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STARS AND STRIPES

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas



Demanding deployment

Sending a THAAD air defense system to Israel adds to strain on US Army forces

A soldier from a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery stands in front of a launcher at an undisclosed location in the CENTCOM area of responsibility.

Duy NGUYEN/U.S. Army

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The deployment of a U.S. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery to Israel and roughly 100 soldiers to operate it will add to already difficult strains on the Army's air defense forces and potential delays in modernizing its missile defense systems, Army leaders said Monday.

The service's top two leaders declined to provide details on the deployment ordered by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin over the weekend. But they spoke broadly about their concerns as the demand for THAAD and Patriot missile batteries grows because of the war in Ukraine and the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah and Hamas militants.

"The air defense, artillery community is the most stressed. They have the highest 'optempo' really of any part of the Army," Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said, using a phrase meaning the pace of operations. "We're just constantly trying to be as disciplined as we can, and give Secretary Austin the information he needs to accurately assess the strain on the force when he's considering future operational deployments."

Wormuth said the Army has to be

SEE STRAIN ON PAGE 5

Army to boost pay for most soldiers on extended deployments

By **JOHN VANDIVER**
Stars and Stripes

Soldiers sent on extended operational deployments lasting more than 60 days will soon get a pay bump, the Army's top civilian said this week.

The new special duty pay adds

up to \$240 per month for all soldiers, regardless of rank, Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth said Monday.

"All soldiers of all ranks are sharing the rigors of deployment the same and they are all away from their families, so we felt like

a flat rate made sense to us," Wormuth told reporters at the annual Association of the U.S. Army meeting in Washington.

The benefit, applied retroactively to Oct. 1, is in recognition of the hardship of "being away from families, but also the rigors of de-

ployment," she said. It wasn't clear when the pay would begin showing up in paychecks.

Wormuth said she expected the stipend to remain in place for the long term.

The stipend is tied to operational deployments that last for more

than 60 days. Missions such as those carried out by rotational Army units sent to Europe to counter potential Russian aggression on NATO's eastern flank are among the deployments eligible for the

SEE BOOST ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Walgreens to close 1,200 US stores to steady business

Associated Press

Walgreens plans to close about 1,200 locations over the next three years as the drugstore chain seeks to turn around its struggling U.S. business.

The company said Tuesday that about 500 store closures will come in the current fiscal year and should immediately support adjusted earnings and free cash flow. Walgreens didn't say where the store closings would take place.

Walgreens operates about 8,500

stores in the United States and a few thousand overseas. All of the stores that will be closed are in the United States.

Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. leaders said in late June that they were finalizing a turnaround plan for its U.S. business, and that push could result in the closing of hundreds of underperforming stores.

The plan announced Tuesday includes the closing of 300 stores that had been approved under a previous cost-cutting plan.

Walgreens CEO Tim Went-

worth said in a statement that fiscal 2025, which began last month, will be an important "rebasement year" for the drugstore chain.

"This turnaround will take time, but we are confident it will yield significant financial and consumer benefits over the long term," he said.

Walgreens, like its competitors, has been struggling for years with tight reimbursement for the prescriptions it sells as well as other challenges like rising costs to operate its stores.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro (Oct. 16)	0.89	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound (Oct. 16)	1.28	Britain (Pound)	1.3089
Japanese yen (Oct. 16)	145.00	Canada (Dollar)	1.3815
South Korean won (Oct. 16)	1324.00	China (Yuan)	7.1162
		Denmark (Krone)	6.8389
		Egypt (Pound)	48.5496
		Euro	0.9167
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7674
		Hungary (Forint)	366.91
		Israel (Shekel)	3.7564
		Japan (Yen)	149.20
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3066
		Norway (Krone)	10.8022
		Philippines (Peso)	57.71
		Poland (Zloty)	3.94
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7542
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.3083
		South Korea (Won)	1360.54
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8613		
Thailand (Baht)	33.31		
Turkey (NewLira)	34.2325		

(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	8.00
Interest Rates Discount rate	5.00
Federal funds market rate	4.83
3-month bill	4.64
30-year bond	4.40

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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MILITARY

Army may conduct live-fire drills near N. Korea border

BY DAVID CHOI
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — U.S. troops may now employ attack helicopters in live-fire drills at a range 16 miles from North Korea, according to the South's Ministry of National Defense.

For the past six years, the Army could fly AH-64 Apaches in exercises at the Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, but not fire their weapons.

Representatives from the ministry, South Korean army and a citizens' group investigating noise complaints from the range, signed a memorandum Monday to "normalize" training by U.S. forces, according to a ministry news release that day.

Concerns over noise generated by the Apaches prompted a U.S. noise study earlier this year, Kang Tae Il, chairman of the citizens' group — Pocheon Live Fire Range Countermeasure Committee — told Stars and Stripes by phone Tuesday.

"We, local residents, originally wanted to get this range moved and closed," he said. "However, in the situation in our country that is a standoff with North Korea, soldiers need to train somewhere."

The change near the border came as tensions continue to tick higher on the peninsula. On Tuesday, North Korea destroyed parts of inter-Korean roads on its side of the border, after claiming that

South Korean drones flew over Pyongyang.

To compensate Pocheon residents for the noise, the ministry agreed to construct a gymnasium, golf course and other sports facilities around the range at an undetermined date, Kang said.

The proposed facilities would be available for use by area residents and the military and would "improve the living conditions and revitalize the local economy," according to the National Defense Ministry's release. The ministry "will continue to communicate and cooperate with the community to ensure security," it added.

Since 2018, U.S. forces have been required to inform the ministry and Pocheon's government of their intent to carry out live-fire training at the range.

U.S. troops train there throughout the year using Apaches, eight-wheeled Strykers and M1A2 Abrams tanks.

In August, the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team conducted a live-fire drill from Strykers and M109 Paladin howitzers positioned a mile from the range.

On Oct. 24, 2023, a stray 5.56 mm bullet fired from the range hit the windshield of an SUV driven by a South Korean man.

The driver was not injured.

One month later, Eighth Army, the command responsible for U.S. ground operations in South Korea, took responsibility for the accident and permanently closed the shooting lane where the bullet was fired.



QUINTON LEE/U.S. Navy

USS Preble sailors man the rails as the destroyer pulls into Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Oct. 12.

Destroyer arrives in Japan armed with high-energy laser weapon

BY ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A guided-missile destroyer equipped with a high-energy laser joined the U.S. 7th Fleet over the weekend to begin testing the weapon's effectiveness at sea. Sailors in dress whites manned the rails Saturday as the USS Preble pulled into Tokyo Bay and moored at Yokosuka, where it became the 10th destroyer assigned to Destroyer Squadron 15.

The Preble's arrival from Naval Base San Diego brings a new capability to the fleet.

It is the only U.S. warship equipped with the High-Energy Laser with Integrated Optical-dazzler and Surveillance, or HELIOS, system.

The 60-kilowatt directed energy weapons system is designed to counter small watercraft or drones and collect long-range intelligence, according to manufacturer Lockheed Martin's website.

HELIOS can "dazzle," or blind or impair sensors aboard surveillance drones, or punch a hole through drones, low-flying aircraft and, in some cases, missiles, according to Lockheed Martin executive Joe Ottaviano, quoted by National Defense magazine in February 2021.

HELIOS is currently in the at-

sea testing phase, Task Force 70 spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Seth Koenig said Tuesday. The typical overseas deployment for a destroyer is about a decade, but there is currently no defined time associated with the Preble's assignment to Yokosuka, he said.

Lockheed Martin, starting work under a \$150 million contract in 2018, installed HELIOS aboard Preble in 2022, according to media reports cited by the Congressional Research Service for an Aug. 6 update on Navy-directed energy weapons.

HELIOS performed well in land-based tests in fall 2021 at the Navy's Surface Combat Systems Center on Wallops Island, Va., according to the report.

The Navy is actively pursuing systems like HELIOS to improve warships' survivability against large numbers of drones and anti-ship missiles such as those employed by China, the report said.

HELIOS is primarily intended to defend the Preble itself, but it's also shown some ability to defend other ships in its vicinity, according to the Congressional Research Service report.

Unlike missiles and close-in weapons systems, whose shipboard magazines are finite and may require a trip of thousands of miles to replenish, lasers run on

the ship's power supply and are theoretically inexhaustible.

Other potential advantages are fast engagement times, an ability to counter radically maneuvering missiles and conduct precision engagements, and an ability to use lasers for graduated responses ranging from detecting and monitoring targets to causing disabling damage, according to the research service report.

However, solid-state lasers like HELIOS have limited range — a mile to several miles — and are best as short-range defensive weapons, according to the report.

The HELIOS system works in sync with the Preble's Flight IIA Aegis Combat System — the Navy's command-and-control suite aboard guided-missile destroyers, according to Lockheed Martin.

That may prove to be a downside, however, if the Navy wants to install the system aboard Flight III variants of Arleigh Burke-class destroyers such as the USS Jack H. Lucas launched in June 2021. The system uses almost the same amount of power as the Flight III variant's AN/SPY-6 Air and Missile Defense Radar.

The Preble replaces the guided-missile destroyer USS Benfold, which is due to relocate soon to Everett, Wash., but was still at Yokosuka as of Tuesday.



LUIS GARCIA/Stars and Stripes

An AH-64E Apache flies over Rodriguez Live Fire Complex in Pocheon, South Korea.

Maine shooting victims begin suing the Army

Associated Press

LEWISTON, Maine — Lawyers representing 100 survivors and family members of victims of the deadliest shooting in Maine history have begun the formal process of suing the Army and an Army hospital for failing to act to stop the reservist responsible for the tragedy, attorneys announced Tuesday.

The individual notices of claim say the Army was aware of the reservist's mental health decline

that left him paranoid, delusional and expressing homicidal ideations, producing a "hit list" of those he wanted to attack.

The notices of claim by four law firms are a required step in suing the federal government. The Army will have six months to determine whether to respond, after which a lawsuit may be filed.

Eighteen people were killed when 40-year-old Robert Card opened fire at two locations he'd frequented — a bowling alley and

a cornhole league hosted by a bar and grill — on Oct. 25, 2023. Another 13 people were injured. Card was found dead two days later from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. An independent commission concluded that there were ample opportunities to intervene by both civilian law enforcement and the Army. For now, lawyers for victims and family and friends who suffered loss are focusing on the Army, and not a private hospital that treated Card.

MILITARY

US Army: Russian chaos raises risk of an escalation

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Army's top general in Europe warned this week that Russian operatives making mischief in NATO territory have ratcheted up the risk of military escalation with Moscow.

"The miscalculation piece is as high as it's ever been," U.S. Army Europe and Africa's Gen. Darryl Williams said Tuesday.

Williams, speaking at the Association of the U.S. Army's annual conference in Washington, said he couldn't go into much detail about the situation. However, he described the operatives as nontraditional and not "classically trained."

Since Russia's 2022 attack on Ukraine, U.S. military officials have raised concerns about the lack of systems in place during the Cold War that helped Washington and Moscow read each other's signals and avoid nuclear conflict.

Williams' assertion suggests Russian operatives lack the grasp of allied red lines that their Soviet predecessors had.

"We could tumble into this thing because of the people that are currently snooping around Europe and causing mischief in all of our backyards," Williams said.

Williams said allies need to prepare for the long-term when it comes to countering the threat posed by Russia, which despite heavy losses in Ukraine continues to reconstitute its forces, ramp up defense spending and crank out munitions with an industrial base on a wartime footing.

Beyond Ukraine's borders, there are growing concerns about Russian activity rippling into NATO member nations.

On Monday, German officials highlighted a previously undisclosed incident that occurred in July in the eastern city of Leipzig, where a package caught fire at a DHL logistics center before being loaded onto a cargo plane. The Germans said the action was suspected Russian sabotage.

There have been other causes

for alarm.

"We are seeing sabotage across Europe," said Jack Watling, a ground warfare expert with the Royal United Services Institute in London, who joined Williams on panel discussion about NATO security matters.



Williams

Numerous acts of arson, the attempted assassination of an industrial leader in Europe and various information operations aimed at destabilizing allied political systems are among the recent actions carried out by Russia on NATO turf, he said.

"And we have had Russian weapons fly through NATO airspace on their route to Ukraine multiple times," Watling said, without elaborating. "So, this is very real, and it could escalate ... which means that we need to be ready to fight tonight."

At Williams' headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany, military exercises have gotten more complex to better prepare ground forces for potential large-scale conflict.

Last month, USAREUR led a two-week drill called Avenger Triad 24 that involved the Army and 10 other countries coordinating a response to a theoretical Russian attack.

The drill was probably the largest command post exercise in Europe since the 1980s, Williams said.

"We're practicing like we used to back in the day," he said, referring to the Cold War era when allies routinely conducted mass mobilization drills.

Corps passage of lines, or the movement of large units past each other on the battlefield, was one feature of the Avenger Triad exercise. Williams said such maneuvers encapsulate how allies are adapting.

"No other theater is passing corps in a fight. No other theater. In Europe we're doing that — large scale combat operations," Williams said.



AHN YOUNG-JOON/AP

A TV screen shows a news report saying that North Korea has blown up parts of the northern side of inter-Korean roads, at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, on Tuesday.

N. Korea blows up parts of roads to South Korea in display of anger

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — In a symbolic display of anger, North Korea on Tuesday blew up the northern section of unused roads that once linked it with the South, with the rivals exchanging threats days after the North claimed that its rival flew drones over its capital Pyongyang.

The roads' choreographed demolition underlines North Korea's growing anger against South Korea's conservative government. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to sever relations with South Korea and abandon the goal of achieving peaceful Korean unification.

Observers say it's unlikely Kim will launch a preemptive, large-scale attack on South Korea because of fear that an almost certain massive retaliation by the more superior forces of the United States and South Korea would threaten Pyongyang's survival.

In response to the explosions, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said its military fired within southern sections of the border as it bolstered its readiness and surveillance posture.

The statement did not give details, but the move could have been an attempt to avert cross-border fire by North Korea. It

wasn't immediately known whether North Korea responded.

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles affairs with North Korea, separately condemned the North's detonations as a "highly abnormal" and "regressive" measure that violates previous inter-Korean agreements.

Video provided by South Korea's military showed a cloud of white and gray smoke emerging from the explosion at a road near the western border town of Kaesong. North Korean trucks and excavators could be seen clearing out debris. Another video showed smoke emerging from a coastal road near the eastern border.

North Korea has a history of staging the choreographed destruction of facilities on its own soil as a political message.

In 2020, North Korea blew up an empty, South Korean-built liaison office building just north of the border in retaliation for South Korean civilian leafletting campaigns. In 2018, North Korea demolished tunnels at its nuclear testing site at the start of nuclear diplomacy with the United States. In 2008, North Korea blew up a cooling tower at its main nuclear complex when earlier disarmament-for-aid negotiations with

Washington and others were happening.

Destroying the roads, which were mainly built with South Korean money, would be in line with leader Kim Jong Un's order in January to abandon the goal of peaceful Korean unification and formally designate South Korea as the country's "invariable principal enemy." That order surprised many outside North Korea watchers because it seemed to break from his predecessors' long-cherished dreams of peacefully unifying the Korean Peninsula on the North's terms.

Experts say Kim likely aims to diminish South Korea's voice in the regional nuclear standoff and seek direct dealings with the United States. Kim may also hope to diminish South Korean cultural influence and bolster his family's dynastic rule at home.

North Korea has accused South Korea of infiltrating drones to drop propaganda leaflets over Pyongyang three times this month and threatened to respond with force if it happened again.

South Korea has refused to confirm whether it sent drones but warned that North Korea would face the end of its regime if the safety of South Korean citizens is threatened.

Boost: Training centers before deployment does not count for extra pay

FROM PAGE 1
extra pay.

Wormuth said time spent on trips to Army training centers, where units often go to prepare for upcoming deployments, don't qualify for the special pay.

The Army has reduced the number of troops it has based overseas, especially in Europe, since the end of the Cold War. However, it has stepped up its presence on the Continent over the past decade with rotational

brigades and battalions moving in and out of countries on a regular basis.

The heavy reliance on such units to carry out deployments has raised questions about whether the rotational model puts too

heavy a strain on soldiers.

A March study by the Center for Strategic and International Studies reported that there are indications that troops on accompanied tours have higher morale than their rotational counterparts en-

during long family separations.

"Rotational deployments also lead to more discipline issues and increased divorce rates," according to the report, which cited lower reenlistment rates for units involved in rotational missions.

MIDEAST



DUY NGUYEN/U.S. Army

A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) launcher is prepared to launch interceptors at an undisclosed location in the CENTCOM Area of Operations in 2023.

Strain: Air defense, artillery community is most stressed

FROM PAGE 1

careful about “what we take on. But of course, in a world this volatile, you know, sometimes we have to do what we have to do.”

The Pentagon announced the THAAD deployment Sunday, saying it was authorized at the direction of President Joe Biden. U.S. officials said the system will be moved from a location in the continental United States to Israel and that it will take a number of days for it and the soldiers to arrive. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of troop movements.

The move adds to what have been growing tensions within the Defense Department about what weapons the U.S. can afford to send to Ukraine, Israel or elsewhere and the resulting risks to America’s military readiness and its ability to protect the nation.

“Everybody wants U.S. Army air defense forces,” Gen. Randy George, Army chief of staff, said Monday as he and Wormuth took questions from journalists at the Association of the U.S. Army’s annual conference. “This is our most deployed formation.”

The decision to send the THAAD came as Israel is widely believed to be preparing a military response to Iran’s Oct. 1 attack, when it fired roughly 180 missiles into Israel. Israel already has a multilayered air defense

system, but a Hezbollah drone attack on an army base Sunday killed four soldiers and severely wounded seven others, underscoring the potential need for greater protection.

Israeli forces and Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon have been clashing since Oct. 8, 2023, when the Lebanese militant group began firing rockets over the border in support of its ally Hamas in Gaza. The Sunday drone attack was Hezbollah’s deadliest strike since Israel launched its ground invasion of Lebanon nearly two weeks ago.

Since the THAAD deployment only involves about 100 soldiers, it won’t add a tremendous amount of additional strain on air defense forces, Wormuth said at the conference.

But it adds to the pace of their deployments. Since the frenetic pace of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars has subsided, the military has tried to ensure that service members have sufficient time at home to train and reset between deployments.

Shrinking that so-called dwell time can have an impact on the Army’s ability to keep good soldiers in the force.

“They’re very good, but obviously deploying for a year and coming back for a year and deploying for a year — it’s tough to do for anybody,” George said.

Netanyahu: Israel to aim strikes at Iranian military

By SHIRA RUBIN
AND ELLEN NAKASHIMA
The Washington Post

TEL AVIV — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told the Biden administration he is willing to strike military rather than oil or nuclear facilities in Iran, according to two officials familiar with the matter, suggesting a more limited counterstrike aimed at preventing a full-scale war.

In the two weeks since Iran’s latest missile barrage on Israel, its second direct attack in six months, the Middle East has braced for Israel’s promised response, fearing the two countries’ decadeslong shadow war could explode into a head-on military confrontation. It comes at a politically fraught time for Washington, less than a month before the election; President Joe Biden has said publicly he would not support an Israeli strike on nuclear-related sites.

When Biden and Netanyahu spoke Wednesday — their first call in more than seven weeks after months of rising tensions between the two men — the prime minister said he was planning to target military infrastructure in Iran, according to a U.S. official and an official familiar with the matter. Like others in this story, they spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive deliberations.

The White House had no immediate comment. The Israeli prime minister’s office said in a statement that “we listen to the opinions of the United States, but we will make our final decisions based on our national interest.”

The retaliatory action would be calibrated to avoid the perception of “political interference in the U.S. elections,” the official familiar with the matter said, signaling Netanyahu’s understanding that the scope of the Israeli strike has the potential to reshape the presidential race.

An Israeli strike on Iranian oil facilities could send energy prices soaring, analysts say, while an attack on the country’s nuclear research program could erase any remaining red lines governing Israel’s conflict with Tehran, triggering further escalation and risking a more direct U.S. military role. Netanyahu’s stated plan to go after military sites instead, as Israel did after Iran’s attack in April, was met with relief in Washington.

Netanyahu was in a “more moderated place” in that discussion than he had previously been, said the U.S. official, describing the call between the two leaders. The apparent softening of the prime minister’s stance factored into Biden’s decision to send a powerful missile



PAMELA SMITH/AP

Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu.

defense system to Israel, both officials said.

After that call, the president was more inclined to do it, the U.S. official said.

On Sunday, the Pentagon announced that it was deploying its anti-ballistic THAAD battery system to Israel, along with about 100 U.S. military personnel. The system, which officials say is expected to arrive in the coming days, “underscores the United States’ ironclad commitment to the defense of Israel,” the Pentagon statement said.

The Israeli strike on Iran would be carried out before the U.S. elections on Nov. 5, the official familiar with the matter said, because a lack of action could be interpreted by Iran as a sign of weakness. “It will be one in a series of responses,” she said.

Zohar Palti, a former intelligence director for Israel’s Mossad intelligence agency, said Netanyahu would need to balance Washington’s appeals for moderation with the public demand in Israel for an overwhelming response.

“The Iranians have lost every measure of restraint that they used to have,” he said. “Without the U.S. weapons, Israel cannot fight,” Palti acknowledged. “But it is Israel who takes the risks” and “knows how to do the job.”

On Thursday night, the official familiar with the matter said, Netanyahu convened his security cabinet for three hours to discuss the options on the table, but he did not seek official authorization for the attack from his cabinet — keeping the timing intentionally open-ended.

Within the Israeli defense establishment, there is concern that the strike will not be forceful enough — or public enough — to deter Iran from another direct attack on Israel, or from developing nuclear weapons.

“The Israeli military wants to hit Iran’s military leadership, because

it doesn’t hurt the people and it doesn’t erupt the region into a larger war,” said Gayil Talshir, a political scientist at Hebrew University who is in contact with senior members of Israel’s defense establishment. “But that is not how Netanyahu is thinking.”

In April, after a U.S.-led military coalition helped Israel intercept hundreds of Iranian drones and missiles — a large but well-choreographed attack — Israel responded with a pinpoint strike on an air base in Isfahan, in central Iran. Israeli officials mostly kept quiet after the attack, with the exception of far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, who posted on social media that the response was “lame!”

On Oct. 1, after successful Israeli operations against Iran and its proxies, including the assassination of Hezbollah leader Hasan Nasrallah, Tehran fired nearly 200 ballistic missiles at Israel — this time without warning — killing a Palestinian man in the West Bank and hitting at least two military installations. Amir Saeid Iravani, Iran’s ambassador to the United Nations, said the attack was meant to “restore balance and deterrence.”

“When we responded last time, they didn’t get the message,” Palti said. “So the alternative now is between restraint or retaliation, and the answer is obvious.”

But Israel is already fighting on multiple fronts. Late last month, thousands of Israeli troops invaded southern Lebanon for the first time in nearly two decades and, last week, the military unleashed yet another punishing offensive in northern Gaza. When it comes to Tehran, figures close to Netanyahu’s team have signaled strategic patience.

“Just as we waited with [Hezbollah in] Lebanon, and with [Hamas in Gaza] in the south, now I think we will have to wait with Iran,” Natan Eshel, an adviser to the Netanyahu family, said in a leaked message to Israeli media Sunday. “We will get to the same point in the north, we will finish it, and then get to Iran, which is not going anywhere.”

On timing, too, Netanyahu appeared to be taking cues from Washington: The United States is “giving Israel and the Netanyahu government a bear hug, but for Hezbollah,” said a former senior Israeli defense official who is familiar with current security discussions. “It is sending THAAD and promising all kinds of weapons that we need to finish off Hezbollah, saying that we can deal with Iran later.”

NATION

GOP faces backlash for overseas ballot suits

BY AMY GARDNER,
JACQUELINE ALEMANY
AND DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

Republican lawsuits in Pennsylvania, Michigan and North Carolina challenging the legitimacy of overseas ballots have prompted a backlash among military personnel, their spouses, veterans and elected officials.

Scores of veterans and active-duty members of the armed forces have posted online or contacted their elected representatives out of concern that their votes might not be counted. Military and elected leaders, along with voting rights advocates, have decried the lawsuits as well, calling them a betrayal to the men and women serving the country overseas.

"Literally, these are the people who are putting it all on the line for what we have in America," said Allison Jaslow, an Army veteran who served in Iraq and now is chief executive of the nonprofit Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "And we're going to compromise their ability to have a say in how they vote for who sends

them to war? It's just beyond the pale."

A group of House Democrats over the weekend called on Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to guarantee that overseas Americans, including those serving in the armed forces, retain their right to participate fully in U.S. elections, after six Pennsylvania Republican members of Congress filed a lawsuit last week.

The Democrats said they had heard from constituents domestically and overseas after The Washington Post reported on the lawsuits. The Pennsylvania suit asks a federal judge to order that all overseas ballots, including those from military personnel and their families, be set aside and the identities of the voters confirmed before the votes are counted.

The Republican National Committee filed separate lawsuits in Michigan and North Carolina last week alleging that the states allow "overseas citizens who never lived in either state to illegally vote," according to a news release. Both states allow people born to parents who were previously legal state

residents to cast ballots.

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a Democrat, asked a judge Monday to sanction the RNC for what she described in a filing as a "frivolous" lawsuit.

Cleta Mitchell, one of the lawyers who helped former president Donald Trump challenge his defeat in Georgia in the last election cycle, worked with leaders in Pennsylvania on the lawsuit, she told The Post. Mitchell said protocols around overseas voting are "porous," creating ample opportunities for noncitizens to request ballots and vote illegally.

Mitchell said those who support the lawsuit are not trying to disenfranchise eligible voters but rather trying to firm up a system that makes it too easy for those not entitled to vote in U.S. elections to cast ballots.

She said state-level failures "have created a very unstable, nonverified and nonverifiable voting program that is easily exploited and manipulated."

Rep. Pat Ryan, D-N.Y., an Army veteran whose district is home to 40,000 veterans and military fam-

ilies as well as the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, called the Republican lawsuits "an attempt to disenfranchise literal active duty military members who are overseas, risking their life for our country," as well as their families. Ryan is among the Democrats who signed the letter to Austin.

Joseph Votel, a retired four-star Army general, said in an interview that he was shocked to learn of the lawsuit and compared it to a "hostage-taking" of the votes of men and women who have taken an oath to protect the U.S. Constitution.

"I would just say as a retired senior military officer and somebody that served overseas and did vote a number of times by absentee ballot very, very frequently, that the expectation of our military members and their roles as citizens is that their votes will count," Votel said.

In the letter sent to Austin on Saturday and reviewed by The Post, Ryan, along with Reps. Chris Deluzio, D-Pa., Chrissy Houlahan, D-Pa., and others requested "further clarification" on how Austin

plans to protect voting rights among Pennsylvania residents living abroad.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, top Pentagon spokesman, said in a statement that Austin "believes that service members serving overseas, eligible family members and U.S. citizens overseas have the right to vote, and DOD will continue to work to help them do so."

The ballots in question are governed by a federal law known as the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, which requires states to allow eligible Americans living overseas, including military personnel, to vote in federal elections. Although many states require overseas voters to provide identification such as a driver's license or passport, Pennsylvania does not. The Republican House members who filed the suit said that makes those ballots vulnerable to fraud.

President Joe Biden issued an executive order in March 2021 requiring Austin, as the head of the Defense Department, to facilitate voting among both military and nonmilitary Americans abroad.

Harris and Trump hold rival events in battleground Pa.

Associated Press

OAKS, Pa. — Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump took their fight for Pennsylvania to opposite ends of the state Monday, with Harris speaking in the northwest corner in Erie and Trump in the southeastern suburbs of Philadelphia.

Democrat Harris and Republican Trump have been making regular appearances in what is the country's largest battleground state — it was Harris' 10th visit to Pennsylvania this campaign season, and just last week Trump made stops in both Scranton and Reading.

Harris at an evening campaign rally homed in on Trump's comments over the weekend suggesting that the U.S. military could potentially be used to deal with "the enemy from within."

She argued that the comments made in a Fox News "Sunday Morning Futures" interview are the latest example of threatening rhetoric from the former president that should concern Americans about what a potential second Trump term could look like.

"He considers anyone who doesn't support him or who will not bend to his will an enemy of our country," Harris said after playing a clip of the comment on the jumbo screen in the Erie arena. "This is among the reasons I believe so strongly that a second Trump term would be a huge risk for America and dangerous."

She added that Trump is increasingly displaying "unstable and unhinged" behavior.

Trump made the comment in response to a question about "outside agitators" potentially disrupting Election Day, pivoting to what he said is a foe closer to home.

"I think the bigger problem is the enemy from within," Trump said. He added: "We have some very bad people. We have some



JABIN BOTSFORD/The Washington Post

Supporters cheer for Donald Trump during a rally in Pennsylvania.

sick people, radical left lunatics. And I think they're the big — and it should be very easily handled by, if necessary, by National Guard, or if really necessary, by the military, because they can't let that happen."

Trump's running mate, Sen. JD Vance, defended Trump's comments during a campaign stop in Minneapolis earlier Monday.

"Is it a justifiable use of those assets if they're rioting and looting and burning cities down to the ground? Of course it is. Right?" Vance told reporters. "I think the question is, is it a justifiable use of assets, depends on what's actually happening."

Trump beat Hillary Clinton by more than 40,000 votes in Pennsylvania on his way to winning the presidency in 2016. But Joe Bi-

den, a Scranton native, beat Trump by about 80,000 votes in the state four years ago.

Harris called Erie a "pivot" area for her campaign, a Democratic-majority city of about 94,000 people bordered by suburbs and rural areas with significant numbers of Republicans. Erie County is often cited as one of the state's reliable bellwether regions, where the electorate has a decidedly moderate voting record. Trump visited Erie on Sept. 29.

Harris also talked up early voting during her rally. Mail-in voting is well underway in the state where some 7 million people are likely to cast votes in the presidential race.

"If you have already received your ballot in the mail, please do not wait," Harris

urged her supporters. "Fill it out and return it today or tomorrow. But please get it out."

Beforehand, she stopped by a newly opened coffee shop and record store in Erie as she continues to press her case for Black men's support.

The visit to LegendErie Records and Coffee House, a Black-owned small business, came after her campaign unveiled a plan earlier Monday to give Black men more economic opportunities and other chances. The campaign is trying to step up outreach to Black men, a key voting bloc that has some Democrats concerned about a possible lack of enthusiasm.

Trump spoke at a town hall Monday in suburban Oaks. Responding to a man who said his dream of homeownership feels out of reach, Trump said regulations make it too expensive to build in some places. He repeated his pledge to increase U.S. oil drilling, which he said would drive down costs, though domestic production is already at record highs.

"We're going to drill baby drill, we're going to have so much energy and we're going to bring prices down," Trump said.

He also claimed that government data from crime statistics to jobless numbers is "fake," alleging the numbers are manipulated to help the incumbent Democrats.

Trump cut short his remarks after twice being interrupted by medical incidents in the crowd, turning the town hall into a concert instead.

After the second incident, Trump spoke for a few more minutes and then called for music. He then stood onstage — at times swaying along — as music played. Pennsylvania and its 19 electoral votes, the most of any swing state, have generated the most attention by far from the Democratic and Republican presidential campaigns.

NATION

Florida counties somewhat back to normal

Power returns to most homes, gas stations reopen after storm

By **RUSS BYNUM**
AND **CURT ANDERSON**
Associated Press

ELLENTON, Fla. — Florida counties hard hit by Hurricane Milton are returning to a semblance of normalcy, with power restored to most areas on Monday, gas stations reopening and students preparing to return to school.

Still, some neighborhoods remained without power, with many severely damaged homes and businesses, their streets flooded and filled with debris.

But on the whole, things were looking up.

Florida power companies had restored electricity to about 93% of the 3.4 million homes and businesses that lost service after Milton made landfall late Wednesday as a Category 3 hurricane south of Tampa, smacking the region with 120 mph winds and a storm surge of up to 10 feet.

At least 11 people died less than two weeks after Hurricane Helene inflicted major damage in Florida and other Southeastern states. The death toll from Helene is more than 240.

The three major power companies in the area hit by Milton deployed thousands of workers to quickly repair lines, poles and other infrastructure.

"I know those guys got in and started working as soon as it was possible," Gov. Ron DeSantis said at a Monday news conference at

SeaPort Manatee, just south of Tampa Bay. He said the recovery has been "very rapid and we appreciate what they've been able to do."

Florida Power & Light, Duke Energy and TECO Energy also credited efforts over the last decade to put more power lines underground, install stronger utility poles and adopt technology that enables electricity to be rerouted around damaged equipment.

Areas that remain flooded will be the last to get power, and homes with damaged electrical systems won't be able to receive it, the companies said.

"Electricity and water don't mix, so we cannot reenergize until the water has receded to ensure the safety of those customers," Duke spokesperson Ana Gibbs said.

Gerome Ozias was startled Sunday night when power came back after four days to his home in Palmetto, about 40 miles south of Tampa. He had been prepared to wait much longer. As he sat on his shaded front porch Monday with his daughter and another relative, air conditioning units hummed from several windows.

"I'm surprised, but I'm happy, too," said Ozias, who emigrated from Haiti nearly three decades ago. With power for his refrigerator, he replaced the food that had spoiled.

Lines are mostly gone at gas stations. DeSantis said about 12 mil-

lion gallons of fuel was brought in over the four days since the storm. That helped replenish stations that ran out of gas before Milton arrived. The state has also opened a dozen sites in the Tampa Bay area where it is giving away about 2 million gallons of fuel.

According to the fuel tracking website and app GasBuddy, about half of the Tampa Bay area's gas stations had fuel on Monday afternoon. On Friday, less than a quarter did.

Indicative of the improved conditions was a line at a Palmetto car wash, where David Washington used a towel to dry and buff his now-sparkling blue Ford F-150. The pickup had been spattered with mud from driving through soggy areas as Washington checked on relatives after the two storms.

"You clean your car and get inside, it just makes you feel so much better," said Washington, a lifelong Floridian.

Most school districts in the hardest-hit areas plan to reopen campuses Wednesday, though Manatee County plans to reopen its schools on Tuesday. In Hillsborough County, which contains Tampa, schools held cleanup events on Monday.

"We had school staff, families and other volunteers out cleaning up debris on the campus. It was an amazing show of community," district spokesperson Tanya Arja said. About a third of the district's



JOE BURBANK/AP

A Seminole County Sheriff's Office Special Operations airboat arrives on flooded Mullet Lake Park Road in Geneva, Fla., on Monday.

304 schools remain without power and a dozen still have standing water, she said.

DeSantis has cautioned that debris removal from Helene and Milton could take up to a year, even as Florida shifts nearly 3,000 workers to the cleanup. The federal government has approved 100% federal reimbursement for those efforts for 90 days.

Including damage done by Helene in other states, Moody's estimates that combined privately insured losses for the two storms range between \$35 billion and \$55 billion. That's only insured loss, and doesn't include the federal flood insurance program.

Unlike Ozias' neighborhood, Chuck Porter's neighborhood in

nearby Ellenton remained without power Monday afternoon.

A snapped power pole was still lying across the yard of a nearby home. A large, uprooted tree still pinned down power lines near the neighborhood entrance. Utility crew trucks passed without stopping, since they couldn't do any repair work yet.

Still, Porter, a retiree who has lived in the community for nearly 70 years, wasn't complaining. Porter and his wife, Nancy, were staying with their daughter nearby. His power company says his service should be restored by Wednesday night, but even a little delay won't bother him.

"By the end of the week, we'll be fine," Porter said.

FEMA workers change some recovery efforts in North Carolina after threats

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Federal disaster workers paused and then changed some of their hurricane-recovery efforts in North Carolina, including abandoning door-to-door visits, after receiving threats that they could be targeted by a militia, officials said, as the government response to Helene is targeted by runaway disinformation.

The threats emerged over the weekend. The Rutherford County Sheriff's Office said in a statement Monday that it received a call Saturday about a man with an assault rifle who made a comment "about possibly harming" employees of the Federal Emergency Management Agency working in the hard-hit areas of Lake Lure and Chimney Rock, in the North Carolina mountains.

Authorities got a description

of a suspect's vehicle and license plate and later identified him as William Jacob Parsons, 44, of Bostic, a small community about 60 miles west of Charlotte. Sheriff's officials said in a statement that Parsons — who was armed with a handgun and a rifle — was charged with "going armed to the terror of the public," a misdemeanor. He was released after posting bond.

The sheriff's office said initial reports indicated that a "truckload of militia" was involved in making the threat, but further investigation determined that Parsons acted alone.

In a Facebook post, Ashe County Sheriff B. Phil Howell said FEMA put some work on hold as it assessed the threats.

"Stay calm and steady during our recovery, help folks and please don't stir the pot," Howell wrote Sunday.

FEMA confirmed in a statement Monday that it adjusted operations. It emphasized that disaster-recovery centers remain open and that FEMA continues "to help the people of North Carolina with their recovery."

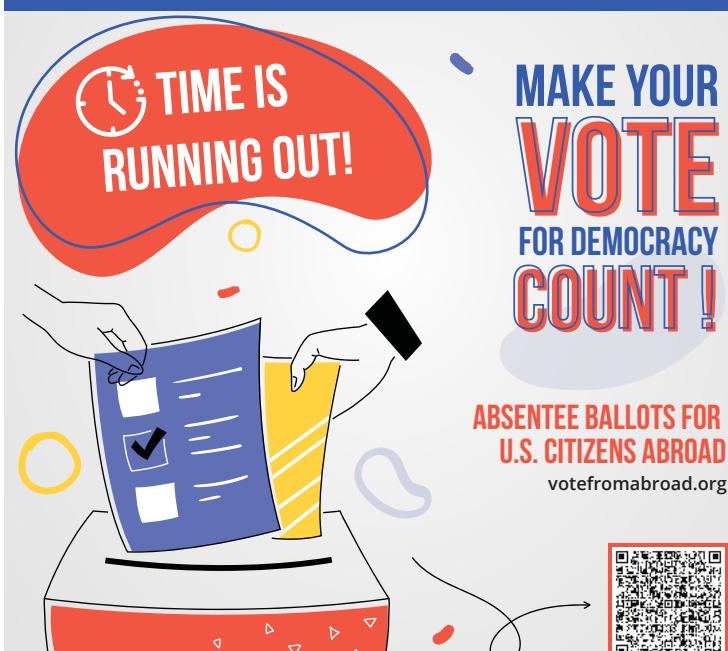
Workers from the agency's disaster-assistance teams — who help survivors apply for FEMA aid and connect them with additional state and local resources — have stopped going door to door and instead are working from fixed locations while the potential threats are assessed, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.

The person stressed that FEMA was making the adjustments "out of an abundance of caution."

FEMA did not immediately provide details on the threats.

Vote from Abroad.org

Absentee Ballots for U.S. Citizens



NATION

Microsoft: More cybercriminals aiding US foes

By DAVID KLEPPER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Russia, China and Iran are increasingly relying on criminal networks to lead cyberespionage and hacking operations against adversaries like the U.S., according to a report on digital threats published Tuesday by Microsoft.

The growing collaboration between authoritarian governments and criminal hackers has alarmed national security officials and cybersecurity experts who say it represents the increasingly blurred lines between actions directed by Beijing or the Kremlin aimed at undermining rivals and the illicit activities of groups typically more interested in financial gain.

In one example, Microsoft's analysts found that a criminal hacking group with links to Iran infiltrated an Israeli dating site and then tried to sell or ransom the personal information it obtained. Microsoft concluded the hackers had two motives: to embarrass Israelis and make money.

In another, investigators identified a Russian criminal network that infiltrated more than 50 electronic devices used by the Ukrainian military in June, apparently seeking access and information that could aid Russia's invasion of Ukraine. There was no obvious financial motive for the group, aside from any payment they may have received from Russia.

For nations like Russia, China, Iran and North Korea, which has its own ties to hacking groups, teaming up with cybercriminals offers a marriage of convenience with benefits for both sides. Governments can boost the volume and effectiveness of cyber activities without added cost. For the criminals, it offers new avenues for profit and the promise of government protection.

"We're seeing in each of these countries this trend towards combining nation-state and cybercriminal activities," said Tom Burt, Microsoft's vice president of customer security and trust.

So far there is no evidence sug-

gesting that Russia, China or Iran are sharing resources with each other or working with the same criminal networks, Burt said. But he said the growing use of private cyber "mercenaries" shows how far America's adversaries will go to weaponize the internet.

Microsoft's report analyzed cyber threats between July 2023 and June 2024, looking at how criminals and foreign nations are using hacking, spear phishing, malware and other techniques to gain access and control over a target's system. The company says its customers face more than 600 million such incidents every day.

Russia focused much of its cyber operations on Ukraine, trying to gain entry into military and government systems and spreading disinformation designed to undermine support for the war among its allies.

Ukraine has responded with its own cyber efforts, including one last week that knocked some Russian state media outlets offline.

Networks tied to Russia, China

and Iran have also targeted American voters, using fake websites and social media accounts to spread false and misleading claims about the 2024 election. Analysts at Microsoft agree with the assessment of U.S. intelligence officials who say Russia is targeting the campaign of Vice President Kamala Harris, while Iran is working to oppose former President Donald Trump.

Iran has also hacked into Trump's campaign and sought, unsuccessfully, to interest Democrats in the material. Federal officials have also accused Iran of covertly supporting American protests over the war in Gaza.

Russia and Iran will likely accelerate the pace of their cyber operations targeting the U.S. as Election Day approaches, Burt said.

China, meanwhile, has largely stayed out of the presidential race, focusing its disinformation on down-ballot races for Congress or state and local office. Microsoft found networks tied to Beijing also continue to target Taiwan and other

countries in the region.

In response, a spokesperson for China's embassy in Washington said allegations that China partners with cybercriminals are groundless and accused the U.S. of spreading its own "disinformation about the so-called Chinese hacking threats."

In a statement, spokesperson Liu Pengyu said that "our position is consistent and clear. China firmly opposes and combats cyber attacks and cyber theft in all forms."

Russia and Iran have also rejected accusations that they're using cyber operations to target Americans.

Federal authorities recently announced plans to seize hundreds of website domains used by Russia to spread election disinformation and to support efforts to hack former U.S. military and intelligence figures. But investigators at the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab found that sites seized by the government can easily and quickly be replaced.

Union representation petitions doubled under Biden presidency

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There has been a doubling of petitions by workers to have union representation during President Joe Biden's administration, according to figures released Tuesday by the National Labor Relations Board.

There were 3,286 petitions filed with the government in fiscal 2024, up from 1,638 in 2021. This marks the first increase in unionization petitions during a presidential term since Gerald Ford's administration, which ended 48 years ago.

During Donald Trump's presidency, union petitions declined 22%.

President Joe Biden said in a

statement obtained by The Associated Press that the increase showed that his administration has done more for workers than his predecessor, Trump, the current Republican nominee who is vying to return to the White House in November's election.

"After the previous administration sided with big corporations to undermine workers—from blocking overtime pay protections to making it harder to organize—my Administration has supported workers," Biden said. "Because when unions do well, all workers do well and the entire economy benefits."

Vice President Kamala Harris,

the Democratic nominee, is relying heavily on union support to help turn out voters in this year's presidential election. But Trump with his push for tariffs on foreign imports has a blue collar appeal that has for some unionized workers mattered more than his record his office.

Just 16% of voters in 2020 belonged to a union household. Biden secured 56% of them, compared to Trump getting 42%, according to AP VoteCast. The margin of support in union households in this year's election could decide the outcome of potentially close races in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin.



PAUL KITAGAKI JR., SACRAMENTO (CALIF.) BEE/AP

Sheraton Grand Hotel workers represented by United Here Local 49, a union that represents hospitality workers, participate in a strike authorization vote in Sacramento, Calif., last month.

Workers have also become more empowered to report what they judge to be unfair labor practices. The National Labor Relations

Board said its field offices received a total of 24,578 cases last fiscal year, the most in more than a decade.

Judge: Yard signs for sex offenders on Halloween unconstitutional

By JIM SALTER

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Many states have laws designed to keep children away from convicted sexual offenders on Halloween night, such as curfews for those on offender registries and requirements to keep their porch lights off.

But a Missouri law mandating a yard sign was a step too far, a judge ruled.

A 2008 law required registered offenders in Missouri to post signs on Oct. 31 that read "No candy or treats at this residence." U.S. District Judge John Ross ruled this month that the provision violated the First Amendment by forcing "compelled

speech," depriving those on the registry "of their freedom to speak in their own words or to not speak at all."

The ruling lets stand other provisions of the Missouri law that require people on the registry on Halloween to remain inside their home from 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and to leave their outdoor lights off.

The Missouri sign law is unique among states, but some cities and counties have tried similar laws that were either struck down in court or withdrawn as part of lawsuit settlements.

Ross' ruling about the Missouri sign law drew a mixed response. Some said extraordinary steps are

necessary on a night when children flood the streets and often knock on the doors of strangers. Others said the sign law was unnecessarily cruel—and even counterproductive.

"I feel like it's a setback and another example of predators' rights kind of trumping those of their victims," said Tara Bishop, a 40-year-old mother of four from southwestern Missouri who operates a Facebook page called Child Predators Exposed with more than 10,000 followers.

Janice Bellucci, the lawyer for the Missouri man who challenged the law, said that for those forced to place the sign, the damage is long-lasting.

"It's not just stigmatizing you that one day, it stigmatizes you for the rest of your life, as long as you live there," said Bellucci, who is part of the California-based Alliance for Constitutional Sex Offense Laws.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Thomas L. Sanderson of Hazelwood, Mo., a St. Louis suburb. He was convicted of second-degree sodomy in 2006 after a 16-year-old family friend accused him of sexually touching her. Sanderson, who has maintained his innocence, was sentenced to two years in prison and required to register as a sexual offender for 25 years.

The Missouri Halloween law was adopted two years later. It is unclear

how many of the state's approximately 26,000 convicted sexual offenders have been charged for violating the statute, or how stringent enforcement has been.

The lawsuit said Sanderson asked police if he was subject to the law because his conviction happened before its passage. He said he was told he was not, so he continued to host Halloween parties, the lawsuit said.

But the lawsuit said that on Halloween night 2022, police arrived at Sanderson's home. No sign was posted, and he was arrested. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor for violating the Halloween statute and received probation. He sued last year.

NATION



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

Steven Abujen, a California prison inmate with the Prison Industry Authority, cleans one of the newly installed headstones at the Mormon Island Relocation Cemetery, near Folsom, Calif., in 2011.

Calif. and Nev. voters mull bans on forced labor to protect prisoners

AP/Report for America

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California and Nevada voters will decide in November whether to ban forced prison labor by removing language from their state constitutions rooted in the legacy of chattel slavery.

The measures aim to protect incarcerated people from being forced to work under the threat of punishment in the states, where it is not uncommon for prisoners to be paid less than \$1 an hour to fight fires, clean prison cells, make license plates or do yard work at cemeteries.

Nevada incarcerates about 10,000 people. All prisoners in the state are required to work or be in vocational training for 40 hours each week, unless they have a medical exemption. Some of them make as little as 35 cents hourly.

Voters will weigh the proposals during one of the most historic elections in modern history, said Jamilia Land, an advocate with the Abolish Slavery National Network who has spent years trying to get the California measure passed.

“California, as well as Nevada,

has an opportunity to end legalized, constitutional slavery within our states, in its entirety, while at the same time we have the first Black woman running for president,” she said of Vice President Kamala Harris’ bid as the first Black and Asian American woman to earn a major party’s nomination for the nation’s highest office.

Several other states such as Colorado, Alabama and Tennessee have in recent years done away with exceptions for slavery and involuntary servitude, though the changes were not immediate. In Colorado — the first state to get rid of an exception for slavery from its constitution in 2018 — incarcerated people alleged in a lawsuit filed in 2022 that they had still been forced to work.

“What it did do — it created a constitutional right for a whole class of people that didn’t previously exist,” said Kamau Allen, a co-founder of the Abolish Slavery National Network who advocated for the Colorado measure.

Nevada’s proposal aims to abolish from the constitution both slavery and involuntary servitude as punishment for crime. California’s con-

stitution was changed in the 1970s to remove an exemption for slavery, but the involuntary servitude exception remains on the books.

Wildland firefighting is among the most sought-after prison work programs in Nevada. Those eligible for the program are paid around \$24 per day.

“There are a lot of people who are incarcerated that want to do meaningful work. Now are they treated fairly? No,” said Chris Peterson, legal director at the American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada, which supports the measure. “They’re getting paid pennies on the hour, where other people get paid dollars, to do incredibly dangerous work.”

The California state Senate rejected a previous version of the proposal in 2022 after Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom’s administration cited concerns about the cost if the state had to start paying all prisoners the minimum wage. Newsom signed a law earlier this year that would require the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to create a voluntary work program. But the law would only take effect if voters approve the forced labor ban.

Data show migrant deaths in NM have increased tenfold

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Ten times as many migrants died in New Mexico near the U.S.-Mexico border in each of the last two years compared with just five years ago as smuggling gangs steer them — exhausted, dehydrated and malnourished — mostly into the hot desert, canyons or mountains west of El Paso, Texas.

During the first eight months of 2024, the bodies of 108 presumed migrants mostly from Mexico and Central America were found near the border in New Mexico and often less than 10 miles from El Paso, according to the most recent data. The remains of 113 presumed migrants were found in New Mexico in 2023, compared with nine in 2020 and 10 in 2019.

It’s not clear exactly why more migrants are being found dead in that area, but many experts say smugglers are treating migrants more harshly and bringing them on paths that could be more dangerous in extreme summer temperatures.

The influx has taxed the University of New Mexico’s Office of the Medical Investigator, which identifies the dead and conducts autopsies that almost always show the cause as heat-related.

“Our reaction was sadness, horror and surprise because it had been very consistently low for as long as anyone can remember,” said Heather Edgar, a forensic anthropologist with the office.

Serving the entire state, the office over two years has added deputy medical investigators to handle the extra deaths on top of the usual 2,500 forensic cases.

“We’d always had three deputies down in that area, and I think we have nine or 10 now,” Edgar said of New Mexico’s eastern migration corridor.

Immigration and border security are among voters’ top concerns heading into the Nov. 5 presidential

contest, but the candidates have focused on keeping migrants out of the U.S. and deporting those already here.

The increase in deaths is a humanitarian concern as smugglers guide migrants into New Mexico through fencing gaps at the border city of Sunland Park and over low-lying barriers west of the nearby Santa Teresa Port of Entry.

“People are dying close to urban areas, in some cases just 1,000 feet from roads,” noted Adam Isacson, an analyst for the nongovernmental Washington Office on Latin America. He said water stations, improved telecommunications and more rescue efforts could help.

New Mexico officials are targeting human-smuggling networks, recently arresting 16 people and rescuing 91 trafficking victims. U.S. Customs and Border Protection added a surveillance blimp to monitor the migration corridor near its office in Santa Teresa, in Doña Ana County. Movable 33-foot towers use radar to scan the area.

U.S. officials in recent years have added 30 more push-button beacons that summon emergency medical workers along remote stretches of the border at New Mexico and western Texas. They have also set up more than 500 placards with location coordinates and instructions to call 911 for help.

Dylan Corbett, executive director of the faith-based Hope Border Institute in El Paso, said 10-member church teams recently started dropping water bottles for migrants in the deadly New Mexico corridor alongside fluttering blue flags.

“Part of the problem is that organized crime has become very systematic in the area,” Corbett said of the increased deaths. He also blamed heightened border enforcement in Texas and new U.S. asylum restrictions that President Joe Biden introduced in June and tightened last month.

6 more people accuse Diddy of sex assault; one was 16 at the time

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sean “Diddy” Combs was hit Monday with a new wave of lawsuits accusing him of raping women, sexually assaulting men and molesting a 16-year-old boy. It is the second time he’s been sued by a person alleging they were abused as a minor.

At least six lawsuits were filed against Combs, 54, in federal court in Manhattan, adding to a growing list of legal claims against the indict-

ed hip-hop mogul, all of which he has denied. The lawsuits were filed anonymously to protect the identities of the accusers, two by women identified as Jane Does and four by men identified as John Does.

Some of the Does, echoing others who’ve accused Combs in recent months, allege that he used his fame and the promise of potential stardom to entice victims to lavish parties or drug-fueled hangouts where he then assaulted them. Some allege

that he beat or drugged them. Others say he threatened to kill them if they didn’t do as he pleased or if they spoke out against him.

The lawsuits describe alleged assaults dating to the 1990s, including at Combs’ celebrity-studded white parties in Long Island’s Hamptons, at a party in Brooklyn celebrating Combs’ then-collaborator Biggie Smalls, and even in the storeroom at Macy’s flagship department store in midtown Manhattan.

The plaintiffs in Monday’s lawsuits are part of what their lawyers say is a group of more than 100 accusers who are taking legal action against Combs following his Sept. 16 federal sex trafficking arrest. Plaintiffs’ lawyer Tony Buzbee announced the planned litigation at an Oct. 1 news conference and posted a 1-800 number for accusers to call.

In a statement, Combs’ lawyers slammed those tactics as “clear attempts to garner publicity,” and

said the rapper and his legal team “have full confidence in the facts, their legal defenses, and the integrity of the judicial process. In court, the truth will prevail: that Mr. Combs has never sexually assaulted anyone—adult or minor, man or woman.”

Combs has pleaded not guilty in his criminal case. Twice denied bail, the Bad Boy Records founder remains locked up at a Brooklyn federal jail while awaiting trial in May.

NATION

China sends 2 new pandas to DC zoo

BY ASHRAF KHALIL
AND DIDI TANG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The National Zoo's long dark panda drought is coming to an end.

Eleven months after the zoo sent its three wildly popular pandas — Mei Xiang, Tian Tian and their cub Xiao Qi Ji — back to China, a new pair of bears arrived in the United States on Tuesday.

A pair of 3-year-old giant pandas, named Bao Li and Qing Bao, left a research facility in the southwestern Chinese city of Dujiangyan for Washington on Monday, according to a statement by the China Wildlife Conservation Association.

"Food prepared for the trip includes corn bread, bamboo and carrots, as well as water and medicine," the statement said, adding that the partnership will "make new contributions in protecting global biodiversity and enhance the friendship of the people from the two countries."

There will likely be an extended quarantine and acclimation period after they arrive at the National Zoo and before they are introduced to the public. On Monday evening, the zoo's website posted an alert that the entire facility would be closed Tuesday, without giving a reason. The lead article on the site still said the pandas would be coming sometime before the end of the year.

Bao Li (precious vigor) and Qing Bao (green treasure) arrive in Washington as part of a new 10-year agreement with Chinese authorities. The previous deal expired last year, leading to some concern among American panda-lovers that Beijing was gradually pulling its furry friendship ambassadors from American zoos amid rising diplomatic tensions.



JIN TAO, CHINA'S NATIONAL FORESTRY AND GRASSLAND ADMINISTRATION/AP

Workers send off the pair of giant pandas Bao Li and Qing Bao from the Dujiangyan Base of the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda in southwestern China's Sichuan province on Monday.



ROSHAN PATEL/Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute

Qing Bao

Breeding pairs in zoos in Memphis and San Diego had already returned to China earlier and the

four pandas in the Atlanta zoo left for China last week.

That anxiety turned to optimism last November when Chinese President Xi Jinping publicly stated a desire to continue the panda exchange programs. This year, a new pair of bears has been delivered to the San Diego Zoo, while another pair has been promised to San Francisco.

In Washington, National Zoo officials remained conspicuously silent about negotiations for a new panda agreement, but they expressed optimism about striking a new deal and launched a multimillion-dollar renovation of its panda enclosure in anticipation. Then in late May, zoo director Brandie Smith teamed up with first lady

Jill Biden to announce that Bao Li and Qing Bao would be arriving by the end of this year.

The Chinese announcement said the National Zoo had sent "three experienced keepers and veterinary experts" to China to assist the transport and accompany the bears.

Zoo officials on Monday declined to confirm the Chinese announcement. Zoo spokesperson Jennifer Zoon said in an email, "For the safety of animals and staff, we are not able to confirm any details at this time." But signs at the zoo and on its social media site have heralded the planned return of the pandas and panda-themed merchandise still dominates the gift shops.

"The giant pandas are an iconic part of the Washington, D.C., story, both for locals and incoming travelers alike," said Elliott L. Ferguson, II, president and CEO of Destination DC. "The interest and excitement associated with their return directly benefits the entire city, bringing further interest and visitors to our hotels, restaurants and other attractions."

The exact terms of the deal are still unclear; under previous 10-year agreements the Chinese government receives \$1 million per year, per bear. Any cubs born in overseas zoos are typically returned to China before they reach age 4.

Pandas have become one of the unofficial symbols of the nation's capital, dating back to 1972 when the first pair — Ling Ling and Hsing Hsing — were sent as a gift from Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai following President Richard Nixon's historic diplomatic visit to China. Later, a rolling series of 10-year cooperation agreements was struck.

Liu Pengyu, a spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, credited the decades of cooperation with advancing research into panda preservation and breeding. During the lifespan of these agreements, giant pandas have been reclassified from an endangered species to merely vulnerable.

"The current round of cooperation will focus on prevention and treatment of major diseases, and protection of habitats and wild giant panda populations," Liu said in an email.

"We hope the arrival of the pandas will inject fresh impetus into exchanges between China and the U.S., and help to stabilize the broader bilateral relationship as well."

NASA heads to Jupiter's moon Europa to see living conditions

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A NASA spacecraft rocketed away Monday on a quest to explore Jupiter's tantalizing moon Europa and reveal whether its vast hidden ocean might hold the keys to life.

It will take Europa Clipper 5 1/2 years to reach Jupiter, where it will slip into orbit around the giant gas planet and sneak close to Europa during dozens of radiation-drenched flybys.

Scientists are almost certain a deep, global ocean exists beneath Europa's icy crust. And where there is water, there could be life, making the moon one of the most promising places out there to hunt for it.

Europa Clipper won't look for life; it has no life detectors. In-

stead, the spacecraft will zero in on the ingredients necessary to sustain life, searching for organic compounds and other clues as it peers beneath the ice for suitable conditions.

SpaceX started Clipper on its 1.8 billion-mile journey, launching the spacecraft on a Falcon Heavy rocket from Florida's Kennedy Space Center. An hour later, the spacecraft separated from the upper stage, floated off and called home.

"Please say goodbye to Clipper on its way to Europa," NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory's flight director Pranay Mishra announced from Southern California.

"The science on this is really captivating," NASA Associate Administrator Jim Free told The As-

sociated Press back at the launch site. Scientists are still learning about the depths of our own ocean, "and here we are looking that far out."

About the size of a basketball court with its solar wings unfurled, Clipper will swing past Mars and then Earth on its way to Jupiter for gravity assists. The nearly 13,000-pound probe should reach the solar system's biggest planet in 2030.

Clipper will circle Jupiter every 21 days. One of those days will bring it close to Europa, among 95 known moons at Jupiter and close to our own moon in size.

The spacecraft will skim as low as 16 miles above Europa — much closer than the few previous visitors. Onboard radar will attempt



NASA, JPL-CALTECH/AP

This illustration provided by NASA depicts the Europa Clipper spacecraft over the moon, Europa, with Jupiter at background left.

to penetrate the moon's ice sheet, believed to be 10 miles to 15 miles or more thick. The ocean below could be 80 miles or more deep.

The spacecraft holds nine in-

struments, with its sensitive electronics stored in a vault with dense zinc and aluminum walls for protection against radiation. Exploration will last until 2034.

WORLD

Canada expels India diplomat, alleges crime involvement

Associated Press

TORONTO — Canada said it has identified India's top diplomat in the country as a person of interest in the assassination of a Sikh activist there and expelled him and five other diplomats Monday, in an escalating dispute over the June 2023 killing and allegations of other crimes.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Canada was expelling the Indian high commissioner and the others — all persons of interest, as Canada's foreign minister said police had uncovered evidence of a worsening campaign against Canadian citizens by agents of the Indian government.

"We will never tolerate the involvement of a foreign government threatening and killing Canadian citizens on Canadian soil," Trudeau said. He alleged that diplomats were collecting information about Canadians and passing it on to organized crime to attack Canadians, and said "India has made a monumental mistake."

India has rejected the accusations as absurd.

India's foreign ministry in turn said it was expelling Canada's acting high commissioner and five other diplomats, adding that they were told to leave by the end

of Saturday.

Trudeau said last year there were credible allegations that India's government had links to the assassination in Canada of Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Canada's foreign minister, Mélanie Joly, said the Royal Canadian Mounted Police had gathered "ample, clear and concrete evidence which identified six individuals as persons of interest in the Nijjar case."

She said India was asked to waive diplomatic and consular immunity and cooperate in the investigation but refused. She asked that India's government support the ongoing investigation "as it remains in both our countries' interest to get to the bottom of this."

She noted that violence "actually increased" following the allegations a year ago.

RCMP Mike Duheme said police have evidence allegedly tying Indian government agents to other homicides and violent acts in Canada.

"The team has learned a significant amount of information about the breadth and depth of criminal activity orchestrated by agents of the government of India, and consequential threats to the safety and security of Canadians and individuals living in



PRABHOT GILL/AP

People walk past banners inviting students to study in Canada and other places abroad at a market in Amritsar, in the northern Indian state of Punjab, on Tuesday.

Canada," he said.

Duheme declined to provide specifics, citing ongoing investigations, but he said there have been well over a dozen credible and imminent threats that have resulted in police warning members of the South Asian community, notably the pro-Khalistan, or Sikh independence, movement. He said attempts to have discussions with Indian law enforcement were unsuccessful.

Nijjar, 45, was fatally shot in his pickup truck after he left the Sikh temple he led in Surrey, British Columbia. An Indian-born citizen of Canada, he owned a plumbing business and was a leader in what remains of a once-strong movement to create an independent Sikh homeland.

Four Indian nationals living in Canada were charged with Nijjar's murder.

India designated Nijjar a terrorist in 2020, and at the time of his death had been seeking his arrest for alleged involvement in an attack on a Hindu priest.

India has repeatedly criticized Trudeau's government for being soft on supporters of the Khalistan movement who live in Canada. The Khalistan movement is banned in India but has support among the Sikh diaspora, particularly in Canada.

India has been asking countries like Canada, Australia and the U.K. to take legal action against Sikh activists. India has particularly raised these concerns with Canada, where Sikhs make up nearly 2% of the country's population.

In response to Canada's earlier allegations, India told Canada last

year to remove 41 of its 62 diplomats in the country. Relations between the countries have been frosty since then.

The Indian foreign ministry said Monday that "India reserves the right to take further steps in response to the Trudeau government's support for extremism, violence and separatism against India."

The ministry also summoned Canada's top diplomat in New Delhi and told him that "the baseless targeting" of the Indian high commissioner and other diplomats and officials in Canada "was completely unacceptable."

One of the diplomats, Stewart Wheeler, told reporters after being summoned that India must investigate the allegations and that Canada "stands ready to cooperate with India."

World conker tournament investigates claims of cheating with steel chestnut

Associated Press

LONDON — The World Conker Championships said Tuesday that it was investigating allegations of cheating after this year's men's winner was found to have a steel chestnut in his pocket.

More than 200 enthusiasts of the traditional game entered the annual competition on Sunday in the small village of Southwick in central England. The game involves players using conkers — the glossy brown seeds from the horse chestnut tree — threaded onto a string to try and smash their opponent's chestnut. Each player takes three alternate strikes.

Veteran player Dave Jakins, 82, won the men's tournament. But organizers said they launched an investigation after claims that he may have used a steel chestnut.

The allegations were raised by Alastair Johnson-Ferguson, who lost in the men's final against Jakins after his conker "disintegrated in one hit," The Telegraph



JACOB KING/AP

King Conker Dave Jakins takes part in the annual World Conker Championships at the Shuckburgh Arms in Southwick, Peterborough, England, on Sunday.

newspaper reported.

Organizers confirmed a steel conker was found in Jakins' pocket. Investigations were ongoing, but they said that it appeared unlikely that he was able to cheat under the scrutiny of judges. Jakins

has denied the allegations.

The title of World Conker Champion went this year to Kelci Banschbach, originally from Indianapolis. The 34-year-old was crowned "queen conker" after beating Jakins in the final.

Taliban-run media stops showing images of humans, animals in some provinces

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Taliban run-media have stopped showing images of living beings in some Afghan provinces to comply with morality laws, an official confirmed Tuesday.

In August, the country's Vice and Virtue Ministry published laws regulating aspects of everyday life like public transportation, shaving, the media and celebrations reflecting authorities' interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia.

Article 17 bans the publication of images of living beings, sparking concerns about the consequences for Afghan media and press freedom.

A spokesman for the Vice and Virtue Ministry, Saif ul Islam Khyber, said government media in the provinces of Takhar, Maidan Wardak and Kandahar have been advised not to air or show

images of anything with a soul — meaning people and animals.

Khyber told The Associated Press a day earlier that the ministry was responsible for implementing the morality laws.

He did not clarify if the rules affected all media, including foreign outlets, or only Afghan channels and websites.

Nor did he say how the laws would be enforced or if there was a deadline for compliance.

Hujjatullah Mujadidi, the director of the Afghan Independent Journalists Union, said that Vice and Virtue Ministry officials initially told state media to stop running pictures and videos of living beings. This request was later extended to all media in those provinces.

No other Muslim-majority country imposes similar restrictions, including Iran and Saudi Arabia.

WORLD

Why North Korea is sending troops to fight for Russia

BY MICHELLE YE HEE LEE
The Washington Post

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy this week confirmed reports of North Korean troops supporting Russians inside Ukraine, warning that the alliance between Moscow and Pyongyang is growing stronger and evolving beyond transferring weapons.

A Ukrainian military intelligence official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive security matter, told The Washington Post last week that “several thousand” North Korean infantry soldiers are undergoing training in Russian territory and could be deployed to the front line in Ukraine by the end of this year.

South Korea’s defense minister Kim Yong-hyun last week called the reports of North Korean military personnel helping Russia “highly likely.” The Kremlin has dismissed the assertion as a “hoax.”

“We see that the alliance between Russia and such regimes as the North Korean one is getting stronger,” Zelenskyy said in his video address on Sunday. “This is not just about the transfer of weapons, this is

in fact about the transfer of people from North Korea to the armed forces of the occupiers.”

■ Why is North Korea sending its citizens to support Russia?

North Korea has been one of the most vocal backers of Russia’s war in Ukraine, with leader Kim Jong Un pledging “full” support for President Vladimir Putin’s “sacred war for regional peace and international justice.” In March 2022, a month after the invasion, North Korea was one of four countries that joined Moscow to vote against a United Nations resolution condemning the aggression. Since then, Pyongyang has been helping Putin by sending the old Soviet-era munitions that Russia desperately needs, according to U.S., Ukrainian and South Korean officials. U.S. officials say those shipments have included artillery shells and other weapons, and in return, North Korea may be receiving Russian help to advance its own weapons program.

North Korea’s military ties with Moscow date back to the Soviet Union era, when Soviet leaders supported the North’s invasion of the South, which sparked the 1950-53

Korean War. The war halted in a cease-fire, and both Koreas have maintained a stockpile of ammunition and weapons in case conflict resumes. As the conflict in Ukraine drags on, Russia is apparently turning to North Korea for those old shells and weapons.

Both Pyongyang and Moscow have denied the allegations.

■ Why would Pyongyang send military officers to the conflict?

Now there are reports that North Koreans may be sending military personnel to the Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory of Donbas. Some military officers may already have been killed and injured, according to reports that surfaced last week on Telegram channels and in the Ukrainian press.

The Ukrainian military intelligence official said that while there were North Korean combat troops in Russia, none were in the Donbas region and the officers who were killed did not directly participate in

combat.

South Korean experts say it’s plausible that Pyongyang would send military personnel to Russia, especially technical advisers to supervise the use of North Korean weapons on the ground. Given reports that many of North Korea’s shells are duds, and other issues with the weaponry that Pyongyang sent, it would make sense for North Korea to dispatch personnel to help with maintenance, management and evaluation of their weapons, said Lee Ho-ryung, North Korean military expert at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses in Seoul.

This comes after Putin and Kim signed a mutual defense pact this summer.

■ What’s in it for North Korea?

North Koreans may already be in Russia aiding with reconstruction efforts in Ukraine’s Donbas region, according to Daily NK, a Seoul-based monitoring group with informants inside North Korea. Citing unnamed sources in North Korea and Russia, the outlet reported in April that Pyongyang sent about 150 new laborers there to help with rebuilding efforts.

As far back as 2022, Russian officials were publicly welcoming North Koreans helping mitigate the labor shortage caused by the war. “[North] Korean builders will be an asset in the serious task of restoring social, infrastructural and industrial facilities” in Donbas, Russia’s ambassador to North Korea, Alexander Matsegora, told the pro-Kremlin daily Izvestia in the first year of the war.

North Korea has a long history of sending workers — mainly lumberjacks and builders — to Russia to earn money for the regime.

Kim is especially desperate for cash after the pandemic, which forced him to close his borders even to China, cutting off the trade that keeps his economy afloat. North Korea was already facing mounting international sanctions before COVID, and its economy shrank from 2020 to 2023, according to South Korea’s central bank. While trade with China has resumed since Kim began reopening borders in 2023, it has not reached pre-pandemic levels.

These workers provide a stream of valuable foreign currency that helps Kim and his rule.



Kim

STARS AND STRIPES SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market

Transportation 944

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man drops suit in case of wife getting abortion pills

TX AUSTIN — A Texas man who sued his ex-wife's friends for helping her obtain an abortion informed the court that the two sides reached a settlement, forgoing the need for a trial that would have tested his argument that their actions amounted to assisting in a wrongful death.

Attorneys for Marcus Silva and the three women he sued last year filed court papers this week stating they had reached an agreement. Two of the women countersued Silva for invasion of privacy but have also dropped those claims, according to court records.

As of Friday, the judge hadn't yet signed off on the settlement. Court records didn't include its terms, but a spokesperson for the defendants said the settlement didn't involve any financial terms.

Silva filed a petition last year to sue the friends of his ex-wife, Brittini Silva, for providing her with abortion pills. He claimed that their assistance was tantamount to aiding a murder and was seeking \$1 million in damages, according to court documents.

Appeals court revives suit in tribal fight over casino

AL MONTGOMERY — A federal appeals court on Friday revived a lawsuit filed by one Native American tribe over another's construction of a casino on what they said is historic and sacred land.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals vacated a judge's decision that dismissed the lawsuit filed by the Oklahoma-based Muscogee (Creek) Nation over the construction of the casino in Alabama. The three-judge panel directed the trial judge to do a "claim by claim" analysis of whether officials with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Alabama have sovereign immunity that would prevent them from being sued.

The long-running dispute involves land, known as Hickory Ground, that was home to the Muscogee Nation people before their removal to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears. The Poarch Band, a separate tribal nation that shares ancestry with the Muscogee, now owns the land and built one of its Wind Creek casinos on the site.

Woman fatally shot after crashing car, firing gun

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Police fatally shot a woman who was firing a gun and threatening officers with the weapon following a vehicle crash, authorities said.

The woman was a suspect in an earlier shooting, said police Capt. Valerie Littlejohn. Seven officers who arrived at the scene of the crash tried to make contact with her but opened fire when she threatened them, Littlejohn said.

Authorities will review bodycam



GREG EANS, THE (OWENSBORO, KY.) MESSENGER-INQUIRER/AP

Jam session

A crowd gathers under a tent to take part in a Jamming workshop with Randy Lanham, right center on guitar, during "ROMPtober Weekend" at the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum on Saturday in Owensboro, Ky.

video to see if they can get more answers, the police captain said.

None of the seven officers was injured. All were placed on paid leave pending the outcome of the investigation, Littlejohn said.

Man charged in student's killing faces new hearing

GA ATHENS — The man accused of killing a nursing student whose body was found on the University of Georgia campus appeared in court Friday ahead of his scheduled trial next month, as lawyers sparred over whether police acted properly during their investigation.

Jose Ibarra is charged with murder and other crimes in the February killing of Laken Hope Riley. A 10-count indictment accuses Ibarra of hitting the 22-year-old Augusta University College of Nursing student in the head, asphyxiating her and pulling up her clothing with the intent to sexually assault her. Ibarra pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Athens-Clarke County Superior Court Judge H. Patrick Haggard said during a hearing in August that he plans to begin jury selection on Nov. 13 and proceed with the trial the following week.

At least 1 dead in gunfire after university celebration

TN NASHVILLE — Gunfire broke out among a crowd near a Tennessee university Saturday afternoon, killing at least one person and wounding

nine others, police said.

A crowd that gathered earlier in the day for homecoming events at Tennessee State University was beginning to thin out when the gunfire erupted between two groups around 5 p.m., said Metro Nashville Police spokesperson Don Aaron. He said shell casings indicate that gunfire was exchanged across a street near campus between the groups.

Metro Nashville Police Commander Anthony McClain said the gunfire didn't appear to be directly related to Tennessee State University events that had included a parade and other festivities earlier in the day. The football game was taking place in another part of town when the gunfire happened.

A police statement on social media said a 24-year-old man died. The victims included two 12-year-olds and a 14-year-old with non-critical injuries, Aaron said.

Green Party's Stein sues over votes not counted

OH COLUMBUS — Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein has filed a lawsuit in federal court over the decision of Ohio election officials not to count votes for her after Anita Rios was named as her running mate by the national party after a state administrative deadline.

Cleveland.com reported that the lawsuit was filed Wednesday in U.S. district court in Columbus by Stein, Rios and three Ohio voters. It alleges that the decision infringes

on their constitutional rights to free speech, association, and equal protection and the voting rights of the Ohio-based plaintiffs.

Stein filed as an independent presidential candidate in Ohio because the Green Party lost state recognition several years ago. She listed Rios — the Green Party's 2014 nominee for Ohio governor — as her running mate as a placeholder until the Green Party nominated Butch Ware to run with Stein at their national convention in August.

Audit of governors' records says no laws were broken

AR LITTLE ROCK — Auditors reviewing travel and security records that were restricted from public release under a measure Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed last year did not find any violations of law in how money was spent, according to a report released to lawmakers on Friday.

The review of about \$4 million spent by State Police on security and travel for the governor was the second part of an audit lawmakers requested last year that had initially focused on a \$19,000 lectern purchased for Sanders' office that had drawn widespread scrutiny.

Auditors earlier this year said that purchase potentially violated state laws on purchasing and state records, though a local prosecutor declined to pursue criminal charges.

Friday's audit reviewed expens-

es related to the governor's protection between June 1, 2022, and Dec. 31, 2023. The reviewed covered roughly the first year of Sanders' administration and the last six months of her predecessor, former Gov. Asa Hutchinson.

Man held in deadly 2020 shooting pleads guilty

NV LAS VEGAS — One of three suspects jailed in Las Vegas following a deadly two-state shooting rampage on Thanksgiving 2020, including the killing of a man at a convenience store in southern Nevada and a shootout with authorities in northwestern Arizona, has pleaded guilty.

Christopher McDonnell, 32, entered his pleas Thursday to 23 felonies, including murder, attempted murder, murder conspiracy, weapon charges and being a felon illegally in possession of a firearm, according to Clark County District Court records.

He had been indicted on 55 counts, and his trial had been scheduled for next month. A felony charge of committing an act of terrorism was among counts dropped as part of his plea agreement.

McDonnell will face life in prison with a broad range of parole eligibility — a minimum of 21 years and a maximum 164 years, prosecutor Michael Schwartz told The Associated Press, adding that he will seek a sentence "beyond (McDonnell's) natural life term."

From The Associated Press

FACES

Trump using 'Full Metal Jacket' clips to portray his ideal military

Associated Press

Donald Trump is embracing perhaps Hollywood's most memorable drill sergeant to portray his vision of a hardened military and mock the Biden administration's embrace of the LGBTQ+ community serving openly.

Trump's recent rallies have featured a video with clips of R. Lee Ermey as Marine Gunnery Sgt. Hartman in Stanley Kubrick's 1987 classic Vietnam War film "Full Metal Jacket." Ermey's character was known for his vulgar and at times racist outbursts as he taunts and bullies recruits.

Those clips, captioned "THEN," are juxtaposed against clips of people expressing support for LGBTQ+ rights and drag performers, captioned "NOW" and "THE BIDEN HARRIS MILITARY."

The video ends with a shot from the movie, a scene before the recruits were sent to Vietnam, captioned with "LET'S MAKE OUR MILITARY GREAT AGAIN." The video was shown at several Trump rallies

before he posted it on social media over the weekend.

Trump often rails against acceptance of transgender people, including their use of pronouns and participation in women's sports, drawing some of the biggest applause lines at his rallies by pledging to restrict them.

Trump earlier this month hailed the performance by Ermey, who served in the Marines as a drill sergeant before acting.

"He was supposed to get the Academy Award," Trump told his audience in Wisconsin, saying he was denied the honor because "he wasn't part of the establishment."

"Full Metal Jacket," widely considered to be an anti-war film, is about Vietnam, for which Trump received medical deferments, despite having attended high school at New York Military Academy.

Vivian Kubrick, the late filmmaker's daughter, said she believes her father would have embraced Trump and forgiven his use of an anti-war film to make his point

about building a powerful military.

"That's primarily what FMJ is about, the shocking and complicated paradoxes of human nature," Vivian Kubrick wrote Sunday on the social media platform X.

"And thus, on this tooth and claw planet, you need a very strong military — so I'm going to stick with the idea that FMJ footage was used primarily because of its powerful, realistic portrayal of boot camp, juxtaposed with the entirely demoralizing and inappropriate injection of WOKE ideology into the USA military," she added. "Which I agree with myself and which I'm certain my father would have agreed with."

Ermey's "Full Metal Jacket" co-star Matthew Modine, who played Private Joker in the film and is in some of the clips included in Trump's video, saw things differently.

"Ironically, Trump has twisted and profoundly distorted Kubrick's powerful anti-war film into a perverse, homophobic and manipulative tool of propaganda," Modine told Entertainment Weekly.



EVAN VUCCI/AP

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump gestures at a campaign rally on Sunday in Prescott Valley, Ariz.

Coming this week: 'Warriors' album, 'Dating Game' killer, 'NCIS: Origins'

Associated Press

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

Movies

■ In 1978, a serial killer made his way onto the television show "The Dating Game." Rodney Alcala was already a murderer by the time he appeared on the show as one of three bachelors seeking a date with a woman named Cheryl Bradshaw. He even won. Had the show done a background check, it might have discovered that he'd been on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list and had already been imprisoned for violent crimes against an 8-year-old. In the new Netflix film "Woman of the Hour," streaming on Friday, Anna Kendrick stars and also makes her directorial debut.

■ If fake serial killers are more your style, "MaXXXine" starts streaming on MAX on Friday. The third film in Ti West and Mia Goth's unlikely trilogy (following "X" and "Pearl") takes the audience to the sleazy underground of 1980s Hollywood. Goth's Maxine Minx is an adult film star hoping for a big break in mainstream movies. Oh, and a killer is terrorizing the town. It's very stylized and a little silly and underdeveloped, but it's a fun watch with an extended Lily Collins cameo.



NETFLIX/AP

Tony Hale, left, and Anna Kendrick star in "Woman of the Hour."

■ Josh Brolin and Peter Dinklage play brothers and former partners in crime in a starry new comedy movie coming to Prime Video on Thursday. Brolin is trying for a more normal life when Dinklage convinces him to embark on a road trip to a promised big score. "Brothers," directed by Max Barbakow, also features Marisa Tomei, Glenn Close, Brendan Fraser and Taylour Paige in its big ensemble.

— AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr

Music

■ On Friday, Lin-Manuel Miranda — in his first full post-"Hamilton" musical — and the award-winning actor and playwright Eisa

Davis will release "Warriors," a musical concept album inspired by the 1979 cult classic film that follows a street gang as it makes its way from the Bronx to their home turf of Coney Island amid an all-out blitz. Its all-star cast features Lauryn Hill, Marc Anthony, Colman Domingo, Busta Rhymes and more.

— AP Music Writer Maria Sherman

Television

■ Austin Stowell plays a younger version of Mark Harmon's "NCIS" character, Leroy Jethro Gibbs, in "NCIS: Origins," a series set 25 years before the original. We meet this Gibbs as he's begin-

ning his career as a naval investigator. "NCIS: Origins" airs Tuesdays on AFN-Prime, and the series premiere is now available on Paramount+.

■ A new three-part Peacock docuseries digs into the wild but true story of Elizabeth Finch, a former writer on ABC's "Grey's Anatomy." Finch wrote storylines she claimed were inspired by her own life and medical history, including a battle with bone cancer. She later admitted to lying. "Anatomy of Lies" streams Tuesdays on Peacock.

■ Travis Kelce adds game show host to his growing résumé. The NFL player hosts "Are You Smarter Than a Celebrity?" beginning Wednesday on Prime Video. On the show, adult contestants answer elementary grade questions with a pool of celebrities on standby ready to help.

■ The "Sheldon-verse" continues with "Georgie & Mandy's First Marriage," debuting Thursday. The series stars Montana Jordan as Sheldon's older brother George "Georgie" Cooper and his new bride Mandy (Emily Osment). Episodes stream on Paramount+.

■ "Hysteria!," coming to Peacock on Friday, follows members of a high school band who pretend to be in a satanic cult for attention. The series stars Julie Bowen of "Modern Family" and "Evil Dead" star Bruce Campbell.

— Alicia Rancilio

Singer pauses show while wife gives birth on bus

Brantley Gilbert's tour stop in Mississippi went off the rails Oct. 11: The country-rock musician's wife gave birth to their third child while he was performing onstage, prompting him to pause the show for his son's imminent arrival.

Shortly after starting his Off the Rails Tour set in Tupelo, Miss., the "Bottoms Up" singer was pulled away "for an emergency backstage," according to the birth announcement video Gilbert posted the next day on Instagram. That emergency was his wife, Amber, going into labor on their tour bus, resulting in what he said might have been the craziest night of his life.

Gilbert, 39, shared footage in which he abruptly left the stage and ran backstage at the Cadence Bank Arena. Then it cut to him telling his mom that her "new grandbaby" had arrived. Gilbert also shared post-birth video of his wife and new son on the bus, as well as his triumphant return to his concert to finish the show.

"We got a baby," he said into the stage mic as the crowd cheered.

"So last night might have been the craziest night of my life. Watching such an amazing woman do such an amazing thing is something I'll never forget," Gilbert wrote on Instagram.

Amber Gilbert also announced their son's arrival in a joint post, writing: "We will never forget the way you got here and we can't wait to see what you do here. Abram Howell Gilbert 10.11.24"

The Gilberts, who have been married since 2015, are also parents to son Barrett, 6, and daughter Braylen, 5.

Los Angeles Times

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OPINION

How the world treats the Taliban vs. Taiwan

By JIM GERAGHTY

The Washington Post

In mid-September, the Taliban's Foreign Ministry announced that 39 Afghan embassies and consulates around the world answer to it, and not to the remnants of the previous regime, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Given that some governments already had diplomatic ties with the Taliban and that more were likely to follow suit, the news was just one more sign that the brutal regime in Kabul is gaining international acceptance.

Meanwhile, at the United Nations last month, the General Assembly met with the theme "Leaving no one behind: Acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development and human dignity for present and future generations." Naturally, Taiwan was not allowed to participate in an assembly under the slogan "Leaving no one behind." Everyone is fearful of a Chinese regime that grows ever more militant in its insistence that Taiwan is part of China and will be taken by force if necessary.

If you want a vivid illustration of why so many Americans shrug at invocations of "the international community," check out the contrast between the way many countries treat the Taliban and how they treat the democratically elected and independent Taiwanese government. First, there is no cohesive "international community." Second, that "international community" is full of countries that treat the Taliban a heck of a lot better than they treat Taiwan.

Although no country has formally recognized the Taliban, which seized power in 2021, as Afghanistan's legitimate government, a whole bunch of countries have given the Taliban de facto recognition.

In March 2022, Russia accredited Taliban diplomat Jamal Nasir Gharwal as Afghan chargé d'affaires in Moscow. In April 2022, China accepted diplomatic credentials from

the Taliban, and in September 2023, China became the first country to officially name a new ambassador to Afghanistan. In February 2023, Iran officially handed over the Afghan Embassy in Tehran to diplomats from the Taliban.

You're probably thinking: Oh, China, Russia, Iran—those are some of the worst regimes on the planet. Of course they'd cozy up with the brutes in Kabul. Game respects game.

But note that just about all of Central Asia has fallen in line, too. In October 2021, Pakistan, a longtime Taliban ally, accepted a regime-appointed diplomat for Afghanistan's embassy. In April 2022, Turkmenistan handed the Taliban its embassy and consulate. In August, Kazakhstan accepted a new Taliban chargé d'affaires, and other countries in the region went along.

You might say: Oh, most of those countries share a border with Afghanistan. They have no choice but to establish some form of diplomatic communication.

The leaders of other Muslim countries have largely acquiesced to recognizing the Taliban, too, including in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

On and on it goes, with countries in South America and Africa appearing to warm up to the Taliban as well.

Europe is not immune: In July, Bloomberg News reported that Italy was contemplating reopening its embassies in Afghanistan. The article quoted Spain's foreign minister, José Manuel Albares, saying, "As soon as there are minimum security conditions, we'll send our ambassador back."

What do these caving countries have in common? None of them recognizes the Taiwan government as the leader of an independent nation. Only a handful have any significant relationship with Taiwan.

In fact, while the Taliban is increasingly treated like just another regime, Taiwan is becoming more diplomatically isolated. In De-

cember 2021, Nicaragua terminated diplomatic relations with Taiwan. The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry released a statement in May claiming that "Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory."

Just 12 countries have full diplomatic relations with Taiwan: Belize, Eswatini, Guatemala, Haiti, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Paraguay, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tuvalu and the Vatican. No offense to any of those countries, but they're not exactly a geopolitical all-star team. (The United States maintains a strategically ambiguous stance toward Taiwan's sovereignty and does not recognize the Taliban government.)

In the past two generations, Taiwan successfully transitioned from a one-party state operating under martial law, with some periods of terrible brutality in the early chapters of its short history, to a modern, thriving, multi-party democracy. It isn't a perfect country, but it gets a lot of the big questions right; Freedom House gives Taiwan a 94 out of a possible 100 in human rights. The United States scored an 83; the Taliban regime managed a 6.

And yet, not only do other countries not recognize Taiwan's government as legitimate and independent, but international groups such as Interpol, the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization also exclude Taiwan.

In the end, Taiwan's championing of human rights and democracy counts for little beside China's economic power and warnings against recognizing Taiwan's independence. The Taliban, meanwhile, run a regime that is especially repressive of women's rights, but it has access to widely coveted natural resources. For far too many countries, when push comes to shove, that's what matters.

Jim Geraghty is National Review's senior political correspondent, where he writes the daily "Morning Jolt" newsletter, among other writing duties.

Harris just made a serious mistake with Latino voters

By LEÓN KRAUZE

Special to The Washington Post

On Thursday, during a Univision town hall in Nevada, Vice President Kamala Harris confirmed one of the most controversial decisions of her campaign. She was presented with two emotionally charged opportunities to denounce Donald Trump's mass deportation policy—and she passed on both.

Harris's reticence was a significant misstep for several reasons. Among Trump's long list of controversial proposals, few have faced as much criticism as mass deportation. The scale of his plan is immense, given the roughly 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States.

Mass deportation at this level would incur a tremendous cost. A recent report by the American Immigration Council suggests that one-time mass deportation would cost at least \$315 billion, including \$89.3 billion for arrests, \$167.8 billion for detentions, \$34.1 billion for legal processing and \$24.1 billion for removals. The long-term economic consequences are worse. Mass deportation of undocumented workers would lead to a 4.2% to 6.8% reduction in the United States' annual gross domestic product, amounting to \$1.1 trillion to \$1.7 trillion in 2022 dollars.

But the human cost would be even more devastating. About 6 million American chil-

dren could be separated from their parents, potentially ending up in the welfare system. Hundreds of thousands of mixed-status households would endure the trauma of deportation, a known trigger for serious mental health issues. And the loss of undocumented relatives would send hundreds of thousands of families into poverty.

An immigration lawyer recently suggested a way to illustrate the potential tragedy of Trump's proposal. She referenced the scene from "Back to the Future" in which a distressed Marty McFly watches his family members slowly disappear from a photograph. "Imagine that, but with millions of Latino families in the U.S.," she said.

All of this is to say: the social and economic effect would be catastrophic. Yet, during Univision's town hall, Harris chose not to call attention to Trump's punitive plan.

Why? She is erring on the side of caution.

Harris' campaign seems to have decided that emphasizing the costs of mass deportation would be ill-advised. Her team is likely reacting to shifts in public opinion. Recent polls show that Americans are moving to the right on immigration, with a majority now favoring more restrictive policies. More than half of all Americans now support mass deportation, including one-quarter of Democrats.

Harris might be thinking that taking a more empathetic stance toward the undocumented

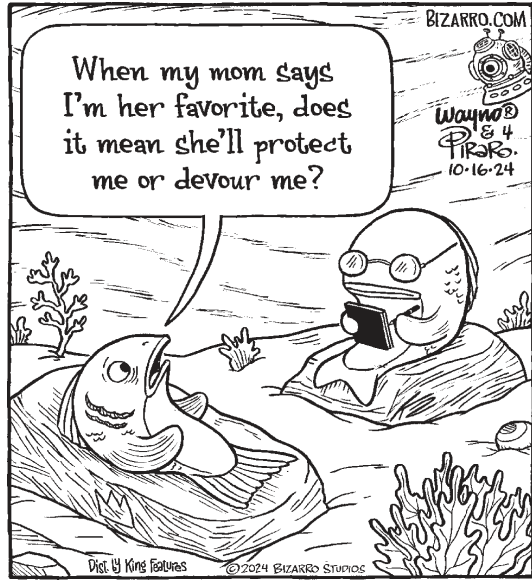
community and expressing outrage over Trump's cruel policies could alienate key voters just weeks before the election.

Although this strategy might make sense for undecided white voters in swing states such as Wisconsin (even though Wisconsin's dairy industry would suffer greatly without immigrant labor), it's less wise when considering Latino voters. Though some polls indicate that Latinos support stricter border control measures, Hispanic communities also possess a deep-rooted concern for keeping families together. A recent poll by Equis Research found that 77% of Hispanic respondents identified family cohesion as the most important immigration relief policy for the Biden administration. The firm also tested messaging strategies on immigration policy and found that the most effective approach for shifting Harris' vote share involved highlighting Trump's plans for large-scale raids, including his threat to deploy the National Guard to deport millions of immigrants.

Given this context, Harris' decision not to use the Univision town hall to explain the brutal consequences of mass deportation to a Latino audience is perplexing. It was a missed opportunity, but she still has time. After Nov. 5, it might be too late—and for many in the Hispanic community, the lesson could be painful.

León Krauze is a Mexican journalist, author and news anchor.

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

Grid for Eugene Sheffer Crossword with numbered squares.

ACROSS

- 1 Arrived
5 Young dog
8 Despot
12 Country singer Jackson
13 Son-gun link
14 Corduroy ridge
15 Approve
17 Supermodel Sastre
18 Thai or Korean
19 Prepare
21 Sports figure?
24 Chiding sound
25 Bud holder
28 Goatee's spot
30 British rule of India
33 Historic period
34 "Pal Joey" author
35 Garden of the Food Network
36 Sandy color
37 Nevada casino city
38 Goblet feature
39 Transcript no.
41 Shoelace snarl
43 Big lizard
46 "Peanuts" blanket carrier
50 Film genre
51 Burrowing marine creature
54 Gas container
55 "As I see it," in a text

- 56 Poodle's bane
57 Spanish cheers
58 Watch chain
59 Meeting, in slang

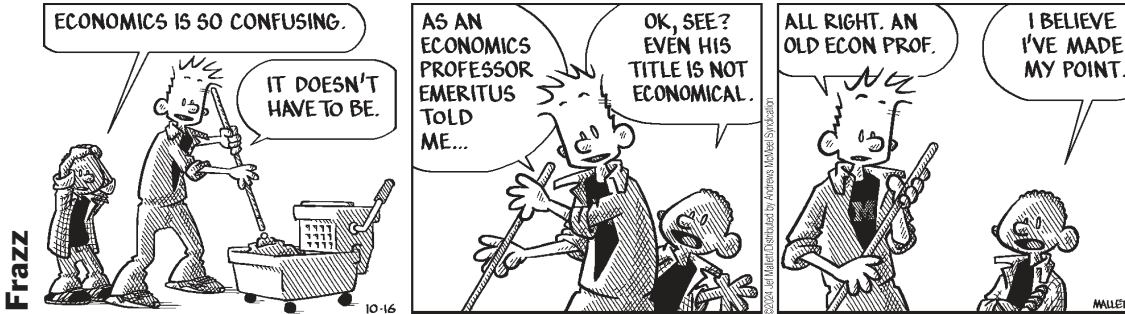
- 23 Express gratitude to
25 Bird doc
26 Football's Parseghian
27 Optimistic
29 Pressing thing?
31 Chemical suffix
32 Gridlock
34 Algerian seaport
38 Refuses to pay
40 Urban oases
42 Vintage
43 Grooving on
44 Soccer score
45 "Dream on!" language of India
47 Egyptian river
48 Exploits
49 Persian leader
52 I love (Lat.)
53 San Francisco's — Hill

DOWN

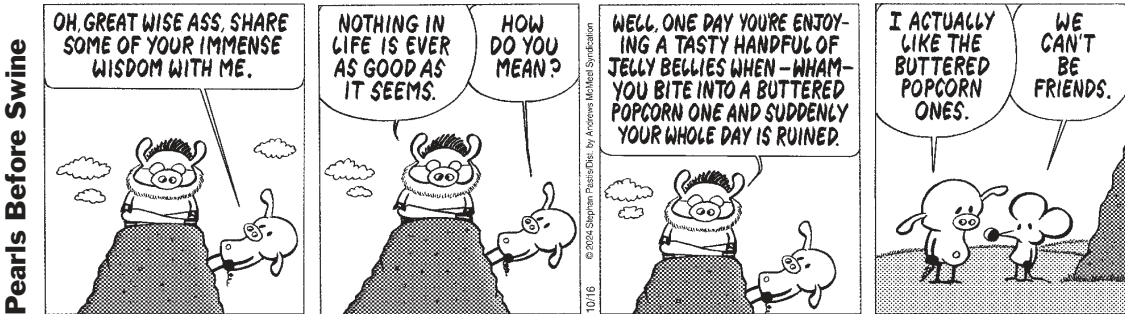
- 1 Juan's home
2 "Sad to say ..."
3 — -pedi
4 Sheathe
5 Luau bowlful
6 E.T.'s craft
7 Hunger symptom
8 Ninnies
9 Classical language of India
10 Sheltered
11 Take it easy
16 Blaster's need
20 Sicilian spouter
22 Rue the run

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Completed crossword puzzle grid with words filled in.



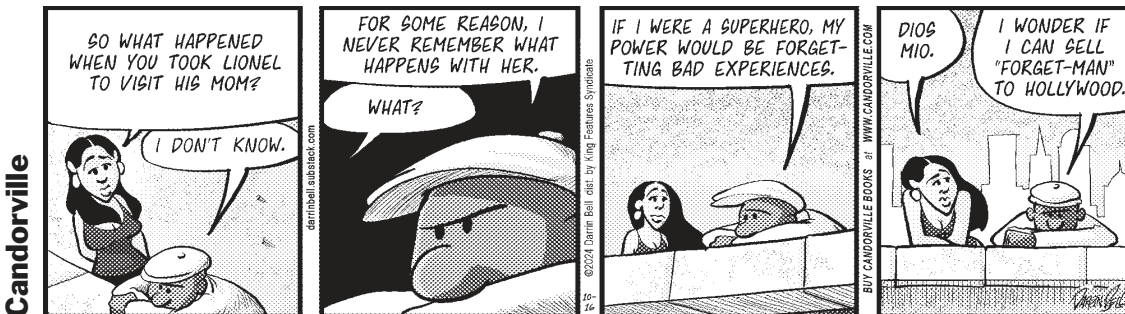
Frazz



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey

10-16

CRYPTOQUIP

V Y N K Q P B T E A P B Q N T T
X G Z Q D N T D X K R Z K Z O D L N O D N L X
V Y P N O Z P L T A Y N R D L I G P P Q Y Z X
N X G N K D Z L K X ? E P I K P O X .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A SOLDIER IS SPECIALLY APPOINTED TO LEAD MILITARY RAIDS, IS HE THE COMMANDO IN CHIEF?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals C

SCOREBOARD/AUTO RACING

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Schedule

Wednesday's games

SOUTHWEST
W. Kentucky (4-2) at Sam Houston St. (5-1)
FIU (2-4) at UTEP (0-6)

Thursday's games

EAST
Georgia St. (2-3) at Marshall (3-3)

SOUTH
Boston College (4-2) at Virginia Tech (3-3)

Friday's games

EAST
Brown (2-2) at Princeton (1-3)

SOUTH
Florida St. (1-5) at Duke (5-1)

MIDWEST

Oregon (6-0) at Purdue (1-5)

FAR WEST

Oklahoma St. (3-3) at BYU (6-0)
Fresno St. (3-3) at Nevada (3-4)

Saturday's games

EAST
East Carolina (3-3) at Army (6-0)
UCLA (1-5) at Rutgers (4-2)
Lehigh (3-2) at Yale (2-2)
St. Francis (Pa.) (2-4) at Wagner (3-4)
Wake Forest (2-4) at Uconn (4-2)
Holy Cross (3-4) at Harvard (3-1)
LIU Brooklyn (1-6) at Robert Morris (3-3)
Sacred Heart (3-4) at Lafayette (3-3)
CCSU (3-3) at Dartmouth (4-0)
Rhode Island (5-1) at New Hampshire (4-2)
Bryant (2-4) at Monmouth (NJ) (3-3)
Stony Brook (4-2) at Towson (3-3)
Columbia (3-1) at Penn (2-2)
Georgetown (4-2) at Colgate (1-5)
Cornell (1-3) at Bucknell (3-3)
Villanova (5-1) at Maine (3-3)
Stonehill (1-4) at Merrimack (2-4)
Tulsa (2-4) at Temple (1-5)
Tennessee St. (5-2) at Howard (3-3)
W. Michigan (3-3) at Buffalo (4-2)
Elon (1-5) at Albany (NY) (3-3)
Charlotte (3-3) at Navy (5-0)
Southern Cal (3-3) at Maryland (3-3)
Kansas St. (5-1) at West Virginia (3-3)

SOUTH

Northwestern St. (0-7) at Nicholls (2-4)
Louisiana-Lafayette (5-1) at Coastal Carolina (4-2)
Virginia (4-2) at Clemson (5-1)
Miami (6-0) at Louisville (4-2)
Hampton (3-3) at NC A&T (1-5)
Stetson (2-3) at Davidson (4-2)
Drake (4-1) at Presbyterian (2-5)
The Citadel (2-5) at VMI (0-6)
Lindenwood (Mo.) (3-4) at Gardner-Webb (1-5)
Wofford (3-3) at Chattanooga (3-3)
W. Carolina (3-3) at Furman (2-4)
Fort Valley St. (0-0) at SC State (3-2)
Shorter (0-0) at West Georgia (1-5)
Bethune-Cookman (0-6) at MVSU (0-6)
Illinois St. (4-3) at Murray St. (1-5)

Ark.-Pine Bluff (2-4) at Grambling St. (3-3)
Mercer (6-0) at Samford (2-3)
Texas State (4-2) at Old Dominion (2-4)
Georgia Tech (5-2) vs. Notre Dame (5-1) at Atlanta

Alabama (5-1) at Tennessee (5-1)
Rice (2-4) at Tulane (4-2)
Delaware (6-0) at Richmond (4-2)
Campbell (2-4) at William & Mary (4-2)
Florida A&M (3-2) at Jackson St. (4-2)
UAB (1-5) at South Florida (2-4)
James Madison (5-1) at Georgia South-ern (4-2)
SE Missouri (6-1) at Charleston Southern (1-5)
Texas A&M (5-1) at Mississippi St. (1-5)
Stephen F. Austin (4-2) at SE Louisiana (3-4)
Arkansas St. (3-3) at Southern Miss. (1-5)
Alcorn St. (4-3) at Southern U. (3-3)
Ball St. (2-4) at Vanderbilt (4-2)
North Texas (5-1) at Memphis (5-1)
Kentucky (3-3) at Florida (3-3)

MIDWEST

Nebraska (5-1) at Indiana (6-0)
Arizona St. (5-1) at Cincinnati (4-2)
Auburn (2-4) at Missouri (5-1)
Wisconsin (4-2) at Northwestern (3-3)
Dayton (4-1) at Butler (5-1)
Cent. Michigan (3-3) at E. Michigan (4-2)
St. Thomas (Minn.) (3-3) at Valparaiso (2-4)
N. Iowa (2-4) at North Dakota (4-2)
Indiana St. (2-4) at Missouri St. (4-2)
Ohio (4-2) at Miami (Ohio) (2-4)
Houston (2-4) at Kansas (1-5)
Kent St. (0-6) at Bowling Green (2-4)
Toledo (4-2) at N. Illinois (4-2)
Michigan (4-2) at Illinois (5-1)
Tennessee Tech (2-4) at W. Illinois (2-4)
South Dakota (5-1) at Youngstown St. (2-5)
UCF (3-3) at Iowa St. (6-0)
Iowa (4-2) at Michigan St. (3-3)
S. Dakota St. (5-1) at N. Dakota St. (6-1)

SOUTHWEST

South Carolina (3-3) at Oklahoma (4-2)
FAU (2-4) at UTSA (2-4)
Baylor (2-4) at Texas Tech (5-1)
E. Kentucky (3-3) at Abilene Christian (4-3)
Lamar (3-3) at Texas A&M Commerce (1-5)
McNeese St. (4-3) at Incarnate Word (4-2)
LSU (5-1) at Arkansas (4-2)
Georgia (5-1) at Texas (6-0)

FAR WEST

Hawaii (2-4) at Washington St. (5-1)
NC State (3-4) at California (3-3)
Cal Poly (2-4) at Idaho (4-3)
Idaho St. (3-4) at N. Arizona (3-4)
Austin Peay (2-4) at Utah Tech (0-7)
Montana St. (7-0) at Portland St. (1-5)
Colorado (4-2) at Arizona (3-3)
New Mexico (2-4) at Utah St. (1-5)
Wyoming (1-5) at San Jose St. (4-2)
Marist (0-6) at San Diego (3-2)
UC Davis (6-1) at E. Washington (2-4)
Colorado St. (3-3) at Air Force (1-5)
SMU (5-1) at Stanford (2-4)
Weber St. (3-4) at Sacramento St. (2-4)
UNLV (5-1) at Oregon St. (4-2)
TCU (3-3) at Utah (4-2)

PRO SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	21	4	8	71	73	47
Columbus	18	6	9	63	69	38
Cincinnati	17	11	5	56	56	47
Orlando City	15	11	7	52	58	48
NYCFC	14	11	8	50	54	47
Charlotte FC	13	11	9	48	43	37
New York	11	8	14	47	53	47
D.C. United	10	13	10	40	52	67
CF Montréal	10	13	10	40	46	64
Toronto FC	11	19	4	37	40	61
Philadelphia	9	14	10	37	61	53
Atlanta	9	14	10	37	44	48
Nashville	8	16	9	33	35	54
New England	9	20	4	31	35	68
Chicago	7	17	9	30	40	59

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LA Galaxy	19	7	7	64	68	48
LAFC	18	8	7	61	60	42
Seattle	16	9	8	56	50	34
Real Salt Lake	15	7	11	56	63	47
Houston	14	10	9	51	45	38
Colorado	15	13	5	50	59	57
Minnesota	14	12	7	49	54	48
Vancouver	13	12	8	47	51	47
Portland	12	11	10	46	64	55
Austin FC	10	14	9	39	36	46
FC Dallas	10	15	8	38	52	55
St Louis City	8	12	13	37	49	59
Sporting KC	8	18	7	31	50	64
San Jose	6	24	3	21	40	75

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday, Oct. 12

Columbus 4, New England 0

Sunday, Oct. 13

Los Angeles FC 2, Vancouver 1

Saturday's games

Nashville at Chicago
Charlotte FC at D.C. United
New England at Miami
New York City FC at CF Montréal
Columbus at New York
Atlanta at Orlando City
Cincinnati at Philadelphia
Colorado at Austin FC
Sporting Kansas City at FC Dallas
LA Galaxy at Houston
San Jose at Los Angeles FC
St Louis City at Minnesota
Vancouver at Real Salt Lake
Portland at Seattle

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Orlando	17	1	6	57	42	15
Washington	16	6	2	50	48	28
Gotham FC	15	4	5	50	34	18
Kansas City	14	3	7	49	50	29
North Carolina	12	9	3	39	34	26
Chicago	10	12	2	32	30	33
Portland	9	11	4	31	34	34
Bay FC	9	14	1	28	27	39
Louisville	6	11	7	25	31	36
Utah Royals FC	7	14	3	24	20	35
Angel City	7	12	5	23	28	38
San Diego	5	12	7	22	20	30
Seattle	5	14	5	20	23	40
Houston	5	14	5	20	17	37

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday, Oct. 11

Portland 2, Orlando 0

Saturday, Oct. 12

Gotham FC 2, Chicago 0
Angel City 1, North Carolina 1, tie
Kansas City 1, Bay FC 0

Sunday, Oct. 13

Utah Royals FC 3, Seattle 0
Washington 4, Louisville 1
Houston 2, San Diego 0

Friday's game

Houston at Seattle

Saturday's games

San Diego at Kansas City
Portland at Louisville
North Carolina at Bay FC

Sunday's games

Orlando at Gotham FC
Chicago at Washington
Utah Royals FC at Angel City

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA playoffs

(x-if necessary)

WNBA Finals

(Best-of-five)

No. 2 Minnesota 1, No. 1 New York 1

Minnesota 95, New York 93, OT

New York 80, Minnesota 66

Wednesday: at Minnesota

Friday: at Minnesota

x-Sunday, Oct. 20: at New York

NBA preseason

Sunday's games

Miami 101, New Orleans 99

Portland 105, Sacramento 85

New York 115, Minnesota 110

Boston 115, Toronto 111

Golden State 111, Detroit 93

Phoenix 118, Denver 114

Monday's games

Memphis 120, Indiana 116

Philadelphia 104, Atlanta 89

Brooklyn 131, Washington 92

Milwaukee 111, Chicago 107

L.A. Clippers 110, Dallas 96

Tuesday's games

Boston at Toronto

Charlotte at New York

San Antonio at Miami

New Orleans at Houston

Oklahoma City at Denver

Sacramento at Utah

L.A. Lakers vs Golden State

Wednesday's games

Brooklyn at Philadelphia

Cleveland at Detroit

Atlanta at Miami

Minnesota at Chicago

Ulm Ratiopharm at Portland

Thursday's games

Charlotte at Indiana

Milwaukee at Dallas

Atlanta at Oklahoma City

Denver at Minnesota

San Antonio at Houston

L.A. Lakers at Phoenix

Sacramento at L.A. Clippers

DEALS

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

American League

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Activated RHP Pedro Avila.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Activated 1B Anthony Rizzo and RHP Marcus Stroman.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS — Waived G Jacob Gilyard.

HOUSTON ROCKETS — Waived F Thon Maker and G Markquis Nowell.

NEW ORLEANS PELICANS — Waived G Jalen Crutcher.

OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER — Waived C Chase Jeter.

PHOENIX SUNS — Waived F/C Mamadi Diakite and F Moses Wood.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

NFL — Suspended DL Mario Edwards four games for violating the substance abuse policy.

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Activated WR Zay Jones.

ATLANTA FALCONS — Released LB Kehinde Oginni from the practice squad. Signed DT Junior Aho to the practice squad.

BUFFALO BILLS — Elevated RB Frank Gore Jr. from the practice squad to the active roster.

DENVER BRONCOS — Released WR Kaden Davis from the practice squad. Signed DB Quinton Newsome to the practice squad.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Placed WR TJ Luther on the practice squad.

HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed CB Gregory Junior to the practice squad. Released TE Chris Myarick.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed K Spencer Shadrer to the practice squad.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Designated G Dalton Risner to return from injured reserve.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Released OL Nick Leverett.

NEW YORK JETS — Reinstated DT Leki Fotu from injured reserve. Elevated TE Anthony Kirkser and DB Jalen Mills from the practice squad to the active roster. Released DE Jalyn Holmes.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released WR Jaray Jenkins from the practice squad. Signed WR Lance McCutcheon to the practice squad. Waived LB Adetokunbo Ogundejai.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Designated S Jerrick Reed II to return from the physical unable to perform (PUP) list. Re-signed OL McClendon Curtis to the practice squad.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

DETROIT RED WINGS — Recalled RW Austin Watson from Grand Rapids (AHL).

MINNESOTA WILD — Reassigned C Travis Boyd to Iowa (AHL). Recalled D Dae-mon Hunt from Iowa.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Reinstated C Fyodor Svecchov from the injured non-roster list and assigned him to Milwaukee (AHL).

OTTAWA SENATORS — Recalled G Mads Sogaard from Belleville (AHL).

ST. LOUIS BLUES — Activated LW Brandon Saad from the non-roster list. Placed C Alexandre Texier on injured reserve.

Hendrick: No appeal for Bowman

By JENNA FRYER

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Hendrick Motorsports said Monday it will not appeal Alex Bowman's disqualification at Charlotte Motor Speedway that eliminated him from NASCAR title contention.

Bowman finished Sunday's race at The Roval in 18th-place — high enough to eliminate Joey Logano of Team Penske from the playoff field by four points.

But NASCAR said the No. 48 Chevrolet failed a post-race inspection and disqualified Bowman for failing to meet minimum weight requirements. It dropped him to 38th and Logano claimed that spot in the playoff field.

Hendrick had the right to appeal but said in a statement it would not.

"NASCAR allows a clear margin to account for the difference in pre- and post-race weight. After a thorough review by our team and the sanctioning body, we simply did not give ourselves enough margin to meet the post-race requirement," the team said in a statement. "Although unintentional, the infraction was avoidable. We are extremely disappointed to lose a playoff spot under these circumstances and apologize to our fans and partners."

All playoff cars go through inspection after a race.

NASCAR said Hendrick was given multiple opportunities to fuel the car, purge the water system and add water in an attempt to make the minimum weight. But when the car went back through the weigh station, the Chevy was still light.

The news was especially disappointing to Bowman sponsor Ally, whose chief marketing officer Monday posted on social media that Bowman had earned a spot in the playoffs. He was the highest points getter in the first round of the playoffs.

"Woke up this morning — after hardly sleeping — not feeling any better," wrote Andrea Brimmer, adding she was "gutted" for Bowman and the "team who have fought for every point this year and deserve to be moving forward."

The eight drivers who will now compete through the third round of the playoffs are William Byron, Chase Elliott, Kyle Larson, Logano, reigning series champion Ryan Blaney, Christopher Bell, Denny Hamlin and Tyler Reddick.



Bowman

TENNIS

European Open

Monday

At Lotto Arena

Antwerp, Belgium

Purse: Euro 690,135

Surface: Hardcourt indoor

Men's Singles

Qualification

Thiago Seyboth Wild (2), Brazil, def. Mark

NHL/SPORTS BRIEFS



COREY SIPKIN/AP

New Jersey Devils goaltender Jake Allen blocks a shot as Utah Hockey Club center Barrett Hayton skates in during the third period Monday. Allen earned a shutout and handed Utah its first loss of the season.

ROUNDUP

Allen posts shutout as Devils top Utah

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Jake Allen registered his first shutout with New Jersey and rookie defenseman Seamus Casey scored early in the second period as the Devils downed the Utah Hockey Club 3-0 on Monday.

Stefan Noesen and Nico Hischier also scored for the Devils, who won for the fourth time in five games. Allen had 20 saves. New Jersey missed the playoffs last year.

Utah lost for the first time in four games.

Casey scored his third goal of the season on the power play at 1:14 of the middle period. Noesen scored with an assist to Casey at 8:13 of the second and Hischier added a power-play goal at 10:13 of the third.

Panthers 4, Bruins 3: Sam Reinhart scored on a power play and added a short-handed goal that gave visiting Florida the lead for good in the second period as the defending Stanley Cup champions beat Boston.

Anton Lundell also scored twice and Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 25 shots for Florida, which has eliminated Boston from the playoffs in each of the last two seasons.

Mason Lohrei and Johnny Beecher each had a goal and an assist for the Bruins. Jeremy Swayman, making his third straight start after missing the opener following a contract holdout, made 22 saves in his first loss of the season.

Rangers 4, Red Wings 1: Chris Kreider scored the go-ahead goal on the power play late in the second period and host New York beat Detroit.

Kreider tipped Mika Zibanejad's shot with 2:55 left in the middle period to snap a 1-1 tie after the teams traded goals in the first. Alexis Lafreniere, Reilly Smith and Zibanejad also scored for the Rangers, and Igor Shesterkin finished with 31 saves.

Dylan Larkin scored for Detroit with 2 seconds left in the first. Alex Lyon had 24 saves for the Red Wings in his first start of the season.

Penguins 6, Canadiens 3: Lars Eller had two goals against his former team, Evgeni Malkin had a goal and two assists, and visiting Pittsburgh beat Montreal.

Kris Letang, Kevin Hayes and Rickard Rakell also scored for Pittsburgh.

Sidney Crosby was held off the scoresheet, keeping him one point shy of 1,600. The 37-year-old is looking to become just the 10th player in NHL history to reach the mark.

Islanders 6, Avalanche 2: Brock Nelson scored his first two goals of the season 2:49 apart in the second period, and New York beat Colorado to give coach Patrick Roy a win in his first game back in Denver.

Roy won two of his four Stanley Cups with Colorado and coached the team for three years before stepping down a month before training camp in 2016.

Senators 8, Kings 7 (OT): Josh Norris capped a two-goal effort with the game-winning goal 56 seconds into overtime and host Ottawa beat Los Angeles.

Zack MacEwen also had a pair for the Senators.

Kevin Fiala and Alex Lafreniere each scored a pair for the Kings.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	3	2	1	0	4	8	5
Ottawa	3	2	1	0	4	12	12
Montreal	4	2	2	0	4	12	13
Florida	4	2	2	0	4	13	15
Boston	4	2	2	0	4	15	15
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	0	2	4	1
Detroit	3	1	2	0	2	7	10
Buffalo	4	1	3	0	2	8	12

Metropolitan Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	5	4	1	0	8	17	9
N.Y. Rangers	3	2	0	1	5	15	7
Pittsburgh	4	2	2	0	4	14	16
N.Y. Islanders	3	1	1	1	3	14	11
Columbus	2	1	1	0	2	8	7
Philadelphia	2	1	1	0	2	6	8
Washington	1	0	1	0	0	3	5
Carolina	1	0	1	0	0	1	4

Western Conference

Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	3	3	0	0	6	9	3
Winnipeg	3	3	0	0	6	10	2
Utah	4	3	1	0	6	16	14
St. Louis	3	2	1	0	4	11	10
Minnesota	3	1	0	2	4	8	9
Chicago	3	1	1	1	3	8	9
Nashville	2	0	2	0	0	3	7
Colorado	3	0	3	0	0	11	24

Pacific Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	3	3	0	0	6	15	8
Calgary	3	3	0	0	6	16	9
Los Angeles	3	1	0	2	4	11	11
Anaheim	2	1	1	0	2	3	3
Vancouver	2	0	0	2	2	7	9
Seattle	3	1	2	0	2	7	9
San Jose	2	0	1	1	1	4	7
Edmonton	3	0	3	0	0	3	15

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

Monday's games
 New Jersey 3, Utah 0
 Florida 4, Boston 3
 Ottawa 8, Los Angeles 7, OT
 N.Y. Rangers 4, Detroit 1
 Pittsburgh 6, Montreal 3
 N.Y. Islanders 6, Colorado 2

Tuesday's games
 Florida at Columbus
 New Jersey at Carolina
 Vancouver at Tampa Bay
 Vegas at Washington
 Minnesota at St. Louis
 San Jose at Dallas
 Seattle at Nashville
 Chicago at Calgary
 Philadelphia at Edmonton

Wednesday's games
 Buffalo at Pittsburgh
 Los Angeles at Toronto
 Boston at Colorado
 Utah at Anaheim

BRIEFLY

WR Adams to join Rodgers with Jets

Associated Press

Aaron Rodgers and Davante Adams are finally reunited after a year of speculation — and now they'll try to save the New York Jets' sinking season.

The Jets agreed to terms Tuesday to acquire the disgruntled Adams from the Las Vegas Raiders, two people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

New York is sending a conditional third-round pick in next year's draft that could become a second-rounder, but it is pending a physical for the wide receiver, one of the people told the AP on condition of anonymity because the teams didn't announce the deal.

NFL Network was the first to report the trade.

The 31-year-old Adams immediately boosts a Jets offense that has been inconsistent through the first part of the season. The three-time All-Pro joins Garrett Wilson to give Rodgers two No. 1-caliber wide receivers to throw to, complementing fellow receivers Mike Williams, Allen Lazard and Xavier Gipson, tight end Tyler Conklin and running backs Breece Hall and Braelton Allen.

Adams, who missed the Raiders' last three games with a hamstring injury, reportedly told the team he wanted out of Las Vegas — and the team was willing to accommodate his request.

And now he's back with Rodgers, the quarterback with whom he enjoyed eight seasons of success catching passes from in Green Bay.

It seemed inevitable, especially when the Jets reportedly showed interest in Adams last year at the NFL trade deadline. Rodgers said at a celebrity golf tournament over the summer: "I love Davante. I can't wait to play with him... again." With a smile, Rodgers said during training camp he meant on the golf course, but it was enough to fuel speculation that at some point — somehow — the Jets would move to bring in Adams.

The deal came less than 12 hours after the Jets lost 23-20 to the Buffalo Bills, a game in which Rodgers threw a Hail Mary just before half-time but also was intercepted on New York's final drive for the second straight week.

The trade also caps what has been a tumultuous last seven days for the Jets. Two days after losing to Minnesota in London, owner Woody Johnson fired head coach Robert Saleh on Tuesday and defensive coordinator Jeff Ulbrich was tapped to replace him as the interim. Ulbrich then demoted offensive



TERRANCE WILLIAMS/AP

Davante Adams is reuniting with Aaron Rodgers. The Jets are sending the Las Vegas Raiders a third-round pick in 2025's draft.

coordinator Nathaniel Hackett and replaced him with pass game coordinator Todd Downing on Wednesday.

And now the Jets have made a major deal to bring in Adams, one of Rodgers' best friends and favorite teammates. Adams has caught 615 passes from Rodgers for 7,517 yards and 68 touchdowns, all in Green Bay.

Adams' departure from Las Vegas was expected after reports surfaced that he no longer wanted to be there — and the Jets immediately became a likely landing spot because of his relationship with Rodgers.

76ers' George suffers hyperextended knee

ATLANTA — Philadelphia 76ers prized free-agent acquisition Paul George left Monday's preseason game against Atlanta with a hyperextended left knee.

There was no immediate update how much time George might miss following his injury. A nine-time All-Star, George's knee buckled on a defensive play in the second quarter. He scored eight points in 12 minutes in a 104-89 victory.

"I felt that it hyperextended, and immediately it was, all right, I need to get taken out and (looked at), but if you ask me, I'm not too concerned about it," George told The Philadelphia Inquirer.

"You never want anything to happen to anybody," 76ers coach Nick Nurse said. "Certainly, just kind of trying to work him into things. He wants to work into things, too. This doesn't give us a chance to do that. Hopefully it'll be OK so he's back with us right away."

The Sixers have been cautious with their star players and shut down center Joel Embiid on Sunday for the rest of the preseason for what the team called left knee management.

SOCCER/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Mexico looks to stamp out homophobic chant despite fans' diligence

BY CARLOS RODRÍGUEZ
Associated Press

GUADALAJARA, México — Guadalajara is the capital of a Mexican state that is home to tequila and Mariachi music. It is also considered the birthplace of a less flattering tradition — a homophobic soccer chant that has cost Mexico hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines over the past two decades.

It's no wild guess that the chant, a one-word slur which literally means male prostitute in Spanish, would be heard from the crowd in Guadalajara's Akron stadium when Mexico hosted the United States in a friendly Tuesday.

Multiple sanctions from FIFA and campaigns by Mexican soccer officials to educate fans have not been able to stamp it out. The chant persists in both club and national team soccer in Mexico, not least in games between the two North American rivals who will co-host the 2026 World Cup together with Canada.

The last time the U.S. men's team played Mexico, in the CONCACAF Nations League final in Texas in March, the referee stopped the game twice due to homophobic chanting by Mexico fans. Last year, a game in Las Vegas between the two sides was cut short for the same reason.

In Guadalajara, a city with a strong soccer tradition which has two teams in Mexico's top soccer league and another two in the second division, many local fans told The Associated Press that they considered the chant to be harmless and only meant to poke fun at opposing teams.

"Soccer is still a party, and the chant is just for fun. People who

yell it mean no offense to the rival," said Luis Gallardo, a 38-year-old who was wearing the Mexico national team's black away shirt. "It's been going on for years and I don't think it's going to change."

The slur, typically used when the opposing goalkeeper takes a goal kick, is hardly the only offensive chant heard in soccer stadiums worldwide, but its persistent use at international tournaments has become a costly embarrassment for the Mexican soccer federation.

The federation has been fined countless times by FIFA for "discriminatory behavior" by supporters, including \$114,000 for two incidents during the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. Mexico has appealed those penalties.

The Mexican soccer federation long argued that the chant wasn't aimed at gays and that the word had different connotations in contemporary Mexican culture. In recent years, however, the federation launched campaigns to make it go away, with stadium announcers urging the crowd to refrain from discriminatory chants and eliciting the help of soccer stars and other celebrities to get the message across.

The federation in 2022 threatened fans shouting the slur at games with five-year stadium bans. At the time, then-federation president Yon de Luisa said regardless of the intention of those using the slur, what matters is how it's received by others.

"If it is discriminatory, we should avoid it," said De Luisa, who later resigned after Mexico's poor performance in Qatar where the team was eliminated in the group stage.



RICK BOWMER/AP

Kansas center Hunter Dickinson leads a Jayhawks team ranked No. 1 for the second straight year as they hope for a better result than last season, when they lost to Gonzaga in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Kansas set to open season ranked No. 1 in men's poll

BY DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

Kansas was picked first in the AP Top 25 preseason men's basketball poll Monday, getting the No. 1 nod on half of the 60 ballots from a national media panel to start the season ahead of Alabama and two-time defending national champion UConn.

Kansas scooped up 30 first-place votes from the AP panel. The Crimson Tide, led by All-American guard Mark Sears and Jarin Stevenson, earned 14 first-place votes and UConn, which is trying to become the first school since John Wooden's teams at UCLA to win three straight titles, received 11 first-place votes and is third.

Houston earned four first-place votes and is fourth ahead of Iowa State, which returns its top four scorers from a team that was a No. 2 seed in the NCAA Tournament. Gonzaga received one first-place vote and is sixth.

Duke, led by consensus No. 1 recruit Cooper Flagg, is seventh ahead of Baylor, North Carolina and Arizona in the top 10.

The Jayhawks were preseason No. 1 a year ago, too, but the season hardly went as planned. They were dragged down by injuries and struggled in Big 12 play, and a team led by All-American center Hunter Dickinson ultimately was routed by Cincinnati in the conference tournament and Gonzaga in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Kansas coach Bill Self retooled in the offseason, landing one of the nation's top transfer classes. A.J.

Scoreboard

AP Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, and total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Kansas (30)	0-0	1449	19
2. Alabama (14)	0-0	1428	3
3. UConn (11)	0-0	1345	1
4. Houston (4)	0-0	1343	3
5. Iowa St.	0-0	1177	8
6. Gonzaga (1)	0-0	1157	15
7. Duke	0-0	1154	9
8. Baylor	0-0	1109	16
9. North Carolina	0-0	1037	7
10. Arizona	0-0	905	11
11. Auburn	0-0	901	18
12. Tennessee	0-0	775	5
13. Texas A&M	0-0	737	—
14. Purdue	0-0	678	2
15. Creighton	0-0	631	13
16. Arkansas	0-0	625	—
17. Indiana	0-0	492	—
18. Marquette	0-0	484	12
19. Texas	0-0	332	—
20. Cincinnati	0-0	271	—
21. Florida	0-0	249	—
22. UCLA	0-0	210	—
23. Kentucky	0-0	191	20
24. Mississippi	0-0	132	—
25. Rutgers	0-0	102	—

Others receiving votes: Illinois 92, St. John's 91, Xavier 73, Texas Tech 58, Wake Forest 37, Kansas St 30, Michigan St 29, Ohio St 29, Michigan 19, BYU 14, Oregon 12, McNeese St 11, Miami 11, Boise St 9, Saint Louis 9, Clemson 9, Providence 9, Mississippi St 6, VCU 6, Wisconsin 5, Saint Mary's 5, Louisville 4, UAB 4, Ark Little Rock 3, Grand Canyon 3, Arizona St 2, San Diego St 2, Princeton 2, High Point 1, Maryland 1.

to form a deeper and more talented team.

"We welcome being No. 1, especially with our returning players like Hunter, Dajuan and KJ, and then you add the players we brought in," Self said. "The goal is to be No. 1 at the end of the season, and though we welcome this, it is not the end goal."

The new-look Big 12, which lost Oklahoma and Texas but welcomed Arizona, Arizona State, Utah and Colorado, has three of the top five and five of the top 10 in the preseason AP poll. The SEC leads the way with nine in the Top 25.

"To have three Big 12 teams in the top five and five in the top 10 just shows how competitive this league will be," Self said. "Every year we talk about the Big 12 being the toughest conference in the nation, and with the four additions it became even stronger."

No. 11 Auburn, Tennessee and Texas A&M start off the second 10, followed by Purdue and Creighton. John Calipari has Arkansas at No. 16 with Indiana, Marquette, Texas and Cincinnati — making its first poll appearance since 2019 — in the top 20.

The Boilermakers are trying to win a third straight Big Ten title after the departure of AP player of the year Zach Edey.

"We have three starters back from a Final Four team. We have five freshmen. We have a lot of guys with experience outside of those three starters," Purdue coach Matt Painter said. "We're excited about it. We're excited about this group."



BRANDON WADE/AP

A message on the video board warns fans to not chant a homophobic slur during an international friendly between Mexico and Iceland on May 29, 2021 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Contenders left scrambling after rash of injuries

By **STEVE MEGARGEE**
Associated Press

As the college football season reaches its midway point, plenty of playoff contenders suddenly find themselves dealing with season-ending injuries to notable players.

Notre Dame cornerback Benjamin Morrison, Tennessee linebacker Keenan Pili and Texas defensive back Derrick Williams are out for the rest of the season, their coaches announced Monday. Ohio State left tackle Josh Simmons also has an injury that puts his availability for the rest of the season in doubt.

All went down as part of a brutal weekend that included Florida quarterback Graham Mertz and Colorado State wide receiver Tory Horton suffering season-ending injuries, and Utah quarterback Cam Rising hurting his lower leg severely enough to keep him out for the rest of the season.

Mertz and Pili both got injured in No. 11 Tennessee's 23-17 overtime victory over Florida. Pili's ACL injury leaves the Volunteers without one of their team captains as they prepare to host No. 7 Alabama on Saturday.

Pili's college career is over. He is 26 and transferred to Tennessee from BYU. He suffered a season-ending triceps injury to start the 2023 season and has used not one but two medical redshirts. Injuries limited him to just seven games in two seasons with the Vols.

"There's nobody that represents Tennessee better than him," coach Josh Heupel said Monday. "He's a great leader and will continue to be that inside of our building. Just heartbroken for him and his family. A guy that does absolutely everything right. Special player, but special person. He's got a great future."

Heupel said either Arion Carter

or Jeremiah Telander will take over for Pili in wearing the in-helmet communication device on defense.

Morrison, who has a hip injury, arguably was the top player to go down for the season over the weekend. The second-team preseason Associated Press All-America selection had nine career interceptions and was regarded as a possible first-round draft pick.

"Obviously it's a blow to our team," Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman said. "You lose a captain, a great football player. You feel terrible for the kid because he gives football, he gives preparation everything he has. It's just tough. But he's a tough kid. He's a tough individual. He's been through this before. He'll have surgery and get back to work to become the best version of Benjamin."

Morrison is the latest notable Notre Dame defensive player to be lost for the season. No. 12 Notre Dame is ranked eighth in points allowed per game (11.7), 11th in yards allowed per game (270) and fourth in yards allowed per play (4.25), but the Fighting Irish already lost defensive linemen Jordan Botelho and Boubacar Traore to season-ending injuries.

The Irish now lose Morrison just three weeks after cornerback Jaden Mickey announced four games into the season that he was redshirting to preserve a year of eligibility as he prepares to transfer.

Morrison's injury likely moves freshman cornerback Leonard Moore into a starting role alongside Christian Gray as Notre Dame prepares to face Georgia Tech in Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Texas coach Steve Sarkisian announced Monday that Williams would also miss the rest of the



WADE PAYNE/AP

Tennessee linebacker Keenan Pili is assisted to the sideline after being injured during the first half against Florida on Saturday in Knoxville, Tenn. Pili's ACL injury will end his season and college career.

son. Texas officials haven't specified the nature of Williams' injury.

Williams had picked off a pass in a victory at No. 24 Michigan last month, and he forced and recovered a fumble in the top-ranked Longhorns' 34-3 rout of Oklahoma on Saturday. His injury comes as Texas gets ready to host No. 5 Georgia.

Fans of No. 4 Ohio State are still awaiting word on the severity of the injury to Simmons, who was carted off the field during the Buckeyes' 32-31 loss at No. 2 Oregon. Coach Ryan Day sounded pessimistic in his postgame news conference Saturday.

"I'll have to get the update on Simmons, but it doesn't look great in terms of him being able to come back this season," Day said. "That's a big hit for us."

The notable injuries weren't restricted to top teams.

Mertz tore the ACL in his left

knee after throwing a touchdown pass in Florida's loss to Tennessee. Mertz, a Wisconsin transfer, has suffered a season-ending injury each of his two years at Florida. He broke his collarbone in a game against Missouri last November.

His latest injury makes freshman DJ Lagway the Gators' starting quarterback.

Utah coach Kyle Whittingham announced Monday that Rising is out for the rest of the season after suffering a lower leg injury in a 27-19 loss to Arizona State on Friday that knocked the Utes out of the AP Top 25.

Rising, who is in his seventh season, already missed three games this season because of an injury to his throwing hand. He sat out the entire 2023 season with a knee injury.

Freshman Isaac Wilson, the younger brother of Denver Broncos quarterback Zach Wilson, will take Rising's place. Utah went 2-1

in the three games Wilson started when Rising was out with the hand injury.

Colorado State coach Jay Norvell announced on social media that Horton would miss the rest of the season after getting hurt in a 31-24 victory over San Jose State. Norvell didn't specify the nature of Horton's injury.

Horton had 26 catches for 353 yards and one touchdown this season after recording back-to-back seasons with at least 1,100 yards receiving in 2022 and 2023. Horton, who played at Nevada from 2020-21 before transferring to Colorado State, was on the verge of setting the Mountain West Conference record for career receiving yardage.

Horton has 265 career catches for 3,615 yards. The MWC career record is owned by Rashard Higgins, who had 3,649 yards receiving for Colorado State from 2013-15.

Oregon purposely induced late 12-men penalty in win

Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — No. 2 Oregon had 12 men on the field late in its 32-31 win over No. 4 Ohio State, with the resulting penalty causing precious seconds to wind off the clock.

Turns out, it was on purpose.

"We spend an inordinate amount of time on situations and some situations don't come up very often in college football, but this was obviously something we had



Lanning

eyes time to drive down the field for a potential winning field goal. With Ohio State fac-

worked on," Oregon coach Dan Lanning said Monday night. "You can see the result."

Oregon took the lead with 1:47 left on Atticus Sappington's 19-yard field goal in Saturday night's game, giving the Buckeyes time to drive down the field for a poten-

ing a third-and-25 from Oregon's 43-yard line, the Ducks called a timeout with 10 seconds left.

Just before the ball was snapped, Oregon defensive back Dontae Manning walked onto the field, giving the Ducks an extra defender. Ohio State failed to complete a pass against Oregon's 12-man defense on the next play, and the Ducks were flagged for an illegal substitution penalty.

Ohio State gained 5 yards on the penalty,

but lost four seconds off the clock since the penalty was deemed a live-ball foul. The Buckeyes were left with six seconds on the clock, and quarterback Will Howard scrambled to the middle, sliding a second too late for Ohio State to call a timeout for a potential game-winning field goal at Oregon's 26.

Lanning's ploy helped the Ducks win the game and move up to No. 2 in this week's AP Top 25.

NFL

Allen, Bills survive Jets' Hail Mary

Buffalo takes control of AFC East despite TD pass by Rodgers

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Josh Allen and the Buffalo Bills were expecting to go into halftime against the New York Jets with a 10-point lead and all the momentum.

That changed with one eye-popping pass by Aaron Rodgers that sent the Jets and their fans into a frenzy and had social media buzzing.

“Kind of a gut punch,” Allen said.

But he and the Bills overcame Rodgers’ 52-yard Hail Mary touchdown throw as the first half ended to outlast the Jets 23-20 on Monday night and take early season control of the AFC East.

“Fighting through adversity, getting in at halftime, regrouping, saying let’s just control one play at a time,” Allen said. “We didn’t score as many points as I’d like in the second half, but found a way.”

Allen threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score and Tyler Bass made up for an earlier miss by kicking a go-ahead 22-yard field goal with 3:43 left to help the Bills (4-2) snap a two-game skid. They have never lost three straight with Allen starting at quarterback.

“It was a gritty win led by Josh,” coach Sean McDermott said.

The loss was the third in a row for the Jets (2-4), who capped a tumultuous week during which defensive coordinator Jeff Ulbrich replaced him as the interim coach and offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett was demoted from play-calling duties in favor of Todd Downing.

“Yeah, it was a weird week,” Rodgers said.



PAMELA SMITH/AP

Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen scrambles away from New York Jets defensive end Solomon Thomas during the first half Monday in East Rutherford, N.J. Allen threw two touchdown passes and ran for one.

Normally reliable kicker Greg Zuerlein missed two potential go-ahead field goals for the Jets, hitting the left upright on both.

The game was also filled with yellow penalty flags — both teams had 11 penalties.

Allen finished 19-for-25 for 215 yards. Rookie Ray Davis, filling in for the injured James Cook, ran for 97 yards on 20 carries and caught three passes for 55 yards.

With the Jets trailing 23-20 in the closing minutes, Rodgers threw deep for Mike Williams but the pass was short and Taron Johnson — back after breaking his right forearm in the season opener — came up with a diving interception. Williams was evaluated for a head injury after the play.

Allen and the Bills were able to then run out the clock and seal the win. They’re the only team in the

AFC East with a winning record.

“Our No. 1 goal is making the playoffs and you do that by winning your division,” Allen said. “We understand the gravity of this type of game, us being 4-2 with a 2½-game lead with a head-to-head win, as opposed to being 3-3 and in second place.

Rodgers was 23-for-35 for 294 yards with two touchdowns and the INT, and Breece Hall had 113 yards rushing and 56 receiving.

“I thought we were going to have a big night on offense,” Rodgers said.

It certainly seemed they were headed for that.

With the Jets at their own 48 and perhaps hoping to get into field-goal range before halftime, Rodgers took a few steps back and danced around a bit before launching the ball toward the end zone. Allen Lazard reached up in

front of two Bills defenders and fell on his back.

After a quick huddle, officials ruled it a touchdown.

“When you catch those waves of momentum, you’ve got to ride it,” Ulbrich said. “And you’ve got to finish a team, which we didn’t do.”

The Jets got in an early rhythm on offense with Downing calling the plays as Rodgers got New York into the red zone. The Jets settled for a 34-yard field goal by Zuerlein, but it was New York’s first points on an opening drive this season.

Buffalo bounced back by gashing Ulbrich’s defense for 61 yards rushing — including 48 on six carries by Davis — and capping the Bills’ opening drive with a 1-yard keeper by Allen to make it 7-3.

Allen’s 56th career TD run put him one behind O.J. Simpson for second in franchise history.

Finishing: Henry leads league with 704 yards rushing

FROM PAGE 24

positive development for the Ravens, who blew a lead to lose to Las Vegas in Week 2 and almost did the same thing in their next game at Dallas. Those concerns are muted because of how sure-handed Henry is — and he even has a handful of catches this season to go with his league-leading 704 yards rushing.

“He just needs a lane, and he’s going to do the rest,” said Jackson, who leads all quarterbacks with 403 yards on the ground. “Every time there’s a little crease, he always just goes full force.”

Henry has had the most rushing attempts in football in four of the past five seasons and is on pace to do so again after 119 through six games.

“Derrick Henry, you’ve got to feed him the ball,” receiver Zay Flowers said. “No matter who you got at receiver, no matter who you got at tight end, you’ve got to get that man the ball.”



TERRANCE WILLIAMS/AP

Derrick Henry has had the most rushing attempts in the league in four of the past five seasons and is on pace to do so again.

What Jackson calls Baltimore’s “pick your poison” offense racked up 484 yards against the Commanders and did so with a balanced attack of 176 rushing and 323 passing.

“We’re so versatile,” said tight end Mark Andrews, who on Sunday made his first touchdown catch of the season. “Guys are going to get their touches and get the ball and good things will happen.”

Flowers caught nine passes for 132 yards — all in the first half — with Jackson exploiting the Commanders’ emphasis on stopping the run and playing man-to-man defense. Coach John Harbaugh called him “exactly the weapon we absolutely knew he was and would be and has been.”

“Those plays had to be made in the pass game, and Zay made them,” Harbaugh said. “That was the difference, probably, in the game.”

Scoreboard

American Conference

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	4	2	0	.667	165	126
Miami	2	3	0	.400	60	113
N.Y. Jets	2	4	0	.333	113	108
New England	1	5	0	.167	83	143
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	5	1	0	.833	143	135
Indianapolis	3	3	0	.500	139	139
Tennessee	1	4	0	.200	96	110
Jacksonville	1	5	0	.167	113	178
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	4	2	0	.667	177	149
Pittsburgh	4	2	0	.667	124	86
Cincinnati	2	4	0	.333	157	152
Cleveland	1	5	0	.167	95	141
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	5	0	0	1.000	118	85
L.A. Chargers	3	2	0	.600	91	66
Denver	3	3	0	.500	112	96
Las Vegas	2	4	0	.333	109	163

National Conference

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	4	2	0	.667	178	145
Philadelphia	3	2	0	.600	106	112
Dallas	3	3	0	.500	126	168
N.Y. Giants	2	4	0	.333	96	121
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	4	2	0	.667	149	135
Tampa Bay	4	2	0	.667	178	141
New Orleans	2	4	0	.333	167	147
Carolina	1	5	0	.167	103	203
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	5	0	0	1.000	139	76
Detroit	4	1	0	.800	151	91
Chicago	4	2	0	.667	148	101
Green Bay	4	2	0	.667	162	121
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	3	3	0	.500	162	130
Seattle	3	3	0	.500	146	150
Arizona	2	4	0	.333	133	163
L.A. Rams	1	4	0	.200	94	139

Thursday's game

San Francisco 36, Seattle 24

Sunday's games

Chicago 35, Jacksonville 16
 Baltimore 30, Washington 23
 Green Bay 34, Arizona 13
 Houston 41, New England 21
 Indianapolis 20, Tennessee 17
 Philadelphia 20, Cleveland 16
 Tampa Bay 51, New Orleans 27
 L.A. Chargers 23, Denver 16
 Pittsburgh 32, Las Vegas 13
 Atlanta 38, Carolina 20
 Detroit 47, Dallas 9
 Cincinnati 17, N.Y. Giants 7
Open: Kansas City, Miami, L.A. Rams, Minnesota

Monday's game

Buffalo 23, N.Y. Jets 20

Thursday, Oct. 17

Denver at New Orleans

Sunday, Oct. 20

New England vs Jacksonville at London
 Cincinnati at Cleveland
 Detroit at Minnesota
 Houston at Green Bay
 Miami at Indianapolis
 Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants
 Seattle at Atlanta
 Tennessee at Buffalo
 Carolina at Washington
 Las Vegas at L.A. Rams
 Kansas City at San Francisco
 N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh
Open: Chicago, Dallas

Monday, Oct. 21

Baltimore at Tampa Bay
 L.A. Chargers at Arizona

Thursday, Oct. 24

Minnesota at L.A. Rams

Sunday, Oct. 27

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

MLB PLAYOFFS



GODOFREDO VÁSQUEZ/AP

The New York Yankees' Juan Soto celebrates after hitting a home run against the Cleveland Guardians during the third inning in Game 1 of the ALCS on Monday in New York. The Yankees won 5-2.

Yanks take ALCS opener over erratic Guardians

BY RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Juan Soto's home run punctured Cleveland pitching, which then went wild.

Soto put New York ahead in a three-run third inning, Carlos Rodón got his first postseason win and the Yankees beat the Guardians 5-2 on Monday night in an AL Championship Series opener that included Cleveland throwing five wild pitches and walking nine batters.

Giancarlo Stanton added his 13th career postseason homer for the Yankees, who are seeking a record 41st AL pennant and their first since winning the 2009 title.

"Getting the start-off win is big," Stanton said. "It's a message in its own."

Cleveland became the second team to throw a pair of run-scoring wild pitches in a postseason inning and tied a postseason record with five overall. Guardians pitchers walked six in a nine-batter span and nine overall.

"They don't chase a whole lot," Guardians manager Stephen Vogt said. "If I take something away from tonight, we just need to attack the zone better."

New York batters have walked 36 times in five postseason games.

"That's what they're capable of. That's in their DNA," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "We beat that over — we hammer it."

Game 2 was at Yankee Stadium on Tuesday night. Entering this year, teams taking the opener of a series with a 2-3-2 format have won 66 of 99 times.

Soto came in 7-for-11 with two

Scoreboard

Playoffs

x-if necessary
LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
(Best-of-seven)
American League
New York 1, Cleveland 0
Monday: New York 5, Cleveland 2
Tuesday: at New York
Thursday: New York (Schmidt 5-5) at Cleveland (TBD), **AFN-Sports, 11 p.m.**
Thursday CET, 6 a.m. Friday JKT
Friday: New York (Gil 15-7) at Cleveland (TBD)
x-Saturday: at Cleveland
x-Monday, Oct. 21: at New York
x-Tuesday, Oct. 22: at New York

National League
Los Angeles 1, New York 1
Sunday: Los Angeles 9, New York 0
Monday: New York 7, Los Angeles 3
Wednesday: Los Angeles (Buehler 1-6) at New York (Severino 11-7), **AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Thursday CET, 9 a.m. Thursday JKT**
Thursday: Los Angeles (Yamamoto 7-2) at New York (TBD), **AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m. Friday CET, 9:30 a.m. Friday JKT, joined in progress**
Friday: at New York
x-Sunday, Oct. 20: at Los Angeles
x-Monday, Oct. 21: at Los Angeles

homers against Cobb. Before a sellout crowd of 47,264 that included pop star Taylor Swift, Soto hit his first postseason homer for New York when he drove a high slider from Alex Cobb into the Yankees' bullpen in right-center.

He made a circle sign toward the relievers with his hands as he rounded first.

"It's only me and the bullpen," Soto said, smiling. "We keep it to ourselves."

Rodón rebounded from the Yankees' only loss in the Division Series, limiting the Guardians to a pair of singles before Brayan Rocchio's sixth-inning homer.

"The goal was to just stay in control, stay in control of what I can do, obviously physically and

emotionally," Rodón said. "I thought I executed that well tonight."

Stanton's seventh-inning homer boosted the lead to 5-1. Steven Kwan cut the Guardians' deficit when he extended his postseason hitting streak to a team-record 11 games with an RBI single in the eighth off Clay Holmes.

Luke Weaver relieved with runners at the corners. He struck out pinch-hitter Will Brennan and retired José Ramírez on a groundout, and then followed a leadoff walk in the ninth with three straight strikeouts for his fourth save this postseason.

Making his first playoff appearance in 11 years, Cobb walked the bases loaded in the third and rookie reliever Joey Cantillo threw a pair of run-scoring wild pitches.

Cantillo had four wild pitches overall, one shy of the record for a postseason game set by Rick Ankiel of St. Louis in a 2000 NL Division Series opener against Atlanta. The only other time a team scored twice on wild pitches in a postseason inning was by Minnesota against Oakland's Tim Lincecum and Ted Lilly in the 2002 AL Division Series.

"That performance was obviously the difference in the game, so that's on me," Cantillo said.

Cobb, who had hip surgery last Oct. 31, was removed because of hip tightness and a back spasm.

"It's kind of been there for a little bit but, obviously, I had the surgery and tendinitis kind of flares up every once in a while," Cobb said. "Sometimes the back will tighten up along with it."

Lindor, Mets stop Dodgers' scoreless streak to tie NLCS

BY BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The New York Mets weren't sure what they were going to get with the Los Angeles Dodgers sending out a parade of relievers in a bullpen game.

They found out right away. Francisco Lindor and Mark Vientos homered as the Mets stopped the Dodgers' record-tying postseason scoreless streak in a 7-3 victory on Monday, tying the NL Championship Series at a game apiece.

Lindor added to his storybook season with a leadoff homer in the first inning against Ryan Brasier. Vientos delivered during New York's five-run second, connecting for a grand slam against Landon Knack.

Before Lindor went deep, Los Angeles had a string of 33 consecutive scoreless innings. Jack Flaherty led the Dodgers to a 9-0 victory in Game 1 of the NLCS on Sunday night.

"I didn't know it," Lindor said of the Dodgers' streak. "I was just trying to have a quality at-bat and get the guys going."

Sean Manaea opened Game 2 with four shutout innings for New York. He was charged with three runs, two earned, and two hits in five-plus innings. Closer Edwin Diaz earned a four-out save.

"Having a lead like that just makes it a little easier," Manaea said. "Just trying to attack guys and get ahead and go right after them."

Dodgers superstar Shohei Ohtani was 0-for-3 with two strikeouts against Manaea and two walks, including one against Diaz. He is 0-for-19 with the bases empty in his first postseason.

"He's one of the best hitters in the league, but I've got really good stuff," Diaz said. "I just go after him. Hit the ball, if you get to two

strikes, I will make you chase."

Manager Dave Roberts has no intention of moving Ohtani out of the leadoff spot.

"I want Shohei to get five at-bats a game," Roberts said. "I think he's our best hitter, and I want him up there five times."

Game 3 of the best-of-seven series is Wednesday in New York.

"It's not a sprint," Manaea said. "It's definitely going to be a grind of a series."

The Mets jumped all over the Dodgers after flopping in the opener.

Lindor fouled off four consecutive pitches from Brasier before sending a 395-foot shot to right for his leadoff homer.

"When you're facing a bullpen day, I think it's hard to game plan but you've got to go out there make adjustments, whether it's putting the ball in play, moving a guy over, getting a guy in," rookie Mets manager Carlos Mendoza said. "Those are the little things that you have to do to win games in the playoffs when you're facing an elite pitching staff."

Knack took over for LA in the second and gave up a leadoff single to Starling Marte and then walked Jesse Winker. One out later, Tyrone Taylor doubled to left, scoring Marte.

After Francisco Alvarez popped to shortstop, Lindor was intentionally walked to load the bases. Vientos sent a 391-foot shot to center for the third grand slam in Mets playoff history. That extended the lead to 6-0 and silenced the sellout crowd of 52,926.

"You've got Francisco ahead of me, and he hit a home run earlier in the game, so they would rather take a chance on me than him," Vientos said. "But I use it as motivation. I'm like, 'All right, you want me up? I'm going to show you, whatever.'"



ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

The New York Mets' Francisco Lindor follows through as he hits a leadoff home run against the Dodgers during the first inning in Game 2 of the NLCS on Monday in Los Angeles. The Mets won 7-3.

SPORTS



Yankees win ALCS opener
Soto, Stanton homers help New York down Cleveland » **MLB playoffs, Page 23**

NFL

Adding the finishing touches

Workhorse Henry helps Ravens preserve leads with late-game carries

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
Associated Press

Derrick Henry has been a perfect fit for Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens' offense, and that goes beyond his nine touchdowns, the most among NFL running backs.

Henry has become the closer they've needed after blowing one lead early in the season and almost doing it again the following week. The 30-year-old workhorse ran eight times for 56 yards down the stretch Sunday against Washington to salt away a 30-23 victory, Baltimore's fourth win in a row, and he has 34 carries for 184 yards in the fourth quarter this season.

"I definitely want to be able to close the game so we can win and everybody's happy and everybody's high-fiving in the locker room," Henry said. "You've got to take pride in that—to be able to finish games and have the ball last."

Henry getting the ball early, late and often is a

SEE FINISHING ON PAGE 22



REED HOFFMANN, ABOVE, AND JEFF LEWIS, LEFT/AP

Above: Ravens running back Derrick Henry has 34 carries for 184 yards in the fourth quarter this season, when Baltimore is trying to run down the clock and put games away. Left: Quarterback Lamar Jackson says Henry "just needs a lane, and he's going to do the rest. Every time there's a little crease, he always just goes full force."



Kansas ranked No. 1 in preseason poll » College basketball, Page 20

