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# STARS AND STRIPES

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Volume 81 Edition 140 ©SS 2022

CONTINGENCY EDITION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022

Free to Deployed Areas

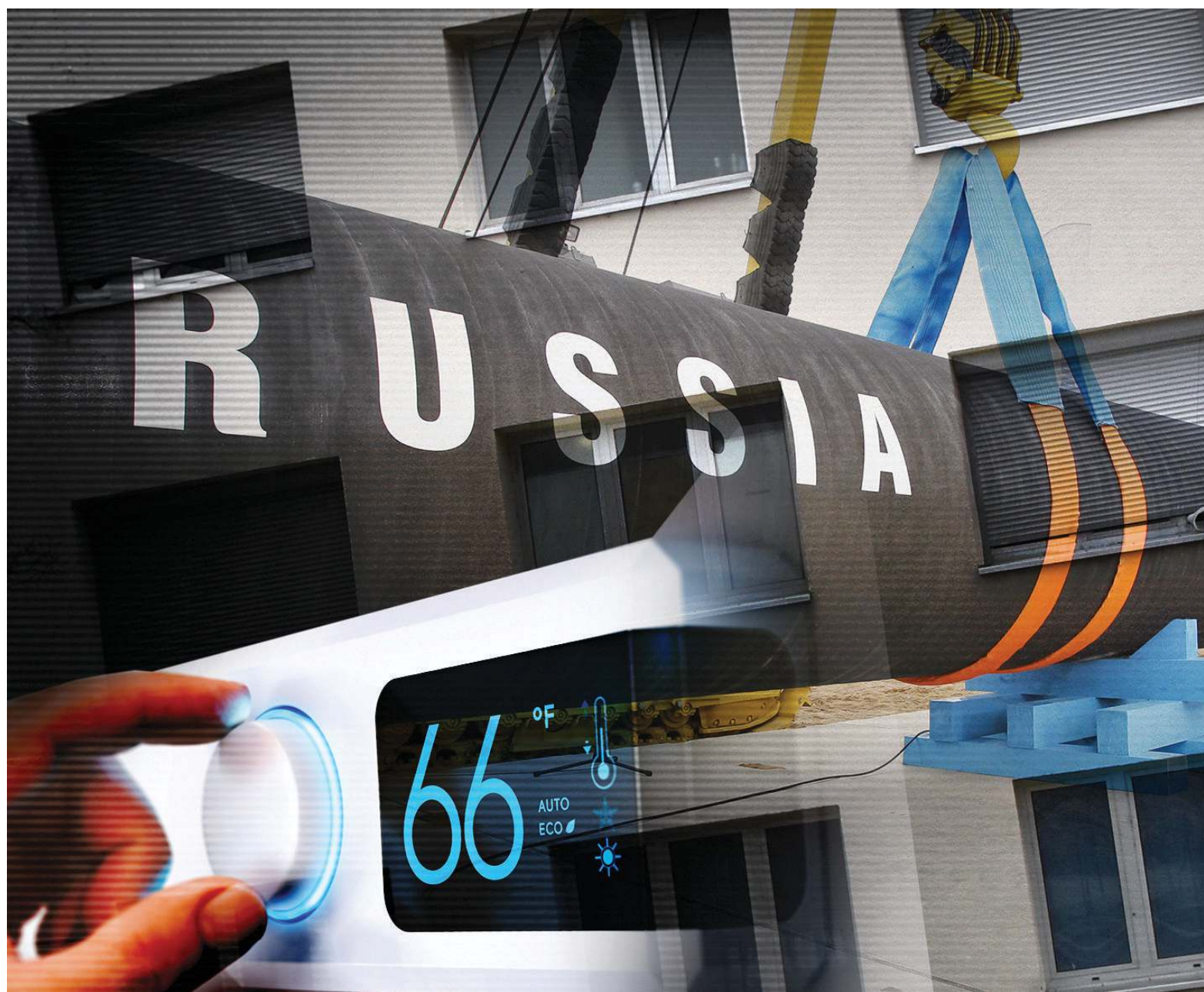


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NOGA AMI-RAV/Stars and Stripes

## Pentagon says despite Russia's war, China still top threat to US

By DOUG G. WARE  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — China remains the greatest threat for U.S. interests at home and abroad, despite Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine, according to a Pentagon defense strategy released Thursday. "[China is] the only country with both the intent to reshape the international order, and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to do so," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin states in the foreword to the 2022 National Defense Strategy.

The Defense Department unveiled its first National Defense Strategy in four years, a comprehensive security assessment that identifies China, Russia, North Korea, Iran — and climate change — as some of the top threats for which the U.S. military is preparing.

While the strategy identifies several potential threats, it calls China is the chief U.S. competitor.

"[China] remains our most consequential strategic competitor for the coming decades. I have reached this conclusion based on [its] increasingly coercive actions to reshape the Indo-Pacific region and the international system to fit its authoritarian preferences, alongside a keen awareness of [Beijing's] clearly stated intentions and the rapid modernization and expansion of its military," Austin said.

The Pentagon released the strategy along with its nuclear posture and missile defense reviews, which detail the military's key priorities and approaches to modern warfare worldwide. It's a department-specific follow up to the National Security Strategy

SEE CHINA ON PAGE 6

# About-face on austerity

US Army announces heating caps, other measures to cut energy use in Europe

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — U.S. Army garrisons in Europe are set to be colder and darker this winter because of new conservation measures taken in response to the Conti-

ment's energy crisis.

The energy cutbacks were presented in a memo that is dated Oct. 21 but was released this week. They went into effect immediately and will be observed until April.

"We must reduce fuel and energy consump-

tion; otherwise, our costs will continue to rise," Installation Management Command-Europe director Tommy Mize said in the memo.

As part of the measures, buildings are to be

SEE ENERGY ON PAGE 7

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Meta fined \$24.7M for campaign disclosure violations

Associated Press

SEATTLE — A Washington state judge on Wednesday fined Facebook parent company Meta nearly \$25 million for repeatedly and intentionally violating campaign finance disclosure law, in what is believed to be the largest campaign finance penalty in U.S. history.

The penalty issued by King County Superior Court Judge Douglass North was the maximum allowed for more than 800 violations of Washington's Fair

Campaign Practices Act, passed by voters in 1972 and later strengthened by the Legislature. Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson argued that the maximum was appropriate considering his office previously sued Facebook in 2018 for violating the same law.

Washington's transparency law requires ad sellers such as Meta to keep and make public the names and addresses of those who buy political ads, the target of such ads, how the ads were paid for and the total number of views of each

ad. Ad sellers must provide the information to anyone who asks for it.

But Meta has repeatedly objected to the requirements, arguing unsuccessfully in court that the law is unconstitutional because it "unduly burdens political speech" and is "virtually impossible to fully comply with." While Facebook does keep an archive of political ads that run on the platform, the archive does not disclose all the information required under Washington's law.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (Oct. 28)	\$0.98	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
Dollar buys (Oct. 28)	0.9742	Britain (Pound)	1.1588
British pound (Oct. 28)	\$1.13	Canada (Dollar)	1.3538
Japanese yen (Oct. 28)	143.00	China (Yuan)	7.2328
South Korean won (Oct. 28)	1378.00	Denmark (Krone)	7.4328
		Egypt (Pound)	23.0020
		Euro	0.9991
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8493
		Hungary (Forint)	409.08
		Israel (Shekel)	3.5154
		Japan (Yen)	146.21
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3095
		Norway (Krone)	10.2913
		Philippines (Peso)	58.23
		Poland (Zloty)	4.74
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7598
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.4084
		South Korea (Won)	1421.46
		Switzerland (Franc)	0.9905
		Thailand (Baht)	37.81
		Turkey (NewLira)	18.6081

(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	6.25
Interest Rates Discount rate	3.75
Federal funds market rate	3.08
3-month bill	4.03
30-year bond	4.15

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## STARS AND STRIPES

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## MILITARY

# Report: Lack of info-sharing harms troops

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

A Navy SEAL sniper's killing of an ISIS fighter in Cameroon, the wounding of a Marine in battle in Tunisia and large-scale gunfights in Somalia.

Those are among the reporting failures across presidential administrations that have put U.S. troops at heightened risk because of insufficient oversight, according to a transnational think tank based in Brussels.

In a report released Wednesday, the International Crisis Group called for greater congressional oversight of ongoing American counterterrorism missions.

"The failure to report such hostilities, or quietly and retroactively sweeping them under the 2001 (Authorization for Use of Military Force) ... increases the risk that the U.S. will unwittingly slide into new conflicts," the report said.

The report, which focused on

authorizations granted after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, argues that lawmakers should take a range of steps to bring more scrutiny to globe-spanning military missions.

For years, critics have lamented that the 2001 legislation has been used by successive U.S. administrations to carry out secret counterterrorism missions outside the public eye and with little push-back from Congress.

Such missions, which the Pentagon generally refers to as "advise, assist and accompany" operations, continue even as the military has shifted its attention to countering adversaries like Russia and China.

On numerous occasions, things have quickly turned violent. According to one unidentified former U.S. official cited in the report, American forces ended up "running with scissors" and "chasing (high-value targets), which they never should have

been doing."

Since 2015, U.S. armed forces have engaged in several clashes that should have been reported to Congress under the War Powers Resolution but weren't, the Crisis Group report said.

One little-known episode occurred in 2017 in northern Cameroon, where SEALs accompanied a local unit to a compound flying an ISIS flag. The SEALs took up overwatch 300 yards away as Cameroonian troops approached the site.

"An unidentified man emerged with an AK-47, and a Cameroonian soldier tried to fire upon him, but the soldier's gun reportedly jammed," the report said. "Acting in what a former official characterized as 'collective self-defense' of the Cameroonian forces, a SEAL sniper shot and killed the man with the AK-47."

Another 2017 battle involved U.S. Marines accompanying Tunisi-

an partners, who got into a firefight with militants along the Tunisia-Algeria border.

A former U.S. official told the Crisis Group that a Marine was shot during the battle when a bullet ricocheted underneath his body armor.

But those instances and several others like them in places such as Niger and Mali weren't reported to Congress within the War Powers Resolution's 48-hour reporting period, according to the Crisis Group's findings.

"Nor was any of this fighting widely understood to be authorized at the time," the report said.

It made the following recommendations:

The Biden administration should release a full list of groups with which it considers the U.S. to be at war under the 2001 law and publicly disclose the legal bases on which it deems such groups to be within the scope of the autho-

rization for use of force.

Congress should resort to more aggressive tactics to obtain information from "a recalcitrant executive branch." Holding up White House confirmations until requested documents are provided is one such method.

Congressional committees should more routinely hold closed-door, transcribed briefings to avoid the kind of partisan grandstanding for television cameras that makes some public hearings unproductive.

"Subsequent public hearings could then be used to draw public attention to the issues under scrutiny — and give members a chance to make their soundbites for television — but substantive fact finding would have been undertaken beforehand," the report said.

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## Leaking pipes blamed for tainted water

By DOUG G. WARE  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Contaminated water found in some of the tanks aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln as it was moored off the Southern California coast a few weeks ago got into the ship's potable water system through a leak in one of its pipes, Navy officials said.

The Navy said earlier this month that E. coli bacteria and some foul-smelling water that was cloudy in appearance was found in some of the potable water tanks aboard the warship as it was off the coast of San Diego.

Officials said the water's unusual appearance and smell led to the discovery of the E. coli in three of the ship's 26 potable water tanks. However, they noted the two issues were not related to each other.

After the discovery of the bacteria, the Navy said the tanks were taken out of service and inspected.

"Those tanks were immediately isolated and secured from the potable water system, and the odor and cloudiness in the water abated by [the following day]," said Cmdr. Zachary Harrell, spokesman for the commander of the Naval Air Forces.

Harrell also said the affected tanks would be deep-cleaned and inspected and a thorough root-cause analysis was being done.

The Navy said the cloudy and smelly water was contaminated with bilge water, which contains various waste elements such as oil and chemicals that accumulate on lower parts of the ship.

"Personnel from Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and USS Abraham Lincoln completed the inspection of the affected potable water tanks. The inspection concluded that bilge water entered one of the potable water tanks through a hole that was found in the tank's air vent line, causing the cloudy ap-



LEE APSLEY/U.S. Navy

Contaminated water was found in some of the tanks aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln as it was moored off the Southern California coast in September.

pearance and odor in the ship's potable water," Naval Air Forces officials said in a statement.

Typically, bilge water is pumped into a storage holding tank on ships and disposed of properly.

Navy officials said there were no confirmed illnesses from the bilge water or the E. coli contamination have been documented. About 3,000 sailors were aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln when the tainted water was found Sept. 21.

Harrell said all drinking water that's stored on all Navy ships is tested regularly.

"Drinking water aboard U.S. Navy ships is tested for bacteria once a week when in port or at sea," he said. "The water is tested more frequently when contamination is suspected."

No similar contaminations have since been found on any other U.S. Navy vessels, the Naval Air Forces said.

E. coli is a very common bacteria, and most strains are not seriously threatening to humans. People who are sickened by the most common strain can experience mild symptoms such as nausea or vomiting, diar-

rhea and stomach cramps, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The USS Abraham Lincoln is a nuclear-powered Nimitz-class aircraft carrier named after the 16th president of the United States. It was built in the 1980s and commissioned in 1989. Its home port is Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego.

The USS Abraham Lincoln was the Navy's second aircraft carrier in about a month to have contaminated water. Officials delayed the departure of the USS Nimitz from San Diego in September after jet fuel was found in its potable water system. Nearly a dozen sailors were sickened on the Nimitz but not seriously. It's not yet known how the aviation fuel got into the ship's water.

The Nimitz's contamination delayed the aircraft carrier's departure from the port in San Diego by a couple of weeks. The vessel is the lead ship in the Nimitz class, which consists of 10 nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

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## Sailor convicted for sale of illegal machine guns

By ROSE L. THAYER  
*Stars and Stripes*

A Virginia-based sailor was convicted Friday by a federal jury on five counts of owning and selling unregistered machine guns online, after authorities found dozens of weapons, including antitank missile launchers in his home, according to the Justice Department.

Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick Tate Adamiak, a 28-year-old master at arms first class in the Navy, became the focus of a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or ATF, investigation about a year ago when an informant told agents that the sailor sold machine guns and altered



Adamiak

other weapons making them easy to convert into machine guns, according to online court records.

When contacted by the informant, Adamiak gave his name and home address in Virginia Beach to receive payment through a money order for weapons and machine gun receivers.

With the informant's help, agents continued to make purchases from Adamiak through March, spending thousands of dollars. The weapons sold to ATF investigators and the informant were considered illegal because Adamiak had not registered them in compliance with the National Firearms Act, according to the court documents.

Adamiak was found guilty by a jury of receiving, possessing and transferring unregistered machine guns, and possession of four destructive devices, the Justice Department said.

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## MILITARY

# DIY checkout coming to AAFES exchanges

By **SETH ROBSON**  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is rolling out 500 self-checkout units at its military department stores worldwide over the next few months.

The DIY stations will be available at AAFES exchanges, convenience stores and specialty locations, according to AAFES spokesman Chris Ward.

“Self-checkout allows more customers to be served, improves in-store productivity and increases the availability of associates on the sales floor to assist customers with purchase decisions,” he said Wednesday in an email to Stars and Stripes.

Ward declined to reveal how much the project cost, except to say the expense associated with self-checkout equipment is minimal relative to its efficiencies and the im-



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

**An airman uses a new self-checkout station inside the exchange at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Thursday.**

proved customer experience it provides. Self-checkout will have “no impact on staffing,” he said.

Employees who staffed checkout lanes

will instead focus on answering customer questions or providing specialized service, according to Ward.

“The Exchange is steadfast in its efforts to incorporate technology to improve efficiencies and the services it is honored to provide service members and their families,” he said.

AAFES follows the Defense Commissary Agency, which installed self-checkout lanes 14 years ago at its supermarkets on U.S. military bases.

The exchange at Yokota, home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo, put four self-checkout machines into service Oct. 19, store manager Andrew Defelice said Thursday as he watched customers scan their purchases.

“It’s more expeditious,” he said.

Defelice said store employees stand by to assist employees when their items fail to

properly scan.

A store employee must approve sales of alcohol and over-the-counter medicines that have age restrictions, he said.

Employees who once manned the registers will spend more time taking inventory or working on store displays, Defelice said.

People might take a while to get used to the new machines, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Brent Cook, 32, of Wheeling, W.Va., as he checked out at the Yokota exchange on Thursday.

Air Force veteran Jerry Deyoe, 61, a contractor visiting Yokota on Thursday from Washington state, said he’ll still sometimes visit cashiers.

“I’ll wait in line to have some human interaction,” he said.

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## COVID-19 less frightful this Halloween on US military bases in Japan

By **KELLY AGEE**  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — Stock up on candy, carve those pumpkins and get your costumes ready because Halloween is coming back strong this year on U.S. military bases in Japan. The COVID-19 pandemic declared by the World Health Organization more than 2½ years ago dampened Halloween spirits and curtailed traditional costume parties and trick-or-treating.

This year, many military commands in Japan are shedding prohibitions to accommodate group activities like spooky bowling nights, haunted houses and increased numbers of local guests.

However, bases on Okinawa are limiting their Halloween activities to base personnel only while emphasizing safe practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

At Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, one sponsor may bring as many as 10 trick-or-treaters on base from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday. Last year, sponsors could invite five guests.

“We are looking forward to celebrating another year of Halloween, and the Trick-or-Treat tradition with members of our community,” Staff Sgt. Juan Torres Chardon, a spokesman for 374th Airlift Wing, told Stars and Stripes via email Tuesday.

Eligible sponsors include Defense Department ID cardholders and Japanese base employees — master labor contracts and indirect hires — as well as members of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force at Yokota, Torres Chardon said.

Air Force spouse Lisa Ricci, 35, of Charleston, S.C., said she and her daughters, ages 8 and 9, are ex-

cited about sharing the holiday.

“I think it is awesome,” she told Stars and Stripes on Monday at her Yokota home. “The Japanese have their traditions, but this is a great way for the community to bond on something.”

### Zama zombies

At Camp Zama, the headquarters of U.S. Army Japan about 20 miles south of Yokota, eligible sponsors may welcome up to 28 guests onto the base or the Sagami Family Housing Area from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 31, Amber Kurka, a spokeswoman for U.S. Army Garrison Japan, told Stars and Stripes by email Monday.

This is the first year since 2019 that Halloween guests are permitted on the Army installations for trick-or-treating, she said.

Eligible sponsors, including Japanese employees and members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, may bring up to seven adult guests. Each of those adults can bring up to three children under the age of 18 with them.

Camp Zama required sponsors to obtain installation passes by Wednesday for all guests 18 and older.

“U.S. Army Garrison Japan is excited to be able to host events this year that are traditionally popular for our community, friends and neighbors,” Kurka said.

### Yokosuka ghosts

At Yokosuka Naval Base, the homeport of the U.S. 7th Fleet southwest of Tokyo, local children are welcomed again on base after two years of pandemic restrictions.

Eligible residents and base employees may bring up to four



JEREMY GRAHAM/U.S. Navy

**Trick-or-treaters enter the Dragon Vale housing area at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, on Oct. 31.**

guests on the base or the Ikego Housing Detachment for trick-or-treating from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 31, base spokesman Randall Baucom told Stars and Stripes by email Monday.

“It gives an opportunity for our Japanese partners to participate in this American tradition,” he said.

For the past two years at Yokosuka only the children of individuals covered by the status of forces agreement, typically Americans in uniform or DOD civilian employees, could trick-or-treat on base, he said.

This year, SOFA members may invite guests under Yokosuka’s normal guest policy, which is based on rank or position, Baucom said. Japanese employees may bring as many as four guests.

### Sasebo spirits

At Sasebo Naval Base in south-

ern Japan, the Hario Village, Dragon Vale and Fiddler’s Green housing areas will be open for trick-or-treating from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 31, base spokesman Aki Nichols told Stars and Stripes by phone Wednesday.

Visitors from the surrounding communities may enter the base without an escort provided they present a valid, government-issued ID. Children ages 12 and older must show a school ID or be escorted by an adult age 18 or older with a valid ID.

“We expect to have a good turnout this year,” Nichols said.

### Eerie Okinawa

Installations on Okinawa, still mindful of the coronavirus, are planning Halloween events for base residents only.

Kadena Air Base has scheduled trick-or-treating for 5 to 8 p.m. Oct.

31, according to the base’s official Facebook page.

“Halloween will look a bit different this year, so we’re providing official guidance which capitalizes on social distancing, hygiene, and protecting each other, the mission, and the Okinawan community,” the post said.

On Marine base Camp Lester, a haunted house and trunk-or-treat event in which base residents decorate the trunks of their cars, are scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday at Lester Middle School. Anyone with base access may take part. Camp Foster plans a similar event, Mardie Marqueze-Velasquez, the base’s USO center manager, told Stars and Stripes by phone Wednesday.

Stars and Stripes reporters Frank Andrews and Jonathan Snyder contributed to this report.  
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## PACIFIC

# Author celebrates military moms with baby shower

By ALEX WILSON  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — About 50 new and soon-to-be mothers laughed, cheered and chatted alongside the author of a best-selling pregnancy guide this week, part of a USO program that brings the baby shower experience to future parents who are far from home.

The Special Delivery program in the past decade has feted more than 30,000 military moms- and dads-to-be at showers on U.S. bases around the world, according to the U.S. Navy Office of Information.

The events feature food, games, prizes, Q&A sessions and guest speakers.

At Yokosuka's Officers Club on Monday, new and expectant mothers were joined by the program's co-founder, Heidi Murkoff, author of the bestselling "What to Expect" book series, and parents in attendance received copies of her books.

The series, which began in 1984 with "What to Expect When You're Expecting," are guides that focus on pregnancy, giving birth, and parenthood. The series



ALEX WILSON/Stars and Stripes

**Heidi Murkoff, right, author of the best-selling "What to Expect" book series, speaks with guests at a Special Delivery baby shower at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Monday.**

has been translated into 44 languages and sold more than 42 million copies, according to Murkoff's website.

Being pregnant is difficult enough, but the challenges only multiply thousands of miles away from home, Murkoff told Stars and Stripes before the event. Programs like Special Delivery are

meant to bridge that gap.

"These moms are so far from their family and friends and their network of support. They won't necessarily have a baby shower — at least not an in-person one, especially if they don't have a lot of friends in the community yet," she said. "This is a way to celebrate them and shower them with love

and gifts and all the things you would get at a baby shower."

The program was born in 2013, when Murkoff and her husband, Erik Murkoff, attended a shower at Fort Belvoir, Va.

"We went to the shower, and we were immediately hooked; we knew we had to do this," she said. "And a month later, we were doing our first baby showers."

Monday's shower was the second this year at Yokosuka. Combined with events at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo and Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni near Hiroshima, Special Delivery has celebrated with more than 230 parents-to-be this year, according to USO area coordinator Natalie Rowland.

"What the USO does, our sole purpose, is to connect our military service members and their families to home," Rowland told Stars and Stripes on Monday. "Having an event like this is our opportunity to support the mothers and mothers-to-be to have a tradition that they would normally have at home."

Games included Pass the Pacifier, where mothers passed a pacifier around the table and awarded

each other for "mom superlatives" such as who had lived in Yokosuka the longest and who has the most kids.

The mom who had the most "unique pregnancy craving" — buffalo sauce with lemon — won the pacifier.

In another game, moms used Play-Doh to sculpt something related to babies, being a mom or pregnancy. Murkoff and others visited each table to guess each sculpture.

First-time mom Heather Johnson, 31, of Dunnellon, Fla., said learning about concepts such as "baby-led weaning," a method of introducing solid foods to infants, made the shower a positive, informative experience.

Emily Osgood, 30, of Boston, said the event was a great way for off-base residents like herself to make new friends and connect with other military moms.

Jasmine Iyer, 32, of Dallas, recommended all expectant mothers to attend Special Delivery.

"It's a great event," she said. "Heidi has such great energy."

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## MILITARY

# Vets fear for future of Afghan visa program

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
Stars and Stripes

A Republican senator's latest moves against a program that provides visas to interpreters who worked with U.S. forces in Afghanistan could spell doom for it, some advocates and aides say.

Lawmakers this week are debating a provision in the annual defense budget that would extend the Special Immigrant Visa program beyond 2023.

Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley has raised objections that could kill the program, Jeff Phaneuf, advocacy chief at the Virginia-based nonprofit No One Left Behind, said in a statement Wednesday.

"Ensuring the continuation of this program is critical to keep our promise to those who stood shoulder to shoulder with U.S. troops on the battlefield," Phaneuf said, adding that thousands of translators remain in Afghanistan and



J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

**An ex-interpreter for U.S. forces who left Afghanistan in 2020 on a Special Immigrant Visa.**

are seeking the visas.

The Special Immigrant Visa program resettles translators and their family members who face risks to their lives because of their previous work with the U.S. Currently, anyone who applies by Dec. 31, 2023, will be considered.

A spokesman for Grassley declined to comment on the sen-

ator's position but said the matter is part of ongoing negotiations, in which various lawmakers have concerns.

"It seems there are a number of objections, from both the House and Senate minority," George Hartmann, deputy communications director Grassley, said in an email Wednesday.

Grassley is the ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over the SIV program. He has objected to it in the past and tried repeatedly to limit its scope, The Daily Beast reported in 2018.

He has taken issue with what he considers "lax standards" in the program and has sought to include stipulations that only Afghans who were classified as a translator or interpreter can apply for an SIV, according to The Daily Beast.

Grassley represents a "significant hurdle" to the program's sur-

vival, said a congressional staffer who is familiar with the negotiations but is not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

"Barring something rather extraordinary, the provision probably doesn't get included and the SIV program would effectively stop at the end of 2023," the staffer told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday.

But the program has survived previous objections by Grassley, noted Lawrence Montreuil, legislative director at the American Legion. He downplayed the foreboding expressed by the congressional staffer.

"We're frustrated by his opposition, but we're not overly concerned that Sen. Grassley will succeed," Montreuil said Wednesday, adding that if the program ends up in a dire predicament, the American Legion and other groups will lobby for it.

The U.S. welcomed some 74,000 Afghans after the fall of the American-backed government to the Taliban in August 2021. About half of them are eligible for SIVs or have applied, a senior administration official said in 2022.

The SIV program has seen case delays lasting years because of understaffing and a reliance on outdated technology, a State Department inspector general report in 2020 said.

The debate comes amid advocacy for another bill, the Afghan Adjustment Act, which provides permanent legal status to Afghans outside the SIV program or the asylum system.

The bill faces opposition from some Republicans, who say the security procedures in it are not stringent enough.

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## China: DOD needs to be able to address multiple conflicts

FROM PAGE 1

that Biden released this month.

The defense strategy outlines four top-level defense priorities — defending the homeland, deterring attacks against the United States, deterring aggression and preparing for possible conflict and building a "resilient joint force and defense ecosystem."

The 80-page strategy is the Pentagon's unclassified version. Its classified version was given to Congress last spring, not long after Russia invaded Ukraine, but officials said there isn't a lot of foundational difference between the two versions.

Biden and other military officials have previously identified China as a potential threat to U.S. interests, in part, because it has made aggressive statements toward Taiwan, which it considers a breakaway territory.

Air Force Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, commander of the U.S. Transportation Command, said earlier this month that Beijing creates a unique challenge because China and Taiwan are in the vast Pacific Ocean, which poses some logistical difficulties in transporting military equipment and personnel.

The defense strategy identifies Russia as an "acute" threat. Austin told reporters the word was chosen because it's unlikely that Russia can "systemically challenge the U.S. over the long term."

Senior defense officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity underscored the importance of nuclear weapons as a deterrent.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on multiple occasions has threatened the use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine, particularly after Moscow sustained heavy losses during Ukraine's successful counteroffensive.

A significant component to the new strategy, officials said, is the U.S. military's need to plan for a scenario in which it might need to address multiple conflicts at once.

"In a potential conflict with a competitor, the United States would need to be able to deter opportunistic aggression by another competitor," according to the strategy. "We will rely in part on nuclear weapons to help mitigate this risk, recognizing that a near-simultaneous conflict with two nuclear-armed states [Russia and China] would constitute an extreme circumstance."

The Pentagon also issued its Nuclear Posture Review and Missile Defense Review on Thursday. For the first time, officials said, all three documents were integrated, meaning Defense Department officials and experts across portfolios were involved in putting together the reviews.

One senior defense official described the process as everyone having a hand in "baking the cake." The official said the strategy is a "call to action for the defense enterprise to incorporate allies and partners at every stage of defense planning."

After China and Russia, the National Defense Strategy identifies other "persistent threats" to include North Korea and Iran.

"North Korea continues to ex-



SUSAN WALSH/AP

**President Joe Biden meets with military leaders, including Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, left, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, at the White House on Wednesday.**

pand its nuclear and missile capability to threaten the U.S. homeland, deployed U.S. forces, and [South Korea] and Japan, while seeking to drive wedges between the United States, [South Korea] and United States-Japan alliances," the strategy states. "Iran is taking actions that would improve its ability to produce a nuclear weapon should it make the decision to do so, even as it builds and exports extensive missile forces, uncrewed aircraft systems, and advanced maritime capabilities that threaten chokepoints for the free flow of energy resources and international commerce."

Some of the important challenges that will affect U.S. national security, the department said, also include global threats such as pandemics and climate change. Aus-

tin called them threats that "do not respect borders."

"Climate change is creating new corridors of strategic interaction, particularly in the Arctic region," the strategy said. "It will increase demands, including on the joint force, for disaster response and defense support of civil authorities, and affect security relationships with some allies and partners."

The coronavirus pandemic is a good example of how cross-border challenges can impact national security, defense officials said. The pandemic is still affecting countries, global supply chains and the U.S. defense industrial base — and is requiring "substantial commitment" of resources and is highlighting the immense costs and risks of future biological threats.

Two main points of the department's Nuclear Posture Review, the officials said, are maintaining a safe nuclear deterrent and taking steps to reduce the risks of a nuclear war.

Austin said the Pentagon is confident that it's effectively identifying traditional and emerging defense challenges and responding accordingly. That includes, he said, taking care of America's troops. For example, he said, a decision to increase pay for service members by more than 4% will take effect in January.

"We do not shy away from tough challenges, especially when it comes to securing our national interests and defending our national values," he said.

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## MILITARY

# Navy crews save 3 from burning motorboat

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Sailors from two Navy ships rescued a trio of Yemeni nationals from a burning motorboat moments before it sank in the Gulf of Aden this week, the service said Thursday in a statement.

The destroyer USS Nitze and the patrol coastal ship USS

Monsoon responded Wednesday after seeing the mariners in distress in international waters, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet said.

One man required medical attention but was stable when he and the other two civilians were transferred to Yemen's coast guard, said Cmdr. Tim

Hawkins, a spokesman for the command and 5th Fleet.

The rescue took place about 50 miles off the coast of Yemen, the Navy said.

Homeported at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia, Nitze began operating in the Middle East this summer, the Navy said. The ship is part of the

George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group, which deployed to the Mediterranean Sea in August.

Monsoon is forward-deployed to U.S. 5th Fleet and operates from Bahrain, according to the statement.



CRYTON VANDIESAL/U.S. Navy

**U.S. sailors extinguish flames from a motorboat in the Gulf of Aden on Wednesday.**

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## Energy: 66-degree limit set

FROM PAGE 1

heated to no more than 66 degrees Fahrenheit, and unnecessary outdoor lighting is to be turned off.

The move comes less than two months after the Army told Stars and Stripes it had no plans to specify heating limits at its European installations.

Officials said then that the service is not bound by host nation regulations and would try to reduce energy consumption by other means.

Earlier this year, the European Union pledged to cut overall consumption of natural gas by 15% as Russian imports dwindle, a consequence of the Kremlin's response to Western sanctions punishing Russia for its war of aggression in Ukraine.

The Army's conservation measures will help ensure it is "part of the solution" to the energy challenges facing European allies, Mize said.

The 66 degrees cap, which is slightly below heat level 3 on many European radiators, will apply to all workplaces during office hours and will be reduced to 50 degrees, or heat level 1, during non-working hours, according to the new guidelines.

Nonwork areas, such as hallways and bathrooms, will remain at 50 degrees throughout the day. Facilities such as hospitals, schools and child development centers are exempt from the measures but are being encouraged to adopt them if possible.

The memo also says outdoor lighting at all installation buildings should be turned off if it provides little safety or security.

In addition, it directs service members to get rid of space heaters, keep doors and windows closed except for ventilation and open shutters during the day to let in sunlight but close them at night to trap warmth.

Although no enforcement mechanism is specified in the memo, garrison leaders think there will be a personal incentive to abide by the measures, command spokesman Mark Heeter said.

"People are looking to their own energy consumption as a way to help themselves while also contributing to solving a bigger problem," Heeter said.

Officials say soldiers living in barracks and Army family housing also should reduce heat at home.

The memorandum lacks a standard maximum home temperature but says DOD employees who are leaving on vacation should keep their residence no warmer than 50 degrees.

Despite a recent drop in energy costs, continued concerns over the price of natural gas, which jumped by 300% in some military communities in Germany and Italy this summer, appear to be a main reason for the U-turn by the command.

As a result of unusually warm fall weather and ongoing EU efforts, natural gas prices on Europe's TTF benchmark on Monday fell below \$100 per megawatt-hour for the first time since June. That was a 70% drop from late-August highs of about \$350 per megawatt-hour.

European storage facilities are also over 90% full, according to data from Gas Infrastructure Europe.

Still, prices could rise sharply again when the weather gets colder, according to experts, who have also voiced concerns about the threat of sabotage and the impact it could have on the energy market.

The largest Air Force wing in Europe and Africa is also attempting to match the EU's collective 15% gas reduction.

Ramstein Air Base's 86th Airlift Wing announced that decision in a Sept. 26 memorandum that was issued Sunday, nearly a month later.

The Air Force memo says buildings should not be heated over 68 degrees Fahrenheit, as opposed to the Army's 66 degrees.

The Army relies on local power grids for most of the electricity it uses to power its European garrisons.

In fiscal year 2021, the Army spent \$6.6 million on natural gas for its garrisons in Germany alone during, and it is estimated to have spent about \$10 million during fiscal year 2022, which ended last month, IMCOM-Europe told Stars and Stripes in August.

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## EUROPE

# Russia warns it could target US satellites

BY ANDREW MELDRUM

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian forces attacked Russia's hold on the southern city of Kherson on Thursday while fighting also intensified in the country's east. The battles came amid reports that Moscow-appointed authorities in Kherson have fled the city, joining tens of thousands of residents who have been evacuated to other Russia-held areas.

Ukrainian forces were surrounding Kherson from the west and attacking Russia's foothold on the west bank of the Dnieper River, which divides the region and the country.

Amid the battles, Russia warned that Moscow could target Western commercial satellites used for military purposes in support of Ukraine.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova accused the United States of pursuing "thoughtless and mad" escalation. She argued that Washington should take a more responsible approach shown during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis — when the Cold War superpowers stepped back from the brink of nuclear confrontation.

Ukraine has pushed ahead with an offensive to reclaim the Kherson region and its capital of the same name, which Russian forces captured during the first days of a war now in its ninth month.

More than 70,000 residents from the Kherson city area have evacuated in recent days, the region's governor, Vladimir Saldo, said Thursday.

Members of the Russia-backed regional administration were included in the evacuation, the deputy governor, Kirill Stremousov said.

Monuments to Russian heroes were moved, along with the remains of Grigory Potemkin, the Russian general who founded Kherson in the 18th century, that



ANDRII MARIENKO/AP

Members of the Ukrainian Emergency Service operate the Armtrac 400 demining machine during its media presentation outside Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Thursday. The placard on left reads "Dangerous! Mines!"

were kept at the city's St. Catherine's Church.

In eastern Ukraine, Russian forces continued to bombard the city of Bakhmut in the Donetsk region, making slow gains toward the center.

Amid the heavy combat on two fronts, Russian officials stepped up warnings that the West could become part of the conflict.

"The more the U.S. is drawn into supporting the Kyiv regime on the battlefield, the more they risk provoking a direct military confrontation between the biggest nuclear powers fraught with catastrophic consequences," said Zakharova, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman.

"Washington now keeps upping the ante, apparently believing that it's capable of controlling the escalation," she said.

The deputy head of Russia's delegation at a U.N. arms control panel, Konstantin Vorontsov, described the use of U.S. and other

Western commercial satellites for military purposes during the fighting in Ukraine as "extremely dangerous."

"The quasi-civilian infrastructure could be a legitimate target for a retaliatory strike," Vorontsov warned.

As they have all month, Russian forces carried out attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, which have caused increasing worry ahead of winter.

A Russian drone attack early Thursday hit an energy facility near the capital of Kyiv, causing a fire, said Kyiv regional Gov. Oleksiy Kuleba. He said the latest attacks inflicted "very serious damage."

"The Russians are using drones and missiles to destroy Ukraine's energy system ahead of the winter and terrorize civilians," Kuleba said in televised remarks.

Kuleba announced new rolling blackouts and urged consumers to save power. He said authorities

were still pondering over specifics of the blackouts needed to restore the damaged power facilities.

Kyrylo Tymoshenko, deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office, said rolling blackouts would also be introduced in the neighboring Chernihiv, Cherkasy and Zhytomyr regions.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said earlier that Russian attacks have already destroyed 30% of the country's energy infrastructure.

In a likely response to Russia's attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure, a power plant was attacked just outside Sevastopol, a port in the Russian-annexed region of Crimea. The plant suffered minor damage in a drone attack, according to city leader Mikhail Razvozhayev. He said electricity supplies were uninterrupted.

Crimea, a region slightly larger than Sicily, was annexed by Russia from Ukraine in 2014. It has faced drone attacks and explo-

sions amid the fighting in Ukraine. In a major setback for Russia, a powerful truck bomb blew up a section of a strategic bridge linking Crimea to Russia's mainland on Oct. 8.

A senior Ukrainian military officer accused Russia of planning to stage explosions at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and blame them on Ukraine in a false flag attack.

Gen. Oleksii Gromov, the chief of the main operational department of the Ukrainian military's general staff, pointed to Moscow's repeated unfounded allegations that Ukraine was plotting to detonate a radioactive dirty bomb as a possible signal that Moscow was planning explosions at the plant, Europe's largest nuclear power station.

Russia took control of the Zaporizhzhia plant in the opening days of the invasion. Russia and Ukraine have accused each other of attacking the plant, whose reactors were shut down following continuous shelling.

Gromov also charged Thursday that Russian forces may have staged explosions at residential buildings in the city of Kherson before retreating from the city "to inflict a critical damage to the infrastructure of the areas being reclaimed by Ukraine."

The war in Ukraine and the resulting energy crisis is likely to cause global demand for fossil fuels to peak or flatten out, according to a report released Thursday by the Paris-based International Energy Agency, largely due to the fall in Russian exports.

"Today's energy crisis is delivering a shock of unprecedented breadth and complexity," the IEA said, releasing its annual report, the World Energy Outlook.

The report said this was forcing the world's more advanced economies to accelerate structural changes toward renewable energy sources.

## Putin: West seeks global domination using Ukraine

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday sought to cast the conflict in Ukraine as part of efforts by the West to secure its global domination.

Speaking at a conference of international policy experts, Putin accused the U.S. and its allies of trying to dictate their terms to other nations in a "dangerous and bloody" domination game.

Putin, who sent his troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24, has cast Western support for Ukraine as part of broad efforts by Washing-

ton and its allies to enforce what they call a rules-based world order that only foments chaos.

The Russian leader warned that "he who will sow the wind will reap the whirlwind."

Putin claimed that "humankind now faces a choice: accumulate a load of problems that will inevitably crush us all or try to find solutions that may not be ideal but working and could make the world more stable and secure."

Putin said Russia isn't the enemy of the West but will continue to oppose the diktat of Western neo-liberal elites.

## West, Russia clash over UN drone probe

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The U.S. and its Western allies on the Security Council insisted Wednesday that Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has the right to investigate if Russia has used Iranian drones to attack civilians and power plants in Ukraine.

They dismissed Moscow's argument that the U.N. chief would be violating the U.N. Charter.

Russia's U.N. ambassador, Vasiliy Nebenzia, who called the council meeting, argued that only the Security Council can mandate an investigation. He cited Article 100 of the charter, which says the secretary-general "shall not seek

or receive instructions from any government or from any other authority external to the organization."

U.S. deputy ambassador Robert Wood called Russia's contention "simply dumbfounding" and an attempt "to deflect attention from its own egregious wrongdoing in Ukraine."

French Ambassador Nicolas De Riviere accused Russia of constantly violating the U.N. Charter "and trampling on its principles by invading its neighbor and claiming to annex its territories."

Britain's deputy ambassador, James Kariuki, called it "another attempt by Russia to distract from

its crimes in Ukraine, and Iran and Russia's failure to abide by their international obligations."

The Western envoys said the Security Council's time is being wasted by Russia, which is engaged in a blitz of activity at the council.

Russia called closed-door consultations Tuesday about its unfounded allegations that Ukraine is preparing a dirty bomb. It called Wednesday's meeting to try to prevent the investigation of its purported use of Iranian drones. And it called a meeting Thursday on its claims that secret American labs in Ukraine were engaged in biological warfare — a charge denied by the U.S. and Ukraine.

## NATION

# US sees unemployment claims inch higher

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Slightly more Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week as the labor market remains one of the healthiest parts of an uneven U.S. economy.

Jobless claims for the week ending Oct. 22 inched up by 3,000 to 217,000 from 214,000 the previous week, the Labor Department reported Thursday.

The four-week moving average

rose to 219,000 from 212,250 the previous week.

Applications for jobless claims, considered a proxy for layoffs, have remained historically low even as the Federal Reserve has cranked up its benchmark borrowing rate in an effort to cool the economy and tame inflation.

Fed officials have warned that the unemployment rate will likely have to rise as part of their fight against rising prices, and the most

recent government jobs report likely snuffed out any hope that the Fed would pause rate increases when it meets in next week.

American employers slowed their hiring in September but still added 263,000 jobs and the unemployment rate fell from 3.7% to 3.5%, matching a half-century low.

Earlier this month, the government reported that inflation in the United States accelerated in September, with the cost of housing and

other necessities intensifying pressure on families and businesses.

Four-decade high inflation has prompted the Federal Reserve to keep raising its key interest rate, which is currently in a range of 3% to 3.25%. A little more than six months ago, that rate was near zero. The sharp rate hikes have pushed mortgage rates up near 7%, and made other borrowing costlier. The Fed hopes that higher interest rates will slow borrowing and spending

and push inflation closer to its traditional 2% target.

The U.S. economy rebounded in the third quarter, the government reported Thursday, expanding by 2.6% after contracting in the first half of the year.

The total number of Americans collecting unemployment aid rose by 55,000 to 1.44 million for the week ending Oct. 15, its highest level in seven months, but still not a worrisome level.

## US economy returned to growth last quarter

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy grew at a better-than-expected 2.6% annual rate from July through September, snapping two straight quarters of economic contraction and overcoming punishingly high inflation and interest rates.

Thursday's estimate from the Commerce Department showed that the nation's gross domestic product — the broadest gauge of economic output — grew in the third quarter after having shrunk in the first half of 2022. Stronger exports and steady consumer spending, backed by a healthy job market, helped restore growth to the world's biggest economy.

The latest GDP report comes as Americans, worried about inflation and the risk of a recession, have begun to vote in midterm elections that will determine whether President Joe Biden's Democratic Party retains control of Congress. Inflation has become a signature issue for Republican attacks on the Democrats' stewardship of the economy.

Consumer spending, which accounts for about 70% of U.S. economic activity, expanded at a 1.4%

annual pace in the July-September quarter, down from a 2% rate from April through June. Last quarter's growth also got a big boost from exports, which shot up at an annual pace of 14.4%. Government spending also helped: It rose at a 2.4% annual pace, the first such increase since early last year, with sharply higher defense spending leading the way.

Housing investment, though, plunged at a 26% annual pace, hammered by surging mortgage rates as the Federal Reserve aggressively raises borrowing costs to combat chronic inflation. It was the sixth straight quarterly drop in residential investment.

Overall, the outlook for the overall economy has darkened. The Fed has raised interest rates five times this year and is set to do so again next week and in December. Chair Jerome Powell has warned that the Fed's hikes will bring "pain" in the form of higher unemployment. Concern about the likelihood of a recession next year has been growing.

"Looking ahead, risks are to the downside, to consumption in particular, as households continue to face challenges from high prices and



NAM Y. HUH/AP

**People shop at a grocery store in Glenview, Ill., in July. Inflation, still near a 40-year high, is punishing households. Rising interest rates have derailed the housing market and threaten to inflict broader damage.**

likely slower job growth going forward," Rubeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, wrote in a research note.

With inflation still near a 40-year high, steady price spikes have been pressuring households across the country. At the same time, rising interest rates have derailed the housing market and are likely to inflict broader damage over time. The outlook for the world economy, too,

grows bleaker the longer that Russia's war against Ukraine drags on.

Economists noted that the third-quarter gain in GDP could be traced entirely to the surge in exports, which added 2.7 percentage points to the economy's expansion. Export growth will be difficult to sustain as the global economy weakens and a strong U.S. dollar makes American products pricier in foreign markets.

Thursday's report offered some encouraging news on inflation. A price index in the GDP data rose at a 4.1% annual rate from July through September, down from 9% in the April-June period — less than economists had expected and the smallest increase since the final three months of 2020. That figure could raise hopes that the Fed might decide it can soon slow its rate hikes.

## USDA announces \$759 million for high-speed internet in rural areas

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is making available \$759 million in grants and loans to enable rural communities to access high-speed internet, part of the broader \$65 billion push for high-speed connectivity from last year's infrastructure law.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and White House senior adviser Mitch Landrieu were unveiling the grants in North Carolina on Thursday.

There are 49 recipients in 24 states. One is North Carolina's AccessOn Networks, which will receive \$17.5 million to provide broadband service to 100 businesses, 76 farms and 22 educational fa-

cilities in the state's Halifax and Warren counties. Both counties are rural and have predominantly Black populations.

The announcement and visit to North Carolina, a state with an open U.S. Senate seat, come as President Joe Biden and other top Democratic officials are trying to sell their achievements to voters before the Nov. 8 midterm elections. Landrieu, the infrastructure coordinator and former New Orleans mayor, told reporters on a Wednesday call that the Biden administration has already released \$180 billion for various infrastructure projects.

The administration is specifically targeting support for small

towns and farm communities, places that generally favor Republicans over Democrats.

"Rural communities are the backbone of our nation, but for too long they've been left behind and they have been underrecognized," Landrieu said. "We all know how essential the internet is in order to access lifesaving telemedicine, to tap into economic opportunity, to connect with loved ones, to work on precision agriculture and so much more. That's just beyond unacceptable that that's not available to rural America."

Vilsack said he and Landrieu will "learn firsthand" from people in North Carolina about the opportunities internet access can create.

They plan to meet with state and local officials including North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper at Wake Technical Community College, where they'll announce the grants. They will also hold a town hall in

Elm City.

Neither candidate in North Carolina's U.S. Senate race — Democrat Cheri Beasley and Republican Ted Budd — was slated to appear at the events.

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## NATION

# Legal challenges already begin for Nov. 8 election

By COLLEEN LONG  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Election Day is 12 days away. But in courtrooms across the country, efforts to sow doubt over the outcome have already begun.

More than 100 lawsuits have been filed this year around the upcoming midterm elections. The suits, largely by Republicans, target rules over mail-in voting, early voting, voter access, voting machines, voting registration, the counting of mismatched absentee ballots and access for partisan poll watchers.

It's the most litigation ever before an election and it's likely a preview of a potentially contentious post-election landscape. The strategy was born in part of the failure of allies of former President Donald Trump to successfully challenge and overturn the free and fair results of the 2020 presidential election.

But while the 2020 election effort was an ad hoc response fronted by a collection of increasingly ill-prepared lawyers that included Rudy Giuliani, today's effort is a more formalized, well-funded and well-organized campaign run by the Republican National Committee and other legal allies with strong bona fides. Party officials say they are actively preparing for recounts, contested elections and more litigation. And there are thousands of volunteers in place primed to challenge ballots and hunt down evidence of malfeasance.

"We're now at the point where charges of fraud and suppression are baked into the turnout models for each party. Republicans charge fraud. Democrats charge suppression. Each side amplifies its position with massive and costly amounts of litigation and messaging," said Benjamin Ginsberg, co-chair of the Election Official Legal Defense Network and for-

**"Contesting an election that is clearly lost is now where all the incentive structure is, and that is incredibly corrosive for democracy."**

Marc Elias  
attorney

mer counsel to the George W. Bush campaign and other Republican candidates.

Democrats, too, have similar efforts underway. But their legal effort ahead of the election focuses on making voting easier and helping those denied a chance to vote, through legal hotlines and volunteers. A team led by attorney Marc Elias and his firm is litigating roughly 40 cases in 19 states, some in which they have intervened in Republican-led lawsuits.

Elias said he's bracing for a deluge of litigation challenging election results, particularly as some Republican candidates have already said they will not accept a loss or have planted doubt on the election process despite no evidence of fraud.

"The problem with the Republican Party right now is that conceding you lost an election is the only thing that will hurt you," Elias said. "Contesting an election that is clearly lost is now where all the incentive structure is, and that is incredibly corrosive for democracy."

Litigation around elections is nothing new; almost every election begets some legal challenge. But the bulk of this litigation generally occurs after the votes have been cast, not before Election Day.

In 2020, pro-Trump attorneys filed roughly 60 lawsuits across the nation and asked judges to set aside votes. Those lawsuits were roundly rejected. Trump's own leadership found the election was

fair, and state election officials nationwide saw no widespread evidence of fraud. Biden earned 306 electoral votes to Trump's 232, the same margin in Trump's 2016 victory over Hillary Clinton, which he repeatedly described as a "landslide."

At the time, the Republican establishment had not adopted Trump's lies about the election. Since then, though, the falsehoods have taken root within the party and become a major talking point for many of the candidates. Some have refused to commit to accepting the results after Nov. 8.

Ginsberg said that unsubstantiated charges that elections were fraudulent or rigged or unreliable have become the ante for a Republican candidate to win a contested 2022 primary in most states, and that's a problem.

"That can only harm public faith in elections, something for which Republicans will eventually pay a price."

This year, the focus is on offense. The RNC said it has built a multimillion-dollar "election integrity" team, hiring 37 lawyers in key states, holding more than 5,000 trainings to teach volunteers to look for voter fraud, which is rare, and filing 73 lawsuits in 20 states. Other Trump-allied legal teams are also ramping up and preparing for litigation, including America First Legal, run by former Trump adviser Stephen Miller.

"We built an unprecedented election integrity ground game to



JOHN LOCHER/AP

**Interim Nye County Clerk Mark Kampf works in an office where early votes are being counted Wednesday in Pahrump, Nev.**

ensure that November's midterm elections are free, fair, and transparent," RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel said late last month.

For three decades, the RNC was under a consent decree that prohibited it from challenging voters' qualifications and targeting alleged fraud. The consent decree, which ended in 2019, arose from a Democratic National Committee lawsuit that argued Republicans sought to dissuade Black Americans from voting by posting armed, off-duty law enforcement officers at certain polling sites and sending targeted mailings warning about penalties for violating election laws.

In 2020, Republican poll watchers, who have no direct role in the elections and cannot interfere in the electoral process apart from watching and reporting issues, were the basis of many of the lawsuits filed by Trump allies. But when pressed by judges for evidence backing partisan claims of fishy behavior by election workers, litigation faltered.

Election workers have increasingly been subjected to abuse and threats of violence. In battleground states, voter intimidation cases are on the rise. There's growing concern among election officials and law enforcement about overly aggressive poll watchers or people pretending to be poll watchers intimidating

voters.

Last week the RNC won a legal challenge against Michigan's secretary of state, Democrat Jocelyn Benson, who sought to tamp down rank partisanship by issuing rules around how poll challengers can operate.

"Jocelyn Benson not only disregarded Michigan election law in issuing this guidance, she also violated the rights of political parties and poll challengers to fully ensure transparency and promote confidence that Michigan elections are run fairly and lawfully," McDaniel said in a statement.

The RNC has won legal challenges in Nevada and Arizona over the appointment of poll workers and in Wisconsin on ballot curing and drop boxes. Other legal action includes litigation in Pennsylvania over absentee ballots dating and whether outside parties should be allowed to examine voting machines.

Democrats are continuing to file litigation, too. Democratic-led groups have initiated roughly 35 lawsuits that focus largely on making voting easier. Just this week, litigation was filed on behalf of Voto Latino and the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans to stop intimidation over using drop boxes in Arizona. The ACLU of Pennsylvania sent a letter to Allegheny County officials on mail-in ballot concerns.

## Herschel Walker faces abortion allegation from 2nd accuser

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A woman came forward Wednesday to accuse Herschel Walker, the anti-abortion Republican running for U.S. Senate in Georgia, of encouraging and paying for her 1993 abortion — an accusation that came just weeks after a former girlfriend said he did the same for her in 2009.

Walker dismissed the newest allegation as "foolishness" and "a lie," similar to his vehement denials earlier this month of the

abortion alleged to have happened 13 years ago.



Walker

"I'm done with all this foolishness. This is all a lie, and I will not entertain any of it. I also did not kill JFK," Walker said in a statement later Wednesday.

The second accuser, identified only as "Jane Doe," spoke to reporters via an audio Zoom call ar-

ranged by her lawyer, Gloria Allred. The woman alleged that Walker, a former college and professional football star making his first bid for public office, pressured her into an abortion and paid for one after she became pregnant during their six-year relationship while he was married to his first wife.

"The reason I am here today is because he has publicly taken the position that he is 'about life' and against abortion under any circumstances when, in fact, he pres-

sured me to have an abortion and personally ensured that it occurred by driving me to the clinic and paying for it," the woman said. She said she was not revealing her identity because she fears "reprisals against myself, my family and my livelihood."

"I do not believe that Herschel is morally fit to be a U.S. senator and that is the reason why I am speaking up and providing proof," she said.

She said partisan allegiances were not a factor in her decision to

come forward. She called herself a registered independent and said she voted twice for Donald Trump, the former Republican president who has endorsed Walker.

The second round of abortion allegations against Walker returned the issue to the forefront of the campaign in the final two weeks before the Nov. 8 elections. Walker is competing against Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock in a tight race that could help determine party control of the Senate.

WORLD

# China accused of using outposts to track dissidents

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — China has reportedly established dozens of “overseas police stations” in nations around the world that activists fear could be used to track and harass dissidents as part of Beijing’s crackdown on corruption.

Information about the outposts underscored concerns about the ruling Chinese Communist Party’s influence over its citizens abroad, sometimes in ways deemed illegal by other countries, as well as the undermining of democratic institutions and the theft of economic and political secrets by bodies affiliated with the one-party state.

Spanish-based non-government group Safeguard Defenders pub-

lished a report last month, called “110 Overseas. Chinese Transnational Policing Gone Wild,” that focused on the foreign stations.

Laura Harth, a campaign director with the group, told The Associated Press that China has set up at least 54 overseas police service stations.

“One of the aims of these campaigns, obviously, as it is to crack down on dissent, is to silence people,” Harth said. “So people are afraid. People that are being targeted, that have family members back in China, are afraid to speak out.”

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Thursday that Beijing wasn’t doing anything wrong. “Chinese

public security authorities strictly observe the international law and fully respect the judicial sovereignty of other countries,” Mao said.

The Dutch government said this week it was looking into whether two such police stations — one a virtual office in Amsterdam and the other at a physical address in Rotterdam — were established in the Netherlands.

“We are investigating the activities of these so-called police centers. Once there is more clarity on the matter, we will decide on appropriate action,” the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement sent to the AP. “We have not been informed about these centers via diplomatic chan-

nels.”

Another Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Wang Wenbin, described the foreign outposts identified by Safeguard Defenders as service stations for Chinese people who are abroad and in need of help with, for instance, renewing their driver’s licenses.

Wang added that China also has cracked down on what he called transnational crimes but said the operation was conducted in line with international law.

In its report, Safeguard Defenders reproduced Chinese media accounts about people suspected of alleged crimes in China being interrogated by video link from some of the locations in other countries that Beijing allegedly

did not declare to other governments.

In one instance, according to the group, a Chinese man accused of environmental crimes was persuaded in 2020 to return from Madrid to Qingtian, in Zhejiang province, where he turned himself in to authorities.

Visits by The Associated Press to some of the locations identified by Safeguard Defenders in Rome, Madrid and Barcelona found, respectively, a massage parlor, the Spanish headquarters of an association of citizens from Qingtian and a firm providing legal translation services. There was no indication of police stations or other activity directly related to the Chinese government.

## Activists target Dutch painting

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — The Johannes Vermeer masterpiece “Girl with a Pearl Earring” on Thursday became the latest artwork targeted by climate activists in a protest at the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague. The priceless work reportedly was not damaged.

A video posted on Twitter showed one man pouring a can of what appeared to be tomatoes over another man who appeared to attempt to glue his head to the

world famous painting.

Dutch broadcaster NOS reported that the Mauritshuis museum said the painting was not damaged.

One of the men, wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the words “Just Stop Oil,” shouts “How do you feel when you see something beautiful and priceless being apparently destroyed before your eyes? Do you feel outrage? Good. That is the feeling when you see the planet being destroyed before our very eyes.”

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## NATION

# FBI probes ex-CIA officer's spying for World Cup host

By ALAN SUDERMAN  
Associated Press

A former CIA officer who spied on Qatar's rivals to help the tiny Arab country land this year's World Cup is now under FBI scrutiny and newly obtained documents show he offered clandestine services that went beyond soccer to try to influence U.S. policy, an Associated Press investigation found.

The monthslong FBI probe focuses on whether Kevin Chalker's work for Qatar broke laws related to foreign lobbying, surveillance and exporting sensitive technologies and tradecraft, said two people with knowledge of the investigation who requested anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss it.

Chalker's goal, AP found, was to burnish Qatar's image among American decision makers while undermining critics who have accused the Persian Gulf monarchy of financing terrorists and other wrongdoing. Federal investigators have focused increasing scrutiny in recent years on Qatar's influence efforts, including those alleged to involve former U.S. national security officials.

AP's reporting in the past year has detailed how Chalker and his company, Global Risk Advisors, sought to help Qatar host the 2022 World Cup by spying on soccer officials in rival countries. That included deploying a Facebook "honeypot" in which an attractive woman is used to get close to a target, having someone pose as a photojournalist to keep tabs on one nation's bid and, after the decision was announced in 2010, waging a failed two-year campaign to get a top German soccer

official to soften his criticism of Qatar.

New AP reporting based on internal Global Risk Advisors records and interviews with Chalker's associates shows much of his work in the years since has focused on seeking to strengthen Qatar's influence in the U.S. That included attempting to set up high-level meetings between Qatari officials and top CIA leaders and pitching a sprawling covert influence operation to damage the reputations of U.S. officials perceived as Qatar's enemies. The company even boasted in internal records of using spycraft to try and gather information on a congressman who sponsored legislation Qatar opposed.

Global Risk Advisors "has consistently protected Qatar by attacking the attackers," the company said in one internal document.

Chalker's lawyer, Kevin Carroll, said Global Risk Advisors had never engaged in any unlawful activity and was unaware of any federal investigation.

The FBI said it could neither confirm nor deny the existence of an investigation. Qatar did not respond to requests for comment.

Qatar, an energy-rich sheikdom that is home to a massive U.S. military base, has spent billions in recent years to successfully fend off attempts by its neighboring rivals — Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — to isolate the country and sour its relationship with the U.S.

Chalker began a long and lucrative relationship with Qatar after working as an undercover operations officer for the CIA in the 2000s. His work on the World Cup helped Qatar become Global Risk

Advisors' main client, allowing it to open offices in New York, Washington, London and Doha.

"GRA is on the cusp of rapid expansion," said a 2014 memo to employees, adding that the company "has been pursuing a number of extraordinary projects."

The company's work included a covert information campaign against Qatar's rivals that involved helping make a 2018 film called "Enemies of Peace" that was highly critical of Saudi Arabia's crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, according to two former Chalker associates. The film's director told the AP he was unaware an advisor on the film was working for GRA.

Global Risk Advisors and its affiliates also provided military and intelligence training for several years to Qatari officials, including members of the royal family, interviews and records show. Courses ranged from hostage rescue to how to operate undercover.

"Essentially, he wants us to conduct mini-Farm courses both for ops and for tech ops," said an internal Global Risk Advisors' document describing a Qatari official's request for training. "The Farm" is the nickname given to the CIA's covert training facility in Virginia.

Federal law prohibits sharing certain tactics the U.S. government teaches its own soldiers and spies, and some former Chalker employees said they were concerned that some of the Qatari trainings crossed the line.

Chalker's attorney said Global Risk Advisors has received proper authorization from the U.S. government whenever its work has required it.



Elon Musk enters Twitter headquarters carrying a sink on Wednesday in San Francisco.

## Musk doesn't see Twitter as 'free-for-all hellscape'

Associated Press

Elon Musk is telling Twitter advertisers he is buying the platform to "help humanity" and doesn't want it to become a "free-for-all hellscape" where anything can be said with no consequences.

The message to advertisers posted Thursday on Twitter came a day before Musk's deadline for closing his \$44 billion deal to buy the social-media company and take it private. He said in the post that he's buying the company because "it is important to the future of civilization to have a common digital town square."

Elon Musk attempted to soothe leery Twitter advertisers Thursday, a day before a deadline to close out on his \$44 billion acquisition of the social media platform, saying that he is buying the platform to "help humanity" and doesn't want it to become a "free-for-all hellscape."

Musk has been signaling that the deal is going through. He strolled into the company's San Francisco headquarters Wednesday carrying a porcelain sink, changed his Twitter profile to "Chief Twit," and tweeted "Enter-

ing Twitter HQ — let that sink in!"

The message reflects concerns among advertisers — Twitter's chief source of revenue — that Musk's plans to promote free speech by cutting back on moderating content will open the floodgates to more online toxicity and drive away users.

"The reason I acquired Twitter is because it is important to the future of civilization to have a common digital town square, where a wide range of beliefs can be debated in a healthy manner, without resorting to violence," Musk wrote, in an unusually-long message for the billionaire Tesla CEO who typically projects his thoughts in one-line tweets.

He continued: "There is currently great danger that social media will splinter into far right wing and far left wing echo chambers that generate more hate and divide our society."

Musk told advertisers Thursday he wants Twitter to be "the most respected advertising platform in the world." He said it should be "warm and welcoming to all" and enable users to choose the experience they want to have.

## New York City Council aims to end rat crisis with legislation

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — New York City is set to expand its war on rats.

The City Council is expected to pass a package of anti-rat bills on Thursday, responding to New Yorkers' growing frustration with the out-of-control rodent infestation in the city.

The package of four bills would set new pest management standards for all major private construction projects, require the city to establish new rat mitigation zones and mandate annual Health Department reports on the rat scourge.

The Council's Sanitation Committee voted 9 to 0 on Wednesday to approve the so-called Rat Action Plan and move it to a Thursday vote before the rest of the Council.

"This is integral to the city's recovery," Councilman Erik Bottcher, the Manhattan



A rat is spotted outside NYCHA housing in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Democrat who introduced the construction bill, said in an interview after the hearing.

"If we're going to recover as a city, we have to make sure that New York City is a place where people want to live, work and

visit," Bottcher said. "And that means getting a handle on this rat situation."

The vermin swell seems to be driven by a stew of factors. Dining sheds are often cited for driving rats into the open, a construction boom appears to be kicking up rats by disturbing their colonies, and warming weather may be extending rats' breeding seasons.

A trail of trash on the city's pavement, perhaps inflamed by a COVID-era growth in residential garbage, has supercharged the rat troubles.

In the first nine months of 2022, the city fielded almost 21,600 rat complaints, a tally 71% higher than the count reported at the same point in 2020, according to government data.

Councilman Chi Ossé, a Brooklyn Democrat and a sponsor on three of the bills, described summers in Bedford-Stuyvesant as

"flattened-rat season" given the amount of rodent roadkill splayed on streets.

"They're disgusting," Ossé said of the rats.

Mark Levine, the Manhattan borough president and a co-sponsor of Bottcher's bill, said the city has a "serious problem here, and it's getting worse."

"It's a public health crisis," Levine said. "It's a quality of life crisis. It's an equity crisis. We've got to address it."

The Council committee's hearing came nine days after Mayor Eric Adams declared an escalation in City Hall's anti-rat effort: a planned change to the city's trash collection rules that would dictate that trash not be placed on curbs before 8 p.m. The current start time is 4 p.m.

"I hate rats," Adams said at a news conference detailing the shift. "We're going to kill rats. Rats have no place in this city."

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Caverns visitors rescued with ropes, harnesses

**AZ** PEACH SPRINGS — Rescuers used ropes and harnesses to hoist five people to safety after an elevator at a national tourist attraction broke down 21 stories underground.

A husband and wife, a couple with two young children and at least two people in their 70s had taken a 30-minute tour of the Grand Canyon Caverns on Sunday and were preparing to return above ground when they discovered that the lift was not working, Coconino County Sheriff's officials said in a news release.

A man in the group was able to get out and notify authorities after climbing the emergency staircase to the surface, the release said. Authorities determined that the five other members of the group could stay overnight in the hotel suite located at the bottom of the cavern while repair personnel worked on the elevator.

Notified on Monday morning that the repair was unsuccessful, the sheriff's search and rescue unit and the Flagstaff Fire Department's technical rescue team set up a rope rescue system in the elevator shaft. They secured each of the tourists in a harness and raised them one at a time up the shaft.



CHRIS DILLMANN, VAIL (COLO.) DAILY/AP

## Man pleads guilty in connection with barn fires

**IN** GOSHEN — A man has pleaded guilty in connection with a series of barn fires set last year in several northern Indiana counties.

An Elkhart County judge gave preliminary approval Monday to the plea agreement with Joseph Hershberger, who was charged with eight counts of arson, the South Bend Tribune reported.

The fires were started in Elkhart, Kosciusko, Marshall and St. Joseph counties between April and October in 2021.

Cellphone data placed Hershberger's phone at the scene of several of the fires, according to court records. He was arrested in December.

As part of the deal, prosecutors dismissed a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and placed an upper limit of 50 years on any sentenced imposed against Hershberger. He is scheduled to be sentenced Nov. 21.

## Former officer helped drug dealer robberies

**TN** MEMPHIS — A former officer has been sentenced to 12 years in federal prison for giving police information and equipment to civilians who robbed drug dealers in Memphis, Tenn., prosecutors said.

Former Memphis Police Officer Sam Blue, 63, pleaded guilty in January 2020 to conspiracy to violate civil rights by using force, violence and intimidation, and conspiracy to commit robbery affecting interstate commerce.

Blue was sentenced Tuesday, the

## Helping hands

**Five-year-old Max Lambert, Lulu Tooley and Patrick Lambert, of South Africa, put the final touches on a snowman after a fresh snowfall Sunday in Beaver Creek, Colo. It was the family's first time seeing snow while on vacation.**

U.S. attorney's office said.

From 2014 to 2018, Blue conspired with others to rob drug dealers. Blue gave robbers home addresses for targets. He also provided robbers with an official Memphis Police Department badge and a car dashboard blue light.

In 2018, several men put on fake police uniforms and used a blue police dashboard light to stop Eric Cain near his apartment, prosecutors said. Attackers handcuffed, kidnapped and tortured Cain, demanding to know where he kept his drugs and money. Cain escaped and spent a week in the hospital.

## Canadian man charged in connection with threats

**MA** BOSTON — A Canadian man has been arrested in connection with a series of bomb threats last month targeting several prominent locations in Boston, police said Monday.

Joshua Kimble, 42, of Peterborough, Ontario, faces multiple charges in Canada, Boston police said in a statement.

A series of threats were transmitted to Boston Children's Hospital on Sept. 9, police said. Over the next four days, the Prudential Center shopping mall, the Orpheum Theater, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Boston Public Library all received threats, police said.

All shared similar details and all appeared to have originated in Canada, police said. Police did not dis-

close a motive.

Kimble is currently being held pending trial in Canada on 12 counts of public mischief and 12 counts of false information, police said.

## Amazon driver found dead at house with big dogs

**MO** EXCELSIOR SPRINGS — Investigators are trying to determine if two dogs caused the death of an Amazon driver whose body was found in the yard of a home in rural northwest Missouri.

Ray County Sheriff Scott Childers said deputies went to a home in Excelsior Springs on Monday evening after reports that an Amazon truck had been parked in the same spot for about two hours, with its lights on and motor running. The driver's body was found in the yard in front of the home.

Childers said the man had injuries consistent with an animal attack and two aggressive dogs — a German Shepherd and English Mastiff — were at the home. However, an autopsy will be conducted to determine if the dogs caused the driver's death, he said.

A deputy shot and injured the mastiff because it was aggressive toward sheriff's deputies and medical responders on the scene.

The dogs went back into the house but the deputies could hear them barking and saw blood on the doggie door.

Childers said he and deputies

went into the home and shot and killed the dogs in order to protect deputies, medical personnel and detectives at the scene.

The homeowners were out of town but the dogs were being cared for, the sheriff said.

## Girl, 14, took loaded gun to high school campus

**CA** WESTMINSTER — A 14-year-old girl was arrested Tuesday after she brought a loaded handgun to a Southern California high school, police said.

The girl showed the gun to a student in a restroom at Westminster High School at around noon, although she didn't make any threats and nobody was hurt, according to Sgt. Eddie Esqueda, the Orange County Register reported.

School staff were alerted, took the gun and detained the girl, police said.

The girl didn't attend Westminster but is a student at Fountain Valley High School, about five miles away, police said. It wasn't immediately clear why she was on the Westminster campus.

## 'Drag Queen Story Hour' canceled due to threats

**FL** ORLANDO — An LGBTQ center in central Florida has canceled a "Drag Queen Story Hour" event due to threats from hate groups, center officials said.

The LGBT+ Center Orlando-The Center posted that the story hour scheduled for Saturday was being canceled due to the threats.

"We take these threats very seriously and would not want to endanger or expose children and their parents and guardians to bigotry and hate," The Center posted Monday on Facebook.

The decision by the LGBTQ center in Florida came days after about 200 protesters and counter-protesters threw rocks and smoke grenades at each other outside a drag queen story time event at an Oregon pub.

## Man dragged to death by subway train at station

**NY** NEW YORK — A 20-year-old man was dragged to his death by a New York City subway train after his clothing or backpack apparently got stuck in the doors, authorities said.

The man was killed by a southbound 1 train just before 5 p.m. Monday at the Columbus Circle station, a busy transfer hub at the southwest corner of Central Park, transit officials said. His name was not immediately released.

"While the investigation is in its earliest stages, it appears this was a terrible accident that did not involve criminal activity," Richard Davey, the president of New York City Transit, said in a statement.

From The Associated Press

# FACES

## Prince Harry's memoir, 'Spare,' coming Jan. 10

BY HILLEL ITALIE  
Associated Press

Prince Harry's memoir, an object of obsessive anticipation worldwide since it was first announced last year, is coming out Jan. 10.

The book will be called "Spare" and is being billed by Penguin Random House as an account told with "raw, unflinching honesty" and filled with "insight, revelation, self-examination and hard-won wisdom about the eternal power of love over grief."



In a statement released Thursday, Penguin Random House summoned memories of the stunning 1997 death of Prince Harry's mother, Diana, and the subsequent image of Harry and his brother "walking behind their mother's coffin as the world watched in sorrow — and horror."

"As Diana, Princess of Wales, was laid to rest, billions wondered what the princes must be thinking and feeling — and how their lives would play out from that point on," the statement reads in part.

"For Harry, this is his story at last."

The memoir's title is an apparent reference to "the heir and the spare," a phrase often used to describe royal siblings.

Royals watchers and the public at large have speculated endlessly since the book was first announced in July 2021.

The Duke of Sussex had already revealed a newsmaking willingness to discuss his private life when he and his American-born wife, Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, were interviewed by Oprah Winfrey for a bombshell March 2021 broadcast. The couple spoke of Meghan's deep unhappiness with her new life in England, the alleged racism within the royal family and Harry's fear that his wife's life might be endangered had they remained in his native country.

Harry and Meghan stepped back from royal duties in 2020 and moved to the U.S. Harry told Winfrey that his family cut him off financially and that he helped pay for his security with money left to him by his mother. They have launched numerous initiatives, including a Netflix production deal and the nonprofit Archewell Foundation.

The 416-page book will be published in 16 languages, from Dutch to Portuguese. Harry himself will narrate the audiobook.



STARS AND STRIPES ILLUSTRATION/AP, iStock photos

# Complicated controversy

## Why streamers Spotify and Apple Music haven't pulled Ye's songs

BY WENDY LEE  
Los Angeles Times

**A** week after Endeavor Chief Executive Ari Emanuel called for businesses to cut ties with the artist formerly known as Kanye West after his antisemitic remarks, companies such as Adidas and the Gap stopped working with him.

But others, including streamers Apple Music, Spotify and Amazon Music, still feature Ye's music on their playlists.

Apple Music and Tidal, which also streams West's music, did not respond to a request for comment. Amazon Music declined to comment.

But industry analysts say the decision to take down Ye's music is complicated by several factors, including contract requirements streamers may have with record labels and publishers, free speech considerations and whether it is appropriate to take action against an artist's behavior outside of their music.

On Tuesday, Spotify CEO Daniel Ek told Reuters that even though he found West's antisemitic comments "just awful," they aren't in West's music that is streaming on Spotify. "It's really just his music, and his music doesn't violate our policy," Ek told Reuters.

Ye has been heavily criticized for antisemitic comments and false statements made about the Holocaust and Jewish people. Those viewpoints, which were made outside of his albums and songs, caused a swift backlash.

"Silence is dangerous," Emanuel wrote in an op-ed piece in the Financial Times on Oct. 19. "It allows forms of hatred and racism, including anti-Semitism, to spread and become normalized. It coarsens and degrades our society and country."

In response, several brands cut ties with the rapper.

"Antisemitism, racism and hate in any form are inexcusable and not tolerated in accordance with our values," the Gap said in a statement Tuesday. "On behalf of our customers, employees and shareholders, we are partnering with organizations that combat hate and discrimination."

Severing ties with Ye could be a little more complicated for music streaming services, legal experts said.

Bryan Sullivan, a founding partner at law firm Early Sullivan Wright Gizer & McRae LLP, said that while the 1st Amendment does not bar music streaming services from removing West's music, there could be contracts in place that would require Spotify or Apple Music to go to the music publisher or recording company to get permission to amend their agreement to remove those songs.

If there is no contract in place, the streamer could

remove West's music, he said.

"It all depends on what that contract says," Sullivan said.

Elk told Reuters: "It's up to his label if they want to take action or not."

Yet Spotify has removed songs it promoted on playlists from controversial artists in the past.

In May 2018, Spotify delisted R. Kelly from company playlists and stopped promoting his music as part of its hate content and hateful conduct policy. At the time, Kelly faced sexual misconduct allegations. In 2022, he was convicted of child pornography charges. Spotify said that R. Kelly's music, however, would still remain on its streaming service.

"We don't censor content because of an artist's or creator's behavior, but we want our editorial decisions — what we choose to program — to reflect our values," Spotify said at the time. "When an artist or creator does something that is especially harmful or hateful, it may affect the ways we work with or support that artist or creator."

But less than a month later, the company walked back its statement and updated its policy, saying "we don't aim to play judge and jury" and said their playlist editorial decisions "focus on what music will positively resonate with their listeners." The company said that some artists expressed concerns that mistakes made when they were younger could be used against them on Spotify.

Ye's last album, "Donda 2," was released in February. He launched it on his Stem Player instead of the major streaming platforms.

If his songs contained hate speech, it would violate Spotify's content guidelines, but his music does not.

"Is there an actual legal reason to do a takedown on his music? I don't think so," said Helen Yu, principal attorney at Yu Leseberg. "The hate speech is not in his music. So why would you take his music down? You don't like this person? Don't listen to his music. Don't support him. Don't let him make money."

As of Wednesday, West was still featured on Apple Music playlists including "Hip-Hop/R&B Hits 2016" and "Work from Home Hustle," as well as Spotify's "Gold School" playlist, which listed several of West's songs, including "Stronger" and "Can't Tell Me Nothing."

Another complicating factor: Other collaborators such as songwriters and producers are also involved in West's songs, so pulling down his music would affect them too.

Ray Wang, a principal analyst of Palo Alto, Calif.-based Constellation Research, said brands and platforms are becoming more careful about how they handle these situations.

"We are at a point where cancellations are equally polarizing as not canceling," Wang said.

**"It's really just his music, and his music doesn't violate our policy."**

Daniel Ek  
Spotify CEO

## Alan Jackson to get CMA lifetime honor

Country star Alan Jackson will receive the CMA Willie Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award at the Country Music Association Awards in November.

The Country Music Hall of Famer with hits like "Chattahoochee" and "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere" joins a select group of artists who have been given the award, including Nelson, Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton and Charley Pride.

Dierks Bentley, Jon Pardi, Carrie Underwood and Lainey Wilson will be part of an all-star tribute for Jackson during the CMA Awards on Nov. 9, airing on ABC.

The Georgia-born neo-traditionalist challenged the genre's pop leanings in the '90s while selling millions of albums and scoring dozens of hits. He's been named CMA entertainer of the year three times and has been inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

## Deluxe edition of '8 Mile' soundtrack drops

Ahead of the film's 20th anniversary next month, a deluxe 20th anniversary edition of the "8 Mile" soundtrack was to hit streaming services on Friday.

Eminem made the announcement on social media on Wednesday. No details were immediately available about the project.

"8 Mile: Music from and Inspired by the Motion Picture" was released on Oct. 29, 2002. The soundtrack featured Eminem's No. 1 hit "Lose Yourself," along with several other tracks by Eminem, and songs by 50 Cent, Nas, Jay-Z, Gang Starr, Rakim, Xzibit and more.

The set spent four nonconsecutive weeks at No. 1 on Billboard's Top 200 albums chart. It also spawned a follow-up, "More Music From '8 Mile.'"

## Other news

■ **Rihanna** has released a new song, "Lift Me Up," the lead single from the upcoming Marvel movie "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" that's written as a tribute to late actor Chadwick Boseman, Disney announced. It's the first solo single in six years from Rihanna, who co-wrote the song with "Black Panther" director Ryan Coogler, composer Ludwig Göransson and Nigerian singer-songwriter Tems. "Wakanda Forever" comes to theaters Nov. 11.

■ Canadian actor **Michael Kopsa**, a fixture in Hallmark movies and also known for roles in "The X-Files" and "Watchmen," died Sunday. He was 66.

■ **Thomas Cahill**, a scholar of ancient languages and belief systems with a knack for popular storytelling who engaged history readers with such bestsellers as "How the Irish Saved Civilization" and "Desire of the Everlasting Hills," died Oct. 18 at age 82.

From wire reports

## STARS AND STRIPES

## OPINION

## No one knows what's going to happen in midterms

BY KURT BARDELLA

Special to the Los Angeles Times

As we head into the final stretch of the midterm elections, the national political media have returned to their favorite pastime: fixating on polls.

For the better part of a year, voters have been inundated with a familiar media chorus: Republicans are poised to retake control of Congress. The rationale for bolstering the “red wave” narrative is a combination of historical precedence — the party in power almost always loses seats in the first term of a presidency — and reliance on polling. But given what we’ve seen in the last six years, conventional political wisdom, which didn’t predict an insurrection, is quite likely to be upended.

The same thing can be said for polling, which has been off the mark cycle after cycle. Donald Trump wasn’t supposed to win in 2016. Republicans weren’t supposed to gain seats in 2020. A Republican candidate for governor wasn’t supposed to win in Virginia, a state Joe Biden won by 10 points. Alaska hasn’t elected a Democrat to Congress in 50 years, yet it did this year.

Yet the media are still promoting narratives about the midterm elections that are based on past elections. At best, it’s lazy; at worst, it’s irresponsible.

By failing to acknowledge the shortcomings of polling, the media are giving the public a false or skewed representation of how competitive this election may be and running the risk of making those predictions a self-

fulfilled prophecy. If voters take the prognosticating at face value, they would believe the election is already determined, which could hinder turnout. It’s the same reason people change the channel during a blowout game; who wants to stick around for that?

Now imagine election night 2022, if Democrats hold both the House and Senate. The collective media apparatus will express shock and surprise. They will herald the results as unprecedented and defying all expectations. But the truth will be that the media got it wrong — again. And yet the narrative embedded in so much of political coverage is unlikely to change. The same storyline will probably be trotted out in 2024. That’s the inherent danger of the herd D.C. Beltway mentality that dominates conventional wisdom group-think.

I expect that if this scenario comes to pass, we’ll see more stories with headlines such as this from Politico, “Pollsters: ‘Impossible’ to say why 2020 polls were wrong” or studies such as this one from Vanderbilt University, “Preelection polls in 2020 had the largest errors in 40 years.”

Those reports are from less than two years ago. And yet, here we are on the doorstep of another election and much of the coverage is still centering on every new poll, as if this pattern of inaccuracy didn’t exist.

Now let me be clear, I’m not saying the opposite can’t happen, that Republicans can’t find themselves the victors in these midterms. Of course, that’s entirely within the realm of possibility. But that’s not my point. My point is no one really has any clue about what’s going to happen, especially the pollsters who rou-

tinely get things wrong.

And if political pundits and reporters are being honest, they would admit that they have no actual hard data to back up the thesis that a red wave is forming.

What’s worse is that many are completely ignoring the fact that this election is being conducted under circumstances unlike any other before it, with dozens of new voter suppression laws being enacted in Republican-led states in the last two years alone. This election isn’t even being conducted on the same playing field as the last one, yet prognostications so often completely ignore GOP actions designed to reduce voting and affect the election outcomes.

Imagine a segment about the Super Bowl where the analysts and handicappers make their predictions for the big game but omit the fact that one team was given a 10-point lead to start the game. That’s essentially what is happening now because of the voter intimidation and suppression we’re seeing in states such as Arizona and Florida.

Omitting or downplaying this context in polling stories and political coverage is a huge disservice to the nation. The conventional horse-race narrative for elections has never served the public well. But in these midterms, lack of context normalizes what Republicans have done to fair elections and will further help accelerate the decline of the American democratic process.

Kurt Bardella is contributing writer to the Los Angeles Times’ Opinion section. He is Democratic strategist and a former senior adviser for Republicans on the House Oversight Committee.

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## Voters think there are bigger issues than election denial

BY GARY ABERNATHY

Special to The Washington Post

As the midterms arrive, the shadow of 2020 looms, particularly, some insist, in the danger posed by Republicans who refuse to acknowledge President Joe Biden’s victory over former President Donald Trump. The Washington Post recently counted 291 nominees on this fall’s ballot — 51% of all Republicans running for the House, Senate and key statewide offices — who “have denied or questioned the outcome of the last presidential election.”

But pundits and numerous influential Democrats “denied or questioned” the legitimacy of Trump’s 2016 victory, too. Examples abound, but among the more notable were former President Jimmy Carter, who said that Russian interference “if fully investigated would show that Trump didn’t actually win the election in 2016.” And although she properly conceded when the election was called, Hillary Clinton went on to call Trump an “illegitimate president” whose election “wasn’t on the level.”

Several House Democrats, too, objected to certifying Trump’s Electoral College win during the Jan. 6, 2017, joint meeting of the House and Senate convened to carry out that duty. Granted, the number of Republicans who protested Biden’s certification four years later — 147 House members — was far greater, but Democrats in 2017 were clearly hoping to be joined by more colleagues and suffered few lasting recriminations. In fact, one of them, Jamie Raskin, of Maryland, now serves on the Jan. 6 House select committee.

Here’s where many of you are shouting at me: But 2020 was different! It was. As the legitimate legal avenues for pursuing their claims

proved fruitless one by one, Trump and a small number of supporters sought out extra-legal options — culminating in the disgraceful Jan. 6 riot and breaching of the Capitol.

Despite supporting Trump, I accepted Biden’s victory even before media outlets called the race. But among the millions who have never acknowledged Biden’s win are most of my friends and family members. We still argue about it sometimes, but they’re smart, honest people and can exercise their free speech right to believe and say what they want.

More important, none of them were among the roughly 800 rioters who invaded the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. The vast majority of “election deniers” aren’t storming the White House demanding Biden’s removal or plotting a coup. The only manifestations of their skepticism of Biden’s legitimacy are when they voice their opinions and line up to vote Republican.

But they do have a clear recollection of the chorus of critics who throughout Trump’s term insisted that he won thanks to Russian meddling and even collusion, despite all credible conclusions to the contrary. There was little hand-wringing over the erosion of confidence in our elections due to the countless Americans who doubted Trump’s legitimacy.

It’s a different story for those “MAGA Republicans” skeptical about 2020, who Biden claimed will “undermine democracy itself.” It seems that if some had their way, Republicans would be marched one by one to an interrogation room with inquisitors screaming, “Say it! Biden won!”

The arm-twisting might take a while. Polling shows that about 70% of Republicans doubt Biden’s legitimate election. Guess

what? Several months into Trump’s presidency, Gallup found that 56% of Democrats answered “no” when asked if Trump was a legitimate president. It would have been interesting to know how many Democratic candidates on the 2018 or 2020 ballots considered Trump illegitimate, but no poll was taken.

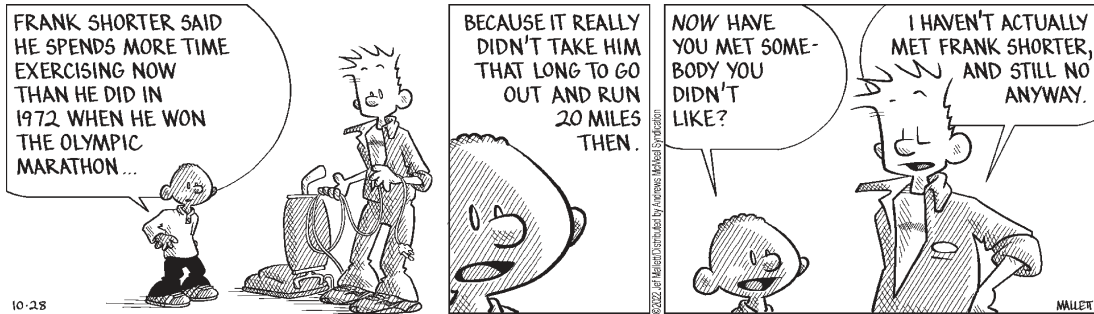
Granted, unlike his predecessors who eventually conceded defeat, Trump himself fans the conspiracy flames, making a bad situation worse. If candidates who echo his claims win, the theory goes, they may seek to delegitimize future unfavorable outcomes. But importantly, these individuals aren’t seizing power through armed insurrection. They’re participating in free and democratic elections, in which they apparently have more faith than their claims to the contrary suggest. If victorious they will be increasingly unlikely to spend their newfound political capital on bringing Trump along later. Trump will diminish as a certain Florida governor ascends.

This election, Americans appear poised to demonstrate that there are forms of denial they consider worse than refusing to cry uncle on the 2020 election — for example, denying that there’s a crisis on our southern border when record numbers are illegally crossing it, or denying that reducing our domestic energy production will put us at the mercy of foreign suppliers, or denying that inflation has been fueled by the government flooding the economy with reckless spending.

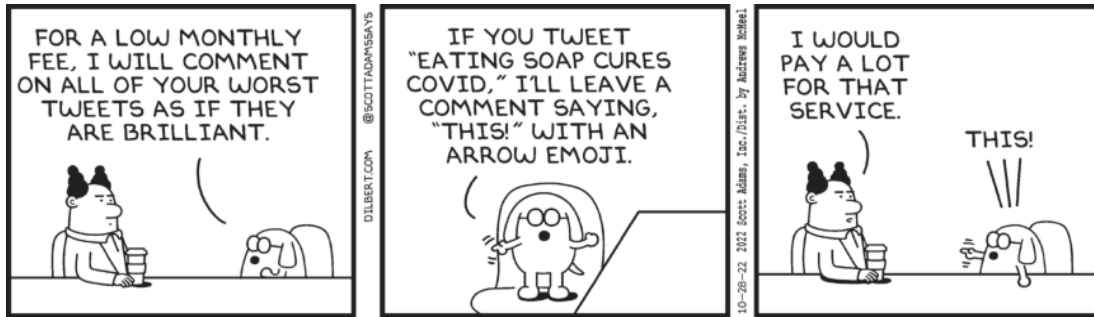
Biden and most Democrats in Congress know that those denials will cost them at the ballot box, which explains their panicky rhetoric on election denialism now.

Gary Abernathy, a contributing columnist for The Washington Post, is a freelance writer based in the Cincinnati region.

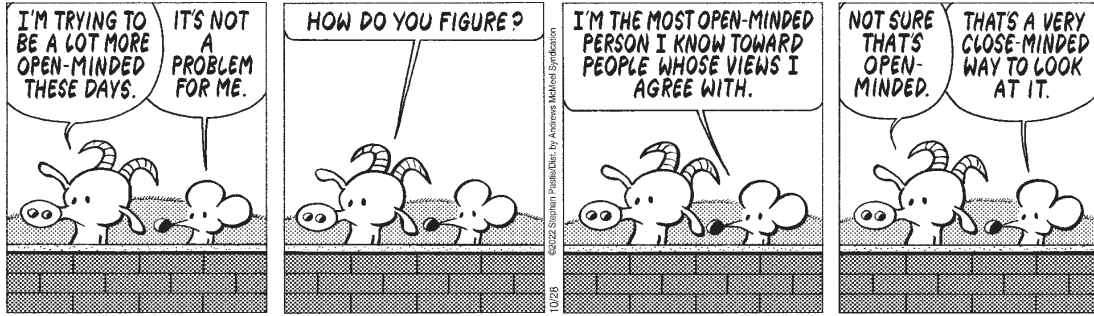
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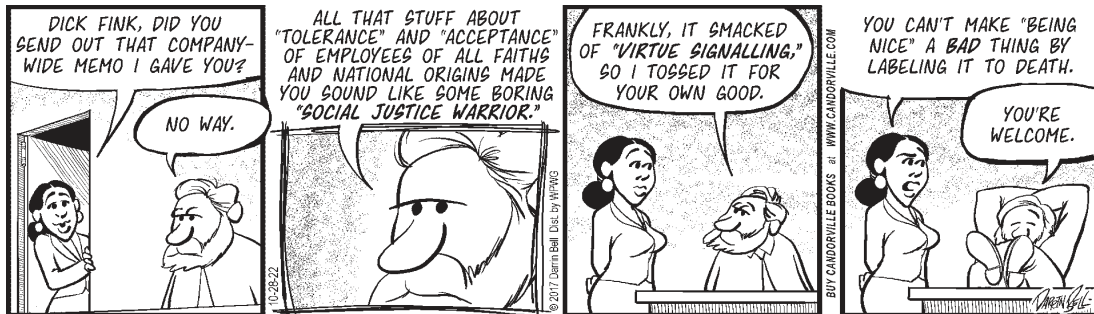
Pearls Before Swine



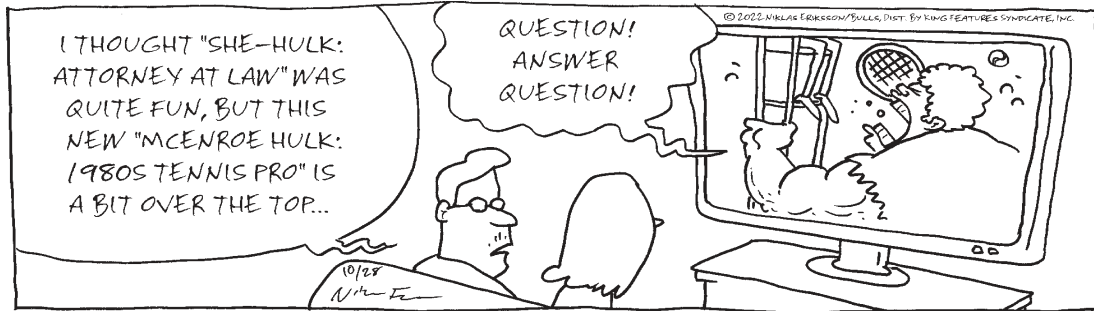
Non Sequitur



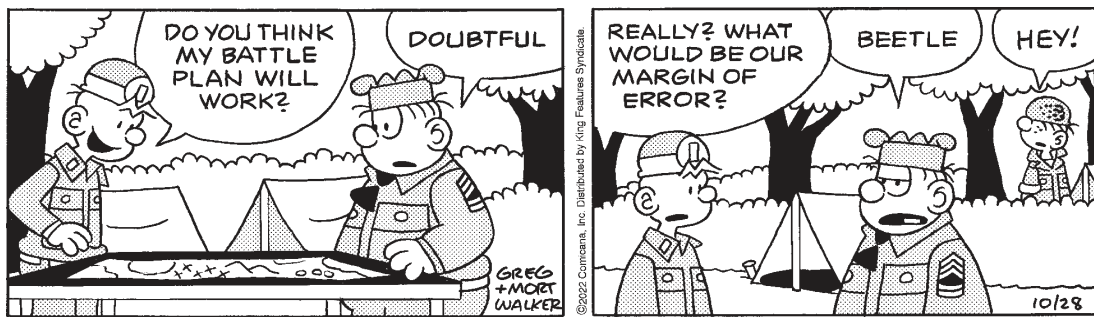
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



### Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

#### ACROSS

- 1 Dazzle
- 4 Too
- 8 Pitcher
- 12 Film director DuVernay
- 13 Slugger Sammy
- 14 MRI forerunner
- 15 Became depleted
- 17 Literary Jane
- 18 Accordion features
- 19 English channel?
- 21 Sock part
- 22 List
- 26 Lazy —
- 29 Office machine
- 30 Greek H
- 31 Paris airport
- 32 — Tin Tin
- 33 Tub session
- 34 Rx overseer
- 35 Make lace
- 36 Comes to
- 37 Colorful season
- 39 Part of LGBTQ
- 40 Photo, for short
- 41 Beethoven's Third
- 45 Jostle
- 48 Guatemalan's neighbor
- 50 Oklahoma tribe
- 51 Emmy-winner Falco

#### DOWN

- 25 Stadium cheers
- 26 Couch
- 27 Pakistan's language
- 28 Blind part
- 29 In shape
- 32 Cattle farms
- 33 Marshy inlet
- 35 Texter's "Enough!"
- 36 Prison head
- 38 Top
- 39 Bottled spirit?
- 42 Nest egg choices
- 43 Walking stick
- 44 From the start
- 45 Short do
- 46 Multipurpose truck
- 47 Extinct bird
- 49 Praise in verse

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

10-28

#### CRYPTOQUIP

CYIBVAY MDY PKMDRIBE ORBWM  
 RA JYBLRWO DRA EBLOY CYEM  
 PVID MQQ EQQAYEK, JREE MDY  
 MRMBW MRODMYW?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A POPULAR HOT SAUCE WERE PRODUCED IN A MORE SOLID FORM, WHAT MIGHT IT BE? CHEWING TABASCO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals T

# SCOREBOARD

## PRO FOOTBALL

### NFL

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

##### East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	5	1	0	.833	176	81
N.Y. Jets	5	2	0	.714	159	137
Miami	4	3	0	.571	147	165
New England	3	4	0	.429	155	146

##### South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	4	2	0	.667	115	128
Indianapolis	3	3	1	.500	113	140
Pittsburgh	2	5	0	.286	165	137
Houston	1	4	1	.250	106	137

##### North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	4	3	0	.571	181	161
Cincinnati	4	3	0	.571	173	132
Cleveland	2	5	0	.286	168	186
Pittsburgh	2	5	0	.286	107	162

##### West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	5	2	0	.714	223	172
L.A. Chargers	4	3	0	.571	164	189
Las Vegas	2	4	0	.333	163	150
Denver	2	5	0	.286	100	115

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

##### East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	6	0	0	1.000	161	105
N.Y. Giants	6	1	0	.857	150	130
Dallas	5	2	0	.714	134	104
Washington	3	4	0	.429	125	156

##### South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	3	4	0	.429	163	171
Tampa Bay	3	4	0	.429	124	124
Carolina	2	5	0	.286	124	149
New Orleans	2	5	0	.286	175	200

##### North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	5	1	0	.833	139	118
Chicago	3	4	0	.429	126	132
Green Bay	3	4	0	.429	128	146
Detroit	1	5	0	.167	146	194

##### West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	4	3	0	.571	183	186
L.A. Rams	3	3	0	.500	104	126
Arizona	3	4	0	.429	156	176
San Francisco	3	4	0	.429	145	133

#### Thursday's game

Baltimore at Tampa Bay

#### Sunday's games

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

#### Monday's game

Cincinnati at Cleveland

#### Thursday, Nov. 3

Philadelphia at Houston

#### Sunday, Nov. 6

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

#### Monday, Nov. 7

Baltimore at New Orleans

### NFL injury report

**NEW YORK** — The National Football League injury report, as provided by the league (OUT: Player will not play; DOUBTFUL: Player is unlikely to play; QUESTIONABLE: Player is not certain to play; DNP: did not practice; LIMITED: limited participation; FULL: Full participation):  
**Sunday**

**ARIZONA CARDINALS at MINNESOTA VIKINGS** — ARIZONA: DNP: OL Max Garcia (shoulder), LB Dennis Gardeck (ankle), OL Rodney Hudson (knee), OL D.J. Humphries (back), CB Christian Matthew (hamstring), S Jalen Thompson (calf). LIMITED: OL Kelvin Beachum (NIR-resting player), RB James Connor (ribs), TE Zach Ertz (NIR-resting player), OL Cody Ford (ankle), K Matt Prater (right hip), DL J.J. Watt (NIR-resting player), RB Darrel Williams (knee). FULL: CB Trayvon Mullen Jr. (hamstring). **MINNESOTA:** FULL: WR Jalen Nailor (hamstring).

**CAROLINA PANTHERS at ATLANTA FALCONS** — CAROLINA: DNP: DE Marquis Haynes (illness), RB Chuba Hubbard (ankle), G Michael Jordan (NIR-personal matter), T Taylor Moton (illness), DT Daviyon Nixon (illness). LIMITED: S Sean Chandler (hamstring), S Myles Hartsfield (hamstring), CB Jaycee Horn (ribs), DT Matt Ioannidis (concussion), CB Donte Jackson (ankle), LB Cory Littleton (groin), LB Frankie Luvu (shoulder), LB Arron Mosby (hamstring). WR Laviska Shenault (hamstring). **ATLANTA:** DNP: S Jaylinn Hawkins (concussion), CB A.J. Terrell (hamstring). LIMITED: CB Dee Alford (hamstring).

**CHICAGO BEARS at DALLAS COWBOYS** — CHICAGO: DNP: OL Lucas Patrick (toe), OL Larry Borom (concussion). **DALLAS:** DNP: WR Noah Brown (foot), RB Ezekiel Elliott (knee), S Malik Hooker (hamstring). LIMITED: LB Devin Harper (achilles), TE Dalton

Schultz (knee), T Terence Steele (neck). FULL: DT Quinton Bohanna (shoulder), LB Damone Clark (neck), DT Trysten Hill (thigh), S Jayron Kearse (foot).

**DENVER BRONCOS at JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS** — DENVER: DNP: CB Essang Bassey (hamstring), LB Baron Browning (hip), WR Tyrie Cleveland (groin), T Cameron Fleming (quadricep), DT Mike Purcell (knee), S Caden Sterns (hip). LIMITED: LB Josey Jewell (knee), QB Russell Wilson (hamstring). FULL: CB K'Waun Williams (wrist, elbow). **JACKSONVILLE:** LIMITED: WR Jamal Agnew (knee).

**GREEN BAY PACKERS at BUFFALO BILLS** — GREEN BAY: DNP: LB Rashaan Gary (concussion), CB Shemar Jean-Charles (ankle), G Elgton Jenkins (knee), WR Allen Lazard (shoulder), QB Aaron Rodgers (right thumb). LIMITED: T David Bakhtiari (knee), WR Sammy Watkins (hamstring), WR Christian Watson (hamstring). **BUFFALO:** DNP: T Spencer Brown (ankle), RB Taiwan Jones (knee). LIMITED: WR Jake Kumerow (ankle), C Mitch Morse (NIR-resting player), DE Jordan Phillips (NIR-resting player), S Jordan Poyer (NIR-resting player). FULL: CB Cameron Lewis (forearm).

**LAS VEGAS RAIDERS at NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** — LAS VEGAS: DNP: S Johnathan Abram (illness), WR Davante Adams (illness), DE Tashawn Bower (illness), LB Divine Deablo (back/ankle), DE Clelin Ferrell (illness). LIMITED: ILB Jayon Brown (hamstring), QB Derek Carr (back), OT Jermaine Eluemunor (knee), WR Mack Hollins (heel), RB Josh Jacobs (foot), WR Hunter Renfrow (hip), WR D.J. Turner (hamstring), TE Darren Waller (hamstring). **NEW ORLEANS:** DNP: WR Jarvis Landry (ankle), CB Marshon Lattimore (abdomen), WR Michael Thomas (foot), TE Adam Trautman (ankle). LIMITED: CB Paulson Adebo (knee), WR Keith Kirkwood (ankle), G Andrus Peat (chest), T Ryan Ramczyk (NIR-resting player). FULL: T Calvin Throckmorton (hip), DE Payton Turner (chest), QB Jameis Winston (back, ankle).

**MIAMI DOLPHINS at DETROIT LIONS** — MIAMI: DNP: T Terron Armstead (toe), S Clayton Fejedelem (groin), CB Xavien Howard (groin), LB Melvin Ingram (NIR-resting player), TE Durham Smythe (hamstring). LIMITED: LB Jerome Baker (hip), TE Tanner Conner (knee), CB Keion Crossen (knee), CB Kader Kohou (oblique), T Greg Little (achilles), DE Emmanuel Ogbah (back), DL Zach Sieler (hand/ankle), QB Skylar Thompson (right thumb), WR Jayle Waddle (shoulder), DT Christian Wilkins (hand). FULL: OL Liam Eichenberg (knee), RB Raheem Mostert (knee), QB Tua Tagovailoa (left hand). **DETROIT:** DNP: S DeShon Elliott (finger), DE Charles Harris (groin), TE T.J. Hockenson (knee), CB Mike Hughes (knee), S Ifeatu Melifonwu (ankle), G Jonah Jackson (neck), CB Chase Lucas (ankle), T Matt Nelson (calf), WR Josh Reynolds (knee). LIMITED: T Taylor Decker (neck), C Frank Ragnow (foot), WR Amon-Ra St. Brown (concussion). FULL: CB Will Harris (hip), RB D'Andre Swift (ankle/shoulder).

**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS at NEW YORK JETS** — NEW ENGLAND: DNP: C David Andrews (concussion), DL Christian Barmore (knee), S Kyle Dugger (ankle). LIMITED: WR Nelson Agholor (hamstring), WR Kendrick Bourne (toe), CB Anfernee Jennings (calf), CB Jonathan Jones (ankle), G Mike Onwenu (ankle), S Adrian Phillips (shoulder), LB Josh Uche (hamstring), T Isaiah Wynn (shoulder). **NEW YORK JETS:** DNP: WR Corey Davis (knee), DE John Franklin-Meyers (illness). LIMITED: OT Duane Brown

(shoulder), S Ashtyn Davis (hamstring), De Jermaine Johnson (ankle), LB Quincy Williams (ankle).

**NEW YORK GIANTS at SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** — NEW YORK GIANTS: DNP: TE Daniel Bellinger (eye), OL Ben Bredeson (knee), DB Cor'Dale Flott (calf), WR Kenny Golladay (knee), OL Evan Neal (knee), WR Kadarius Toney (hamstring), LB Oshane Ximines (quadricep). LIMITED: OL Tyre Phillips (toe), DB Jason Pinnock (foot), DL Leonard Williams (elbow). **SEATTLE:** DNP: WR Penny Hart (hamstring), WR DK Metcalf (Knee), G Phil Haynes (Concession), LB Nick Bellore (Concussion), DE Poona Ford (Ankle), OLB Darrell Taylor (Groin). LIMITED: G Gabe Jackson (Hip/Knee), WR Tyler Lockett (Hamstring), CB Artie Burns (Groin), S Ryan Neal (Ankle), DE Quinton Jefferson, (Foot), CB Sidney Jones IV (Groin). FULL: NT Al Woods (Knee).

**PITTSBURGH STEELERS at PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** — PITTSBURGH: DNP: DT Montravius Adams (hamstring), CB Josh Jackson (groin), DT Larry Ogunjobi (knee), CB Levi Wallace (shoulder). LIMITED: TE Pat Freiermuth (ankle), WR Steven Sims (hamstring). FULL: CB Ahkello Witherspoon (hamstring). **PHILADELPHIA:** DNP: DE Brandon Graham (hamstring). LIMITED: CB James Bradberry (NIR-resting player), WR A.J. Brown (NIR-resting player), DT Fletcher Cox (NIR-resting player), G Landon Dickerson (NIR-resting player), T Lane Johnson (concussion), C Jason Kelce (NIR-resting player), G Isaac Seumalo (ankle, NIR-resting player), CB Darius Slay (NIR-resting player), DE Josh Sweat (NIR-resting player). FULL: CB Josh Jobe (shoulder).

**SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS at LOS ANGELES RAMS** — SAN FRANCISCO: DNP: DT Arik Armstead (foot/ankle), DE Samson Ebukam (achilles), LB Dre Greenlaw (calf), WR Juan Jennings (hamstring), FB Kyle Juszczyk (finger) OT Trent Williams (NIR-resting player). LIMITED: DB Jason Verrett (knee). FULL: CB Jimmie Ward (hand). **LOS ANGELES RAMS:** DNP: RB Cam Akers (Personal), RB Darrell Henderson (illness). LIMITED: C Brian Allen (Knee), WR Van Jefferson (Knee), FULL: CB Cobie Durant (Hamstring).

**TENNESSEE TITANS at HOUSTON TEXANS** — TENNESSEE: DNP: FB Tory Carter (neck), DT Jeffery Simmons (ankle), QB Ryan Tannehill (ankle), LB Rashad Weaver (back). LIMITED: G Aaron Brewer (toe), LB Dylan Cole (hamstring), LS Morgan Cox (ankle), G Nate Davis (foot), LB Bud Dupree (hamstring), C Ben Jones (knee), LB David Long (groin). FULL: LB Zach Cunningham (elbow), LB Joseph Jones (knee). **HOUSTON:** DNP: DT Maliek Collins (chest), WR Nico Collins (groin), WR Brandin Cooks (NIR-resting player), DE Jerry Hughes (NIR-resting player). LIMITED: G Kenyon Green (shoulder), C Justin McCray (hand).

**WASHINGTON COMMANDERS at INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** — WASHINGTON: DNP: G Saahdiq Charles (illness), WR Jahan Dotson (hamstring), LB Cole Holcomb (foot), CB William Jackson (back), TE Cole Turner (concussion). LIMITED: WR Dyaami Brown (groin), TE Logan Thomas (calf), RB Jonathan Williams (knee). FULL: T Samuel Cosmi (finger), QB Taylor Heinicke (calf). **INDIANAPOLIS:** DNP: CB Stephon Gilmore (NIR-resting player), DE Yannick Ngakoue (NIR-resting player), DE Kwity Paye (ankle), QB Matt Ryan (right shoulder), LB Grant Stuard (pectoral). LIMITED: LB JoJo Domann (abdomen), C Ryan Kelly (knee). FULL: WR Keke Coutee (concussion), LB Zaire Franklin (shoulder), LB Shaquille Leonard (back), LS Luke Rhodes (shoulder).

## PRO SOCCER

### MLS playoffs

#### Second Round

**Thursday, Oct. 20**  
 Philadelphia 1, Cincinnati 0  
 Los Angeles FC 3, LA Galaxy 2

#### Sunday, Oct. 23

New York City 3, Montreal 1  
 Austin 2, Dallas 1

#### Sunday, Oct. 30

Austin at Los Angeles FC  
 New York City at Philadelphia

### Championship

#### Saturday, Nov. 5

Conference champions

### NWSL playoffs

#### Sunday, Oct. 23

**Semifinals**  
 Portland 2, San Diego 1  
 Kansas City 2, OL Reign 0

#### Saturday, Oct. 29

**Championship**  
 At Audi Field  
 Washington, D.C.

Portland vs. Kansas City

## TENNIS

### Tampico Open

#### Wednesday

**At Centro Libanes Mexicano de Tampico**  
**Tampico, Mexico**  
**Purse: \$115,000**

#### Surface: Hardcourt outdoor

#### Women's Singles

##### Round of 16

Camila Osorio (7), Colombia, def. Eva Vedder, Netherlands, 6-3, 6-2.  
 Zhu Lin (6), China, def. Varvara Gracheva, Russia, 6-1, 6-2.

Elisabetta Cocciaretto, Italy, def. Marie Bouzkova (2), Czech Republic, 2-6, 6-3, 7-5.  
 Rebecca Marino (8), Canada, def. Moyuka Uchijima, Japan, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (8), 6-3.  
 Magda Linette (5), Poland, def. Renata Zarazua, Mexico, 6-3, 7-5.

Leylah Annie Fernandez (3), Canada, def. You Xiaodi, China, 6-3, 6-2.  
 Elise Mertens (1), Belgium, def. Ashlyn Krueger, United States, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-1.  
 Katerina Siniakova (4), Czech Republic, def. Magdalena Frech, Poland, 6-3, 7-6 (7).

#### Women's Doubles

##### Round of 16

Renata Zarazua, Mexico, and Elvina Kallieva, United States, def. Christina Rosca and Anna Rogers, United States, 6-2, 6-2.

### Swiss Indoors Basel

#### Wednesday

**At St. Jakobshalle**  
**Basel, Switzerland**  
**Purse: Euro 2,135,350**

#### Surface: Hardcourt indoor

#### Men's Singles

##### Round of 32

Ugo Humbert, France, def. Jenson Brooksby, United States, 6-1, 6-4.  
 Holger Rune, Denmark, def. Alex de Minaur (7), Australia, 6-2, 7-5.

Albert Ramos-Vinolas, Spain, def. Lorenzo Musetti (8), Italy, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.  
 Felix Auger-Aliassime (3), Canada, def. Marc-Andrea Huesler, Switzerland, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-4.

##### Round of 16

Arthur Rinderknech, France, def. Alex Molcan, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-4.  
 Carlos Alcaraz (1), Spain, def. Botić Van de Zandschulp, Netherlands, 6-4, 6-2.

Pablo Carreno Busta (5), Spain, def. Dominic Stephan Stricker, Switzerland, 7-5, 6-7 (3), 6-4.

#### Men's Doubles

##### Round of 16

Andrey Golubev and Aleksandr Nedovyesov, Kazakhstan, def. Harri Heliövaara, Finland, and Lloyd Glasspool (4), Britain, 7-5, 4-6, 10-3.

Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Austin Krajicek, United States, def. Matthew Ebden, Australia, and Jamie Murray, Britain, 6-4, 6-4.

Nicolas Mahut and Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, def. Nathaniel Lammons and Jackson Withrow, United States, 7-5, 6-7 (5), 10-6.

Hugo Nys, Monaco, and Jan Zielinski, Poland, def. Michael Venus, New Zealand, and Tim Puetz (2), Germany, 7-5, 7-5.

### Erste Bank Open

#### Wednesday

**At Wiener Stadthalle**  
**Vienna**  
**Purse: Euro 2,349,180**

#### Surface: Hardcourt indoor

#### Men's Singles

##### Round of 32

Marcos Giron, United States, def. Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, 6-4, 6-2.  
 Jannik Sinner (6), Italy, def. Cristian Garin, Chile, 6-3, 6-2.

Stefanos Tsitsipas (2), Greece, def. Denis Novak, Austria, 7-6 (2), 6-2.  
 Daniil Medvedev (1), Russia, def. Nikoloz Basilashvili, Georgia, 6-2, 6-2.

##### Round of 16

Daniel Evans, Britain, def. Karen Khachanov, Russia, 6-2, 6-2.  
 Denis Shapovalov, Canada, def. Taylor Fritz (4), United States, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.

#### Men's Doubles

##### Round of 16

Robin Haase, Netherlands, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, def. Lukasz Kubot, Poland, and Fabrice Martin, France, 7-6 (4), 7-5.  
 Rohan Bopanna, India, and Matwe Midelkoop, Netherlands, def. Diego Schwartzman and Pedro Cachin, Argentina, 6-1, 6-3.  
 Daniel Evans, Britain, and John Peers, Australia, def. Rajeev Ram, United States, and Joe Salisbury (1), Britain, 6-3, 6-2.

## DEALS

squad.

**CHICAGO BEARS** — Signed WR Maurice Fountain to the practice squad and G Dieter Elselen to the active roster. Designated WR Byron Pringle to return from injured reserve. Agreed to terms to acquire a 2023 fourth-round draft pick from Philadelphia in exchange for DL Robert Quinn, pending passing a physical.

**CLEVELAND BROWNS** — Placed LB Jacob Phillips on injured reserve. Signed S Mike Brown to the practice squad.

**DALLAS COWBOYS** — Placed CB Jourdan Lewis and OL Matt Farniok on injured reserve. Activated LB Damone Clark from the non-football injury (NFI) list. Signed DB Kendall Sheffield to the practice squad.

**DENVER BRONCOS** — Designated OL Tom Compton to return from injured reserve.

**HOUSTON TEXANS** — Signed DT Jaleel Johnson to the active roster of the Atlanta practice squad. Designated CB Tavierre Thomas to return from injured reserve.

**INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** — Designated DB Trevor Denbow to return from injured reserve.

**JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS** — Placed CB Shaquill Griffin on injured reserve. Signed CB Tevaughn Campbell to the active roster off the Las Vegas practice squad.

**LAS VEGAS RAIDERS** — Promoted OT Jackson Barton to the active roster from the practice squad. Signed DT Kyle Peko and CB Bryce Cosby to the practice squad. Signed OT Jackson Barton.

**LOS ANGELES CHARGERS** — Signed LB Jeremiah Attaochu to the active roster. Placed DB J.C. Jackson on injured reserve.

**LOS ANGELES RAMS** — Designated RB Kyren Williams and S Quentin Lake to return from injured reserve.

**MIAMI DOLPHINS** — Signed OL Grant Hermanns to the practice squad.

**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** — Re-signed K

Tristan Vizcaino to the practice squad. Placed DL LaBryan Ray on the practice squad injured list. Designated OT Yodny Cajuste to return from injured reserve.

# AUTO RACING/NHL

## IN THE PITS

### 7 desperate drivers have NASCAR season on line

By JENNA FRYER  
Associated Press

Joey Logano has little stress headed into Martinsville Speedway, where his results won't make a difference in his march toward the NASCAR championship.

The rest of the field? Well, expect chaos.

There are still three spots open in the title-deciding finale and seven drivers head into Sunday's race at NASCAR's smallest and oldest track with a chance. Only 58 points separate Ross Chastain in second from Chase Briscoe in eighth, and a victory can earn a driver an automatic berth into the winner-take-all finale at Phoenix Raceway.

Logano is locked into the championship race via his victory at Las Vegas two weeks ago. The remaining seven playoff drivers will be fighting for every point possible on a 0.526-mile track that proved in April to be impossible to pass on.

"Nobody's passing anybody at Martinsville, so better bring it," said 2020 NASCAR champion Chase Elliott. "It's gonna be tough."

Elliott knows. He started from the pole at Martinsville in the spring and led 185 laps. But he lost the lead to Hendrick Motorsports teammate William Byron and that was it for Elliott, who finished a perplexing ninth as he stalled out in traffic the rest of the race.

In fact, only four drivers led laps in the Next Gen car's debut at Martinsville, and Ryan Blaney and Austin Dillon combined to lead a whopping six of the 403 laps. The show belonged to Byron and Elliott, who combined to lead the remaining 397 laps (98.5%). That pushed Hendrick Motorsports to 10,000 laps led at the track in Rick Hendrick's home state of Virginia.

So what does it mean?

Track position is crucial and the Next Gen car, created in part to level the playing field, has left little separation from the front to the back of the grid. The 18-inch Goodyear tire on the cars has created more grip, which has alleviated the potential for driver mistakes. With the chance to race for the Cup championship on the line, drivers are going to have no choice but to be very, very aggressive.

But NASCAR has made it clear over the past three weeks that it is watching closely and won't tolerate any sort of race manipulation or retaliation. Bubba Wallace was suspended for Sunday's race at

Homestead-Miami Speedway for deliberately crashing Kyle Larson a week before, and Cole Custer and Stewart-Haas Racing had a Thursday appeal scheduled of their \$200,000 fines for allegedly assisting Briscoe's advance into the third round of the playoffs.

Denny Hamlin, co-owner of Wallace's car, wrecked Elliott once at Martinsville to trigger a heated post-race exchange. After the recent message sent by NASCAR, drivers will have to carefully consider what's acceptable.

Blaney, who led five laps at Martinsville in the spring but thought he had a car capable of winning, sits sixth behind Hamlin below the cutline along with Christopher Bell and Briscoe. Bell and Briscoe both believe they are in must-win situations to advance to the Phoenix finale, but Blaney believes he can qualify on points.

He also knows now he must do it within NASCAR's boundaries.

"I personally think it is good that NASCAR is putting the law down, the hammer down on things that they think are wrong and that they want to act," Blaney said. "That is the only way you can kind of police it. You have to do those things. At the end of the day, it is their call."

"If they see something that they don't like, I expect them to act on it, and they have the last couple of weeks. It doesn't change the approach of the way I do anything. In my mind, you never think about, 'If I do something malicious with intent, or something like that, that you can get away with it.'"

Martinsville in 2015 was the site of one of the more recent egregious acts of retaliation. Matt Kenseth, feuding for weeks with Logano, returned his wrecked car to the track to intentionally retaliate against Logano — a move that cost Logano a spot in the championship race and earned Kenseth a two-race suspension.

With the season on the line for seven drivers come Sunday, it might make for desperate measures in the waning laps.

"Sports tests your morals and tests your character a lot of times," Logano said. "Sometimes it is tough to balance all that in the heat of the moment. You sometimes make decisions that you're not proud of later on, but you learn lessons every time. I've made mistakes and made dumb decisions inside race cars that I regret. But I've learned from every one of them, and I feel like I know where my line is now."



Hamlin



Blaney



JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

New York Islanders goaltender Ilya Sorokin makes a save against the New York Rangers' Julien Gauthier during the first period Wednesday night in Elmont, N.Y. The Islanders beat their crosstown rivals 3-0.

## NHL ROUNDUP

# Sorokin has 41-save shutout as Islanders defeat Rangers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kyle Palmieri scored twice, Ilya Sorokin stopped 41 shots for his first shutout of the season and the New York Islanders beat the crosstown-rival Rangers 3-0 on Wednesday night.

Josh Bailey also scored, and Jean-Gabriel Pageau and Adam Pelech each had two assists to help the Islanders snap a three-game losing streak.

Jaroslav Halak had 26 saves against his former team while losing for the third time in three starts for the Rangers.

After a scoreless first, Palmieri broke through at 8:44 of the second, rifling the puck past Halak for his first of the season.

"We were able to turn some pucks over and played a little faster and that resulted in a couple more opportunities for us," Palmieri said.

Bailey made it 2-0 at 5:37 of the third, and Palmieri capped the scoring with 4:38 remaining.

The long-time rivals split four games last season — with the road team winning each time. However, the Islanders have now won seven of the past nine meetings and are 9-4-0 against the Rangers since January 2021.

**Oilers 3, Blues 1:** Ryan Nugent-Hopkins scored his 200th goal to break a tie in the third period, and Stuart Skinner stopped 35 shots, as Edmonton beat host St. Louis.

**Lightning 4, Ducks 2:** Brandon Hagel scored the tiebreaking power-play goal with 4:27 to play to lead visiting Tampa Bay over Anaheim.

## NHL scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

#### Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	7	6	1	0	12	30	20
Florida	7	4	2	1	9	21	21
Buffalo	6	4	2	0	8	23	16
Ottawa	6	4	2	0	8	25	18
Detroit	6	3	1	2	8	22	18
Toronto	7	4	3	0	8	19	18
Tampa Bay	8	4	4	0	8	24	26
Montreal	7	3	4	0	6	17	21

#### Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	6	4	1	1	9	20	14
Pittsburgh	7	4	2	1	9	30	21
Philadelphia	6	4	2	0	8	17	14
New Jersey	7	4	3	0	8	23	22
Washington	7	4	3	0	8	25	24
N.Y. Rangers	8	3	3	2	8	22	26
N.Y. Islanders	7	3	4	0	6	22	18
Columbus	8	3	5	0	6	25	33

### Western Conference

#### Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	7	4	2	1	9	23	15
Colorado	7	4	2	1	9	25	21
Chicago	6	4	2	0	8	20	17
St. Louis	5	3	2	0	6	12	12
Winnipeg	6	3	3	0	6	16	17
Minnesota	6	2	3	1	5	22	28
Nashville	7	2	4	1	5	16	24
Arizona	6	2	4	0	4	19	29

#### Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	8	6	2	0	12	26	16
Calgary	6	5	1	0	10	22	17
Edmonton	7	4	3	0	8	25	21
Seattle	8	3	3	2	8	26	28
Los Angeles	8	4	4	0	8	28	33
San Jose	9	2	7	0	4	17	27
Anaheim	7	1	5	1	3	17	32
Vancouver	7	0	5	2	2	18	30

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.



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, left, is congratulated by Edmonton Oilers teammate Zach Hyman after scoring his 200th career goal Wednesday in St. Louis.

### Tuesday's games

Minnesota 3, Montreal 1  
New Jersey 6, Detroit 2  
Boston 3, Dallas 1  
Arizona 6, Columbus 3  
Colorado 3, N.Y. Rangers 2, SO  
Chicago 4, Florida 2  
Calgary 4, Pittsburgh 1  
Seattle 5, Buffalo 1  
Los Angeles 4, Tampa Bay 2  
Vegas 4, San Jose 2

### Wednesday's games

N.Y. Islanders 3, N.Y. Rangers 0  
Edmonton 3, St. Louis 1  
Tampa Bay 4, Anaheim 2

### Thursday's games

Detroit at Boston  
Florida at Philadelphia  
Minnesota at Ottawa  
Montreal at Buffalo  
St. Louis at Nashville  
Edmonton at Chicago  
Washington at Dallas  
Vancouver at Seattle  
Toronto at San Jose  
Winnipeg at Los Angeles

### Friday's games

Anaheim at Vegas  
Boston at Columbus  
Colorado at New Jersey  
N.Y. Islanders at Carolina  
Pittsburgh at Vancouver  
Winnipeg at Arizona

### Saturday's games

N.Y. Rangers at Dallas  
Ottawa at Florida  
Tampa Bay at San Jose  
Carolina at Philadelphia  
Chicago at Buffalo  
Minnesota at Detroit  
Montreal at St. Louis  
Toronto at Los Angeles  
Colorado at N.Y. Islanders  
Washington at Nashville  
Edmonton at Calgary  
Pittsburgh at Seattle

# NBA

## Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	3	1	.750	—
New York	3	1	.750	—
Toronto	3	2	.600	½
Brooklyn	1	3	.250	2
Philadelphia	1	4	.200	2½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	3	1	.750	—
Charlotte	2	2	.500	1
Atlanta	3	1	.750	—
Miami	2	3	.400	1½
Orlando	0	5	.000	3½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	3	0	1.000	—
Cleveland	3	1	.750	½
Chicago	3	2	.600	1
Indiana	1	4	.200	3
Detroit	1	4	.200	3
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	3	1	.750	—
San Antonio	3	2	.600	½
Memphis	3	1	.750	—
Dallas	1	2	.333	1½
Houston	1	4	.200	2½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	4	1	.800	—
Utah	4	1	.800	—
Denver	3	2	.600	1
Minnesota	3	2	.600	1
Oklahoma City	1	3	.250	2½
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	3	1	.750	—
Golden State	2	2	.500	1
L.A. Clippers	2	2	.500	1
Sacramento	0	3	.000	2½
L.A. Lakers	0	4	.000	3

**Tuesday's games**  
 Washington 120, Detroit 99  
 New Orleans 113, Dallas 111  
 Oklahoma City 108, L.A. Clippers 94  
 Phoenix 134, Golden State 105

**Wednesday's games**  
 Atlanta 118, Detroit 113  
 Cleveland 103, Orlando 92  
 Toronto 119, Philadelphia 109  
 Milwaukee 110, Brooklyn 99  
 Minnesota 134, San Antonio 122  
 New York 134, Charlotte 131, OT  
 Chicago 124, Indiana 109  
 Utah 109, Houston 101  
 Miami 119, Portland 98  
 Denver 110, L.A. Lakers 99

**Thursday's games**  
 Dallas at Brooklyn  
 L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City  
 Memphis at Sacramento  
 Miami at Golden State

**Friday's games**  
 Atlanta at Detroit  
 Charlotte at Orlando  
 Cleveland at Boston  
 Indiana at Washington  
 Philadelphia at Toronto  
 L.A. Lakers at Minnesota  
 New York at Milwaukee  
 Chicago at San Antonio  
 Utah at Denver  
 Houston at Portland  
 New Orleans at Phoenix

**Saturday's games**  
 Miami at Sacramento  
 Golden State at Charlotte  
 Indiana at Brooklyn  
 Atlanta at Milwaukee  
 Philadelphia at Chicago  
 Memphis at Utah  
 Oklahoma City at Dallas

**Sunday's games**  
 New Orleans at L.A. Clippers  
 Golden State at Detroit  
 New York at Cleveland  
 Washington at Boston  
 Minnesota at San Antonio  
 Orlando at Dallas  
 Houston at Phoenix  
 Denver at L.A. Lakers

### Calendar

**Jan. 5** — 10-day contracts may now be signed  
**Jan. 10** — All standard NBA contracts are guaranteed for the remainder of the season  
**Jan. 20** — All two-way contracts are guaranteed for the remainder of the season  
**Feb. 9** — NBA Trade Deadline (3 p.m. ET)

# Jokic, Nuggets keep Lakers winless

BY PAT GRAHAM  
 Associated Press

DENVER — A LeBron James-led team doesn't begin 0-4 often. Not since his rookie season has one of his teams stumbled out of the starting gate quite like this.

"It's a new system. It's a new group of guys together," James explained. "We're still trying to get familiar with one another."

Nikola Jokic had 31 points and 13 rebounds, Jamal Murray hit a big three-pointer and the Denver Nuggets kept the Los Angeles Lakers winless with a 110-99 victory Wednesday night.

The Lakers remain in the company of Orlando and Sacramento as the only teams yet to win this season.

"We're four games and it sucks to lose, but we have 78 games left," new Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. "It's plenty of time for us to right the ship. And it starts now."

Trailing by two moments into the second half, the Nuggets went on a 29-9 run to grab control. The Lakers worked their way back and cut it to single digits in the fourth, but Murray hit a three-pointer — his only one in seven attempts — for some breathing room.

Anthony Davis, dealing with lower back tightness, had 22 points and 14 rebounds for Los Angeles. LeBron James had 19 points to run

his double-digit streak to 1,100 games. Russell Westbrook was held out to rest a sore left hamstring.

Jokic finished an assist shy of a triple-double. But it was the 31 points that caught Bruce Brown by surprise. He had no idea the back-to-back MVP erupted for that many.

"It was a quiet 31," cracked Brown, who finished with 18 points, including four three-pointers. "Nobody can guard him."

For his big night, Jokic looks no further than James, who motivated him to keep laser focused.

"LeBron is the best player on the planet," Jokic said. "I like to compete with the best."

Struggling with his long-range jumper, Murray found his touch in close and finished with 13 points. He showed flashes of his explosiveness as he works his way back from a knee injury. He also received an early pep talk from coach Michael Malone.

"I just walked over to him in the huddle, gave him a big hug and said, 'Hey, man, big picture. I believe in you. I love you. I know who you are, and I know where you're going to be at some point,'" Malone said.

Late in the third quarter, the Nuggets saw Kentavious Caldwell-Pope turn his left ankle on a layup



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

The Lakers' LeBron James heads to the bench during the second half Wednesday against the Nuggets, who kept Los Angeles winless.

and leave for the locker room. He had 13 points.

It's been a tough start for the Lakers, who entered the game as the worst-shooting squad in the NBA. They shot 44.4% from the field against Denver.

It's also been a tough beginning for Ham, the player-turned-coach who was brought on board over the

summer after serving as an assistant in Milwaukee. Ham picked up a technical in the fourth quarter for arguing a call.

"Not really about any other team right now, scouts or schemes — just going out there and doing it for 48 minutes to get a win," Davis said. "Whatever we've got to do. That's the first step. We can build on that."

## ROUNDUP

# Bucks dominate Nets after Nash ejected

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Brooklyn coach Steve Nash wasn't around to watch Giannis Antetokounmpo finish picking the Nets apart.

Nash was ejected for the first time in his coaching career after arguing that Antetokounmpo should have been called for an offensive foul against Patty Mills while bringing the ball up the court in the third quarter.

Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks dominated the rest of the way in a 110-99 victory Wednesday night.

"I was just standing up for our guys," said Nash, who was ejected twice during his 18-season playing career. "I thought Patty took a forearm in the throat from Giannis right in front of the ref. I didn't feel that was fair. I don't think I was overly demonstrative. I was upset I got the technical."

Antetokounmpo had 43 points, 14 rebounds and five assists. He scored 34 points in the second half.

That performance three nights after he scored 44 points and shot 17-for-21 in a 125-105 rout of the Houston Rockets, marking just the fifth time in NBA history a

player had scored at least 44 points while playing less than 28 minutes.

"I've been working a lot over these few years and this summer and just so anxious to prove to myself that I can do what I've been working on, and sometimes I think I play not (to) my strength as much," Antetokounmpo said. "I kind of scratched that, and in the second half, I was just, 'OK, I'm going to be myself and be OK with it' and just tried to drive as much as I can and find my teammates and get in the paint."

**Heat 119, Trail Blazers 98:** Bam Adebayo scored 18 points and visiting Miami ended Portland's season-opening winning streak at four.

Damian Lillard had 22 points for Portland when he came up limping with just over five minutes to go in the third quarter and headed straight for the locker room. He did not return and the Blazers said he had a right calf strain.

Kyle Lowry and Jimmy Butler each had 17 points for the Heat.

**Hawks 118, Pistons 113:** Trae Young scored 35 points to lead vis-

iting Atlanta in the opener of a two-game set at Detroit.

John Collins added 19 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks, and De'Andre Hunter had 17 points to help the Hawks improve to 3-1.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 33 points for Detroit.

**Raptors 119, 76ers 109:** Pascal Siakam scored 20 points and matched his career high with 13 assists, Gary Trent Jr. scored a season-high 27 points and host Toronto beat Philadelphia.

Joel Embiid and Tyrese Maxey each scored 31 points and James Harden had 18 for Philadelphia. The 76ers lost for the fourth time in five games.

**Jazz 109, Rockets 101:** Lauri Markkanen had 24 points and eight rebounds to help host Utah beat Houston.

Jordan Clarkson scored 20 points — hitting five three-pointers — and had six assists for Utah. Kevin Porter, Jr had 24 points and five assists for Houston.

**Cavaliers 103, Magic 92:** Evan Mobley scored a season-high 22 points, Jarrett Allen had 18 points and 16 rebounds and host Cleveland beat Orlando.

Donovan Mitchell added 14 points and eight assists for Cleveland. The Cavaliers have won three in a row after dropping their opener at Toronto.

Top overall draft pick Paolo Banchero had 29 points, eight rebounds and four assists for Orlando, extending his streak of 20-plus point games to begin his career to five. Orlando is the lone team without a victory in the Eastern Conference.

**Knicks 134, Hornets 131 (OT):** Jalen Brunson scored 27 points, hitting the go-ahead basket in overtime, and host New York beat Charlotte.

Brunson also had 13 assists and seven rebounds for New York, at 3-1 off to its best start in 10 years.

Gordon Hayward led Charlotte with 21 points.

**Timberwolves 134, Spurs 122:** Anthony Edwards scored 34 points, reserve guard Jaylen Nowell added 23 and host Minnesota beat San Antonio.

**Bulls 124, Pacers 109:** Zach LaVine scored 28 points, including a key three-pointer early in the fourth quarter, in host Chicago's victory over Indiana.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Big Ten boasts some of nation's best defenses

By MITCH STACY  
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Just four Big Ten teams are ranked in the AP Top 25, but six of the top 12 defenses in college football reside in the conference.

The Big Ten's surprise team this year, Illinois — 17th in the AP poll — has the top-ranked defensive unit in the nation, followed by No. 2 Ohio State, which appears more and more each week to be a complete package.

Michigan (AP No. 4) is ranked fifth in defense. Iowa, unranked in the poll because of a moribund offense, was propped up by its tough defense before running into the speeding Buckeyes last week. The Hawkeyes are still sixth best in the nation in terms of yards allowed per game.

Rutgers and Minnesota have needed the help of their defenses, ranked seventh and 12th, respectively, to stay above .500.

No. 2 Ohio St. (7-0, 4-0 Big Ten)  
at No. 13 Penn St. (6-1, 3-1)  
AFN-Sports  
6 p.m. Saturday CET  
1 a.m. Sunday JKT

All six of the teams are allowing fewer than 300 yards per game. Five of them, with Rutgers being the outlier, are giving up under 20 points per game. Penn State is also giving up less than 20 points per game.

By contrast, the Big 12 and ACC have just one team allowing 300 yards or fewer per game, and the Pac-12 has none.

In the SEC, Georgia, Kentucky and Alabama are allowing fewer than 300 yards and 20 points.

Illinois (6-1, 3-1 Big Ten) is the conference's biggest surprise this season, with a defense allowing 221.1 yards and fewer than nine points per game. The only loss for the Illini came in a 23-20 setback at Indiana in Week 2 — the most



JAY LAPRETE/AP

**Ohio State defensive back Lathan Ransom plays against Rutgers. The Buckeyes have a defense that can match their explosive offense.**

points they've allowed all season.

"Really, from the pilots we hop on the plane with to the schools that we talk to, just everybody is a lot more aware of Illinois football," second-year coach Brett Bielema said.

He noted this week that Illini cornerback Devon Witherspoon was named a finalist for the Thorpe Award given to the best defensive back in college football. Penn State's Joey Porter Jr. and Ohio State's Lathan Ransom also are finalists.

It's not a surprise when Ohio State shows off an explosive offense, but the Buckeyes now have the second-ranked defense to go along with it.

Ohio State is holding teams to 239.9 yards per game and a little

over two touchdowns.

"I thought the guys were fresh, they were fast and opportunistic," defensive coordinator Jim Knowles said after the Buckeyes thumped Iowa 54-10 last week.

Coach Ryan Day lured Knowles from Oklahoma State to overhaul the unit, which finished last season ranked 38th in the country.

"We expect these good things to happen by the way we've trained and we've played," Knowles said.

"Like coach Knowles says, we can win games on defense," said safety Tanner McCalister, a graduate transfer who accompanied Knowles from Oklahoma State. "We don't always have to rely on our No. 1 offense. We have a pretty good defense, and we can win games if need be."

## Duggan staying healthy key to TCU's success

By JOHN RABY  
Associated Press

Max Duggan threw a completion a split second before a defender's helmet struck his facemask on a targeting call, sending the TCU quarterback's head snapping back and leaving him momentarily woozy on the ground.

The mobile Duggan took his share of collisions against Kansas State but finished the game and has No. 7 TCU alone in first place.

In a year of quarterback attrition, the Big 12 race could come down to how many are left standing, or who has a backup capable of shouldering the load. Most teams have lost their starting quarterback at some point this season. A few remain out, others have returned and the status of some for Saturday's games are a day-to-day observation.

Just as he's shaken off hard tackles, Duggan deferred questions about the recent pounding, instead pointing to the real battle in the trenches.

"My job's pretty easy. When you're a quarterback, you don't get hit too often," Duggan said after TCU beat Kansas State 38-28 on Saturday. "The guys up front, the guys blocking out on the defense, they're getting hit every play. Those guys are never complaining, never talking about their hits. So the least I can do is get up after a



RICHARD W. RODRIGUEZ/AP

**TCU quarterback Max Duggan looks to pass the ball while being pressured against Kansas State last Saturday in Fort Worth, Texas.**

play."

Duggan might not be thriving had redshirt freshman Chandler Morris not sprained his left knee in the season opener. Despite being a three-year starter, Duggan lost the top position over the spring and summer to Morris. But Duggan has played so well that Morris has remained on the bench despite being available. Duggan has thrown 19 touchdown passes with one interception. His 181.8 efficiency rating is fifth in the nation.

While Duggan led TCU back from an 18-point deficit to beat Kansas State, the Wildcats are having their own quarterback issues.

Starter Adrian Martinez left after the first series with an undisclosed injury and did not return. Backup Will Howard threw for two touchdowns and ran for another, then hurt his shoulder on a third-quarter running play. Howard left the game briefly but was brought back in after a third-string freshman threw an interception.

Coach Chris Klieman said Tuesday he's not sure whether Martinez will be available but Howard should be ready when Kansas State, tied for second place with Oklahoma State, prepares to host the Cowboys on Saturday.

Oklahoma State's Spencer Sanders, playing through undisclosed

No. 7 TCU (7-0, 4-0 Big 12)  
at West Virginia (3-4, 1-3)  
AFN-Sports2  
6 p.m. Saturday CET  
1 a.m. Sunday JKT

injuries in the past few weeks, led the Cowboys to a comeback win over Texas on Saturday. Sanders is tied with Duggan for the Big 12 lead with 23 total touchdowns — seven more than anyone else.

"He's feeling better," Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said. "He's not where he was. You can tell."

Quarterback injuries seem to have hit the Big 12 harder than other Power 5 conferences, although there are some notable season-ending injuries elsewhere, including Devin Leary at North Carolina State (pectoral muscle).

Some schools can't catch a break: Utah State has seen injuries to its top three quarterbacks, forcing one to end his college career, and Texas A&M its top two.

Despite the frequency of quarterback visits to the training room, the Big 12 is on pace to challenge a high scoring mark under the current 10-team format that started in 2012. The league-wide average of 35.4 points scored is more than five points better than each of the past two seasons and the same as that averaged over the 2015 season.

## Scoreboard

### Schedule

#### Friday's games

**EAST**  
Yale (4-2) at Columbia (3-3)

**SOUTH**  
Louisiana Tech (2-5) at FIU (3-4)

**FAR WEST**  
East Carolina (5-3) at BYU (4-4)

**Saturday's games**

**EAST**  
TCU (7-0) at West Virginia (3-4)  
SC State (3-4) at Morgan St. (2-5)  
Ohio St. (7-0) at Penn St. (6-1)  
LIU Brooklyn (0-7) at Duquesne (2-5)  
Boston College (2-5) at Uconn (3-5)  
Wagner (1-6) at CCSU (0-7)  
Presbyterian (1-7) at Marist (2-5)  
St. Francis (Pa.) (5-2) at Sacred Heart (4-3)

Notre Dame (4-3) at Syracuse (6-1)  
Georgetown (1-6) at Lafayette (2-5)  
Penn (6-0) at Brown (2-4)  
Hampton (4-3) at Villanova (4-3)  
Colgate (2-5) at Bucknell (1-6)  
Fordham (6-1) at Holy Cross (7-0)  
Stony Brook (1-6) at Albany (NY) (1-6)  
Richmond (5-2) at Maine (2-5)  
Townsend (2-5) at Monmouth (NJ) (4-4)  
Cornell (4-2) at Princeton (6-0)  
Merrimack (6-2) at Stonehill (3-2)  
Harvard (4-2) at Dartmouth (2-4)  
NC Central (5-2) at Delaware St. (4-3)  
New Mexico St. (2-5) at UMass (1-6)  
Temple (2-5) at Navy (2-5)  
Coastal Carolina (6-1) at Marshall (4-3)

#### SOUTH

Georgia Tech (3-4) at Florida St. (4-3)  
Arkansas (4-3) at Auburn (3-4)  
Miami (3-4) at Virginia (3-4)  
Drake (0-8) at Stetson (3-3)  
Charleston Southern (1-6) at Kennesaw St. (3-4)  
Rhode Island (5-2) at William & Mary (6-1)  
Campbell (4-3) at NC A&T (4-3)  
Mercer (6-2) at VMI (1-6)  
Bryant (2-5) at Gardner-Webb (3-5)  
ETSU (3-5) at Wofford (1-6)  
Howard (2-5) at Norfolk St. (1-6)  
Samford (6-1) at The Citadel (2-5)  
Chattanooga (6-1) at Furman (6-2)  
Southern U. (5-2) at Jackson St. (7-0)  
Alcorn St. (3-4) at Grambling St. (1-6)  
Tennessee St. (3-4) at Murray St. (0-8)  
Old Dominion (3-4) at Georgia St. (2-5)  
Alabama A&M (3-4) vs. Alabama St. (4-3) at Birmingham, Ala.

Delaware (6-1) at Elon (5-3)  
Cincinnati (6-1) at UCF (5-2)  
Wake Forest (6-1) at Louisville (4-3)  
Georgia (7-0) vs. Florida (4-3) at Jacksonville, Fla.

Robert Morris (0-7) at Appalachian St. (4-3)  
North Texas (4-4) at W. Kentucky (5-3)  
Missouri (3-4) at South Carolina (5-2)

Ark.-Pine Bluff (2-5) at Florida A&M (5-2)  
Jacksonville St. (6-2) at Austin Peay (5-2)  
UAB (4-3) at FAU (3-5)

Kentucky (5-2) at Tennessee (7-0)  
SE Louisiana (4-3) at McNeese St. (1-6)  
Pittsburgh (4-3) at North Carolina (6-1)

**MIDWEST**  
Morehead St. (2-5) at Butler (5-2)  
Toledo (5-3) at E. Michigan (5-3)  
Oklahoma (4-3) at Iowa St. (3-4)  
Miami (Ohio) (3-5) at Akron (1-7)  
San Diego (3-3) at St. Thomas (Minn.) (6-1)

Valparaiso (4-3) at Dayton (5-2)  
William Jewell (0-0) at Lindenwood (Mo.) (5-2)  
South Dakota (2-5) at Youngstown St. (4-3)

E. Kentucky (4-3) at SE Missouri (6-1)  
Rutgers (4-3) at Minnesota (4-3)  
W. Illinois (0-7) at Missouri St. (2-5)

N. Iowa (4-4) at S. Illinois (5-3)  
Indiana St. (1-6) at S. Dakota St. (7-1)  
Tennessee Tech (1-6) at E. Illinois (2-5)  
Northwestern (1-6) at Iowa (3-4)

Illinois St. (5-2) at N. Dakota St. (5-2)  
Illinois (6-1) at Nebraska (3-4)  
Oklahoma St. (6-1) at Kansas St. (5-2)  
Abilene Christian (5-2) at North Dakota (4-3)

Michigan St. (3-4) at Michigan (7-0)

**SOUTHWEST**  
South Florida (1-6) at Houston (4-3)  
Charlotte (1-7) at Rice (4-3)  
Bethune-Cookman (2-5) at Prairie View (4-3)

Lincoln University (CA) (0-3) at Texas Southern (3-4)  
UT Martin (4-3) at Houston Christian (2-5)  
Incarnate Word (7-1) at Texas A&M Commerce (5-2)

Utah Tech (1-6) at Stephen F. Austin (5-3)  
SMU (3-4) at Tulsa (3-4)  
Nicholls (2-6) at Lamar (0-7)  
South Alabama (5-2) at Arkansas St. (2-6)

North Alabama (1-6) at Cent. Arkansas (3-4)  
Baylor (4-3) at Texas Tech (4-3)  
Mississippi (7-1) at Texas A&M (3-4)  
Sam Houston St. (4-2) at Tarleton St. (5-2)  
Middle Tennessee (3-4) at UTEP (4-4)

#### FAR WEST

Montana (5-2) at Weber St. (6-1)  
Oregon (6-1) at California (3-4)  
Portland St. (2-5) at E. Washington (2-5)  
Colorado St. (2-5) at Boise St. (5-2)  
Cal Poly (1-6) at UC Davis (3-4)  
Southern Cal (6-1) at Arizona (3-4)  
Arizona St. (2-5) at Colorado (1-6)  
Idaho (5-2) at Sacramento St. (7-0)  
San Diego St. (4-3) at Fresno St. (3-4)  
Stanford (3-4) at UCLA (6-1)  
Nevada (2-6) at San Jose St. (4-2)

#### Sunday's game

**FAR WEST**  
Wyoming (5-3) at Hawaii (2-6)

## NFL

## Seahawks rookies delivering

By TIM BOOTH  
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Pete Carroll was in the middle of extolling one of the many rookies that have made an immediate impact on the Seattle Seahawks when he made perhaps the overstatement of the season in regard to his team.

“So far we’ve taken advantage of this past draft,” Carroll said.

No kidding.

Whether it’s offensive tackles Charles Cross or Abraham Lucas, defensive backs Tariq Woolen or Coby Bryant, or running back Ken Walker III, the Seahawks have received a wealth of production from their rookie draft class that’s a big reason why Seattle is sitting at 4-3 and currently on top of the NFC West.

Play the kids? Certainly, the Seahawks are taking that to the extreme and so far it’s paid off.

“It’s special. It’s like seeing your little brother shine,” safety Quandre Diggs said of the rookie defensive backs. “For me, those are really like my little brothers. I’ve been super excited about both of them since the jump.”

While the play of quarterback Geno Smith has deservedly earned most of the attention for Seattle’s surprising start, the rookie class is playing a role beyond what was expected back in April during the draft.

Woolen, a fifth-rounder, is starting at cornerback and is tied for the NFL lead in interceptions with four and had his streak of four straight games with a pick snapped last week. Bryant, a fourth-round pick, has taken over as the nickel cornerback for Seattle and is leading the league with four forced fumbles.

Cross and Lucas were the two expected to move into prominent roles and both have excelled as the starting left and right tackles respectively on Seattle’s improved offensive line.

And Walker has broken out in the past two weeks taking over as Seattle’s starting running back following a season-ending injury to Rashaad Penny. Walker had 167 yards rushing — previously 168 before a stat correction by the league this week — and two touchdowns in Seattle’s impressive win over the Los Angeles Chargers last Sunday.

“I could never have foreseen that really, honestly. I’d like to say, ‘Oh, yeah, I knew that,’ but I didn’t,” Carroll said of the class. “This is what we hope for. You hope when you draft a guy you can picture what he’s going to do. And you hope he’s going to fit in and be a factor for us. But I don’t know,



ABBIE PARR/AP

**Seahawks cornerback Tariq Woolen intercepts a pass against the Cardinals. He is tied for the NFL lead in interceptions with four.**



KYUSUNG GONG/AP

**Seahawks running back Kenneth Walker III ran for 167 yards last week in his second start. Seattle has gotten a lot from its rookies.**

how many, like six guys or something are playing and starting and doing stuff. I don’t know how many it is. But those guys, they’re just coming through.”

Carroll has long believed in the idea of giving young players an opportunity to shine. That was at the foundation of what Seattle created a decade ago when three straight successful draft classes yielded the foundation for what became back-to-back NFC championship teams and the only Super Bowl victory in franchise history.

They were built around smart draft picks playing on rookie contracts with a mix of veterans sprinkled in.

Eventually, those rookie contracts became mega deals for several of those stars — Richard Sherman, Bobby Wagner, Russell

**New York Giants(6-1)  
at Seattle Seahawks (4-3)**  
AFN-Sports  
9:25 p.m. Sunday CET  
5:25 a.m. Monday JKT

Wilson, Doug Baldwin to name a few — and having veterans locked into spots took away opportunities for younger draft picks to develop. Throw in some poor drafting and there are explanations behind the turbulence Seattle has faced with its roster in the years since those Super Bowl trips.

This year has become a nod back to those early days of the tenure between Carroll and general manager John Schneider. It helped that Seattle had a draft pick in the top 10 and was able to anchor the offensive line by drafting Cross at No. 9 overall, a pick acquired after trading Russell Wilson to Denver.

Cross has played every offensive snap through seven games, as has Lucas, who was taken in the third round. Woolen and Bryant have established themselves as pieces of Seattle’s future in the secondary and Walker’s past two games are signs of his potential as a dynamic lead running back.

It’s not out of the question that by the end of the season Seattle could have several players in the conversation for rookies of the year.

“There’s a lot of room for improvement, not just for me, but for everyone as a whole,” Bryant said. “Just got to keep working and keep getting better.”

## BRIEFS

## Jones to remain Pats starting QB

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Bill Belichick wanted to see how Mac Jones began the practice week before making a decision about who would play quarterback for the Patriots this week.

On Thursday, he said he’d seen enough to make that call, saying Jones will be Sunday’s starter against the Jets.

“That’s the decision, so that’s where we are now,” Belichick said. “I talked to all the quarterbacks. So everybody knows where we’re at.”

Belichick said Jones, who was not listed on the injury report after three straight weeks of dealing with a sprained ankle, had a full workload on Wednesday and is expected to be unrestricted when New England (3-4) heads to New Jersey for Sunday’s matchup with surging Jets (5-2).

Getting Jones a full dose of starter reps is pertinent for his preparation, the coach said.

“He’s ready to do that,” Belichick said. “So that’s what he needs to prepare for the game, and that’s what our offensive unit needs. Everybody working together. So we’ll get that this week.”

## Eagles acquire Pro Bowl DE Quinn from Bears

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — The undefeated Philadelphia Eagles already have one of the NFL’s best defenses.

Now, they’re adding another pass rusher to the mix.

The Eagles acquired three-time Pro Bowl defensive end Robert Quinn from the Chicago Bears for a 2023 fourth-round pick on Wednesday.

The teams said the trade was pending a physical.

Quinn goes from a rebuilding franchise to a Super Bowl contender. The Eagles (6-0) are the lone undefeated team. Philadelphia, coming off a bye, hosts Pittsburgh on Sunday.

“I think it’s another great player on this team,” Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts said. “He has a history of being a great defensive end and edge rusher. I think he’ll help us out in a number of ways. Adds a lot of depth, and I’m excited to meet him. I’m excited to meet him (Thursday) when he comes.”

The 32-year-old Quinn is off to a slow start with just one sack and three quarterback hits after opting not to participate in offseason workouts. But he broke Hall of Famer Richard Dent’s franchise

record with 18½ sacks last year in a resurgent season.

“I value — I think I’ve talked about that a lot — the locker room and what it means and the culture and it (stinks) to mess with that, to be completely honest with you,” Bears general manager Ryan Poles said.

“But again, my job is to do what’s best for this organization not only now, but in the future. I felt like that was the best move for us to make.”

With Quinn, an Eagles defensive line that already has Haason Reddick, Josh Sweat, Javon Hargrave, Fletcher Cox, Brandon Graham and Jordan Davis becomes that much more daunting. He replaces defensive end Derek Barnett, who tore an ACL in the opener at Detroit.

The Eagles are holding opponents to 297.8 yards per game, which is fourth in the NFL. They’re fifth against the pass at 188 yards and rank second in interceptions with nine. When it comes to sacks, they’re tied for 10th with 17. And that’s an area where Quinn could help.

He has 102 sacks over 12 seasons with the Rams, Miami, Dallas and Chicago. He went from 11½ sacks with Dallas in 2019 to just two for Chicago in 2020.

## Saints sticking with Dalton over Winston

METAIRIE, La. — Saints coach Dennis Allen has decided that Andy Dalton will remain the New Orleans Saints starting quarterback for a fifth straight week — even though Jameis Winston is healthy enough to return.

“Offensively, I feel like we’re in a little bit of a rhythm,” Allen said Wednesday after noting that Winston, who has been recovering from back and ankle injuries, was healthy enough to participate fully in practice.

“We’ve been moving the ball effectively. We’ve scored points,” Allen continued. “So, we’re going to continue down that road with Andy.”

New Orleans (2-5) has lost five of six games and dropped two straight. But as the Saints prepare to host the Las Vegas Raiders on Sunday, they’re just one game out of first place in the NFC South — a division in which every team has a losing record.

The Saints have averaged 31 points per game during Dalton’s four starts after averaging 17 points in Winston’s three starts.

## MLB

# World Series ump crew youngest in years

## Change is a nod to strike zone tech

BY BEN WALKER  
Associated Press

Now retired, longtime Major League Baseball umpire Dale Scott scanned the playoff lineup and was startled to spot the names of so many young umpers.

When he saw the list for the upcoming World Series, he had the same reaction. And then some.

"I saw hints in previous years. But this year, my God, it's a changing of the guard," he said. "It's been leading up to this, but now it's official."

In a nod to computerized strike zones, plus other factors including injuries, retirements and postseason rotations, the seven-man World Series umpire crew announced Wednesday by MLB is easily the youngest in recent memory.

At an average age of 45.7 years old, the crew calling the Philadelphia Phillies-Houston Astros matchup is more than five years younger than the average of World Series crews over the past decade, The Associated Press tallied.

So young, in fact, there won't be a full-time regular-season crew chief on the field in Game 2 on Saturday night. Usually, two or sometimes three veteran chiefs are on the Fall Classic crew.

"That would've been unimaginable not too long ago," said Scott, who emphasized he gives high marks to this crew.

One of the reasons: In general, younger umpires tend to score more highly with ball-strike calling in MLB metrics. And with fans howling every time a pitch is mis-

sed on the TV box, and those shouts ramping up calls for robot umpers already being used in the minor leagues, the sport would like to keep barking to a minimum.

Pat Hoberg joined the full-time umpiring staff in 2017 and, at 36, is set to work the plate in Game 2 on Saturday night in Houston. In the past, it would've taken much longer to draw a coveted World Series assignment.

But Hoberg rates among the best pitch callers in the majors. The website umpscorecards.com — which tracks every pitch of the season and uses advanced methods to analyze them — ranks him No. 1 in accuracy among all umpires at 95.4%.

The site doesn't use the same box that MLB employs, and neither do the TV networks. But the ratings give a good indication of who scores best behind the plate.

Tripp Gibson, at 41, and Jordan Baker, at 40, also rated highly in pitch accuracy and will work their first World Series.

Dan Iassogna (53) is the crew chief and working his third World Series, often praised within the sport for the way he calmly runs games. Alan Porter (44), James Hoye (51) and Lance Barksdale (55) are calling the Fall Classic for the second time.

MLB considers many factors when picking the World Series crew — ball-strike grades, game management, performance this year and over a career, and more.

Also, who's available. Many umpires were hurt and missed long periods this season. Veteran Ted Barrett, meanwhile, called the



PHIL LONG/AP

**Umpires Will Little, left, and Dan Iassogna review a play on whether the Guardians' Andres Gimenez was hit by a pitch during Game 4 of an AL Division Series against the New York Yankees in Cleveland.**

2021 World Series, and umpers don't work it in consecutive years.

Why do younger umpers tend to score better on pitches? Often because they've come up through the ranks training with a strike zone box, learning to call exactly what MLB wants.

Say Adam Wainwright threw a big-bending curveball that Yadier Molina caught with his glove open-faced, flat on the ground. A veteran umpire might call that a ball — the Cardinals battery doesn't flinch, it's been a ball forever.

But a younger ump is more like-

ly to call that a strike. It nicked the lower part of the zone, even by an inch, and that's an MLB strike. Someday, maybe sooner than later, computers might be making those calls.

Hoye will call balls and strikes for Game 1 at Minute Maid Park on Friday night. As the umpires rotate spots, each one will be off the field the game before they work the plate.

Iassogna will be in reserve for Game 2, and Hoye will serve as crew chief. Hoye frequently filled in as a crew chief this season for injured umpers.

For now, though, it'll mean no permanent chief on the field that night at Minute Maid.

The alignment caught Scott's eye. A big league ump during 33 seasons and a crew chief for half that time, he called the World Series three times.

He recalled a postseason series he worked with fellow crew chief Joe West. MLB officials made sure at least one of them was in the infield every game, rather than both being on the outfield lines at the same time.

"It's a change in philosophy, for sure," Scott said.

# Cardinals' Wainwright, 41, returning for 18th season

BY DAVE SKRETTA  
Associated Press

Adam Wainwright will pitch for the St. Louis Cardinals next season, choosing to return for an 18th and final year with the club even as longtime teammates Albert Pujols and Yadier Molina head off into retirement.

The 41-year-old Wainwright agreed Wednesday to a \$17.5 million, one-year contract that includes \$10 million in deferred pay and the chance to earn \$1 million in bonuses for starts.

He informed the NL Central champions of his decision to return shortly after they were eliminated by the Philadelphia Phillies in the wild-card round of the playoffs. Wainwright did not pitch in either game in part because he had struggled with his delivery late in the season.

"I do tend to think the way the season ended led even more to me coming back," Wainwright said



GREGORY BULL/AP

**St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Adam Wainwright will return next year for an 18th season after going 11-12 this season.**

Wednesday, "because I just didn't like that. I don't like going out like that. I wasn't performing like I know I should have been performing. Wasn't helping the team like I knew I should have been helping the team. We didn't win. I love my

teammates."

"But looking back on it now, it just seemed like everything that happened led me to coming back one more year," he said.

Asked whether it would be just that — one final year — he replied:

"Yes." But then Wainwright made it clear that he has no interest in answering questions about retirement every week, instead imploring folks to "just let me go out and pitch."

Wainwright finished 11-12 with a 3.71 ERA in 32 starts, his first losing season in which he made at least 20 starts. He won just twice over his final six starts, though, and had a 7.22 ERA while dealing with what he called a "dead arm."

Wainwright's deal includes \$1 million payable each July 1 from 2024-33 and the chance to earn \$500,000 each for 28 and 30 starts. He gets a full no-trade provision and a hotel suite on road trips. He would earn \$500,000 for finishing among the top 10 in Cy Young Award voting, \$50,000 each for making the All-Star team, winning the League Championship Series or World Series MVP awards or a Gold Glove, and \$25,000 for a Silver Slugger.

Wainwright earned \$17.5 million on a one-year deal last season.

"We all know how competitive he is, we know how special he is in that clubhouse and what he means to this organization," Cardinals president John Mozeliak said, "so we're just glad we could get it done."

Wainwright heads into next season needing five wins to reach 200. The right-hander is 15 behind Jesse Haines for the second-most wins in franchise history; Bob Gibson is the leader with 251 of them.

Wainwright and Molina set the major league record for career starts as a battery last season, eventually hitting 328 starts together. But with Molina heading into retirement, Andrew Knizner is in line to be the everyday catcher, though Mozeliak did indicate Wednesday that the club would be in the market for help behind the plate.

## WORLD SERIES



MATT SLOCUM/AP

The Phillies' Kyle Schwarber celebrates his home run during the sixth inning of Game 4 of the NL Championship Series against the San Diego Padres last Saturday in Philadelphia.

# Big: Schwarber only cares how many runs each homer produces

## FROM PAGE 24

The NLCS ball was, indeed, found (though the authenticator was careful not to disturb one worn ball resting in a bird's nest).

"Trees and shrubs, you've got to really look through," said John Hollinger, who runs the authentication program. "Balls do get wedged in different spots."

Schwarber will say there is no spinach that fuels his muscle — even as his mammoth shots through the years have sunk into ivy or even smashed car windshields as he did in college — and that he's just a slugger who happens to have a little extra oomph in his swing.

Let everyone else stand in awe of Schwarber's prodigious blasts, that include the NL-best 46 he hit this season and three more in the NLCS. The Philadelphia Phillies slugger only counts the runs that each homer scores, not the distance they go.

"Everyone likes to talk about the far homers," Schwarber said Wednesday. "I really don't care how far they go for me. It's more about getting a run on the board."

Schwarber has bashed and mashed baseballs his entire career and his power surge in the first season of his \$79 million, four-year contract with the Phillies has fueled their run to the World Series. Schwarber took his hacks during Wednesday's workout at the ballpark before the team left for Houston. The Phillies will start right-hander Aaron Nola in Game 1 and right-handed ace Zack Wheeler in Game 2.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Philadelphia Phillies slugger Kyle Schwarber was a member of the Boston Red Sox squad that lost to Houston in six games in the AL Championship series last season. Schwarber hit a grand slam in Game 3, a 12-3 Boston victory.

SOURCE: baseball-reference.com

Schwarber has done the bulk of his damage from the leadoff spot, as the game moves far away from the days of speedy table-setters such as Vince Coleman or Rickey Henderson at the top of the lineup. Schwarber struck out 200 times and hit only .218 but had a knack for hitting some of the memorable homers of Philadelphia's surprising run at the pennant.

Schwarber slammed a homer off the second-deck facade on opening day in his first at-bat with the Phillies. He led off Game 3 of the NLCS with a homer off Padres ace Joe Musgrove. And the caper, so far, of all the Schwarbombs — as they're affectionately known in Philly — the 488-foot blast in Game 1 against the Padres that had an exit velocity of 120 mph.

That homer — the second longest overall in the postseason since Statcast started tracking distance in 2015 — launched 1,001 memes thanks to teammate Bryce Harper's bug-eyed, mouth-agape reaction in the dugout.

"I thought it got pretty small pretty fast," Harper said.

The 29-year-old Schwarber simply remembered the homer came in a postseason win. It's a run, no matter that Schwarber

turns into some sort of Paul Bunyan mythical figure that can scare the leather off the ball with each colossal moon shot.

"Who cares about distance?" he asked. "I think it's more about trying to impact a game in any way that you can, especially in important times, too."

Schwarber made big October games a habit since he broke into the big leagues with the Chicago Cubs in 2015 and hit five homers in the postseason. The next year, Schwarber tore two ligaments in his left knee after a frightening collision with outfielder Dexter Fowler while chasing down a fly ball. It was only the third game of the season and Schwarber about figured his year was over.

But 201 days later, and following months of relentless rehab, Schwarber returned to help the Cubs break the curse and win the 2016 World Series. He hit .412 with seven hits, one double and two RBIs in five World Series games.

He had a brief 72-game stint last season with Washington before he was traded to Boston. Naturally, Schwarber had a grand slam for the Red Sox in the AL Championship Series.

"He's done it in a lot of different places, and when that usually happens, that tends to not be an accident," Phillies first baseman Rhys Hoskins said. "Some guys just have that knack. They know what it takes to win. They know how to bring guys together, which I think has probably been some of the most important stuff he's done in a Phillies uniform."

## Scoreboard

### Capsule

A capsule look at the best-of-seven World Series between the Philadelphia Phillies and Houston Astros:

**Schedule:** (All games on AFN-Sports) Game 1: Friday, at Houston, 2 a.m. Saturday CET, 9 a.m. Saturday JKT; Game 2: Saturday, at Houston, 2 a.m. Sunday CET, 9 a.m. Sunday JKT; Game 3: Monday, Oct. 31, at Philadelphia, 1 a.m. Tuesday CET, 8 a.m. Tuesday JKT; Game 4: Tuesday, Nov. 1, at Philadelphia, 1 a.m. Wednesday CET, 8 a.m. Wednesday JKT; x-Game 5: Wednesday, Nov. 2, at Philadelphia, 1 a.m. Thursday CET, 8 a.m. Thursday JKT; x-Game 6: Friday, Nov. 4, at Houston, 1 a.m. Saturday CET, 8 a.m. Saturday JKT; x-Game 7: Saturday, Nov. 5, at Houston, 1 a.m. Sunday CET; 8 a.m. Sunday JKT.

x-if necessary

**Season series:** Astros won 2-1.

### Philadelphia Phillies

**Record:** 87-75.

**Playoff entry:** Wild card.

**Manager:** Rob Thomson (first season).

**Top hitters:** DH Bryce Harper (.286, 18 HRs, 65 RBIs, .877 OPS in 99 games), LF Kyle Schwarber (.218, NL-leading 46, 94, 100 runs, .827 OPS), C J.T. Realmuto (.276, 22, 84, 21/22 SBs, .820 OPS), 1B Rhys Hoskins (.246, 30, 79, .794 OPS).

**Projected rotation:** RHP Aaron Nola (11-13, 3.25 ERA, 235 Ks, 205 IP), RHP Zack Wheeler (12-7, 2.82), LHP Ranger Suárez (10-7, 3.65), RHP Noah Syndergaard (10-10, 3.94 with Angels and Phillies).

**Key relievers:** LHP José Alvarado (4-2, 3.18 ERA, 2 saves, 81 Ks, 2 HRs, 51 IP), RHP Seranthony Domínguez (6-5, 3.00, 9 saves, 61 Ks, 51 IP), RHP David Robertson (4-3, 2.40, 20 saves, 81 Ks, 63⅓ IP with Cubs and Phillies), RHP Zach Eflin (3-5, 4.04, 1 save in 20 games, 13 starts).

**Series story:** Back in postseason for first time in 11 years, underdog Phillies were lowest seed in National League playoffs after clinching spot with 3-0 win Oct. 3 at Houston, of all places. Went 9-2 against St. Louis, Atlanta and San Diego to become first third-place team in baseball history to reach World Series. After winning franchise's eighth pennant, seeking third championship (1980, 2008). Lost to New York Yankees in last World Series appearance (2009). ... Harper makes World Series debut. Joined the Phillies before 2019 season on \$330 million, 13-year contract — largest for a free agent. Two-time NL MVP and seven-time All-Star missed two months this season with broken thumb but batted .419 with five homers, six doubles and 11 RBIs in playoffs. Was NLCS MVP after hitting go-ahead HR in eighth inning of clinching Game 5 victory over Padres. ... Hoskins also has five home runs and 11 RBIs in postseason, but batting .182 with 14 strikeouts. ... Phillies were 21-29 through May. Fired manager Joe Girardi a few days later and promoted 59-year-old Thomson from bench coach on interim basis. He was recently given two-year contract and is trying to join Jack McKeon (2003 Marlins) and Bob

Lemon (1978 Yankees) as only managers hired midseason to win World Series. ... Phillies were most recent opponent to defeat Astros when teams opened final series of regular season Oct. 3 in Houston. ... Phillies edged Astros in classic 1980 NL Championship Series before Houston moved to American League in 2013.

### Houston Astros

**Record:** 106-56.

**Playoff entry:** AL West champion.

**Manager:** Dusty Baker (third season).

**Top hitters:** LF Yordan Alvarez (.306, 37 HRs, 97 RBIs, 1.019 OPS), 2B Jose Altuve (.300, 28, 57, 39 doubles, 103 runs, 18/19 SBs, .921 OPS), 3B Alex Bregman (.259, 23, 93, 38 doubles, .820 OPS), RF Kyle Tucker (.257, 30, 107, 25/29 SBs, .808 OPS).

**Projected rotation:** RHP Justin Verlander (18-4, MLB-best 1.75 ERA, 185 Ks, 29 BBs, 116 hits, 175 IP), LHP Framber Valdez (17-6, 2.82, 194 Ks, 166 hits, AL-high 201⅓ IP and 3 CG), RHP Cristian Javier (11-9, 2.54, 194 Ks, 89 hits, 148⅓ IP in 30 games, 25 starts), RHP Lance McCullers Jr. (4-2, 2.27 in 8 starts).

**Key relievers:** RHP Ryan Pressly (3-3, 2.98 ERA, 33 saves, 65 Ks, 48⅓ IP), RHP Rafael Montero (5-2, 2.37, 14 saves, 68⅓ IP, 3 HRs, 71 games), RHP Bryan Abreu (4-0, 1.94, 2 saves, 88 Ks, 2 HRs, 60⅓ IP), RHP Hector Neris (6-4, 3.72, 3 saves, 79 Ks, 3 HRs, 65⅓ IP, 70 games).

**Series story:** Back in World Series for second consecutive season and fourth time in six years. After winning franchise's fifth pennant, scorned Astros seeking second championship. Team's 2017 title was later tarnished by cheating revelations involving illegal sign stealing. Only players remaining from that squad on this year's AL Championship Series roster were Altuve, Bregman, Verlander, McCullers and 1B Yuli Gurriel. Still, this chase presents another chance at some form of redemption. ... Houston lost 2021 World Series to Atlanta in six games. Verlander was out while recovering from Tommy John surgery. McCullers was sidelined with forearm strain. Valdez went 0-1 with 19.29 ERA in two starts, tagged for 10 runs, 12 hits, four homers and three walks in 4⅓ forgettable innings. ... After spectacular comeback this season, 39-year-old Verlander a favorite to win third Cy Young Award. But he's 0-6 with 5.68 ERA in seven World Series starts. Went 0-2 with 5.73 ERA as Houston lost to Washington in 2019, when road team won all seven games. ... Rookie shortstop Jeremy Peña was MVP of ALCS as Astros completed four-game sweep, knocking Yankees out of postseason for fourth time in eight years. Houston went 7-0 against Seattle and New York in playoffs. Last two teams to enter World Series unbeaten in postseason lost: 2014 Royals (8-0) and 2007 Rockies (7-0). ... Neris spent 2014-21 with Philadelphia. ... The 73-year-old Baker is oldest manager to reach World Series. This marks third trip for him and still pursuing first title in 25 seasons as major league skipper.

# SPORTS



## Still winless

LeBron, Lakers drop to 0-4 with loss to Nuggets » **NBA, Page 19**

### WORLD SERIES

# Big bopper

## Schwarber has powered Phillies in playoffs with mythical homers

By DAN GELSTON  
*Associated Press*

**K**yle Schwarber crushed a 98 mph slider beyond the center-field fence and the ball disappeared into a thicket of English ivy, Arborvitae, Holly, and other evergreen flourishing as the greenery backdrop at Citizens Bank Park.

Most of Schwarber's homers land — and yes, they do land even as some he hits might best be viewed through the Hubble once they reach orbit — in easy to track spots.

This particular ball, hit against San Diego during Game 4 of the National League Championship Series, almost needed a search party to locate. The area was swept, not by the grounds crew as might be the assumption, but by the team in charge of collecting game-used memorabilia. Schwarber doesn't make it easy; he hit two into the bushes in one game this year and it couldn't be verified which ball was which.

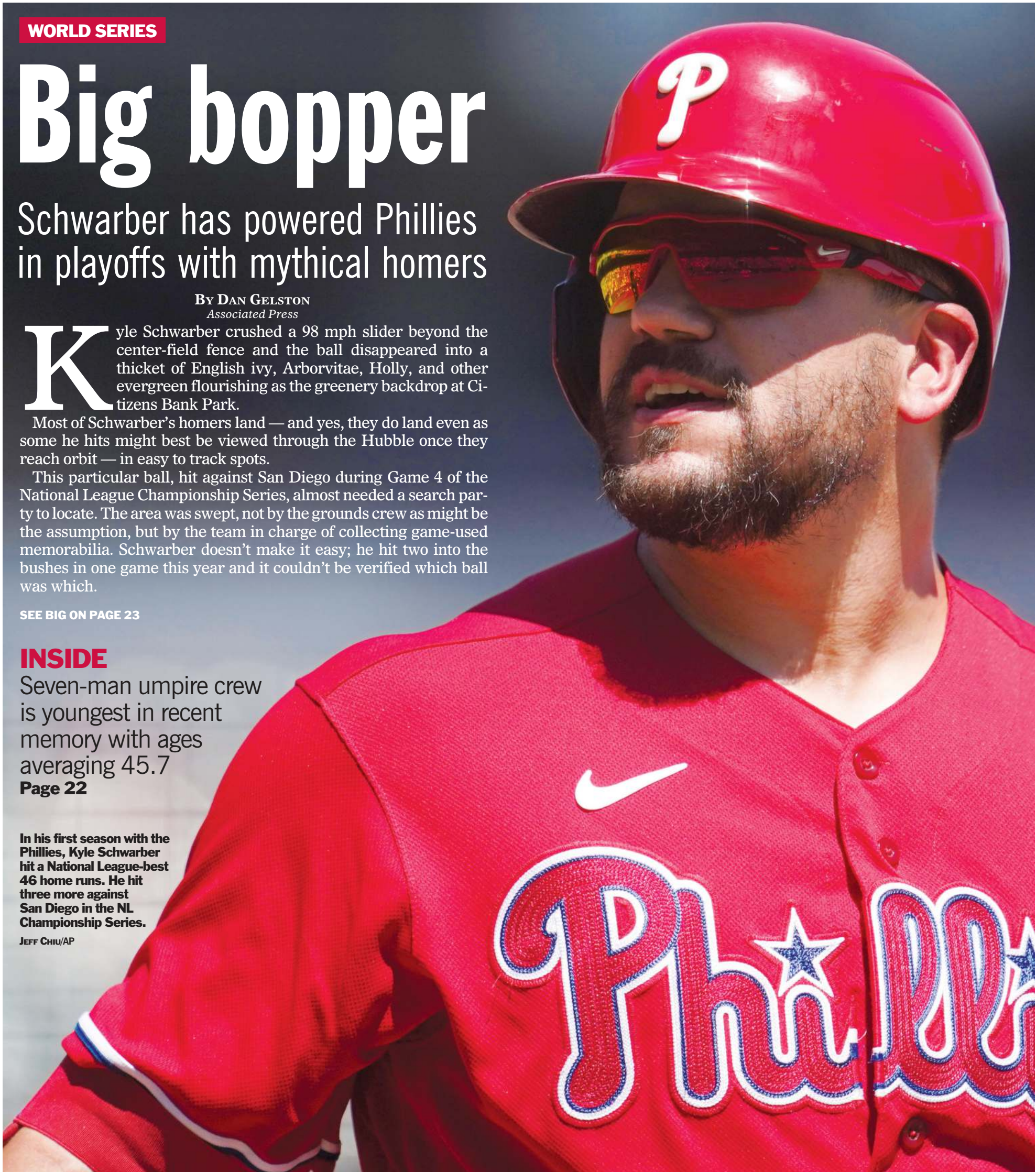
SEE BIG ON PAGE 23

### INSIDE

Seven-man umpire crew is youngest in recent memory with ages averaging 45.7  
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In his first season with the Phillies, Kyle Schwarber hit a National League-best 46 home runs. He hit three more against San Diego in the NL Championship Series.

JEFF CHIU/AP



## Seven NASCAR drivers battling for three playoff spots » Page 18