide Ukraine with capabilities to meet its immediate battlefield needs and longer-term security assistance requirements," the Pentagon said in a statement.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, the United States has committed almost \$44 billion worth of aid, which has included weapons, ammunition, artillery

and various vehicles. The new aid package is being given through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which procures the equipment at the industry level rather than pulling them from Pentagon shelves.

Included in the latest package is new mine-clearing equipment, electronic warfare and counter-electronic warfare equipment and hardware to "sustain and integrate" Ukraine's air defense systems, the Pentagon said.

Also included in the new package is more ammunition for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, 105 mm artillery rounds, demolition munitions for clearing obstacles and equipment for training, maintenance and sustainment activities.

Most of the U.S. aid to Ukraine so far has been given through presidential drawdown authority, which takes the equipment from Pentagon stocks and is delivered more quickly to Eastern Europe on an emergency basis. When going

through USAI, the aid takes longer to deliver because it's produced by partners at the industry level.

The new aid came one day after the Pentagon pledged a different package worth up to \$175 million. That aid consisted of ammunition, including depleted uranium tank ammunition for the Abrams tanks once they arrive, and was given through presidential drawdown authority.

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MILITARY

Exploit: Agent views recruitment as ‘insidious’

FROM PAGE 1

of responsibility, even after leaving the armed forces, to protect “our national defense information.”

Officials declined to identify how many U.S. troops and veterans are thought to have been surreptitiously recruited by the Chinese, saying only that they have seen a worrisome rise in such activity.

A spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, Liu Pengyu, did not deny Brown’s assertions, saying in a statement that the Chinese government urges the United States “to respect the normal business activities carried out by relevant companies, and not to generalize and abuse the concept of national security and smear relevant companies.” U.S. officials in recent years have been “quick to accuse China,” he added, affecting “normal exchanges and cooperation” between the two countries in a way that is “not conducive to the healthy development” of bilateral relations.

A special agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations — who, like some others interviewed for this report, spoke on

the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive national security matter — said attempts by China’s military to exploit Americans have included marketing job openings to them that initially appear innocuous and approaching them directly at defense industry events.

While China routinely targets American pilots, the special agent said, veterans who’ve held other roles also are in demand. He cited former aerospace ground equipment maintainers and landing-signals officers as examples, jobs that entail handling specialized equipment and guiding pilots and their aircraft to safety.

The offers come from a mix of privately owned companies and those backed by the Chinese government, and are contracted by the Chinese government, officials said. The solicitations often include language that sounds customary in the defense sector.

A chief concern, the special agent said, is that some will rationalize that the work is legitimate even after they discover the connection to China’s military.

“We want to make sure that people understand: If it looks too good

to be true, it probably is,” he said, describing the effort as “insidious.”

Officials are urging current and former military personnel to report if they have been recruited to train foreign militaries.

Relations between Washington and Beijing have been strained for years, with the two powers divided on matters such as economic competition, climate change and, more recently, the war in Ukraine.

The concerns also have prompted the creation of a House select committee on China. Its chairman, Rep. Michael Gallagher, R-Wis., said in a statement on Friday that U.S. personnel must understand they are targets for espionage and exploitation. Information that Chinese military officials may gain, Gallagher said, could someday be used against them.

“Congress needs to work with the Department of Defense to educate our service members and ensure they do not help facilitate their own destruction,” said Gallagher, a Marine Corps veteran.

The Pentagon’s warning to U.S. personnel and veterans comes as senior leaders there have identified China as the United States’

“pacing threat,” expressing alarm over Beijing’s military advancements, and efforts to expand its global footprint and influence.

It follows, too, a move by the U.S. government in June to blacklist dozens of companies across the world for alleged ties to the Chinese government, including several aviation training firms.

Among them are Frontier Services Group, a Chinese state-owned company founded by Erik Prince, the former head of Blackwater Worldwide, and the Test Flying Academy of South Africa, which faced scrutiny after reports that it had hired Western military pilots to train Chinese aviators.

Frontier Services denied in June that it has used U.S. military personnel to train Chinese pilots. It did not respond to questions from The Post about whether it had hired former service members to do so.

The Test Flying Academy of South Africa said in a statement in June that it was “disappointed” in the decision by the U.S. Commerce Department and alleged that larger American companies also train Chinese pilots. It did not respond to requests for comment.

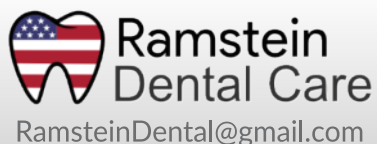
UK chides China after spy claims

Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Rishi Sunak chastised China’s premier on Sunday for “unacceptable” interference in British democracy, after a newspaper reported that a researcher in Parliament was arrested earlier this year on suspicion of spying for Beijing.

Sunak said he raised the issue with Premier Li Qiang when the two met at a Group of 20 summit in India. He told British broadcasters in New Delhi that he’d expressed “my very strong concerns about any interference in our parliamentary democracy, which is obviously unacceptable.”

The two men met after the Metropolitan Police force confirmed that a man in his 20s and a man in his 30s were arrested in March under the Official Secrets Act. Neither has been charged and both were bailed until October pending further inquiries. The Sunday Times reported that the younger man was a parliamentary researcher who worked with senior lawmakers from the governing Conservatives.



We remember and honor all those who lost their lives.

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NATION

Biden says Vietnam relations have evolved since war

Associated Press

HANOI — President Joe Biden opened his first visit to Vietnam on Sunday saying the two nations have a chance to shape the Indo-Pacific for decades to come — evidence of how far the relationship has evolved from what Biden referred to as the “bitter past” of the Vietnam War that ended almost a half-century ago.

Vietnam is elevating relations with the U.S. to the level of a comprehensive strategic partner, Vietnam’s highest tier of international partnership.

Biden, meeting with the country’s leaders, welcomed the move and said he hoped progress could be made on climate, the economy and other issues during his 24-hour visit to Hanoi.

“We can trace a 50-year arc of progress between our nations from conflict to normalization to this new elevated status,” Biden said as he and Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, announced the new relationship status at party headquarters.

The U.S. president, who has described himself as being part of the “Vietnam generation” al-

though he did not serve in a war, called Vietnam “a friend, a reliable partner and a responsible member of the international community.”

He noted that Vietnam War veterans such as John Kerry, Biden’s climate czar, and John McCain, the former Republican senator from Arizona, found ways to build a relationship with Vietnam after the war.

“Both men saw so clearly, as I and so many others did, how much we had to gain by working together to overcome a bitter past,” he said.

Trong pledged that his country will work hard to implement the agreement. “Only then can we say it is a success,” he pledged.

Biden earlier Sunday during a separate appearance with Trong had described the U.S. and Vietnam as “critical partners at what I would argue is a very critical time.” Neither leader specifically discussed how China’s economic and geopolitical rise had contributed to their countries’ newfound partnership, yet it was hard to explain the mutual embrace without China’s regional influence.

Vietnam has been looking for a



LUONG THAI LINH/AP

Vietnamese General Secretary of the Communist Party Nguyen Phu Trong, on podium front right, and President Joe Biden, on podium front left, attend a military welcome ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi, Vietnam, on Sunday.

counterbalance to its relationships with other countries. It previously bestowed the same level of relations on China and Russia. Elevating the U.S. to the same status suggests that Vietnam wants to hedge its friendships as U.S. and European companies look for alternatives to Chinese factories.

With China’s economic slowdown and President Xi Jinping’s consolidation of political power, Biden sees an opportunity to bring more nations — including Vietnam and Cambodia — into America’s orbit.

Biden arrived in Vietnam on Sunday and was welcomed with a pomp-filled ceremony outside the mustard-colored Presidential Palace. Scores of schoolchildren

lined the steps waving small U.S. and Vietnam flags and Biden watched from an elevated review stand as high-stepping members of the military marched past. He and Trong met afterward at Communist Party headquarters.

Both expressed happiness over seeing each other again after last meeting some eight years ago in Washington, said Biden, who then was vice president.

Trong sought to flatter Biden, who faces persistent questions at home about being 80 years old and running for reelection next year.

“You have nary aged a day, and I would say you look even better than before,” Trong said. “I would say every feature of you Mr. President is complementing your im-

age.” Biden chuckled.

Biden was given five draft deferments and was exempted from military service because he had asthma as a teenager.

Earlier Sunday, Jon Finer, Biden’s chief deputy national security adviser, addressed reports that Vietnam was pursuing a deal to buy weapons from Russia, even as it sought deeper ties to the United States. Finer acknowledged Vietnam’s lengthy military relationship with Russia and said the U.S. continues to work with Vietnam and other countries with similar ties to Russia to try to limit their interactions with a nation the U.S. accuses of committing war crimes and violating international law with its aggression in Ukraine.

NM governor issues order suspending right to carry firearms in public

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Friday issued an emergency order suspending the right to carry firearms in public across Albuquerque and the surrounding county for at least 30 days in response to a spate of gun violence.

The Democratic governor said she expects legal challenges but was compelled to act because of recent shootings, including the death of an 11-year-old boy outside a minor league baseball stadium last week.

Lujan Grisham said state police would be responsible for enforcing what amount to civil violations. Albuquerque police Chief Harold Medina said he won’t enforce it, and Bernalillo County Sheriff John Allen said he’s uneasy about it because it raises too many questions about constitutional rights.

The firearms suspension, classified as an emergency public

health order, applies to open and concealed carry in most public places, from city sidewalks to urban recreational parks.

The restriction is tied to a threshold for violent crime rates currently only met by the metropolitan Albuquerque.

Police and licensed security guards are exempt from the temporary ban.

Violators could face civil penalties and a fine of up to \$5,000, gubernatorial spokeswoman Caroline Sweeney said. Under the order, residents still can transport guns to some private locations, such as a gun range or gun store, provided the firearm has a trigger lock or some other container or mechanism making it impossible to discharge.

Lujan Grisham acknowledged not all law enforcement officials were on board with her decision.

“I welcome the debate and fight about how to make New Mexicans safer,” she said at a news confe-



EDDIE MOORE/AP

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, second from left, with Deputy Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Public Safety Benjamin Baker, left, and Albuquerque Police Chief Harold Medina, right, speaks during a news conference on Friday in Santa Fe, N.M.

rence, flanked by law enforcement officials.

John Allen said in a statement late Friday that he has reservations about the order but is ready to cooperate to tackle gun violence.

“While I understand and appreciate the urgency, the temporary ban challenges the foundation of our constitution, which I swore an oath to uphold,” Allen said. “I am wary of placing my deputies in positions that could lead to civil lia-

bility conflicts, as well as the potential risks posed by prohibiting law-abiding citizens from their constitutional right to self-defense.”

Enforcing the governor’s order also could put Albuquerque police in a difficult position with the U.S. Department of Justice regarding a police reform settlement, said police spokesman Gilbert Gallegos.

“All of those are unsettled questions,” he said late Friday.

Updated COVID shots are coming

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Updated COVID-19 vaccines are coming soon, just in time to pair them with flu shots. And this fall, the first vaccines for another scary virus called RSV are rolling out to older adults and pregnant women.

Doctors hope enough people get vaccinated to help avert another “triple-demic” like last year when hospitals were overwhelmed with an early flu season, an onslaught of RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, and yet another winter coronavirus surge.

Approval of updated COVID-19 shots is expected within days.

Similar to how flu shots are updated each year, the Food and Drug Administration gave COVID-19 vaccine makers a new recipe for this fall.

The COVID-19 vaccines offered since last year are combination shots targeting the original coronavirus strain and a much earlier omicron version, making them very outdated.

NATION

Rioter who carried zip-ties gets nearly 5 years

BY MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Tennessee bartender who carried plastic zip tie handcuffs and a stun gun into the Senate gallery on Jan. 6, 2021, where he was captured in one of the most widely shared photos of the U.S. Capitol riot, was sentenced on Friday to nearly five years in prison.

Eric Munchel, 32, was convicted of conspiracy and other charges alongside his mother, Lisa Eisenhart, 59, who was also sentenced on Friday to two-and-a-half years in prison.

The photo that went viral after the riot shows Munchel, who was dressed like a member of a SWAT team, jumping over a railing in the Senate gallery with a handful of zip-tie handcuffs in his hand. Lawmakers preparing to certify President Joe Biden's 2020 electoral victory had fled the Senate floor only minutes before rioters invaded the chamber.

"A photojournalist captured the moment in what has become an iconic picture from January 6, visually capturing the danger of the riot, to democracy in general and to our elected representatives in



This booking photo released by the Metro Nashville, Tenn., Police Department, shows Lisa Marie Eisenhart, left, and her son Eric Gavelek Munchel.

AP

particular," prosecutors wrote in a court filing. "Due to this photograph, Munchel is widely known on social media as 'Zip Tie Guy.'"

Prosecutors added that "it is terrifying to contemplate what Munchel and Eisenhart would have done if members of Congress had still been present in the Senate Chamber when they entered it."

U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth, who sentenced the pair, decided their case without a jury after a "stipulated bench trial." That means the judge based his rulings on facts that both sides agreed to before the trial started. The proceeding allows defendants to preserve appeal rights that they would have to waive if they pleaded guilty.

Munchel's prison term — four years and nine months behind bars — matched the sentence recommended by prosecutors. They also had recommended prison sentence of three years and 10 months for Eisenhart, of Woodstock Ga., who has worked as a nurse for over 30 years.

Before learning his sentence, Munchel told the judge that he went to Washington so he could protect his mother if any violence erupted.

"I know now that my actions were inexcusable and wrong," Munchel said.

Eisenhart, who didn't address the judge in court, locked arms with her son as they stood at a podium and listened to the judge impose their sentences.

The judge described Munchel and his mother as "basically good people" who accepted responsibility for their serious crimes.

Munchel and his mother traveled from Nashville, Tenn., to Washington, D.C., two days before then-President Donald Trump's Jan. 6 "Stop the Steal" rally near the White House.

Both of them wore tactical vests as they walked from their hotel to

join the Capitol siege, which disrupted the joint session of Congress for certifying President Joe Biden's electoral victory. Munchel also wore all-black paramilitary garb with a stun gun holstered on his hip.

Munchel bumped fists with a member of the anti-government Oath Keepers extremist group before he and his mother entered the Capitol through an emergency exit door. Inside, Munchel stole zip-tie handcuffs from a shelf and handed one to his mother.

Eisenhart shouted, "Treason!" and "Cowards!" while she and her son stood in the Senate gallery, about 30 minutes after lawmakers fled the chamber. Munchel was carrying a handful of zip-tie cuffs as he leaped over a banister in the gallery.

Munchel was "ready to take hostages," and his mother was prepared to help him and "show Congress who was really in charge," prosecutors said.

"The logical inference is that Munchel and Eisenhart wanted to use the zip tie handcuffs to capture their enemies: the members of Congress voting to certify the election."



JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

Violent rioters loyal to President Donald Trump storm the Capitol in Washington on Jan. 6, 2021.

Activist's son convicted of storming Capitol, invading Senate floor on 1/6

BY MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

The son of a prominent conservative activist has been convicted of charges that he stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, bashed in a window, chased a police officer, invaded the Senate floor and helped a mob disrupt the certification of Democrat Joe Biden's presidential election victory.

Leo Brent Bozell IV, 44, of Palmyra, Pa., was found guilty Friday of 10 charges, including five felony offenses, after a trial decided by a federal judge, according to the Justice Department.

Bozell's father is Brent Bozell III, who founded the Media Research Center, Parents Television Council and other conservative media organizations.

U.S. District Judge John Bates heard testimony without a jury before convicting Bozell of charges including obstructing the Jan. 6 joint session of Congress convened to certify the Electoral College vote that Biden won over then-President Donald Trump, a Republican.

Bozell was "a major contributor to the chaos, the destruction, and the obstruction at the Capitol on January 6, 2021," prosecutors said in a pretrial court filing.

Prosecutors said that before the riot, Bozell helped plan and coordinate events in Washington in support of Trump's "Stop the Steal" movement.

They said that after Trump's rally near the White House on Jan. 6, Bozell marched to the Capitol and joined a mob in breaking through a police line. He smashed a window next to the Senate Wing Door, creating an entry point for hundreds of rioters, according to prosecutors.

In a pretrial court filing, Bozell's lawyer denied that Bozell helped overwhelm a police line or engaged in any violence against police.

Navarro convicted of contempt after defying Jan. 6 subpoena

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Trump White House official Peter Navarro was found guilty Thursday of contempt of Congress charges for refusing to cooperate with a congressional investigation into the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

The verdict came after a short trial for Navarro, who served as a White House trade adviser under President Donald Trump and later promoted the Republican's baseless claims of mass voter fraud in the 2020 election he lost.

Navarro was the second Trump aide to face contempt of Congress charges after former White House adviser Steve Bannon. Bannon was convicted of two counts and was sentenced to four months behind bars, though he has been free pending appeal.

Navarro vowed to appeal the verdict, saying the "die was cast" after a judge ruled that he couldn't fight the charges by arguing he couldn't cooperate with the committee because Trump had invoked executive privilege.

U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta found that Navarro didn't have enough evidence to show Trump had invoked it.

"This is a landmark case that's bound for the Supreme Court," Navarro said. Defense attorney John Rowley echoed that, saying



MARK SCHIEFELBEIN/AP

Former White House trade adviser Peter Navarro departs federal court, Tuesday in Washington.

"this case is not over by a long shot."

Mehta scheduled Navarro's sentencing for Jan. 12. Navarro was convicted in Washington's federal courthouse of two misdemeanor counts of contempt of Congress, both punishable by up to a year behind bars.

The verdict came after a four-hour jury deliberation. After it was read, defense attorney Stanley Woodward moved for a mistrial, saying that the jurors had taken an outdoor break near where protesters and media regularly gather outside the courthouse and came back with a verdict shortly after. Mehta did not immediately rule, but said he would consider written arguments on the issue.

NATION

Judge denies Meadows' request to move case

By KATE BRUMBACK
Associated Press

ATLANTA — A judge on Friday denied Mark Meadows' request to move his Georgia election subversion case to federal court, ruling that the Trump White House chief of staff must fight the charges in state court instead.

U.S. District Judge Steve Jones in Atlanta wrote in a 49-page ruling that Meadows "has not met even the 'quite low' threshold" to move his case to federal court, noting that the question was whether the actions at issue were related to his role as a federal official.

"The evidence adduced at the hearing establishes that the actions at the heart of the State's charges against Meadows were taken on behalf of the Trump campaign with an ultimate goal of affecting state election activities and procedures," Jones wrote. "Meadows himself testified that working for the Trump campaign would be outside the scope of a White House Chief of Staff."

The ruling is a big early win for Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, who spent 2½ years investigating and building the case against former President Donald

Trump, Meadows and 17 others before obtaining the sweeping indictment under Georgia's anti-racketeering law. She has said she wants to try all the defendants together.

Trump has indicated that he is considering asking for his trial to be moved to federal court, and several other defendants have already made the request. The ruling by Jones against Meadows could signal that the others may struggle to meet the burden required to win removal when their lawyers make their arguments before the judge later this month, though Jones made clear that he will assess each of those cases individually.

The practical effects of moving to federal court would be a jury pool that includes a broader area than just overwhelmingly Democratic Fulton County and a trial that would not be photographed or televised, as cameras are not allowed inside federal courtrooms. But it would not open the door for Trump, if he's re-elected in 2024, or another president to issue pardons because any conviction would still happen under state law.

Meadows filed a notice of appeal Friday night. In a court filing days earlier, he asked to separate his case

from the other defendants in the case and to halt his proceedings in the state court until a final determination is reached on his attempt to move to federal court, "including through appeal, if an appeal is taken."

A spokesperson for Willis declined to comment.

Meadows, Trump and the others have pleaded not guilty to charges they participated in a sprawling scheme to illegally try to overturn Trump's 2020 presidential election loss in Georgia, even though the state's voters had selected Democrat Joe Biden.

Meadows said his actions were taken as part of his role as chief of staff to the Republican president. He and his lawyers also argued that, since he was a federal official at the time, the charges against him should be heard in federal court and, ultimately, dismissed for lack of merit.

Prosecutors said the actions laid out in the indictment were meant to keep Trump in office after he lost to Biden. They said the acts were explicitly political in nature and are illegal under the Hatch Act, which restricts partisan political activity by federal employees. As such, they



JABIN BOTSFORD/The Washington Post

Then-White House chief of staff Mark Meadows arrives at a campaign rally for Donald Trump in Greenville, N.C., on Oct. 15, 2020.

said, the case should stay in Fulton County Superior Court.

Meadows served as Trump's final chief of staff after being tapped in March 2020 to replace Mick Mulvaney. Before being elevated to the position of the president's top aide, Meadows was a congressman representing North Carolina.

First elected in the post-Tea Party wave of 2012, Meadows quickly established himself as a leader of a new generation of conservative Republicans on Capitol Hill. He served

as chairman of the right-wing Freedom Caucus, and his actions in the House helped spur Speaker John Boehner's sudden retirement.

As Trump ascended in 2016, Meadows switched from his earlier backing of Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and became a Trump supporter.

Jones wrote that the evidence "overwhelmingly suggests" that most of the actions attributed to Meadows in the indictment did not fall within "his scope of executive branch duties."

Va. town settles suit brought by Army officer

By JUSTIN JOUENAL
The Washington Post

A small Virginia police force will have to obtain accreditation and subject its officers to more scrutiny under the terms of a settlement to resolve a lawsuit brought by the state's attorney general after a 2020 traffic stop of a Black and Latino Army officer generated nationwide controversy.

Then-Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring, a Democrat, sued the town of Windsor in 2021, alleging that its police force discriminated against Black people and violated their civil rights. The suit came after a video of 2nd Lt. Caron Nazario being stopped at gunpoint and pepper-sprayed by a Windsor officer went viral.

Windsor, which is in the Hampton Roads area, did not admit wrongdoing under the terms of the deal it reached last week with Herring's successor, Republican Jason Miyares. But its police department agreed to get certified by a professional-standards commission and have any complaints about use-of-force incidents reviewed by a state prosecutor and forwarded to the attorney gener-



WINDSOR (VA.) POLICE DEPARTMENT/AP

In this image made from video footage, a police officer uses a spray agent on Army 2nd Lt. Caron Nazario, on Dec. 20, 2020, in Windsor, Va. On Thursday, the town of Windsor agreed to independent reviews of allegations of misconduct against its police force and to give its officers more training to settle a lawsuit filed by Nazario.

al's office.

Miyares called the settlement "firm but fair."

The town said in a statement that Herring obtained data that showed Windsor did not have a pattern of racist policing. The statement said officers used force on people 20 times over a period of eight years, including in six incidents involving Black people. Only one complaint was validated, the town said.

Herring's office said at the time the lawsuit was filed that it had reviewed 14 months of traffic stops by Windsor's force that showed 42% were of Black drivers, 200 to 500% more than would be expected, given the number of people of

color in the town.

"The Town of Windsor has worked diligently within its police force to enhance training, improve policies and procedures, and ensure the public that its law enforcement operates without prejudice and within the law," the town said in a statement.

Jonathan Arthur, an attorney for Nazario, said in an interview that his client appreciated the work the attorney general's office had done on the case.

"The AG's attorneys understood the gravity of what happened," Arthur said. "They forced the Windsor police to take steps that won't help my client but will help other citizens of Virginia."

High court is asked to reject limits on abortion-pill drug

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is being asked to reverse an appellate ruling that would cut off mail-order access to a drug used in the most common method of abortion in the United States.

The case would be the first major abortion dispute decided by the Supreme Court since it overturned *Roe v. Wade* last year. That ruling has led to bans on abortion at all stages of pregnancy in 15 states, with some exceptions, and once cardiac activity can be detected, which is around six weeks, in two others.

In appeals filed Friday, the Biden administration and New York-based Danco Laboratories, the manufacturer of mifepristone, argued that federal judges should not second-guess the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the drug or the conditions under which it is dispensed.

A federal appeals court ruling in August would revoke approval for sending the drug through the mail and would shorten, from the current 10 weeks to seven weeks, the time during which mifepristone can be used in pregnancy.

The justices previously intervened in the case in April to assure the availability of mifepristone while a challenge proceeds in the federal courts. The Supreme Court is widely expected to agree to hear

the case and have the final word, probably by early summer 2024 and in the middle of presidential and congressional campaigns.

The Justice Department said the appeals court ignored a scientific judgment about mifepristone's safety and effectiveness since its approval in 2000.

"To the government's knowledge, the decisions below mark the first time any court has restricted access to an FDA-approved drug based on disagreement with FDA's expert judgment about the conditions required to assure that drug's safe use — much less done so after those conditions had been in effect for years," Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, the administration's top Supreme Court lawyer, wrote.

Abortion opponents filed their challenge to mifepristone in November and initially won a sweeping ruling in April revoking the drug's approval entirely. The appeals court left intact the FDA's initial approval of mifepristone. But it would reverse changes regulators made in 2016 and 2021 that eased some conditions for administering the drug.

Women seeking to end their pregnancies in the first 10 weeks without more invasive surgical abortion can take mifepristone, along with a second drug, misoprostol. The pills are now used in more than half of all abortions in the U.S.

NATION



ERIC GAY/AP

A guardsman keeps watch over a section of the Rio Grande that is fortified with concertina wire and large buoys being used as a floating border barrier on the Rio Grande, on Aug. 1, in Eagle Pass, Texas. A federal appeals court ruling Thursday allows Texas to keep the buoys while court battles are pending.

Texas can keep using floating border barriers for now, appeals court says

BY NICK MIROFF
The Washington Post

A federal appeals court has allowed Texas to leave a 1,000-foot chain of buoys in the middle of the Rio Grande while court battles over the structure are pending, halting a lower-court ruling that directed the state to relocate the floating border barrier by this week.

The order issued late Thursday by a three-judge panel on the conservative U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit was a win for Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican who has made the bright orange buoys a centerpiece of Operation Lone Star, the state-run campaign to block illegal border crossings into Texas.

The Biden administration filed a lawsuit in July after Texas installed the barriers in the middle of the river, arguing that the state lacked the authority to place buoys in an international waterway where the federal government has jurisdiction.

The appeals court did not address the merits of the case in its brief order but said the lower court ruling would remain on hold pending further action by the court.

Officials at the U.S. Department of Justice declined to comment Friday about the Biden administration's next possible legal moves.

On Wednesday, U.S. District Judge David A. Ezra, a Reagan appointee, gave Texas until Sept. 15 to move the buoys to the U.S. side of the Rio Grande, in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Ezra said Texas' installation of the barriers had harmed public safety, navigation of the river, and "the operations of federal agency officials in and around the Rio Grande."

Texas appealed Ezra's order to the Fifth Circuit, arguing that the barriers are not located in a commercially navigable segment of the Rio Grande and saying they can successfully prevent illegal border entries and drug smuggling.

The state had asked the appeals court for a ruling on its stay request by noon on Tuesday, so that officials would have enough time to coordinate barrier relocation with the Army Corps of Engineers in case the judges denied their motion.

The stay by the Fifth Circuit judges did not address the merits of the case and only amounted to a pause on Ezra's order to relocate the barriers by this Friday.

The barriers, placed at a busy spot for illegal crossings near Eagle Pass, Texas, have irked authorities in Mexico, which has long-standing treaties with the United States that govern water usage and construction activity along the river channel.

Mexico's ambassador in Washington, Esteban Moctezuma, applauded the district court ruling earlier Thursday, calling it "good news" in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

The orb-shaped buoys are anchored to the riverbed with concrete blocks, using metal discs to block people from trying to climb between them. Last month authorities recovered a drowning victim near the barriers, but Texas authorities said the person probably died upriver and floated downstream.

Abbott officials have argued the barriers "save lives" by discouraging migrants from attempting a risky crossing.

IRS to expand effort to collect from high earners

BY FATIMA HUSSEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The IRS announced on Friday it is launching an effort to aggressively pursue 1,600 millionaires and 75 large business partnerships that owe hundreds of millions of dollars in past due taxes.

IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel said that with a boost in federal funding and the help of artificial intelligence tools, the agency has new means of targeting wealthy people who have "cut corners" on their taxes.

"If you pay your taxes on time it should be particularly frustrating when you see that wealthy filers are not," Werfel told reporters in a call previewing the announcement. He said 1,600 millionaires who owe at least \$250,000 each in back taxes and 75 large business partnerships that have assets of roughly \$10 billion on average are targeted for the new "compliance efforts."

Werfel said a massive hiring effort and AI research tools developed by IRS employees and contractors are playing a big role in identifying wealthy tax dodgers. The agency is making an effort to showcase positive results from its burst of new funding under President Joe Biden's Democratic administration as Republicans in Congress look to claw back some of that money.

"New tools are helping us see patterns and trends that we could not see before, and as a result, we have higher confidence on where to look and find where large partnerships are shielding income," he said.

In July, IRS leadership said it collected \$38 million in delinquent taxes from more than 175 high-income taxpayers in the span of a few months. Now, the agency will scale up that effort, Werfel said.

"The IRS will have dozens of revenue officers focused on these high-end collection cases in fiscal year

2024," he said.

A team of academic economists and IRS researchers in 2021 found that the top 1% of U.S. income earners fail to report more than 20% of their earnings to the IRS.

The newly announced tax collection effort will begin as soon as next month. "We have more hiring to do," Werfel said. "It's going to be a very busy fall for us."

Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said the IRS' new plan is a "big deal" that "represents a fresh approach to taking on sophisticated tax cheats."

"This action goes to the heart of Democrats' effort to ensure the wealthiest are paying their fair share," he said in a statement.

David Williams, at the right-leaning, nonprofit Taxpayers Protection Alliance, said "every business and every person should pay their taxes — full stop." However, "I just hope this isn't used as a justification to hire thousands of new agents," that would audit Americans en masse, he said.

The federal tax collector gained the enhanced ability to identify tax delinquents with resources provided by the Inflation Reduction Act, which Biden signed into law in August of 2022. The agency was in line for an \$80 billion infusion under the law, but that money is vulnerable to potential cutbacks by Congress.

House Republicans built a \$1.4 billion reduction to the IRS into the debt ceiling and budget cuts package passed by Congress this summer. The White House said the debt deal also has a separate agreement to take \$20 billion from the IRS over the next two years and divert that money to other non-defense programs.

With the threat of a government shutdown looming in a dispute over spending levels, there is the potential for additional cuts to the agency.

Phoenix sets record by hitting 110 degrees on 54 days this year

Associated Press

PHOENIX — How hot is it in Phoenix? In what has been the hottest summer ever measured, the sizzling city in the Sonoran Desert broke yet another record Saturday when temperatures topped 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

It was the 54th day this year that the official reading at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport made the mark, eclipsing the previous record of 53 days set in 2020.

Matt Salerno, a National Weather

Service meteorologist, said the hot streak could reach 55 days.

"We do have one more day," he said.

An extreme heat warning remained in effect, with temperatures forecast at 111 F on Sunday and 106 F on Monday.

Salerno said Phoenix experienced the hottest three months since record-keeping began in 1895, including the hottest July and the second-hottest August. The daily average temperature of 97 F in June, Ju-

ly and August passed the previous record of 96.7 F set three years ago.

The average daily temperature was 102.7 F in July, he said, and the daily average in August was 98.8 F.

In July, Phoenix also set a record with a 31-day streak of highs at or above 110 F. The previous record of 18 straight days was set in 1974.

The sweltering summer of 2023 has seen a historic heat wave stretching from Texas across New Mexico and Arizona and into California's desert.

Worldwide, last month was the hottest August ever recorded, according to the World Meteorological Organization. It was also the second hottest month measured, behind only July 2023. Scientists blame human-caused climate change with an extra push from a natural El Nino, which is a temporary warming of parts of the Pacific Ocean that changes weather around the globe.

As of Saturday, Phoenix has tallied 104 days this year with temperatures over 100 F, Salerno said.

That's in line with the average of 111 triple-digit days every year between 1991 and 2020.

Maricopa County, home to Phoenix and the most populous county in Arizona, also appears headed toward an annual record for heat-associated deaths. County public health officials have confirmed 194 heat-associated deaths this year as of Sept. 2. An additional 351 cases are under investigation.

Maricopa County confirmed 425 heat-related deaths in 2022.

WORLD

G20 leaders pay respects at Gandhi memorial as summit ends

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — G20 leaders paid their respects to Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi as their summit came to a close Sunday, a day after the group added a new member and reached agreement on a range of issues but softened language on Russia's war in Ukraine.

The Group of 20 rich and developing nations welcomed the African Union as a member — part of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's drive to uplift the Global South. And host India was also able to get the disparate group to sign off on a final statement despite pointed disagreements among powerful members, mostly centered on the European conflict.

India also unveiled an ambitious plan with the United States, the European Union and others to build a rail and shipping corridor linking it with the Middle East and Europe in a bid to strengthen economic growth and political coop-

eration. With those major agenda items taken care of, the leaders shook hands Sunday and posed for photos with Modi at the Rajghat memorial site in New Delhi. Each received a shawl made of khadi, a handspun fabric that was promoted by Gandhi during India's independence movement against the British.

Some leaders — including British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and last year's G20 host President Joko Widodo of Indonesia — walked to the memorial barefoot in a customary show of respect. U.S. President Joe Biden and others wore slippers as they walked over wet ground spotted with puddles from heavy rain.

The leaders stood before wreaths placed around the memorial, which features an eternal flame and was draped with orange and yellow marigold garlands.

The one reserved for Modi identified him as prime minister of "Bharat" — an ancient Sanskrit name championed by his Hindu

nationalist supporters that shot to prominence as the summit approached.

Earlier in the day, Sunak and his wife Akshata Murthy separately took time to visit and offer prayers at the Akshardham Temple, one of Delhi's most prominent Hindu houses of worship.

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva took over the G20 rotating presidency at the summit's end. He hopes to rebuild Brazil's standing after a period of international isolation under far-right former leader Jair Bolsonaro.

Brazil, home to the majority of the Amazon rainforest, will likely use its presidency to advocate for increased funds for environmental preservation, said Laerte Apolinário Júnior, a professor of international relations at the Pontifical Catholic University of Sao Paulo.

Lula has sought to move beyond the disputes over Ukraine, telling Indian news site Firstpost that the G20 wasn't the appropriate forum to discuss the war.



MOSA'AB ELSHAMY/AP

Residents flee their homes after an earthquake in Moulay Brahim village, near the epicenter of the earthquake, outside Marrakech, Morocco, on Saturday.

Quake: UN says thousands are dead while 300K affected

FROM PAGE 1

cuers Without Borders, who had a team stuck in Paris waiting for the green light. "There are people dying under the rubble, and we cannot do anything to save them."

Help was slow to arrive in Amizmiz, where a whole chunk of the town of orange and red sandstone brick homes carved into a mountainside appeared to be missing.

"It's a catastrophe," said villager Salah Ancheu, 28. "We don't know what the future is. The aid remains insufficient."

Residents swept all the rubble off the main unpaved road leading to town and aid crews began arriving but pleaded for more help.

"There aren't ambulances, there aren't police, at least for right now," Ancheu said.

Those left homeless — or fearing more aftershocks — slept outside Saturday, in the streets of the ancient city of Marrakech or under makeshift canopies in Atlas Mountain towns like Moulay Brahim, among the hardest-hit. The worst destruction was in small, ru-

ral communities that are hard for rescuers to reach because the roads that snake up the mountainous terrain were covered by fallen rocks.

Those areas were shaken anew Sunday by a magnitude 3.9 aftershock, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It wasn't immediately clear if it caused more damage or casualties, but it was likely strong enough to rattle nerves in areas where damage has left buildings unstable and residents feared aftershocks.

Friday's earthquake toppled buildings not strong enough to withstand such a mighty temblor, trapping people in the rubble and sending others fleeing in terror. A total of 2,122 people were confirmed dead and at least 2,421 others were injured — 1,404 of them critically, the Interior Ministry reported.

"We felt a huge shake like it was doomsday," Moulay Brahim resident Ayoub Toudite said. "Ten seconds and everything was gone."

Teams advance rescue of researcher from one of the world's deepest caves

Associated Press

TASELI PLATEAU, Turkey — Rescue teams on Sunday in Turkey successfully carried an American researcher up from the depth of a cave at 3,410 feet to the 2,297-foot mark where he will rest at a base camp before they continue the taxing journey to the surface.

An experienced caver, Mark Dickey, 40, started vomiting on Sept. 2 because of stomach bleed-

ing while on an expedition with a handful of others in the Morca cave in southern Turkey's Taurus Mountains, one of the deepest in the world, according to experts.

A rescue operation began Saturday afternoon with doctors, paramedics and experienced cavers from across Europe rushing to help.

They set up small medical base camps at various levels along the

shaft, providing Dickey an opportunity to rest during the slow and arduous extrication.

"Mark was delivered to the campsite at -700 meters as of 03:24 local time. At this stage, he will set out again after resting and having the necessary treatments," the Speleological Federation of Turkey wrote on its official account on X, formerly known as Twitter.

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STARS AND STRIPES

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WORLD

Drone attack kills dozens in Sudan capital

By SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

CAIRO — A drone attack Sunday on an open market south of the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, killed at least 30 people, activists and medical workers said, as the military and a powerful paramilitary group battle for control of the country.

At least three dozen others were injured in the attack in Khartoum's May neighborhood, according to an activist group known as the Resistance Committees and two health care workers at the Bashair University Hospital, where the casualties were treated.

The activist group posted footage on social media showing bodies wrapped in white sheets in an open yard at the hospital.

It was not immediately clear which side was behind Sunday's attack. Indiscriminate shelling and airstrikes by both factions aren't uncommon in Sudan's war, which has reduced the Greater

Khartoum area to a battleground.

Sudan has been rocked by violence since mid-April, when tensions between the country's military, led by Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, burst into open fighting.

The clashes have since spread to several parts of the country. In the Greater Khartoum area, which includes the cities of Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri, RSF troops have commandeered civilian homes and turned them into operational bases. The military responded by bombing residential areas, rights groups and activists say.

In the western Darfur region — the scene of a genocidal campaign in the early 2000s — the conflict has morphed into ethnic violence, with the RSF and allied Arab militias attacking ethnic African groups, according to rights groups and the United Nations.

Vatican holds beatification of Polish family of nine killed for hiding Jews

By MONIKA SCISLowska
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — In an unprecedented move, the Vatican on Sunday beatified a Polish family of nine — a married couple and their small children — who were executed by the Nazis during World War II for sheltering Jews.

During a ceremonious Mass in the village of Markowa, in southeastern Poland, papal envoy Cardinal Marcello Semeraro read out the Latin formula of the beatification of the Ulma family signed last month by Pope Francis.

A contemporary painting representing Jozef and a pregnant Wiktorina Ulma with their children was revealed near the altar. A procession brought relics taken from their grave to the altar. It is the first time that an entire family has been beatified.

At the Vatican, speaking to the public from a window in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis said the Ulmas "represented a ray of light in the darkness" of the war and should be a model for every-



MATEUSZ SZPYTMA/AP

This undated photo shows Polish farmer Jozef Ulma with his pregnant wife Wiktorina and their six children.

placed by the altar.

Last year, Francis pronounced the deeply Catholic Ulma family, including the child that Wiktorina Ulma was pregnant with, martyrs for the faith. The Ulmas were killed at home by German Nazi troops and by Nazi-controlled local police in the small hours of March 24, 1944, together with the eight Jews they were hiding at their home, after they were apparently betrayed.

Jozef Ulma, 44, was a farmer, Catholic activist and amateur photographer who documented family and village life. He lived with his 31-year-old wife Wiktorina; their daughters Stanislaw, 7; Barbara, 6; Maria, 18 months; and sons Wladyslaw, 5; Franciszek, 3; and Antoni, 2.

With them were killed 70-year-old Saul Goldman with his sons Baruch, Mechel, Joachim and Mojzesz, along with Golda Grunfeld and her sister Lea Didner with her little daughter Reszla, according to Poland's state Institute of National Remembrance, IPN.

STARS AND STRIPES

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man rode human-sized hamster wheel in ocean

FL MIAMI — A Florida man who was attempting to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a man-made hamster wheel is facing federal charges after it took the U.S. Coast Guard five days to bring him ashore, according to a criminal complaint filed in Miami.

The Coast Guard spotted Reza Ray Baluchi, 51, some 70 miles off the coast of Tybee Island, Ga., while making preparations for Hurricane Franklin, the complaint, filed in federal court, said. Baluchi was charged with obstruction of boarding and violation of a captain of the port order.

Baluchi told the Coast Guard crew that he was attempting to ride the “hydro-pod” vessel to England, and that he had a Florida registration, which he was unable to locate for them, onboard.

The officers said the vessel was “afloat as a result of wiring and buoys” and determined that Baluchi was conducting “a manifestly unsafe voyage,” the complaint said.

2 plead guilty to defacing substations on Christmas

WA TACOMA — Two men have pleaded guilty to vandalizing power substations in Washington state in attacks that left thousands without power on Christmas Day.

Jeremy Crahan, of Puyallup, admitted in U.S. District Court in Tacoma that he and Matthew Greenwood conspired to cut electrical power in order to break into ATM machines and businesses and steal money, Acting U.S. Attorney Tessa M. Gorman said in a news release.

According to the plea agreement, Crahan, 40, and Greenwood, 32, damaged four power substations on Dec. 25.

In all four cases, the men forced their way into fenced areas surrounding the substations and damaged equipment to cause a power outage.

61 indicted in link to ‘Stop Cop City’ movement

GA ATLANTA — Sixty-one people have been indicted in Georgia on racketeering charges following a long-running state investigation into protests against a planned police and firefighter training facility in the Atlanta area that critics call “Cop City.”

In the sweeping indictment released this month, Republican Attorney General Chris Carr alleged the defendants are “militant anarchists” who supported a violent movement that prosecutors trace to the 2020 racial justice protests.

The “Stop Cop City” effort has gone on for more than two years and at times veered into vandalism and violence. Opponents fear the training center will lead to greater militarization of the police, and that its construction in an urban forest will exacerbate environmental damage in a poor, majority-Black



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Spreading the word

Little Amal, a 12-foot puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee girl, center, is greeted by performers in lion dance costumes in front of a gate at an entrance to the Chinatown neighborhood of Boston. Little Amal is scheduled to journey across the United States, with planned stops in over 35 towns and cities, between Sept. 7 and Nov. 5 in an effort to raise awareness about refugees and displaced people across the world.

area. “The 61 defendants together have conspired to prevent the construction of the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center by conducting, coordinating and organizing acts of violence, intimidation and property destruction,” Carr said.

NBA owner gives millions to stroke care, research

MI DETROIT — The family foundation of NBA team owner Dan Gilbert will give nearly \$375 million for a 72-bed rehabilitation center for stroke patients in Detroit and a research institute that will focus on a genetic disease that afflicted his son, officials announced.

Gilbert, the billionaire owner of the Cleveland Cavaliers and founder of Detroit-based Rocket Cos., had a stroke in 2019 and received extensive care in Chicago. He said his foundation would create a \$10 million fund to help low-income residents who get care at the new Detroit rehab center.

“I’m forever grateful to the doctors, nurses, therapists and staff who helped me improve every day,” Gilbert said. “However, while there I met many other patients who could not get all the rehabilitative care they need because insurance limited the number of hours covered.”

Gilbert’s foundation is also creating the Nick Gilbert Neurofibromatosis Research Institute with Hen-

ry Ford Health and Michigan State University. Nick Gilbert died in May at age 26.

Ex-mayor convicted of embezzling running again

MD BALTIMORE — More than a decade after being convicted of embezzling donated gift cards, a former Baltimore mayor has announced she’s again running for office.

Sheila Dixon, who resigned as part of a 2010 plea agreement in the corruption case, penned an op-ed in The Baltimore Sun apologizing for her past digressions and announcing her candidacy in the city’s 2024 mayoral race. This marks her third bid for mayor following two unsuccessful attempts since her own tenure ended in scandal.

In December 2009, a jury found Dixon guilty of embezzlement for misusing gift cards that had been donated to City Hall for charity. Instead of using them to serve the poor, Dixon spent about \$500 at Target and Best Buy to purchase things for her family and staff.

Farm worker paralyzed after attacked by bull

CT HARWINTON — A 59-year-old Connecticut man was seriously injured after being attacked by a bull at the farm where he was working.

Family members told Hearst Connecticut Media that the bull at-

tacked Randy Janquins at a farm in Harwinton, Conn., as he was putting several cows back into a barn after milking them.

“The bull was in heat because it’s their mating season at this time of year,” Ellen Hull, Janquins’ sister, told Hearst. “Randy basically was in the wrong place at the wrong time.”

Janquins, of Winsted, Conn., suffered a broken neck and is paralyzed from the waist down, Hull said. He was taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors fused vertebrae in his neck, she said.

Janquins told his sister he was lying in the farmer’s field for “quite some time” before someone found him.

Airbnb restricts some bookings amid new rules

NY NEW YORK — Home-sharing giant Airbnb said it has had to stop accepting some reservations in New York City as new regulations on short-term rentals went into effect that will mean big changes for travelers hoping to avoid the high cost of a Big Apple hotel.

The new rules are intended to effectively end a free-for-all in which city landlords and residents have been renting out their apartments by the week or the night to tourists or others in town for short stays.

Under the new system, rentals shorter than 30 days are only allowed if hosts register with the city.

Hosts must commit to being physically present in the home for the duration of the rental, sharing living quarters with their guest. More than two guests at a time are not allowed, either, meaning families are effectively barred.

Prosecutors take new approach with retail theft

NM SANTA FE — Prosecutors in New Mexico’s largest metro area are taking over all cases involving retail theft including small-scale shoplifting, in efforts to enforce new state sanctions against coordinated retail crime.

Albuquerque-area District Attorney Sam Bregman and New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced the approach to combating retail crime.

Previously, police officers in the Albuquerque area often processed misdemeanor sanctions for shoplifting less than \$500 worth of merchandise. Prosecutors said they can then consolidate related cases of retail theft over a 90-day period and possibly bring felony charges.

Lujan Grisham signed legislation in April to create a new category of “organized retail crime” and stiffen penalties for organized theft of store merchandise as retailers have highlighted losses from coordinated pilfering.

FACES

‘I’m not embarrassed’

Ethan Hawke and Maya Hawke weigh in on the nepo baby debate

By CARLOS DE LOERA
Los Angeles Times

Ethan Hawke and his famous daughter Maya Hawke have waded into the nepo baby discourse waters.

The father-daughter duo addressed the topic in an interview with *Variety* published last week while talking about “Wildcat,” a new movie that they worked on together.

“Put simply, I’m a nepo dad!” Ethan Hawke jokingly said of the issue. “And I’m not embarrassed about it.”

Adding more subtlety and context to their situation, Maya Hawke, whose famous mother is “Kill Bill” actor Uma Thurman, said, “I had moments of insecurity about it while we were shooting the movie. But the internet doesn’t have a lot of nuances. My dad has been a massive teacher for me, and we want to work together. We like being with each other.”

The “First Reformed” actor noted that he’s open to and understanding of the criticisms that people have regarding nepo babies.

“If someone wants to criticize us for working together, that’s totally fair,” the elder Hawke said. “You have to let people have their opinion. You just have to try to do a good job when you’re onstage.”

The movie that the two worked on, “Wildcat,” is a 1950s period piece that chronicles the struggles that Southern Gothic American writer Flannery O’Connor — played by Maya Hawke — faced when she tried to publish her first novel. Ethan Hawke directed the film and co-wrote the script alongside Shelby Gaines. The indie project is one of the movies that is able to be promoted by its stars during the SAG-AFTRA strike because it has an interim agreement.

The Hawkes also spoke about how their on-set dynamic worked while filming “Wildcat” in a recent interview with the *L.A. Times*’ Josh Rottenberg.

The 25-year-old Hawke quipped that working with her father was “horrible.”

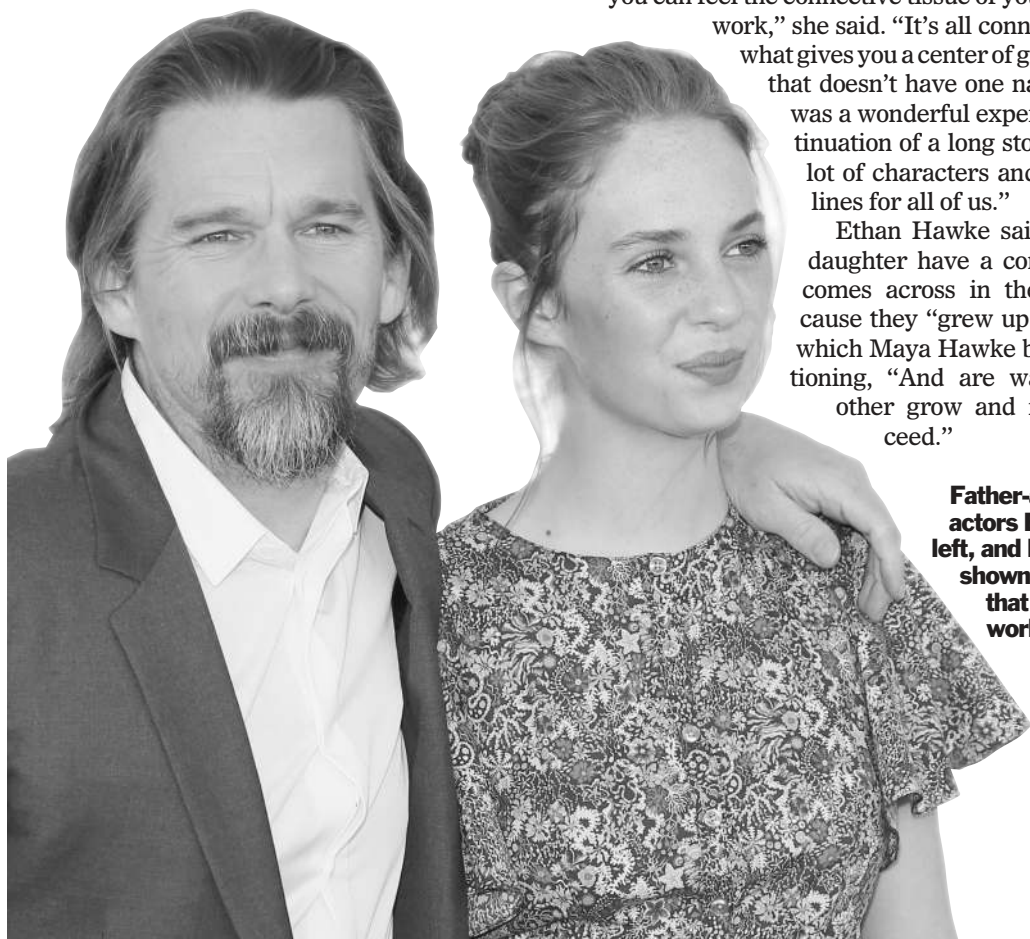
The “Stranger Things” star added that it was “wonderful” to work together with her dad.

“When I have enjoyed my job the most is when it doesn’t feel like: Now I’m at work. When it feels like you can feel the connective tissue of your life in your work,” she said. “It’s all connected and it’s what gives you a center of gravity in a life that doesn’t have one naturally. So it was a wonderful experience, a continuation of a long story that had a lot of characters and a lot of plot lines for all of us.”

Ethan Hawke said he and his daughter have a connection that comes across in their work because they “grew up together,” to which Maya Hawke built on, mentioning, “And are watching each other grow and fail and succeed.”

Father-and-daughter actors Ethan Hawke, left, and Maya Hawke, shown in 2018, say that they enjoyed working together on the movie “Wildcat.”

TNS



CHRIS PIZZELLO, IN VISION/AP

Collections assistant Cyrene Cruz primps a red leather jacket Sept. 1 that was worn by the late rapper The Notorious B.I.G. for the exhibit “Hip-Hop America: The Mixtape,” at the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles. The exhibit will open Oct. 7 and run until Sept. 4, 2024.

Grammy Museum to launch 50 years of hip-hop exhibit

By MARIA SHERMAN
Associated Press

The Grammy Museum announced Sept. 7 that it is launching the “Hip-Hop America: The Mixtape Exhibit,” celebrating 50 years of the music and culture’s global impact.

The 5,000-square-foot exhibit will include rare artifacts such as Tupac Shakur’s handwritten 1992 essay “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death” — in which the young hip-hop superstar found parallels between one of the best-known speeches in American history, a cry for freedom given by founding father Patrick Henry at the Second Virginia Convention, and the experiences of being a minority in the U.S.

The exhibit also includes Notorious B.I.G.’s red leather pea jacket, worn in the music video for Junior M.A.F.I.A.’s “Players Anthem,” and LL Cool J’s red Kangol bucket hat.

“Hip-Hop America” goes beyond simple chronology: visitors will explore the music, choreography, fashion, business, activism, car culture and history of hip-hop by navigating displays dedicated

to regional music scenes, technological advancements, formative media engines like “Yo! MTV Raps” and beyond.

It will open Oct. 7 and run until September 4, 2024.

Two outfits designed by hip-hop fashion legend Dapper Dan can be found on display: the black leather jacket Melle Mel wore during a performance at the 1985 Grammy Awards and Busy Bee’s characteristic black-and-yellow leather bucket hat and jacket.

“Hip-Hop America: The Mixtape Exhibit” will also feature an interactive “Sonic Playground,” which will allow visitors to experiment with DJing, sampling and rapping.

“The exhibit has been carefully curated to reach everyone from hip-hop connoisseurs to uninitiated novices,” says co-curator Jason King, dean of the University of Southern California’s Thornton School of Music.

“And we’ve thrown in a few left curve surprises like sections on hip-hop sonics and car speakers, and on the connections between hip-hop and partner genres like R&B.”

‘Tonight Show’ host Jimmy Fallon issues apology to staff

From wire reports

“Tonight Show” host Jimmy Fallon apologized to his staff following a bombshell report alleging his NBC show made for a toxic and “nightmare” work environment.

“Sorry if I embarrassed you and your family and friends,” Fallon reportedly told staffers on a Sept. 7 Zoom call. “I feel so bad, I can’t even tell you.”

The initial report, published by *Rolling Stone* on Sept. 7, cited two current and 14 former employees, who painted a dark picture of life behind the scenes at “The Tonight Show,” which Fallon took over in 2014. The publication followed up with a report of Fallon’s apology later in the day.

“I want the show to be fun,” Fallon reportedly told employees on the Zoom call, which

he led with showrunner Chris Miller. “(It) should be inclusive to everybody. It should be the best show.”

Fallon reportedly touted the work of Miller — the program’s ninth showrunner in as many years — and promised Miller would stick around to keep things headed in the right direction.

Rolling Stone said it contacted more than 80 former and current “Tonight Show” employees. Several of those people, speaking anonymously, blamed Fallon’s erratic behavior for contributing to a “pretty glum atmosphere” that turned into “a nightmare very quickly.”

At least four former employees said they were in therapy as a result of the work environment, with three saying they had experi-

enced suicidal thoughts.

An NBC spokesperson told *Rolling Stone* that complaints about workplace misconduct are taken seriously and encouraged employees to come forward if they’re having issues with their colleagues.

When asked for comment, that spokesperson told the *New York Daily News* they had nothing further to say beyond what they provided to *Rolling Stone*.

Other news

■ Lifetime will air a two-part movie version Oct. 14 and 15 starring veteran actor **Bill Pullman** as Alex Murdaugh. Playing Alex’s wife Maggie is Lauren Robek and son Paul is Curtis Tweedie. Maggie and Paul Murdaugh were found shot to death on

the family’s hunting estate in Colleton County, S.C., in 2021. Alex Murdaugh was arrested in their deaths in 2022 and was convicted earlier this year. The Murdaugh story has been told in numerous documentaries, but this is the first fictionalized account.

■ Weeks after teasing the arrival of his next record, **Drake** has announced a release date for his eighth studio album. And it’s coming sooner than you think. The Canadian musician, whose full name is Aubrey Drake Graham, revealed Sept. 7 on Instagram that his latest LP, “For All the Dogs,” is scheduled for release on Sept. 22. He previously shared the album’s title and cover — a drawing of a hound with red eyes by his 5-year-old son, Adonis.

STARS AND STRIPES.

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OPINION

The US must tread more carefully in Niger

BY ADEKEYE ADEBAJO

Bloomberg Opinion

The military coup d'état in Gabon last month, which toppled the 55-year-long family reign of Omar and Ali Bongo, followed similar putsches by military officers in Niger, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea and Chad that have overthrown largely elected civilian governments. More dominoes may fall, too, as harassment of opposition parties continues in Senegal, Togo and Cameroon.

Yet global powers like the U.S. must first seek to understand the complex regional and external dynamics driving these coups to effectively respond to them. The risks of acting rashly and deferring to France's hostile and interventionist approach are too high.

When four U.S. soldiers were killed in a 2017 ambush in Niger, many Americans wondered what U.S. troops were even doing in the country. Twenty-four years earlier, the Clinton administration crippled U.N. peacekeeping in Africa after 18 American soldiers were killed in a similar ambush in Somalia, resulting in the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the country amid loud cries of "No boots on the ground." Then George W. Bush's global "war on terror" was continued in Africa by Barack Obama, who massively expanded America's presence. He established a military footprint in a dozen African countries, constructed drone bases in Djibouti, Ethiopia and Seychelles, and built a \$110 million drone and air base in Niger (which now has 1,100 U.S. soldiers).

At the time of the Niger coup, its former colonial overlord, France, had soldiers protecting uranium mines in the country's north, continuing an exploitative pattern of Gallic companies monopolizing economic interests in its former colonies. FrancAfrique has often represented a sordid relationship involving corrupt political dealings and military agreements that have historically kept assorted cli-

ent dictators in power in countries like Gabon, Central African Republic and Chad.

French leadership of the G5 Sahel countries — Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad and Mauritania — since 2013 has now spectacularly collapsed. The French military was expelled from its base in Mali, while military regimes in Burkina Faso and Guinea have been hostile to Paris. The Russian mercenary group Wagner is currently assisting the military regime in Mali to battle militants, which governments in Niger and Burkina Faso are also struggling to contain.

Understanding the regional dynamics of this conflict is thus essential. The 15-member Economic Community of West African States has threatened Gen. Abdourahamane Tchiani-led putschists in Niger with a military intervention to restore deposed President Mohamed Bazoum to power — a position cautiously supported by Washington, which also fears the possible entry of Wagner mercenaries into Niger.

Yet ECOWAS is facing an existential crisis. It's currently split into four broad camps.

Nigeria — the region's "limping Leviathan" — has a new president, Bola Tinubu, who has so far lacked a sure touch in foreign policy. The regional Gulliver suffers from \$100 billion of debt and grinding poverty, exacerbated by the recent removal of a fuel subsidy that historically kept the price of domestic oil cheap. Nigeria led praiseworthy interventions in Liberia and Sierra Leone in the 1990s, but its military is now a shadow of its former self, struggling to contain domestic jihadis. Tinubu faces pressure from a stridently anti-interventionist public and parliament, while the presence of the large Hausa ethnic group that has traded and interacted across the Nigeria-Niger border for centuries further complicates the potential invasion that Nigeria's president has vociferously championed.

The second group of "hawks" within ECO-

WAS, which has rejected the Niger junta's proposed three-year transition to civilian rule, include Ivory Coast, Senegal, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Benin, whose civilian leaders — some with poor governance records — themselves fear coups by their own militaries. Many opposition parties and citizens across these countries have also condemned any regional military intervention.

The third group are "muddlers," including Liberia, Sierra Leone, Togo and Cape Verde, some of which have expressed concerns about the viability of a successful intervention to restore Bazoum to power. And a fourth group of military putschists has seen governments in Mali and Burkina Faso — and more quietly Guinea — pledge military support to soldiers in Niger to confront any ECOWAS intervention. The African Union remains ambivalent toward any armed operation.

American policy also appears to be in disarray in Niger — despite Secretary of State Antony Blinken describing the country as a "model of democracy" just six months ago. Washington has so far sensibly avoided the openly hostile French posture toward Niger's military junta. (Tchiani has demanded the withdrawal of 1,500 French troops from the country.)

The U.S. must now halt its traditional deference to Paris on Sahel matters to avoid being tarred with the same neocolonial brush. Any ECOWAS military intervention would be widely perceived as symbolizing a Franco-American Trojan horse to protect Western interests in Niger. Washington must instead strongly back regional mediation efforts by ECOWAS and the AU, bolstered by the U.N.

Facing a tough reelection battle next year, Joe Biden will be keen to avoid another Somalia-style military disaster in Niger.

Adekeye Adebajo is a senior research fellow at the University of Pretoria's Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship in South Africa. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

Joe Biden, the man who refuses to call it a day

BY LLEWELLYN KING

InsideSources.com

Is Joe Biden hiding in plain sight?

Is his most extensive public effort these days fending off signs of age, hiding his infirmities, and clinging to the hope that he can still win in the election just over a year from now?

Sotto voce, the savants of the Democratic Party worry and complain in private that Biden is too old and infirm and should move over before it is too late. In public, they point to the health of the economy, receding inflation and the high employment rate, and foreign policy wins.

Indeed, the Joe Biden of today isn't the Joe Biden of yesterday. The Biden we in the corps knew over the years in Washington was accessible, friendly, keen to please — and he talked. How he talked. Biden would give a speech, but he didn't stop. He seemed to tack a second speech onto the first.

Biden didn't change the course of history with his eloquence, nor set the audience to thinking in ways they hadn't previously, but he was easy to take.

Now, he seems to approach the podium with caution, reading the speech with a just-get-me-through-this stoicism. The man who used to love the microphone appears to fear it.

Likewise, the man who used to enjoy the cut and thrust of interacting with the press eschews press conferences. He doesn't hold

them.

This absence of press conferences isn't unimportant. They are messy and unruly, but they are where the acuity of the leader is tested and on display. They are where we might get a look at how he might be in negotiation with foreign leaders.

Press conferences are part of the democratic process, where the president reports to the public through the press. Like question time in the British House of Commons, they are where we see the president in action.

Boastful news releases — which every administration puts out — are no substitute. The nation deserves to see the president in action. Everything else is curated image-building by the White House staff. A few questions tacked on ritually to the end of joint appearances with foreign heads of state aren't a substitute. They are Potemkin affairs.

Republicans would love to bear down on Biden's age, but dare not. Their front-runner, Donald Trump, is 77 — only three years younger than Biden; and, at 81, the Republican leader in the Senate, Mitch McConnell, is showing signs of health challenges linked to age. Trump's age is less discussed because his epic legal problems distract from whether he also might be too old.

The sad end of Winston Churchill's political career should be a warning for all who cling to office too long.

The Conservative Party under Churchill

lost the election immediately after World War II but was elected again in 1951, and Churchill became prime minister for the second time. He was about to turn 77. Health warnings were ignored by his party and by his family.

The infirmities of age got in the way. Churchill was often confused, and new issues baffled him, said his friend the publisher Lord Beaverbrook.

According to historian Roger Scruton during Churchill's second administration, the seeds of what would haunt Britain later were sown: He failed to arrest the open border flow of immigrants from the former empire or to check the growth of trade union power. When Churchill retired in 1954, his longtime deputy, Anthony Eden, took over and led the disastrous attempt to seize the Suez Canal in 1956.

A late-August poll from The Wall Street Journal showed 60% of eligible voters think Biden isn't "mentally up for the job of president." In a CNN poll, 73% of Americans say they are seriously concerned that Biden's age might negatively affect his current physical and mental competence level.

Churchill's sad political decline shows even great men grow old. Biden can be seen on television going here and there: a blur of travel. But is this a man in hiding from a truth — his age?

Llewellyn King is the executive producer and host of "White House Chronicle" on PBS.

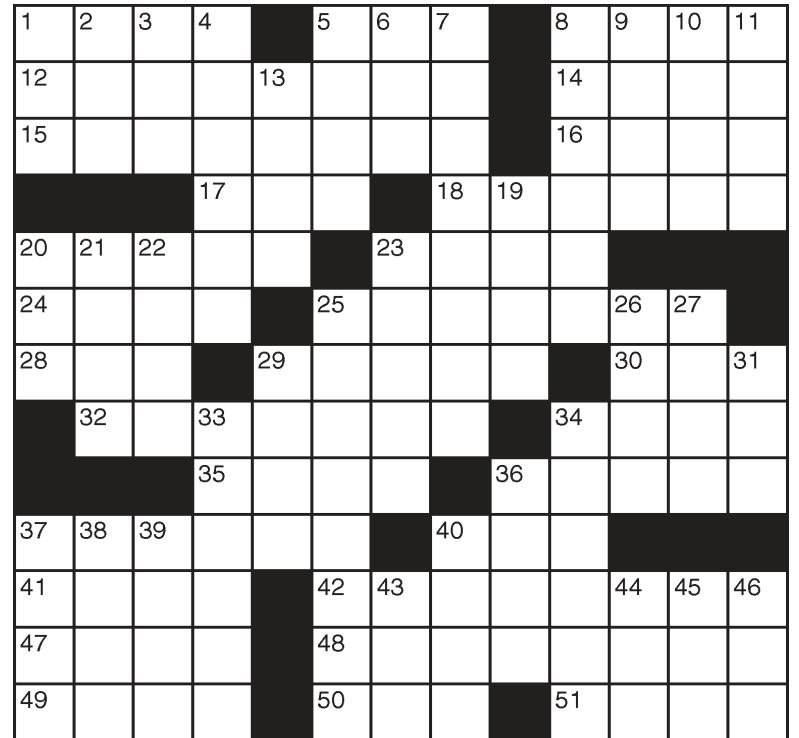
Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Marries
- 5 Smidgen
- 8 "Hey!"
- 12 "Well, maybe ..."
- 14 Teensy bit
- 15 African cape
- 16 "The Lion King" lion
- 17 W. Hemisphere gp.
- 18 Broadway's "Miss —"
- 20 Fetch
- 23 Opposite of "fer"
- 24 Actress Chaplin
- 25 Rejoices (in)
- 28 Moreover
- 29 Big knives
- 30 Garfield, for one
- 32 "Coneheads" star Dan
- 34 Rock's Bon —
- 35 Helps
- 36 Lions' prides
- 37 Asian capital
- 40 Corn serving
- 41 Elliptical
- 42 Better than "okay"
- 47 NYC gallery
- 48 Hit song by Adele
- 49 McGregor of film
- 50 Enzyme ending
- 51 Eggy drinks

DOWN

- 1 Costume hairpiece
- 2 Swelled head
- 3 Pair
- 4 Arizona resort
- 5 General — chicken
- 6 Nile biter
- 7 Is altruistic
- 8 Italian sandwich
- 9 Male deer
- 10 Alone
- 11 Eliot Ness, e.g.
- 13 Carpet type
- 19 Broadcasts
- 20 Feathery wrap
- 21 Novelist Jaffe
- 22 Race place
- 23 Sheedy and McBeal
- 25 "I like it!"
- 26 Nobel Prize subj.
- 27 Rescue
- 29 French cheese
- 31 Frank McCourt memoir
- 33 Test prep company
- 34 Shop talk
- 36 Oodles
- 37 Hefty book
- 38 Acknowledge
- 39 "— Rock"
- 40 Celtic tongue
- 43 Remote batteries, often
- 44 Lennon's partner
- 45 Texter's "Heavens!"
- 46 — Moines

Answer to Previous Puzzle



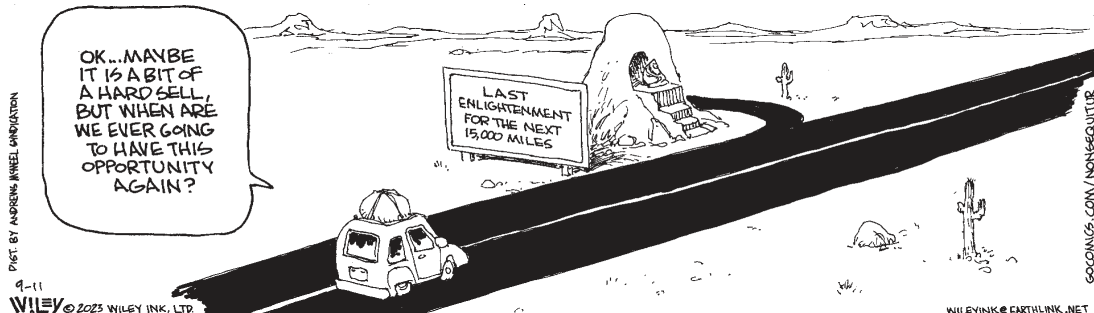
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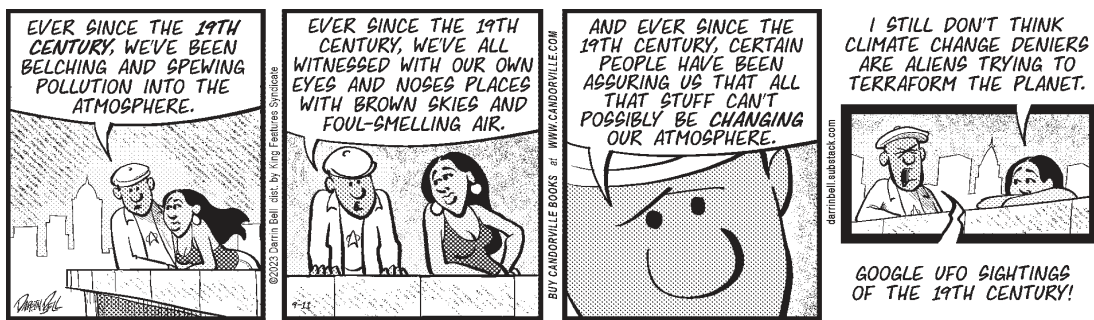
Pearls Before Swine



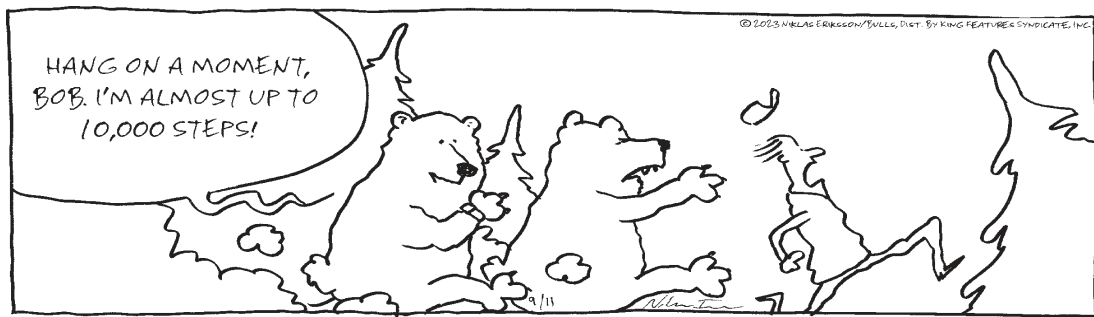
Non Sequitur



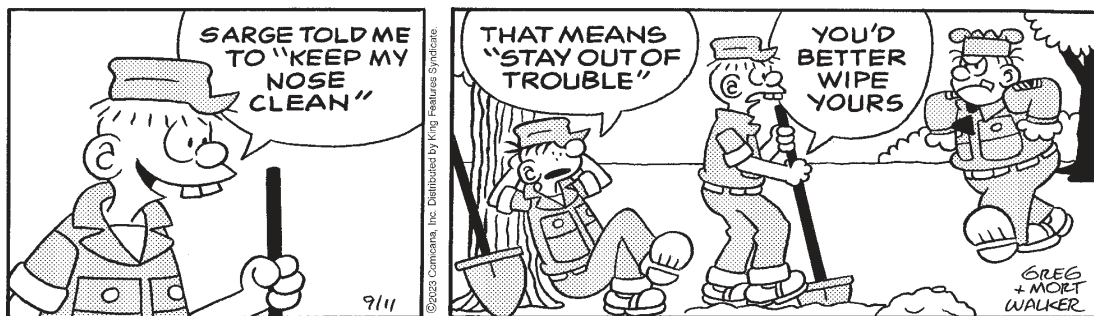
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



9-11

CRYPTOQUIP

LOFH BNCPFEE SXNV
 WFPQUAFT LUHTFPQXSSV,
 COF TPBAB NPGCGN EGAWSV
 LPUCF "SBLSFEE QSBLSFEE!"
Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE CHURCHGOERS ARE ALWAYS HAPPY WHEN THAT PARTICULAR GUY SHOWS UP. HE PRAYS WELL WITH OTHERS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals S

MMA/US OPEN

Strickland stuns Adesanya at UFC 293

American claims middleweight crown

Associated Press

SYDNEY — American Sean Strickland stunned Nigerian-born New Zealander Israel Adesanya to take the middleweight title by unanimous decision in the main event of UFC 293, the first UFC event in Australia's largest city in six years.

The 32-year-old Strickland (28-5), who caused a stir in the lead-up to the fight with sexist and misogynistic comments at a press conference promoting the bout, won a five-round decision with all three judges scoring it 49-46.

"Am I dreaming? Am I going to wake up? Someone hit me. ... I don't cry much but I'm trying to keep it together right now," an emotional Strickland said immediately after the bout. "I give up so many brain cells to the MMA gods... I thought I'd be walking away a little bloody, a little broken up. I'm a little shocked that didn't happen."

Backed by strong vocal support at Qudos Bank Arena, Adesanya (24-3) was a clear favorite to subdue his controversial American opponent and retain the title he won from Alex Pereira at UFC 281 in April.

But the 32-year-old Strickland's defensive, counterattacking style was brutally effective with the American landing the more telling shots throughout the fight with Adesanya struggling to

find a way to hurt Strickland.

After a patient start by both fighters which saw Adesanya probing Strickland's unusual defensive style, it was the American that found the first telling strike with a clean straight shot that felled Adesanya. Strickland quickly moved in on the 34-year-old New Zealander's back with a flurry of strikes to close out the first round in the American's favor.

Adesanya was the more assertive in the second and third rounds, finding his range with his kicks and right-hand shots but continued to leave himself open for Strickland to strike at his body and head.

The final rounds saw Adesanya move more into his shell as the New Zealander struggled to make any imprint on the American's defense. Strickland sensed the opportunity to go after the champion and a flurry of punches and kicks in the final minute helped ensure the decision and the middleweight title.

"You don't fight that guy with that many highlight-reel knockouts," Strickland said about Adesanya. "He's beat — the majority of my friends, he's beat pretty easily. I was even kind of doubting myself at times."

"But I've got to say, the fans in Australia, you guys motivated me. When I'm walking in here and I heard you guys yelling. In



DAN HIMBRECHTS/AP

American Sean Strickland, right, and Nigerian-born New Zealander Israel Adesanya battle in the middleweight title bout Sunday during the main event of UFC 293 in Sydney.

that fourth round I heard you guys yelling. It fueled me."

The UFC fight made news in the New South Wales state legislature, where the leading government lawmaker was forced to defend his state's payment of about \$10 million to help ensure the UFC event came to Sydney, for the first time since 2017, after Strickland made sexist and misogynistic comments during a media conference this week,

echoing comments he's made previously.

In the co-main event, Alexander Volkov (37-10) won his heavyweight bout by submission in the second round against 30-year-old Sydney-born Tai Tuivasa.

The 34-year-old Russian dominated the fight despite an injury to his front leg which Tuivasa had targeted earlier in the round, with a lopsided strike count as he landed hit after hit on the Australian

before trapping him in a choke hold which forced Tuivasa to tap out.

Australian Tyson Pedro opened the main card knocking out Sweden's Anton Turkalj in the first round, before New Zealander Justin Tafa did the same to American Austen Lane in a heavyweight bout and Manel Kape beat Felipe dos Santos by a five-round unanimous decision in an entertaining flyweight match.

First: Finishing as runner-up at French Open stayed with Gauff

FROM PAGE 24

a "Welcome to the big time!" moment for Gauff. Famous people were coming to watch her play, including former President Barack Obama, who was among those sending congratulatory wishes on Saturday. Also, Gauff and her parents received a congratulatory phone call from President Joe Biden, who was in New Delhi for the Group of 20 summit.

Gauff burst onto the scene at 15 by becoming the youngest qualifier in Wimbledon history and making it to the fourth round in her Grand Slam debut in 2019. She reached her initial major final at last year's French Open, finishing as the runner-up to Iga Swiatek, a loss that stung.

"I watched Iga lift up that trophy, and I watched her the whole time," Gauff recalled. "I said, 'I'm not going to take my eyes off her, because I want to feel what that felt like for her.'"

Another down moment came this July at the All England Club,



MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

Coco Gauff is overcome with emotion Saturday after winning her first Grand Slam at the U.S. Open in New York.

where she exited in the first round. Since then, she has won 18 of 19 matches, and now 12 in a row, while working with a new coaching pair of Brad Gilbert and Pere Riba.

The No. 6-seeded Gauff did it

Saturday by withstanding the power displayed by Sabalenka on nearly every swing of her racket, eventually getting accustomed to it and managing to get back shot after shot.

Gauff broke to begin the third

Scoreboard

Saturday

At USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center
New York

Purse: \$44,700,000

Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Women's Singles
Championship

Coco Gauff (6), United States, def. Aryna Sabalenka (2), Belarus, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Mixed Doubles
Championship

Harri Heliövaara, Finland, and Anna Danilina, Kazakhstan, def. Austin Krajicek and Jessica Pegula (1), United States, 6-3, 6-4.

set on one such point, tracking down every ball hit her way until eventually smacking a putaway volley that she punctuated with a fist pump and a scream of "Come on!"

Soon it was 4-0 in that set for Gauff. Didn't take long for her to close it out, then drop to her back on the court, before climbing into the stands to find her parents.

"You did it!" Gauff's mom told her, both in tears.

In addition to her trophy, Gauff was handed an envelope with the champion's \$3 million paycheck, the same amount Novak Djokovic or Daniil Medvedev will get after the men's final Sunday. This is the 50th anniversary of when the 1973 U.S. Open became the first major sports event to pay women and men equal prize money; the person who led that effort, Hall of Fame player and rights advocate Billie Jean King, was on hand Saturday.

"Thank you, Billie," Gauff said, "for fighting for this."

Sabalenka came in 23-2 at majors in 2023, including a title at the Australian Open. The 25-year-old from Belarus already was assured of rising from No. 2 to No. 1 in the rankings next week (Gauff will be No. 3 in singles, No. 1 in doubles).

That ranking milestone is "why I'm not super depressed right now," Sabalenka said, then joked: "I'm definitely going to be. I'm definitely going for a drink tonight — if I'm allowed to say that."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Washington State upsets Wisconsin

By JOSH WRIGHT
Associated Press

PULLMAN, Wash. — Cameron Ward passed for 212 yards and two touchdowns and added another 43 yards rushing, Nakia Watson scored on a 1-yard run with 5:30 remaining and Washington State upset No. 19 Wisconsin 31-22 on Saturday night.

Ward scrambled for runs of 23 yards and 14 yards during a pivotal fourth-quarter drive to help the Cougars avoid a second-half meltdown and beat the Badgers for the second straight season. Watson capped the drive with his 1-yard plunge.

Washington State (2-0) hosted its first Power Five nonconference opponent since 1998 and played its first home game since the collapse of the Pac-12 this summer. Facing an uncertain future as a Power Five program, Washington State put on a show in the first half to race to a 24-6 lead.

"In this moment, it's everything. We belong in the Power Five," Washington State coach Jake Dickert said on the field as it was flooded by celebrating fans after the upset. "These kids have worked their (tails) off. I'm so damn proud of them."

Wisconsin (1-1) scored 16 straight points and was driving in the fourth quarter with a chance to take the lead before running back Chez Mellusi fumbled near midfield.

The Badgers lost three fumbles and had little go right in the first half. Nathaniel Vakos made three field goals in the first half, but Wisconsin didn't find the end zone until Mellusi's 2-yard run midway through the third quarter that cut Washington State's lead to 24-16.

Tanner Mordecai hit Skyler Bell on a 16-yard touchdown pass late in the third quarter to pull Wisconsin to 24-22, but the two-

point conversion attempt failed.

Mordecai was 25-for-40 for 278 yards and fumbled twice, both on sacks by Ron Stone Jr. One of the fumbles was recovered by Brennan Jackson for a touchdown in the first half.

Washington State held the Badgers' potent running back duo of Mellusi and Braelon Allen to 69 yards on 19 carries.

"The reality is we have enough talent to win," first-year Wisconsin coach Luke Fickell said.

The Cougars punted on their first four second-half possessions and totaled just 119 yards after halftime. But they got a much-needed jolt when safety Jaden Hicks forced the Mellusi fumble and cornerback Jackson Lataimua recovered.

"We didn't have the second half we wanted as an offense," Ward said. "But we didn't flinch."

Statement win

Dickert was proud of how his team responded in "gut-check time" of a nationally televised game and in front of 33,024 fans at Martin Stadium.

"This is a crux point for Washington State and Washington State football," Dickert said. "We're carrying the flag for all the transition, and this is a pivotal moment for where we want to go. Wherever we end up, we've got to commit to being great. And I think that's what this statement (win) means is that we are here. We're fighting, and even as college football is changing, we're still getting pretty good results."

Thompson on hand

Former Washington State basketball star Klay Thompson was on the sideline for the big matchup and presented the Washington State women's basketball team with the Pac-12 conference championship trophy during a timeout in the first quarter.



YOUNG KWAK/AP

Wisconsin linebacker Maema Njongmeta tackles Washington State running back Jaylen Jenkins on Saturday in Pullman, Wash.



DOUG MURRAY/AP

Miami defensive back Jaden Davis jars the ball loose from Texas A&M running back Amari Daniels during Saturday's game in Miami Gardens. The Hurricanes knocked off No. 23 Texas A&M 48-33.

Van Dyke leads Miami past No. 23 Texas A&M

By ALANIS THAMES
Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — This season for the Miami Hurricanes was about re-instituting a winning culture led by the players and shown through energetic plays on the field.

The Hurricanes are already getting what they worked for.

Tyler Van Dyke threw a career-high five touchdown passes Saturday, Brashard Smith returned a kickoff 98 yards for a score and Miami overcame a slow start to defeat No. 23 Texas A&M 48-33.

Smith caught a kick near Miami's end zone and burst forward, untouched, for the Hurricanes' longest score of the young year. He celebrated only briefly on the sideline, then scampered back onto the field for kickoff coverage.

The play gave the Hurricanes an eight-point lead in the third quarter, and they built on that. It was a stark turnaround after Texas A&M jumped out to a 10-point first-quarter lead.

"Players are stepping up," said receiver Xavier Restrepo, who had six catches for 126 yards. "Last year, it felt like the coaches had more energy than the players. This year, we all sat down the first day of spring training camp and were like, 'This is our team, not the coaches' team.'"

Van Dyke had two touchdown passes of 3 yards, as well as 52-, 11- and 64-yard scores. He finished with 374 yards passing to bring his season total to 575 — an impres-

Scoreboard

AP Top 25 fared

No. 1 Georgia (2-0) beat Ball St. 45-3. Next: vs. South Carolina, Saturday.
No. 2 Michigan (2-0) beat UNLV 35-7. Next: vs. Bowling Green, Saturday.
No. 3 Alabama (1-1) lost to No. 11 Texas 34-24. Next: at South Florida, Saturday.
No. 4 Florida St. (2-0) beat Southern Miss. 66-13. Next: at Boston College, Saturday.
No. 5 Ohio St. (2-0) beat Youngstown St. 35-7. Next: vs. W. Kentucky, Saturday.
No. 6 Southern Cal (3-0) beat Stanford 56-10. Next: at Arizona St., TBA.
No. 7 Penn St. (2-0) beat Delaware 63-7. Next: at Illinois, Saturday.
No. 8 Washington (2-0) beat Tulsa 43-10. Next: at Michigan St., Saturday.
No. 9 Tennessee (2-0) beat Austin Peay 30-13. Next: at Florida, Saturday.
No. 10 Notre Dame (3-0) beat NC State 45-24. Next: vs. Cent. Michigan, Saturday.
No. 11 Texas (2-0) beat No. 3 Alabama 34-24. Next: vs. Wyoming, Saturday.
No. 12 Utah (2-0) beat Baylor 20-13. Next: vs. Weber St., Saturday.
No. 13 Oregon (2-0) beat Texas Tech 38-30. Next: vs. Hawaii, Saturday.
No. 14 LSU (1-1) beat Grambling St. 72-10. Next: at Mississippi St., Saturday.
No. 15 Kansas St. (2-0) beat Troy 42-13. Next: at Missouri, Saturday.
No. 16 Oregon St. (2-0) beat UC Davis 55-7. Next: vs. San Diego St., Saturday.
No. 17 North Carolina (2-0) beat Appalachian St. 40-34. Next: vs. Minnesota, Saturday.
No. 18 Oklahoma (2-0) beat SMU 28-11. Next: at Tulsa, Saturday.
No. 19 Wisconsin (1-1) lost to Washington St. 31-22. Next: vs. Georgia Southern, Saturday.
No. 20 Mississippi (2-0) beat No. 24 Tulane 37-20. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Saturday.
No. 21 Duke (2-0) beat Lafayette 42-7. Next: vs. Northwestern, Saturday.
No. 22 Colorado (2-0) beat Nebraska 36-14. Next: vs. Colorado St., Saturday.
No. 23 Texas A&M (1-1) lost to Miami 48-33. Next: vs. Louisiana-Monroe, Saturday.
No. 24 Tulane (1-1) lost to No. 20 Mississippi 37-20. Next: at Southern Miss., Saturday.
No. 25 Clemson (1-1) beat Charleston Southern 66-17. Next: vs. FAU, Saturday.

sive start after he struggled last year.

"I feel accuracy-wise, I'm the best I've ever been," said Van Dyke, who was 21-for-30 with no

interceptions. "Seeing the defense, I'm the best I've ever been. I'm seeing really well right now, and the confidence is a big thing there."

Aggies quarterback Conner Weigman had 336 yards passing, including a 9-yard TD pass on fourth down to Noah Thomas that brought the Aggies within eight points with five minutes left. On the next drive, Miami's Jacolby George caught a 64-yard touchdown pass — his third score of the day.

Weigman threw his first collegiate interception when safety Kamren Kinchens caught a pass intended for Ainius Smith in the third.

Kinchens was later carted off the field and taken to the hospital after a scary hit. Miami coach Mario Cristobal said he thinks Kinchens will be OK.

The Hurricanes lost to Texas A&M 17-9 a year ago in a down 5-7 season.

In Cristobal's second year, Miami (2-0) now has new offensive and defensive coordinators and a revamped offensive line after that unit was among their biggest weaknesses last season. The result has been a 250-yard rushing performance in a commanding 38-3 win over Miami (Ohio) in its opener and an impressive comeback win in the first real test of 2023.

"I felt like I could've went to sleep and woke up and still run my route with the O-line," Restrepo said.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Ewers, Texas pull off upset of Tide

BY JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Quinn Ewers and the Texas Longhorns gave themselves an early welcome to the Southeastern Conference. And perhaps a welcome back to national title contention.

Ewers finished what he started last season, passing for 349 yards and three touchdowns to lead No. 11 Texas to a 34-24 victory over third-ranked Alabama on Saturday night in a huge win for a program trying to climb back to its old level of prominence nationally.

The Longhorns (2-0) delivered the biggest victory under Steve Sarkisian in a game that slipped away last season after a red-hot Ewers exited because of a first-quarter shoulder injury. He was back and with another big weapon in Adonai Mitchell. Texas is set to join Alabama & Co. in the SEC next season.

“Even when it got dicey ... I love the response and the grit and perseverance our guys showed,” said Sarkisian, a former Alabama offensive coordinator who parlayed that stint into the Texas job.

It didn't come without a fight from the Crimson Tide (1-1), who have now seen three games slip away late in the past two seasons. Alabama had its 21-game home winning streak snapped along with a 57-game regular-season binge against nonconference teams dating to Nick Saban's debut season, 2007.

“This was a test for us,” Saban said. “I told the players early in the week that this was going to be a test, that we were playing a really good team and that we would find out where we were as a team. It was a test for everybody. It was a test for the coaches, it was a test for me, it was a test for all the players.”

“And we obviously didn't do very well. But it's the mid-term, it's not the final.”



VASHA HUNT/AP

Texas quarterback Quinn Ewers celebrates after beating Alabama on Saturday in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Ewers threw for 349 yards and three touchdowns.

Mitchell delivered big against 'Bama — again. The Georgia transfer caught touchdown passes of 7 and 39 yards in the fourth quarter. As a freshman Mitchell's 40-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter of the national championship game against the Tide gave Georgia the lead and the first of back-to-back titles.

He caught the winner against Ohio State in the semifinal as well. Then Mitchell headed to Texas and another showdown with Alabama.

Sarkisian came into the game 14-12 at Texas and with just two wins in nine tries against ranked teams. He left with a doozie of a win over his former boss. Texas fans lingered, sometimes breaking into chants of “SEC.”

Sarkisian reiterated that this game wouldn't make or break the Longhorns' season, but added it's a solid “benchmark” for where they stand.

“We have a ton of respect for Alabama, and I know how well they're coached. I know how hard they play,” he said. “I think it just

shows a lot about what we're capable of. Like I said coming into this game, this game isn't going to define our season. We have 10 regular-season games left.”

Ewers was 24-for-38 passing and tight end Ja'Tavion Sanders had five catches for 114 yards.

Alabama's Jalen Milroe delivered big plays passing and running, but also was picked off twice on bad decisions. He was 14-for-27 for 255 yards with a pair of touchdowns.

Alabama didn't grab its first lead until Milroe found Jermaine Burton — also a transfer from two-time defending national champion Georgia — in the left corner of the end zone for a 49-yard touchdown with 14 seconds left in the third quarter. That came after a fourth-down stop when Ewers couldn't control the snap under center.

That lead became a double-digit deficit again in a whirlwind 84-second span.

Ewers answered right back with a 50-yard pass and run to Sanders. Then he promptly hit Mitchell for his 7-yarder.

Jerrin Thompson stepped in front of Milroe's pass and raced 32 yards to set up Jonathan Brooks' 5-yard run. Suddenly it was Texas 27, Alabama 16.

Milroe and 'Bama weren't done. Milroe recovered a dropped snap and hit tight end Amari Niblack, who rambled for a 39-yard touchdown.

Milroe's two-point pass made it 27-24 with 11:08 left before Mitchell's long score put it away.

Ewers refused to wonder publicly what might have been if he hadn't been hurt last season after passing for 134 yards on the first two drives. A year later, he got to savor the victory with his parents.

“It's definitely going to be a moment I remember forever,” he said.

Shedeur Sanders, Colorado roll past Nebraska

BY PAT GRAHAM
Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — Shedeur Sanders spent all day avoiding the rush, including from his own fans who were storming the field.

It's a moment the Colorado quarterback thought he wanted — even stayed on the field to enjoy.

“But I started getting beat up,” he said with a laugh.

Sanders accounted for three scores, the defense forced four turnovers and the 22nd-ranked Buffaloes beat longtime rival Nebraska 36-14 on Saturday in the home debut of Deion Sanders at sold-out Folsom Field.

After Coach Prime's team was the story of Week 1 with an upset of TCU, the Buffs showed it was no fluke. They even used a slightly different blueprint — one that relied on the defense early until the offense found its rhythm.

“This team,” Deion Sanders said, “hasn't scratched the surface of what it's capable of doing.”

Shedeur Sanders threw for 393 yards and two scores, while running for another touchdown. He

capped his 6-yard romp in the fourth quarter with the dance steps his dad made famous during his playing days.

“I really think I did better than him, honestly,” the quarterback said of his shuffle.

Not so fast, his father cautioned. “The Lord passed us when it came to dancing,” his dad said.

The Buffaloes (2-0) needed a moment to wake up given the early kickoff. But once they did, they were unstoppable. After punting on their first four drives, Shedeur Sanders and the offense scored on seven of eight possessions to turn the game into a rout. The Buffaloes outgained the Huskers by a 454-341 margin.

“We've just got to be able to start faster and be able to lock in quicker,” Sanders said. “They (the defense) had our backs.”

The fans ran onto the field to celebrate with a second remaining. After a momentary delay, the official announced it was over and more rushed out.

“This is my first time somebody rushed the field,” he said. “It

looked fun.”

The contest featured two coaches trying to turn around programs that have fallen on lean times. Deion Sanders has elevated Colorado to the point where the Buffaloes had 53,241 fans in attendance — their largest crowd in 15 years — and tickets going for roughly \$400. His counterpart, Matt Rhule, is still looking for his first win at Nebraska.

“I think we're better than we're showing. But what does that mean? It's just words,” Rhule said. “I told the team, ‘We're going to get this right.’”

Xavier Weaver hauled in 10 passes for 170 yards and a score, while Jace Feely made three field goals.

Shedeur Sanders stayed cool despite being under constant pressure and sacked seven times. He distributed the production, just like he did in a 45-42 win at TCU last weekend.

Tar'Varish Dawson had a big afternoon, with a 30-yard touchdown catch and an 8-yard score on a reverse.

The defense held the Cornhuskers



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Colorado quarterback Shedeur Sanders, left, escapes from Nebraska linebacker Nick Henrich in the second half on Saturday. Sanders threw for 393 yards and two scores, and ran for a touchdown.

ers in check until Colorado's offense got revved up.

Travis Hunter, CU's versatile cornerback and receiver, rarely

left the field. He finished with three catches for 73 yards, while also making four tackles. Hunter played 129 snaps at TCU.

SPORTS



Texas wins big showdown

Ewers leads No. 11 Longhorns past No. 3 Tide » College football, Page 23

US OPEN



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Coco Gauff holds up the championship trophy Saturday after defeating Aryna Sabalenka, of Belarus, in the women's final of the U.S. Open in New York.

Gauff wins first Grand Slam

American teenager outlasts Sabalenka in three sets

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Coco Gauff is still a teenager, after all, and so it should surprise no one that she was on her phone in the locker room, scrolling through social media, right up until 10 minutes before heading out on court for the U.S. Open final.

What the 19-year-old was reading, she said later, were various comments, negative ones, “saying I wasn’t going to win today; that just put the fire in me.”

As a pro athlete from a young age, as someone of whom greatness has been expected by some and doubted by others, Gauff has always taken it all in and kept

moving forward, trying to learn from each setback. And now, at a tournament she used to visit as a kid to see her idols, Serena and Venus Williams, Gauff is a Grand Slam champion herself and a certified star.

Setting aside a so-so start Saturday, Gauff surged to a 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory over the soon-to-be-No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in the final at Arthur Ashe Stadium, delighting a raucous crowd that backed her from start to finish.

When Gauff walked into her news conference — phone in hand, of course — she noticed that a large screen on the back wall was rotating pictures of her from the match. So she tucked her new silver tro-

phy under one arm and used the other hand to snap a selfie with those photos in the background.

“Right now I’m just feeling happiness and a very, very small bit of relief,” she explained. “Because honestly, at this point, I was doing it for myself and not for other people.”

Gauff, who is from Florida, is the first American teenager to win the country’s major tennis tournament since Serena Williams in 1999. If last year’s U.S. Open was all about saying goodbye to Williams as she competed for the final time, this year’s two weeks in New York turned into

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MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

Going into the match, Sabalenka was 23-2 at majors this year and won the Australian Open.

Díaz’s homer in 9th lifts Rays over Seattle » MLB, Page 20

