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STARS AND STRIPES

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Volume 81 Edition 140B ©SS 2022

CONTINGENCY EDITION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022

Free to Deployed Areas

Russia says it will halt UN-brokered export deal

By **ANDREW MELDRUM**
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — The Russian Defense Ministry said Saturday that Moscow has moved to suspend its implementation of a U.N.-brokered grain deal which has seen more than 9 million tons of grain exported from Ukraine and has brought down global food prices.

The ministry cited an alleged Ukrainian drone attack against Russia's Black Sea Fleet ships moored off the coast of occupied Crimea, which Russia says took place early Saturday, as the reason for the move. Ukraine has denied the attack.

The Russian declaration came one day after U.N. chief Antonio Guterres urged Russia and Ukraine to renew the deal. Guterres also urged other countries, mainly in the West, to expedite the removal of obstacles blocking Russian grain and fertilizer exports.

The U.N. chief underlined the urgency of renewing the deal brokered by the United Nations and Turkey in July, which expires on Nov. 19, "to contribute to food security across the world, and to cushion the suffering that this global cost-of-living crisis is inflicting on billions of people," his spokesman said.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vas-

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RELATED

US sends more military aid to Ukrainian forces
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Space threats

Pentagon sees Russia as risk to future of commercial satellites

By **CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT**
The Washington Post

On Thursday evening, SpaceX launched yet another of its Falcon 9 rockets to space, the 49th in 2022, a record as it continues to launch a rocket about once every six days. This one carried 53 Starlink satellites to orbit, adding to a constellation that now has more than 3,000 in operation — more satellites than the rest of the world combined, according to analysts.

On Tuesday, SpaceX is scheduled to launch a much more powerful rocket, the Falcon Heavy. This time, the customer is the U.S. Space Force and the payload is strictly classified.

The launches come as tensions between the United States and Russia are high amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine and just days after Russia threatened to target the commercial satellites, which have proved a boon to Ukraine and its allies during the war.

The launches are yet another

sign of the Pentagon's increasing reliance on the commercial space sector, which has become more capable at the same time that space has become an increasingly contested domain. That partnership was even codified in the National Defense Strategy released by the Defense Department earlier this week: "We will increase collaboration with the private sector in priority areas, especially with the commercial space industry, leveraging its technological advancements and entrepreneurial spirit to enable new capabilities."

But as those technologies — cheaper, reusable rockets that fly more frequently, small satellites that can be launched by the dozen — play a broader role in the nation's defense and intelligence arsenal, national security officials know they could be threatened. What happens then, however, is

SEE THREATS ON PAGE 3

JAMES RAINIER/U.S. Air Force

Two reusable rocket boosters land after the successful launch of SpaceX's Falcon Heavy Arabsat 6A in 2019 at Kennedy Space Center, Fla.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Technology stocks lead rally on Wall Street

Associated Press

Technology stocks led a broad rally on Wall Street Friday, capping another strong week for the market, as investors welcomed solid profits from Apple and other companies.

The S&P 500 rose 2.5% and posted its first back-to-back weekly gains since August. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 2.6% and the tech-heavy Nasdaq composite climbed 2.9%. Smaller company stocks also gained ground, lifting the Rus-

sell 2000 index by 2.3%.

Apple's latest quarterly results showed the iPhone maker made even fatter profits during the summer than expected. Its shares rose 7.6% and led a rally in technology stocks that had largely been beat up a day earlier.

Intel jumped 10.7% after delivering much bigger profit than analysts forecasted even though it said it saw "worsening economic conditions."

Gilead Sciences soared 12.9%,

and T-Mobile US gained 7.4% after they also topped Wall Street's profit expectations.

Investors were also encouraged by a report on consumer spending that came a day after new data showing the economy grew modestly in the third quarter and inflation eased.

The S&P 500 rose 93.76 points to 3,901.06. The Dow gained 828.52 points to 32,861.80. The Nasdaq rose 309.78 points to 11,102.45. The Russell 2000 gained 40.60 points to 1,846.92.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Oct. 31)	\$0.97
Dollar buys (Oct. 31)	0.9764
British pound (Oct. 31)	\$1.13
Japanese yen (Oct. 31)	142.00
South Korean won (Oct. 31)	1380.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
Britain (Pound)	1.1576
Canada (Dollar)	1.3601
China (Yuan)	7.2475
Denmark (Krone)	7.4639
Egypt (Pound)	23.1449
Euro	1.0024
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8494
Hungary (Forint)	413.14
Israel (Shekel)	3.5339
Japan (Yen)	147.44
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3098
Norway (Krone)	10.3285
Philippines (Peso)	57.98
Poland (Zloty)	4.73
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7588
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4101

South Korea (Won)	1423.49
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9950
Thailand (Baht)	37.89
Turkey (NewLira)	18.6104

(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

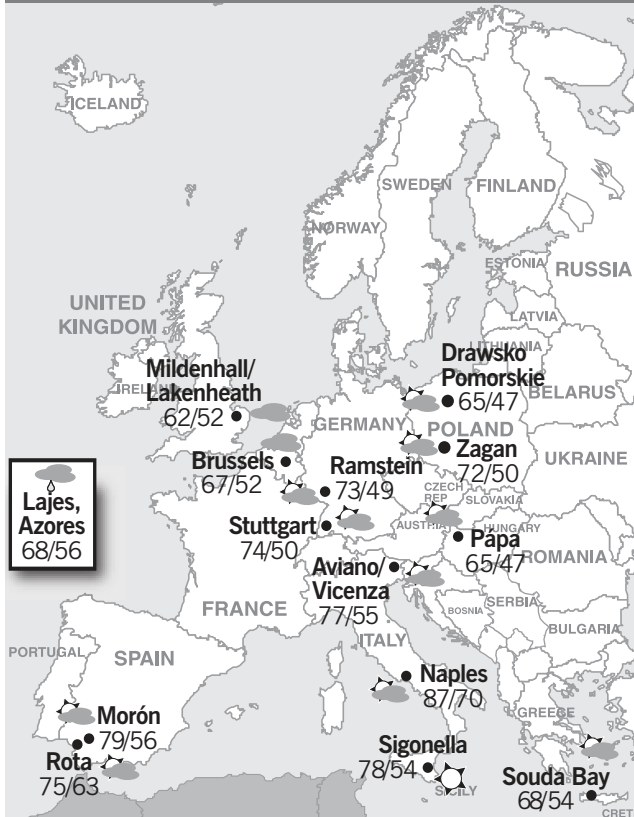
Prime rate	6.25
Interest Rates Discount rate	3.75
Federal funds market rate	3.08
3-month bill	4.04
30-year bond	4.09

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SUNDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SUNDAY IN EUROPE



MONDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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MILITARY

Airmen in Qatar field test new drone ideas



PHOTOS BY CASSANDRA JOHNSON/U.S. Air Force

A Task Force 99 airman solders components at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar on Friday.

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

One of the Air Force's newest high-tech units performed its first field test Friday, putting unmanned aerial systems with interchangeable payloads through their paces in the increasingly drone-laden battleground of the Middle East.

Task Force 99 was established Oct. 13 at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, and its eight airmen are tinkering with off-the-shelf drone systems, Lt. Col. Erin Brilla, the unit's commander, said Thursday.

The unit is striving to make a proof of concept within 30 days for drones that can swap out their payloads when needed, Brilla said, adding that Task Force 99 plans to expand to 10 to 15 airmen next year.

The Air Force unit resembles the Navy's Task Force 59, which has tested commercially available, relatively inexpensive unmanned surface vessels on missions in Middle East waters since its founding last year.

One of the group's initial tasks is looking for cheaper ways to detect Iran's aerial drones, Lt. Gen. Alexis Grynkeiwich, head of 9th Air Force (Air Forces Central), said in September.

Neutering Iranian unmanned aircraft, which have had an out-



A Task Force 99 sign hangs on the door to the team's work center at Al Udeid Air Base.

sized impact in wars in the Middle East and most recently in Ukraine, is a priority for the Air Force in the region, Grynkeiwich told Stars and Stripes in July.

Task Force 99 plans to collaborate with the Navy's task force as well as a future Army unit as part of an umbrella organization that also includes regional U.S. allies such as Bahrain or Jordan, Brilla said.

Another organization, the 386 Air Expeditionary Wing, launched a two-person "satellite innovation cell" at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait on Wednesday, that will partner with Task Force 99's airmen at Al Udeid.

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Threats: Pentagon eyes swarms of satellites

FROM PAGE 1
not clear.

"I am certain that my counterpart in Russia, whoever that is, is not very happy with Starlink, as it's assisting Ukraine," Lt. Gen. John Shaw, deputy commander of the U.S. Space Command, said at a space conference Monday. "And with commercial imagery, such as Maxar's products, that are plastering all over the world news the things that are going on, I don't think they're very happy about that either. And we know that they're probably going to take steps to try to stop those commercial services because they run counter to Russia's national interest."

A few days later, a senior Russian official proved him prophetic, threatening commercial satellites during a meeting at the United Nations.

In a speech, Konstantin Vorontsov, deputy director of the Russian Ministry's department for nonproliferation and arms, said the proliferation of privately operated satellites is "an extremely dangerous trend that goes beyond the harmless use of outer-space technologies and has become apparent during the latest developments in Ukraine."

He warned that "quasi-civilian infrastructure may become a legitimate target for retaliation."

Asked about the threat, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre on Thursday reiterated earlier comments

from her counterpart at the Pentagon and said that "any attack on U.S. infrastructure will be met with a response, as you've heard from my colleague, in a time and manner of our choosing. And that still stands. We will pursue all means to explore, deter and hold Russia accountable for any such attacks. Clearly, I'm not going to lay them down here . . . in public. But we have made ourselves very clear."

The threats have not slowed the Pentagon's use of commercial space technology, which continues to evolve rapidly.

"The bulk of innovation in space is coming from the commercial sector, not the government, and that is a huge shift from previous decades," said Brian Weeden, the director of program planning at the Secure World Foundation, a think tank. "The big challenge is, how does the U.S. military take advantage of that? It's a very different way of doing business."

Ukraine and its Western allies have relied on a number of commercial companies from the United States, including Planet and Maxar Technologies, which have provided real-time satellite imagery of the battlefield, and Elon Musk's SpaceX, which operates the Starlink satellite constellation that has provided internet access, keeping Ukraine online despite Russian attacks on terrestrial communications systems.

The Pentagon is not just looking for big rockets to launch large, exquisite satellites. It has shown extraordinary interest in small

rockets, designed to take off frequently and with short notice, allowing for a quick response to situations on the ground.

The Pentagon and U.S. intelligence agencies have taken a keen interest in Virgin Orbit, the small launch company founded by Richard Branson. Instead of launching its rockets from a vertical launchpad on the ground, the company tucks its boosters under the wing of a 747 airplane that carries it aloft. It then drops the rocket, which fires its engines and flies off to space. That allows the company to launch from any runway that can accommodate a plane the size of a 747.

Russia is adept at disrupting satellites and has repeatedly tried to jam the Starlink system, though it has remained online, U.S. officials have said. Last year, Russia fired a missile that destroyed a dead satellite in a test that demonstrated its ability to target sensitive spacecraft.

That is why the Pentagon increasingly is relying on constellations of small satellites. Knock one or two out and there are dozens more to pick up the slack. And since they are relatively inexpensive, more can take their place.

An embrace of that technology was also noted in the Pentagon's National Defense Strategy document: "In the space domain, the Department will reduce adversary incentives for early attack by fielding diverse, resilient, and redundant satellite constellations."



SpaceX

The 45th Space Wing supported SpaceX's successful launch of a Falcon 9 Dragon spacecraft headed to the International Space Station at NASA's Kennedy Space Center on February 19.

Swarms of satellites make it simply more difficult to target them, as Derek Tournear, director of the Space Force's Space Development Agency, said this week, according to SpaceNews. "How many Starlink satellites have the Russians shot down?" The answer, he said, was "zero."

MILITARY

6 key takeaways from new DOD strategy

BY KAROUN DEMIRJIAN
The Washington Post

The Pentagon released a trio of documents Thursday outlining the United States' national defense strategy, its nuclear posture and its policy regarding missile defense — a much-anticipated public accounting of how the Biden administration plans to counter threats from adversary nations at a time when war and the threat of compound conflicts are escalating.

The documents — which Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin referred to as “the department’s North Star” — reflect an outlook he has long been voicing: that China is the main, “pacing” challenge for the United States.

Russia, the documents acknowledge, presents a more “acute” threat, particularly because its president, Vladimir Putin, is actively waging a war in Ukraine and threatening to employ nuclear weapons in combat. But as Austin put it, Moscow still “can’t systemically challenge the United States over the long term.”

While the assessments are largely in keeping with positions the Defense Department has previously outlined, there are nonetheless a few items that are likely to inspire controversy — in part because of global developments that aren’t directly addressed in the 80 unclassified pages.

The 2022 Nuclear Posture Review offers a notable assessment of Iran’s nuclear ambitions. It puts some hotly debated weapons systems on the chopping block — including a nuclear gravity bomb and a submarine-launched nuclear missile with staunch defenders in Congress.

Perhaps most strikingly, the authors acknowledge that the documents were not updated since March — when the classified versions of them were shared with Congress — despite a war in Ukraine that was in its infancy when they penned their assessments.

Russia’s nuclear threat

The Pentagon flags Moscow’s Ukraine invasion as the example that “underscores that nuclear dangers persist, and could grow, in an increasingly competitive and volatile geopolitical landscape.” It notes that Russia has brandished the threat of nuclear weapons “as a shield behind which to wage unjustified aggression against their neighbors.”

But while the documents are explicit in stating the Pentagon’s objectives, its prescriptions for tamping down the crescendo of the nuclear drumbeat emanating from the Kremlin are general in nature. The document speaks about the need for “integrated deterrence” and ensuring that the



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin listens to a question during a briefing at the Pentagon, on Thursday.

United States and its allies continue to “maintain a very high bar for nuclear employment,” to reduce the risk of escalation. It acknowledges that “changes in U.S. strategy and force posture may be required” to achieve deterrence — but does not contemplate the specifics of what that would look like.

Part of that may be due to the fact that the documents released Thursday are only the unclassified version of the Pentagon’s reviews. But while the Russian threat is “acute,” the Pentagon does not seem to believe that a game-changing move from the Kremlin is imminent. Austin threw cold water Thursday on the idea that nuclear or other radioactive weapons will be used in the Ukraine conflict anytime soon.

“We have not seen anything to indicate that Putin has made a decision to use a dirty bomb,” he said.

China on the horizon

While Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has unlocked the Pentagon coffers, China’s long-term nuclear ambitions have spooked the Defense Department to the greatest degree. The National Defense Strategy calls China the “most comprehensive and serious challenge to U.S. national security,” while the Nuclear Posture Review states that “by the 2030s, the United States will, for the first time in its history, face two major nuclear powers as strategic competitors and potential adversaries.”

Or as Austin put it to reporters Thursday, China remains the one adversary “both with the intent to reshape the international order and increasingly the power to do so.”

But the Pentagon acknowledges that it is still looking for answers about how to address the chal-

lenge posed by Beijing and ensure it does not lead to war.

The documents note that China and Russia, despite sometimes diverging objectives, maintain a troubling alliance — particularly given the “sophistication” of China’s missile technology and its demonstrated ability to try to “close the gap” with the United States. When it comes to nuclear warheads, the Nuclear Posture Review notes, China is on pace to have at least 1,000 by the end of this decade.

The writers of the document are frank in their acknowledgments of where Beijing has eluded Washington’s best efforts to rein things in. The United States “has made little progress” with China when it comes to arms-control frameworks, the document notes — a problem exacerbated by Beijing’s resistance to participating in international negotiations. And while the Missile Defense Review stresses that the Pentagon “will continue to rely on strategic deterrence,” the Pentagon admits a few paragraphs later that is difficult, given China’s “efforts and activities to contest the rules-based international order.”

Iran’s atomic ambitions

When it comes to Iran, the Defense Department’s new policy-setting documents and the Pentagon’s leaders are occasionally in conflict.

“Iran is moving ahead on its nuclear program, supporting dangerous armed proxies and even exporting drones that Russia has used to terrorize Ukrainian civilians,” Austin told reporters Thursday, in touting the newly released reports.

That’s not precisely the sentiment expressed in the reports’ pages.

Though the Pentagon writes that Iranian nuclear activities “are of great concern” and that it remains Defense Department policy “to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon,” the Nuclear Posture Review also states plainly that “Iran does not today possess a nuclear weapon and we currently believe it is not pursuing one.”

That’s not just an aberrant phrasing, either. The National Defense Strategy is careful to distinguish between Iran’s capacities and its intentions, stating that “Iran is taking actions that would improve its ability to produce a nuclear weapon should it make the decision to do so.”

That decision, though, by the Pentagon’s own assessments, has not been taken.

North Korea tough talk

Unlike Iran, the documents paint North Korea’s ventures as menacing in nature. The Missile Defense Review states that the hermit kingdom “continues to improve, expand, and diversify its conventional nuclear missile capabilities, posing an increasing risk to the U.S. homeland and U.S. forces in theater, as well as regional Allies and partners.” The report notes recent missile tests, including some weapons Pyongyang claims have hypersonic capabilities, and reminds that “most of North Korea’s ballistic missiles have an assessed capability to carry nuclear payloads.”

The Nuclear Posture Review also sounds an alarm, stating that while North Korea is not a threat on the level of Russia and China, “it poses a persistent threat and growing danger to the U.S. homeland and the Indo-Pacific region as it expands, diversifies and improves” its nuclear, ballistic missile and military capabilities.

The response is all tough talk. “Any nuclear attack by North Korea against the United States or its Allies and partner is unacceptable and will result in the end of that regime,” the Nuclear Posture Review states, in one of the most unequivocal throw-downs in the document. “There is no scenario in which the Kim regime could employ nuclear weapons and survive.”

Shelving unneeded nukes

The military is retiring two models of nuclear weapon, despite protests from members of Congress who have tried to save them from the chopping block. The first, the B83-1 gravity bomb, has over a megaton of capacity — a punch that makes it a potentially useful tool for obliterating hard, underground targets. But the bombs, which have been in the arsenal since the 1980s, are becoming ex-

pensive to maintain — and, the Pentagon says, simply aren’t as versatile or uniquely equipped to command privileged status anymore.

The other is a submarine-launched cruise missile known as the SLCM-N (the “N” stands for “nuclear”), approved during Donald Trump’s presidency — and which was the subject of fierce controversy on Capitol Hill after the Biden administration indicated in its budget proposals this year that it planned to ax funding for the program.

The SLCM-N comes in on the opposite end of the nuclear spectrum from the B83-1 — with its lower yield, it is considered a “tactical” nuclear weapon. Supporters of the SLCM-N have questioned why the administration would decommission it mid-development at a time when concern is growing that Russia could use its vast arsenal of tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine. But administration officials insist it is an unnecessary, duplicative weapon and are determined to scrap it, no matter the blowback.

“It has zero value,” for Russia and Ukraine, a senior defense official said Thursday on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive program decisions, noting that even if the SLCM-N were fully funded, “it would not arrive until 2035.”

Strategic ambiguity

The Pentagon’s policy documents are, together, a quadrennial vitals check on where U.S. strategic defense stands and where it ought to be going. They lay out departmental philosophy on critical national security threats and what defenses should be invested in to meet them.

Except the United States’ nuclear policy remains publicly undefined in some key respects. The writers of the Nuclear Posture Review defer to President Joe Biden and his advisers to determine whether there should be updates to the policy governing the use of nuclear weapons if and when deterrence fails — a possibility that Biden has stated is nearer than at any point since the Cuban missile crisis.

The document also states that while “moving toward a sole purpose declaration” remains a goal, the options its writers considered — including adopting a “No First Use” doctrine — “would result in an unacceptable level of risk.” As a result, it will be left to future Pentagon strategists and the White House to contemplate any eventual moves to articulate potential limits to how far the United States is prepared to go in its developing arms race with China and Russia.

EUROPE

US to send \$275M more military aid to Ukraine

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon will send some \$275 million in new weapons and equipment to Ukraine marking the 24th time that the United States has sent military aid from its own inventory to support the country's efforts to repel Russia's invasion.

The latest shipment — expected to arrive in Ukraine in the coming weeks — will primarily include ammunition, including rocket and precision-guided artillery rounds, Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said Friday. The Pentagon has now provided some \$18.5 billion of its own weapons to Ukraine under President Joe Biden's authority to transfer U.S. supplies to aid the Ukrainian war effort, she said.

The shipment comes as Russia has poured thousands of con-

scripts with little fighting experience onto battlefields in Ukraine to bolster front-line efforts in the country's east and south regions after a series of setbacks in recent weeks. Pentagon officials have said weapons packages are typically tailored to the Ukrainians' current needs.

The latest aid includes 500 Excalibur precision-guided 155mm artillery rounds, 2000 155mm remote anti-armor mine systems, more than 1,300 anti-armor weapons, more than 2.75 million rounds of small arms ammunition and an unspecified number of High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems — or HIMARS — rockets, Singh said. The tranche also includes 125 Humvees and four satellite communications antennas, which Singh said would bolster Ukrainian command and control capabilities.

The Pentagon has lauded Ukraine's use of HIMARS on the battlefield, telling reporters that the weapons were critical in rolling back Russian forces in the country's east and south in recent months. The Pentagon has provided 20 of the rocket systems, which can strike targets up to 50 miles away. Ukraine has used HIMARS to strike Russian command and control and logistics nodes deep behind its front lines.

But Ukraine has also repeatedly asked the United States and other NATO nations for longer-range artillery weapons. The Pentagon has denied those requests to date. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Thursday dismissed Ukraine's need for longer-range rockets. He told reporters at the Pentagon the HIMARS ammunition that Ukraine has been using could reach any target

it needed to strike in the country, including on the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed in 2014, and Ukraine has pledged to take back.

Austin said what the Ukrainians really need is an advanced air defense capability, which the United States has been working to provide. Austin said he expected to provide short-range air defense systems known as NASAMS, or National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems, to Ukraine by "early next month."

NASAMS are developed by U.S.-based Raytheon Technologies and Norway's Kongsberg Defence and Aerospace, and can strike down incoming ballistic missiles, fighter jets and drones, according to the manufacturers.

That capability will be critical for Ukraine, which has seen Rus-

sian missiles increasingly target its critical infrastructure in recent weeks as Russian forces continue to retreat. The Associated Press reported Friday that rolling blackouts had continued across the country, which has seen more than 30% of its power stations destroyed in Russian missile and artillery attacks.

Singh said Friday that a training problem was already in place for Ukrainian troops to learn to operate the NASAMS.

"Once it has been completed, the system will be ready for delivery to Ukraine, and we anticipate that that training program will conclude soon," she said.

Singh declined to provide more specific information about the program, citing operational security concerns.

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Export: Russian troops said to be clearing hospitals in Kherson region

FROM PAGE 1

sily Nebenzia has said that before Moscow discusses a renewal "Russia needs to see the export of its grain and fertilizers in the world market, which has never happened since the beginning of the deal."

Earlier Saturday, Ukraine and Russia offered differing versions on the Crimea drone attack in which at least one Russian ship suffered damage in Sevastopol, a major port, on the Ukrainian peninsula annexed by Moscow in 2014.

The Russian Defense Ministry said a minesweeper had "minor damage" during an alleged pre-dawn Ukrainian attack on navy and civilian vessels docked in Sevastopol, which hosts the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet. The ministry claimed Russian forces had "repelled" 16 attacking drones.

An adviser to Ukraine's Interior Ministry claimed that "careless handling of explosives" had caused blasts on four warships in Russia's Black Sea Fleet. Anton Gerashchenko wrote on Telegram that the vessels included a frigate, a landing ship and a ship that carried cruise missiles used in a deadly July attack on a western Ukrainian city.

In other developments on Saturday, Russian troops moved large numbers of sick and wounded comrades from hospitals in Ukraine's southern Kherson region and stripped the facilities of medical equipment, Ukrainian military officials said as their forces fought to retake a

province overrun by invading soldiers early in the war.

Kremlin-installed authorities in the mostly Russian-occupied region previously urged civilians to leave the city of Kherson, the region's capital. The Moscow-appointed authorities in Kherson also were reported last week to have joined tens of thousands of residents who fled to other Russia-held areas ahead of an expected Ukrainian advance.

"The so-called evacuation of invaders from the temporarily occupied territory of the Kherson region, including from medical institutions, continues," the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said in a morning update. "All equipment and medicines are being removed from Kherson hospitals."

The military's claims could not be independently verified. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a nightly video address Friday that the Russians were "dismantling the entire health care system" in Kherson and other occupied areas.

"The occupiers have decided to close medical institutions in the cities, take away equipment, ambulances, just everything," Zelenskyy said. "They put pressure on the doctors who still remained in the occupied areas for them to move to the territory of Russia."

Kherson is one of four regions of Ukraine that Russian President Vladimir Putin illegally annexed last month and where he subsequently declared martial law. The others are Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia.

As Kyiv's forces sought gains in the south, Russia kept up shelling and missile attacks in the country's east, Ukrainian authorities said Saturday. Three civilians died and eight more were wounded in the Donetsk region, which has again become a front-line hotspot as Russian soldiers try to capture the city of Bakhmut.

Western analysts have long identified Bakhmut as an important target in Russia's stalled eastern offensive. Capturing Bakhmut would pave the way for Moscow's forces to threaten Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, the two largest Ukrainian-held cities remaining in the long-embattled Donbas region.

Donetsk and neighboring Luhansk province make up the Donbas. Pro-Russia separatists have controlled parts of both provinces since 2014.

In the northeastern Kharkiv region, where Russia's troops retreated last month and Ukrainian troops clawed back broad swaths of territory, Russian shelling overnight wounded three civilians, according to the region's Ukrainian governor.

Gov. Oleh Syniehubov wrote on Telegram said that two women in their 40s and a 60-year-old man were wounded near Kupiansk, a town that served as a resupply hub for Russian forces in the region before Ukrainian troops regained control.

In neighboring Luhansk province, Gov. Serhii Haidai said late Friday that Ukrainian forces have shelled the entire length of



ANDRIY ANDRIYENKO/AP

A Ukrainian serviceman checks for explosives outside the liberated town of Svatohirsk, Donetsk region, Ukraine, on Saturday.

the Kreminna-Svatove highway, where the Russians set up their main line of defense after their withdrawal from the Kharkiv region.

A Russian shelling attack Saturday also hit "critical infrastructure" in Ukraine's southern Zaporizhzhia region, the Ukrainian governor of the illegally annexed province said. Around a quarter of the region, including the local capital, also called Zaporizhzhia, remains under Ukrainian military control.

Writing on Telegram, Gov. Oleksandr Starukh later said an unspecified industrial building was struck and there were no casualties.

Political pressure for efforts to negotiate an end to the war are

building in parts of western Europe. Zelenskyy had said his country won't negotiate with Russia as long as Moscow insists the annexed regions are Russian territory.

In remarks to Yale University students on Friday, the Ukrainian leader reiterated his unwillingness to negotiate with Putin's government because of its "disrespect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine."

In his nightly remarks, the Ukrainian leader noted that about 4 million Ukrainians live in areas subject to rolling blackouts following weeks of Russia targeting power plants and other infrastructure. He warned the emergency blackouts were possible elsewhere in Ukraine.

NATION

Pelosi attack highlights rising lawmaker threats

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's something that goes along with being a member of Congress, no matter your party or your status: constant threats to your life, and the unshakable feeling that they're only getting worse.

In the almost two years since the Capitol insurrection, in which supporters of former President Donald Trump broke into the Capitol and hunted House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and members of Congress, threats to lawmakers and their families have increased sharply. Early Friday, an assailant looking for Pelosi broke into her San Francisco home and used a hammer to attack her husband Paul, who suffered blunt-force injuries and was hospitalized.

It is, in fact, getting worse: The U.S. Capitol Police investigated almost 10,000 threats to members last year, more than twice the number from four years earlier.

"We are 100%, completely vulnerable and the risks are increasing," says Illinois Rep. Mike Qui-



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

Staff members of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, including Pelosi's Chief of Staff Terri McCullough, second from right, hug outside of the Capitol, Friday before entering a vehicle on Capitol Hill in Washington.

gley, a Chicago-area Democrat. "If someone wants to harm you, they know where you live, they know where you work."

Lawmakers have pressured congressional leaders and the Capitol Police for better security, especially for their families and their homes outside of Washing-

ton. They have made some progress, with security officials promising to pay for upgrades to certain security systems and an increased Capitol Police presence outside Washington. But the vast majority of members are mostly on their own as they figure out how to keep themselves

and their families safe in a country where political violence has become alarmingly frequent.

The attack on Paul Pelosi happened when Nancy Pelosi was out of town, which meant there was less of a security presence in their home.

"It's attacks like this that make

all of us stand back and wonder what we can do better," says Rep. Rodney Davis, R-Ill., who was at a baseball practice four years ago in Alexandria, Va., when a gunman wounded Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La., and four other people.

Davis, who was defeated for reelection in his Republican primary earlier this year, says security needs to be improved for members and their families, and "we also have to work to tone down some of the violent rhetoric that inspires some of these individuals to do what they do."

Like many of their colleagues, Davis and Quigley both say they have improved security at their homes in recent years. Two years after the baseball shooting, an Illinois man was arrested for threatening to shoot Davis in the head. Randall Tarr pleaded guilty to federal charges and was sentenced to probation.

Davis has since urged his colleagues to report all threats to the police and work with local prosecutors to make sure people are charged. "You've got to take that threat seriously," he says.

Suspect in Pelosi attack appears to have posted about QAnon and the 2020 election

BY MICHAEL BIESECKER AND
BERNARD CONDON
Associated Press

The man accused of breaking into House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's California home and severely beating her husband with a hammer appears to have made racist and often rambling posts online, including some that questioned the results of the 2020 election, defended former President Donald Trump and echoed QAnon conspiracy theories.

David DePape, 42, grew up in Powell River, British Columbia, before leaving about 20 years ago to follow an older girlfriend to San Francisco. A street address listed for DePape in the Bay Area college town of Berkeley led to a post office box at a UPS Store.

DePape was arrested at the Pelosi home early Friday. San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins said she expected to file multiple felony charges, including attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, burglary and elder abuse.

Stepfather Gene DePape said the suspect had lived with him in Canada until he was 14 and had been a quiet boy.

"David was never violent that I seen and was never in any trouble although he was very reclusive and played too much video games," Gene DePape said.

He said he hasn't seen his step-



ERIC RISBERG/AP

David DePape records the nude wedding of Gypsy Taub in 2013 in San Francisco.

son since 2003 and tried to get in touch with him several times over the years without success.

"In 2007, I tried to get in touch but his girlfriend hung up on me when I asked to talk to him," Gene DePape said.

David DePape was known in Berkeley as a pro-nudity activist who had picketed naked at protests against local ordinances requiring people to be clothed in public.

Gene DePape said the girlfriend whom his son followed to California was named Gypsy and they had two children together. DePape also has a child with a different woman, his stepfather said.

Photographs published by The San Francisco Chronicle on Friday identified DePape frolicking nude outside city hall with dozens of others at the 2013 wedding of

pro-nudity activist Gypsy Taub, who was marrying another man. Taub did not respond Friday to calls or emails.

A 2013 article in The Chronicle described David DePape as a "hemp jewelry maker" who lived in a Victorian flat in Berkeley with Taub, who hosted a talk show on local public-access TV called "Uncensored 9/11," in which she appeared naked and pushed conspiracy theories that the 2001 terrorist attacks were "an inside job."

A pair of web blogs posted in recent months online under the name David DePape contained rants about technology, aliens, communists, religious minorities, transsexuals and global elites.

An Aug. 24 entry titled "Q," displayed a scatological collection of memes that included photos of the deceased sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and made reference to QAnon, the baseless pro-Trump conspiracy theory that espouses the belief that the country is run by a deep state cabal of child sex traffickers, satanic pedophiles and baby-eating cannibals.

"Big Brother has deemed doing your own research as a thought crime," read a post that appeared to blend references to QAnon with George Orwell's dystopian novel "1984."

In an Aug. 25 entry titled "Gun Rights," the poster wrote: "You no longer have rights. Your basic hu-

man rights hinder Big Brothers ability to enslave and control you in a complete and totalizing way."

The web hosting service WordPress removed one of the sites Friday afternoon for violating its terms of service.

On a different site, someone posting under DePape's name repeated false claims about COVID-19 vaccines and wearing masks, questioned whether climate change is real and displayed an illustration of a zombified Hillary Clinton dining on human flesh.

There appeared to be no direct posts about Pelosi, but there were entries defending former President Donald Trump and Ye, the rapper formally known as Kayne West who recently made anti-semitic comments.

In other posts, the writer said Jews helped finance Hitler's political rise in Germany and suggested an antisemitic plot was involved in Russia's recent invasion of Ukraine.

"The more Ukrainians die NEEDLESSLY the cheaper the land will be for Jews to buy up," the post said.

In a Sept. 27 post, the writer said any journalists who denied Trump's false claims of widespread voter fraud in the 2020 presidential election "should be dragged straight out into the street and shot."

Biden to go to summits in 3 countries

Associated Press

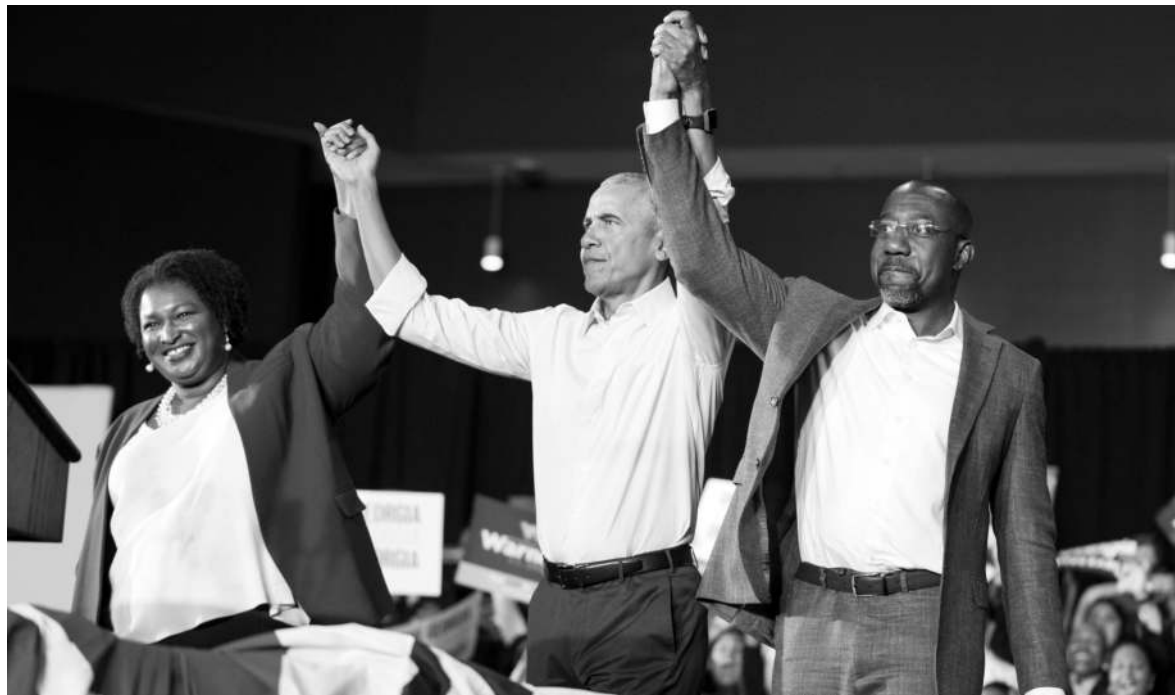
WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden will make a weeklong, three-country trip next month for a quartet of summits—including one that could potentially put him in the same room as China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre announced Friday that Biden will first travel to Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt on Nov. 11 for the COP 27 climate conference before heading to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to participate in the U.S.-ASEAN Summit of Southeast Asian leaders and the East Asia Summit. He'll then head to Bali, Indonesia for the Group of 20 summit, a gathering of leaders from most of the world's largest economies.

The president's overseas travel begins just days after the pivotal U.S. midterm elections, which will determine which party controls the House and the Senate.

The G-20 summit could also offer Biden his first opportunity as president to meet face-to-face with his Chinese counterpart, Xi, and potentially puts him in the same room with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Saudi Arabia's crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, the de facto leader of the oil rich kingdom. The prince, Putin and Xi have yet to announce their travel plans.

NATION



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Former President Barack Obama stands with Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams and U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock, right, during a rally Friday in College Park, Ga.

Obama, campaigning in Georgia, warns of threats to democracy

Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Ga. — Former President Barack Obama returned to the campaign trail Friday in Georgia, using his first stop on a multi-state tour to frame the 2022 midterm elections as a referendum on democracy and to urge voters not to see Republicans as an answer to their economic woes.

It was a delicate balance, as the former president acknowledged the pain of inflation and tried to explain why President Joe Biden and Democrats shouldn't take all the blame as they face the prospects of losing narrow majorities in the House and Senate when votes are tallied Nov. 8. But Obama argued that Republicans who are intent on making it harder for people to vote and — like former President Donald Trump — are willing to ignore the results, can't be trusted to care about Americans' wallets either.

"That basic foundation of our democracy is being called into question right now," Obama told more than 5,000 voters gathered outside Atlanta. "Democrats aren't perfect. I'm the first one to admit it. ... But right now, with a few notable exceptions, most of

the GOP and a whole bunch of these candidates are not even pretending that the rules apply to them."

With Biden's approval ratings in the low 40s, Democrats hope Obama's emergence in the closing weeks of the campaign boosts the party's slate in a tough national environment. He shared the stage Friday with Sen. Raphael Warnock, who faces a tough reelection fight from Republican Herschel Walker, and Stacey Abrams, who is trying to unseat Republican Gov. Brian Kemp, who defeated her narrowly four years ago.

Obama traveled Saturday to Michigan and Wisconsin, followed by stops this week in Nevada and Pennsylvania.

For Obama personally, the campaign blitz is an opportunity to do something he was unable to do in two midterms during his presidency: help Democrats succeed in national midterms when they already hold the White House. For his party, it's an opportunity to leverage Obama's rebound in popularity since his last midterm defeats in 2014. Their hope is that the former president can sell argu-

ments that Biden, his former vice president, has struggled to land.

Biden was in Pennsylvania on Friday with Vice President Kamala Harris and plans to be in Georgia this week, potentially in a joint rally with Obama and statewide Democratic candidates. But he has not been welcomed as a surrogate for many Democratic candidates across the country, including Warnock.

"Obama occupies a rare place in our politics today," said David Axelrod, who helped shape Obama's campaigns from his days in the Illinois state Senate through two presidential elections. "He obviously has great appeal to Democrats. But he's also well-liked by independent voters."

Obama tried to show off that reach Friday. The first Black president drew a hero's welcome from a majority Black audience, and he offered plenty of applause lines for Democrats. But he saved plenty of his argument, especially on the economy, for moderates, independents and casual voters, including a defense of Biden, who Obama said is "fighting for you every day."

Judge: Group can watch Ariz. ballot boxes

BY ANITA SNOW
Associated Press

PHOENIX — A federal judge Friday refused to bar a group from monitoring outdoor ballot boxes in Arizona's largest county where watchers have shown up armed and in ballistic vests, saying to do so could violate the monitors' constitutional rights.

U.S. District Court Judge Michael Liburdi said the case remained open and that the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans could try again to make its argument against a group calling itself Clean Elections USA. A second plaintiff, Voto Latino, was removed from the case.

Liburdi concluded that "while this case certainly presents serious questions, the Court cannot craft an injunction without violating the First Amendment." The judge is a Trump appointee and a member of the Federalist Society, a conservative legal organization.

Local and federal law enforcement have been alarmed by reports of people, including some who were masked and armed, watching 24-hour ballot boxes in Maricopa County — Arizona's most populous county — and rural Yavapai County as midterm elections near. Some voters have complained alleging voter intimidation after people watching the boxes took photos and videos, and followed voters.

Arizona law states electioneers and monitors must remain 75-foot from a voting location.

"Plaintiffs have not provided the Court with any evidence that Defendants' conduct constitutes a true threat," the judge wrote. "On this record, Defendants have not made any statements threatening to commit acts of unlawful violence to a particular individual or group of individuals."

The Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans said it was disappointed.

"We continue to believe that Clean Elections USA's intimidation and harassment is unlawful," it said, shortly before filing an appeal.

Liburdi issued his ruling two days after a hearing on the first of two similar cases. The attorney for Clean Elections USA had argued that such a broad restraining order would be unconstitutional.

A second lawsuit involving charges of voter intimidation at drop boxes in Arizona's Yavapai County has since been merged with the first one.

Sheriff's deputies are providing security around the two outdoor drop boxes in Maricopa County after a pair of people carrying guns and wearing bulletproof vests showed up at a box in the Phoenix suburb of Mesa. The county's other 24-hour outdoor drop box is at the Maricopa County Tabulation and Election Center in downtown Phoenix, which is now surrounded by a chain link fence.

Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich, a Republican, has called on voters to immediately report any intimidation to police and file a complaint with his office. Arizona's secretary of state this week said her office has received six cases of potential voter intimidation to the state attorney general and the U.S. Department of Justice, as well as a threatening email sent to the state elections director.

The U.S. attorney's office in Arizona has vowed to prosecute any violations of federal law but said local police were at the "front line in efforts to ensure that all qualified voters are able to exercise their right to vote free of intimidation or other election abuses."

Wisconsin ballot spoiling is a no-go after appeals court upholds ban

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — A Wisconsin appeals court is refusing to block a lower court's ruling prohibiting voters who already submitted an absentee ballot from voiding it and voting again, a rarely used practice known as ballot spoiling.

The 2nd District Court of Appeals decided Thursday against hearing an appeal of a Waukesha County circuit court judge's rul-

ing this month in favor of a conservative group founded by prominent Republicans.

That ruling required the bipartisan Wisconsin Elections Commission to rescind its guidance that allowed the spoiling of ballots that had already been cast. Voters who obtained an absentee ballot, but have not yet voted and want to obtain a new one, can still do that.

The elections commission held an emergency meeting Friday,

less than two weeks before the Nov. 8 election, and unanimously voted to rescind the guidance issued in August detailing how an already cast ballot could be spoiled.

Very few voters have actually spoiled their absentee ballots after voting in recent elections, data provided by the elections commission to The Associated Press shows.

In the August primary, just

3,519 people cast a new ballot after spoiling their original one, less than 0.3% of all votes cast, the data shows.

In the 2020 presidential election, nearly 33,000 voters spoiled their ballots and cast new ones, nearly 1% of all votes. In that election, President Joe Biden defeated former President Donald Trump by 20,682 votes.

In the 2018 midterm election, 369 ballots were spoiled and re-

cast, just .01% of all ballots.

There's no way to know how many of the spoiled ballots were from Democrats or Republicans since voters in Wisconsin do not register by party.

Wisconsin voters have been submitting absentee ballots by mail for weeks and in person since Monday. As of Friday, more than 397,000 ballots had been cast either by mail or in person, according to the elections commission.

NATION

Report shows US gathered intel on Ore. protesters

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. — U.S. Department of Homeland Security officials in the Trump administration compiled extensive intelligence dossiers on people who were arrested, even for minor offenses, during Black Lives Matter protests in Oregon.

Initial drafts of the dossiers even included friends of the subjects as well as their interests, but those were later removed and replaced with a note that they would be made available upon request, according to an internal review by the Department of Homeland Security.

The dossiers, known by agents as baseball cards, were previously normally compiled on non-U.S. citizens or only on Americans with “a demonstrated terrorism nexus,” according to the 76-page report. It was previously released last year but contains new revelations based on extensive redactions that were removed by the Biden administration.

Ben Wizner, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union’s free speech, privacy and technology project, said the report indicates leaders of the Department of Homeland Security wanted to

inflate the risk caused by protesters in Portland. The city became an epicenter of sometimes violent demonstrations in the wake of the killing of George Floyd, a Black man, by a Minneapolis police officer. But many protesters, including women belonging to a “Wall of Moms” ad hoc group and military veterans, were peaceful.

“We have a dark history of intelligence agencies collecting dossiers on protesters,” Wizner said over the phone from New York, referring to domestic spying in the 1960s and 1970s against civil rights activists, Vietnam War protesters and others.

“We need to be especially careful if agencies that are tasked with intelligence gathering are going to step in to look at protest activity and where Americans are exercising their First Amendment rights,” Wizner said.

Protesters who break the law aren’t immune from being investigated, Wizner said, but intelligence agencies should be careful not to create “a chilling environment” for Americans to legally exercise their right to dissent.

The report reveals actions carried out by the DHS’ Office of Intelligence and Analysis in June and July 2020, when militarized



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

A bloodied demonstrator is arrested by federal police during a Black Lives Matter protest on July 27, 2020, in Portland, Ore.

federal agents were deployed to Portland.

When the dossiers, officially known as Operational Background Reports, were being compiled, some DHS analysts voiced concerns over the legality of collecting intelligence “on protestors arrested for trivial criminal infractions having little to no connection to domestic terrorism,” the report said. Some of the employees even refused to participate.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, obtained the report with most redactions removed and provided it to reporters Thursday. Wyden, a member of the Senate select committee on intelli-

gence, criticized DHS leaders in the Trump administration for actions revealed in the document.

“Political DHS officials spied on Oregonians for exercising their First Amendment right to protest and justified it with baseless conspiracy theories,” Wyden said.

Brian Murphy, who was then the acting undersecretary of DHS’ intelligence unit, insisted on calling violent protesters “Violent Antifa Anarchists Inspired,” even though “overwhelming intelligence regarding the motivations or affiliations of the violent protesters did not exist,” according to the report.

Top DHS leaders even wanted

the department’s Office of Intelligence and Analysis to create dossiers on everyone participating in the Portland protests, but Murphy advised that the unit could only look at people who were arrested.

Surveillance was broadly used in other cities as well during the 2020 protests, with federal agencies sending unmanned drones and military aircraft to assist local law enforcement. But it’s not clear exactly how that surveillance was used: The ACLU filed a federal lawsuit against several government agencies seeking that information late last year, but the case is still underway in the Southern District of New York.

As fentanyl overdose deaths rise, mistaken beliefs persist

By GEOFF MULVIHILL
Associated Press

Lillianna Alfaro was a recent high school graduate raising a toddler and considering joining the Army when she and a friend bought what they thought was the anti-anxiety drug Xanax in December 2020.

The pills were fake and contained fentanyl, an opioid that can be 50 times as powerful as the same amount of heroin. It killed them both.

“Two years ago, I knew nothing about this,” said Holly Groelle, the mother of 19-year-old Alfaro, who lived in Appleton, Wis. “I felt bad because it was something I could not have warned her about, because I didn’t know.”

The drug that killed her daughter was rare a decade ago, but fentanyl and other lab-produced synthetic opioids now are driving an overdose crisis deadlier than any the U.S. has ever seen. Last year, overdoses from all drugs claimed more than 100,000 lives for the first time, and the deaths this year have remained at nearly the same level — more than gun and auto deaths combined.

The federal government counted more accidental overdose deaths in 2021 alone than it did in the 20-year period from 1979



DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION/AP

Los Angeles Field Division, shows some of the seized approximately 1 million fake pills containing fentanyl that were seized when agents served a search warrant, July 5 at a home in Inglewood, Calif.

through 1998. Overdoses in recent years have been many times more frequent than they were during the black tar heroin epidemic that led President Richard Nixon to launch his War on Drugs, or during the cocaine crisis in the 1980s.

As fentanyl gains attention, mistaken beliefs persist about the drug, how it is trafficked and why so many people are dying.

Experts believe deaths surged not only because the drugs are so powerful, but also

because fentanyl is laced into so many other illicit drugs, and not because of changes in how many people are using. In the late 2010s — the most recent period for which federal data is available — deaths were skyrocketing even as the number of people using opioids was dropping.

Advocates warn that some of the alarms being sounded by politicians and officials are wrong and potentially dangerous. Among those ideas: that tightening control of the U.S.-Mexico border would stop the flow of the drugs, though experts say the key to reining in the crisis is reducing drug demand; that fentanyl might turn up in kids’ trick-or-treat baskets this Halloween; and that merely touching the drug briefly can be fatal — something that researchers found untrue and that advocates worry can make first responders hesitate about giving life-saving treatment.

All three ideas were brought up this month in an online video billed as a pre-Halloween public service announcement from a dozen Republican U.S. senators.

A report this year from a bipartisan federal commission found that fentanyl and similar drugs are being made mostly in labs in Mexico from chemicals shipped primarily from China.

In New England, fentanyl has largely replaced the supply of heroin. Across the country, it’s being laced into drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamine, sometimes with deadly results. And in cases like Alfaro’s, it’s being mixed in Mexico or the U.S. with other substances and pressed into pills meant to look like other drugs.

The commission is calling for many of the measures that other advocates want to see, including better coordination of the federal response, targeted enforcement, and measures to prevent overdoses for those who use drugs.

The federal government has been funding efforts along those lines. It also publicizes big fentanyl seizures by law enforcement, though it’s believed that even the largest busts make small dents in the national drug supply.

The commission stopped short of calling for increased penalties for selling fentanyl. Bryce Pardo, associate director of the RAND Drug Policy Research Center and a commission staff member, said such a measure would not likely deter the drug trade. But, he said, dealers who sell the products most likely to cause death — such as mixing fentanyl into cocaine or pressing it into fake Xanax — could be targeted effectively.

NATION



J. EMILIO FLORES, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES/AP

Maurice Hastings hears instructions at a hearing at Los Angeles Superior Court where a judge dismissed his conviction for murder after new DNA evidence exonerated him, Oct. 20 in Los Angeles.

DNA evidence frees Calif. man imprisoned for decades

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A man who spent more than 38 years behind bars for a 1983 murder and two attempted murders has been released from a California prison after long-untested DNA evidence pointed to a different person, the Los Angeles County district attorney said Friday.

The conviction of Maurice Hastings, 69, and a life sentence were vacated during an Oct. 20 court hearing at the request of prosecutors and his lawyers from the Los Angeles Innocence Project at California State University, Los Angeles.

“I prayed for many years that this day would come,” Hastings said at a news conference Friday, adding: “I am not pointing fingers; I am not standing up here a bitter man, but I just want to enjoy my life now while I have it.”

“What has happened to Mr. Hastings is a terrible injustice,”

District Attorney George Gascón said in a statement. “The justice system is not perfect, and when we learn of new evidence which causes us to lose confidence in a conviction, it is our obligation to act swiftly.”

The victim in the case, Roberta Wydermyer, was sexually assaulted and killed by a single gunshot to the head, authorities said. Her body was found in the trunk of her vehicle in the Los Angeles suburb of Inglewood.

Hastings was charged with special-circumstance murder and the district attorney’s office sought the death penalty but the jury deadlocked. A second jury convicted him and he was sentenced in 1988 to life in prison without possibility of parole.

Hastings has maintained he was innocent since the time of his arrest.

At the time of the victim’s autopsy, the coroner conducted a

sexual assault examination and semen was detected in an oral swab, the district attorney’s statement said.

Hastings sought DNA testing in 2000 but at that time the DA’s office denied the request. Hastings submitted a claim of innocence to the DA’s Conviction Integrity Unit last year and DNA testing last June found that the semen was not his.

The DNA profile was put into a state database this month and was matched to a person who was convicted of an armed kidnapping in which a female victim was placed in a vehicle’s trunk as well as the forced oral copulation of a woman.

That suspect, whose name was not released, died in prison in 2020.

The district attorney’s office said it is working with police to further investigate the involvement of the dead person in the case.

Musk now gets his chance to clean up Twitter spam, bots

BY MATT O'BRIEN
Associated Press

Twitter’s unending fight against spam accounts is now a problem for new owner Elon Musk, who pledged in April to defeat the bot scourge or “die trying!”

He later cited bots as a reason to back out of buying the social platform. Now that the billionaire has completed the deal, he’s faced with

the task of delivering on his promise to clean up the fake profiles that have preoccupied him and bedeviled Twitter since long before he expressed interest in acquiring it.



Musk

The challenge carries high stakes. The bot count matters because advertisers — Twitter’s chief revenue source — want to know roughly how many real humans they are reaching when they buy ads. It’s also important in the effort to stop bad actors from amassing an army of accounts to amplify misinformation or harass political adversaries.

“The bigger picture in my mind is: How do we make Twitter a better place for everybody,” said bot-counting expert Emilio Ferrara, who worked over the summer to investigate the problem for Musk. He cited the “value of the platform as a societal experience, as a collective place to have civilized discourse and talk freely without interference from nefarious accounts,” or scams, spam, pornography and harassment.

To find out just how bad the bots are, Musk hired Ferrara and other data scientists to investigate. At the time, he sought to prove that Twitter was misleading the public when

it said fewer than 5% of its daily active users are fake or spam accounts. If Twitter lied or withheld crucial information about the bot count, Musk could argue that he was justified in terminating the \$44 billion agreement.

Ferrara, an associate professor of computer science and communications at the University of Southern California, said he had no real interest in whether Musk ultimately ended up owning the platform.

Instead, he hoped that “any findings would be able to help improve the platform,” Ferrara told The Associated Press, speaking for the first time about his planned role as Musk’s expert trial witness.

The question now is what Musk will do with that information. Ferrara’s presentation — some 350 pages of analysis and supporting documents — is locked up in confidential court filings, and he said he can’t disclose his conclusions.

Twitter’s former leaders and its lawyers said Musk wildly exaggerated the problem because he had buyer’s remorse. Precise counts are “almost impossible” because any bot estimate is based on assumptions that can lead to bias, said Filippo Menczer, a researcher who was not working for either side in the dispute.

“Nobody knows exactly how bad the problem is,” said Menczer, director of Indiana University’s Observatory on Social Media. “I would guess it’s not as bad as Musk said and not as good as Twitter claimed.”

Many experts also doubt Musk’s ability to easily make improvements, which he’s suggested would rely on using algorithms to track and remove fake accounts and implementing new measures to “authenticate” real people.

Meta ordered to pay \$10.5M in legal fees to Washington state

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Facebook parent company Meta has been ordered to pay \$10.5 million in legal fees to Washington state atop a nearly \$25 million fine for repeated and intentional violations of campaign finance disclosure laws.

King County Superior Court Judge Douglass North issued the legal-fee order Friday, two days after he hit the social media giant with what is believed to be the largest campaign finance fine in U.S. history, The Seattle Times report-

ed. North ordered the company to pay by wire transfer, check or money order within 30 days. The money is to go to the state Public Disclosure Commission, which enforces campaign finance laws.

North imposed the maximum fine allowed for more than 800 violations of Washington state’s Fair Campaign Practices Act, passed by voters in 1972 and later strengthened by the Legislature. Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson argued that the maximum was appropriate considering

his office previously sued Facebook in 2018 for violating the same law.

Meta, based in Menlo Park, Calif., did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment, the newspaper reported. The company previously said it was assessing its options with respect to the ruling.

Washington state’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 requests it. Television stations and newspapers have complied with the law for decades.

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 state’s law.

In 2018, following Ferguson’s first lawsuit, Facebook agreed to pay \$238,000 and committed to transparency in campaign finance and political advertising. It subsequently said it would stop selling political ads in the state rather than comply with the requirements.

Nevertheless, the company continued selling political ads, and Ferguson sued again in 2020.

WORLD

Royal Navy investigating claims of sexual assault

Associated Press

LONDON — The head of Britain's Royal Navy said he is "deeply disturbed" by allegations that female submariners were bullied and sexually harassed and has ordered an investigation.

The Daily Mail newspaper carried claims Saturday by former navy Lt. Sophie Brook that she faced "a constant campaign of sexual bul-

lying" as well as physical assaults. She said male crew members on submarines were "like vultures whenever a new female would come in."

Brook alleged the men kept a "crush depth rape list" ranking female colleagues in the order they should be raped in the case of a catastrophic event.

Brook, 30, left the Royal Navy

earlier this year and was later given a suspended jail sentence for sharing in an email sensitive information about her submarine's movement.

The newspaper quoted another, anonymous, navy whistleblower as saying women were constantly pestered for sex aboard submarines.

Women make up about 10% of full-time Royal Navy personnel and

have been eligible to serve on submarines since 2011.

The head of the navy, Adm. Ben Key, said "these allegations are abhorrent."

"Sexual assault and harassment has no place in the Royal Navy and will not be tolerated," he said in a statement.

"I have directed my senior team to investigate these allegations

thoroughly. Anyone who is found culpable will be held accountable for their actions regardless of their rank or status," Key said.

The Ministry of Defense did not comment on specific allegations but said it accepted that more needs to be done about inappropriate behavior. It said it is improving reporting mechanisms for sexual offenses.

Europe's energy crisis raises price of firewood, theft fears

Associated Press

CHISINAU, Moldova — Tudor Popescu swings his ax down on a log, then feeds the split wood into a stove that heats his home in the capital of Moldova. As the nights turn chilly, the stack of firewood has been growing higher around him — his provisions for the coming winter.

In the past, Popescu relied on natural gas to keep warm in the mornings and firewood in the evenings. But gas is now in shorter supply, creating a crisis in his small Eastern European country.

"I won't use gas anymore, so it's going to only be wood," Popescu said. "But what I have isn't enough."

Europe's energy crisis, triggered by Russia slashing natural gas flows amid its war against Ukraine, has forced some people to turn to cheaper heating sources like firewood as the weather gets colder. But as more people stock up and burn wood, prices have skyrocketed, shortages and thefts have been reported, and scams are emerging. Foresters are putting GPS devices into logs to track the valuable stocks, and fears are rising about the environmental impact of increased air pollution and tree-cutting.

In the former Soviet republic of Moldova, leaders worry that this winter could be devastating for many of its people because of the

high cost of electricity and heat, with European natural gas prices roughly triple what they were in early 2021 despite falling from August's record highs. Europe's poorest country, with pro-Western aspirations but part of its territory controlled by Russian troops, has seen Russian energy giant Gazprom slash natural gas supplies by 30% recently and threaten more cuts.

The clamor for firewood is not limited to poorer nations like Moldova but has surged across richer regions of Europe, too. Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic's state-owned forests are seeing much stronger demand for the limited amounts of firewood they sell as part of their sustainable forest management.

Often it's coming from people who have never ordered firewood before and seem unaware that it needs to be purchased two years ahead so it can dry out enough to be burned in wood stoves, according to the forest service in southwest Germany's state of Hesse.

German forest rangers also are seeing more people gathering fallen wood in forests, often not knowing it's illegal.

Czech state forests, which sell wood only for household consumption, have had to limit the amount of firewood sold to individuals to prevent speculative purchases.

In Poland, demand for small firewood from state forests grew 46%



PHOTOS BY AUREL OBREJA/AP

Tudor Popescu chops firewood he uses for heating his home in Chisinau, Moldova, Oct. 15.



Popescu feeds the firewood into a stove in the storage room attached to his home in Chisinau, Oct. 15.

and larger firewood was up 42% through the end of August from that of a year earlier. This was even before fall, when demand for firewood is highest.

"There is, of course, an increased

interest in firewood in forest districts because today it is the cheapest fuel available," said Michal Gzowski, spokesman for Poland's State Forests. "Small firewood is probably the cheapest heating ma-

terial in the EU countries."

He said theft of firewood, which has always existed to some extent, is rising.

To deter theft, the forestry department in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia is experimenting with hiding GPS tracking devices in logs, spokeswoman Nicole Fiegler said.

There hasn't been a sudden rash of large-scale thefts, but the recent price increases have stirred fears from small forest plot holders, who could face major losses if a stack of logs gets swiped.

"It's more a situation of anxiety and fears," Fiegler said, noting the increased value of firewood.

Foresters in the neighboring Hesse region have been using GPS trackers since 2013 and say they have been able to solve several thefts that way.

Two explosions rock Somalia's capital, leaving 'scores' dead

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Two car bombs exploded Saturday at a busy junction in Somalia's capital near key government offices, leaving "scores of civilian casualties," police told state media. The attack came five years after a massive blast at the same location.

The Somalia National News Agency cited national police

spokesman Sadiq Dodishe on the toll. The attack in Mogadishu occurred on a day when the president, prime minister and other senior officials were meeting to discuss combating violent extremism, especially by the al-Qaida-affiliated al-Shabab group that often targets the capital.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

An Associated Press journalist at the scene saw "many" bodies and said they appeared to be civilians traveling on public transport. He said the second blast occurred in front of a busy restaurant. Images from the scene showed crushed tuk-tuks and other vehicles.

The director of the Aamin ambulance service told the AP they had collected many wounded or

killed. One of the ambulances responding to the attack was destroyed by the second blast, Abdulkadir Adan added in a tweet.

The Somali Journalists Syndicate said one journalist was killed and two others wounded.

The attack occurred at Zobe junction, which was the scene of a huge al-Shabab truck bombing in 2017 that killed more than 500 people.

Al-Shabab often targets high-profile locations. Saturday's blast occurred near the education ministry, which the extremists stormed in 2015, and the foreign ministry.

Somalia's government has been engaged in a high-profile new offensive against the extremist group that the United States has described as one of al-Qaida's deadliest organizations.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Biker's backpack ignites when trooper uses Taser

AR NORTH LITTLE ROCK — An Arkansas motorcyclist carrying a gasoline-filled backpack was expected to survive after he was engulfed by a fireball when a state trooper used a Taser on him during a traffic stop, authorities said.

The Oct. 13 traffic stop was captured on dramatic dashcam video provided to The Associated Press by Arkansas State Police.

The video shows a trooper attempting to pull over a motorcycle driven by Christopher Gaylor, 38, of Alexander, Ark., because no license plate was visible on the motorcycle. A chase ensued with speeds approaching 100 mph until Gaylor jumped from his motorcycle in a residential area of North Little Rock, state police said.

A second state trooper used a Taser on Gaylor and a fire immediately erupted. State police said they later learned that Gaylor was carrying about 1 gallon of gasoline in his backpack.

Gaylor remains hospitalized but is expected to recover, state police said. He faces charges of felony fleeing, failure to register a vehicle, no liability insurance, driving with a suspended license and reckless driving.

NY Post fires employee for 'vile' Twitter takeover

NY NEW YORK — The New York Post fired an employee for putting false and racist content targeting politicians on the newspaper's website and Twitter feed.

The tweets and fake news stories included calls for the assassinations of President Joe Biden and U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, both Democrats. False tweets had New York's Republican candidate for governor, Lee Zeldin, making violent statements about Gov. Kathy Hochul and hurling racist slurs at New York City Mayor Eric Adams.

Another false tweet had Texas Gov. Greg Abbott saying he would "order Border Patrol to start slaughtering illegals."

The Post, in a statement, said its investigation concluded the acts were committed by an employee, who was fired, and that it removed the content from its website and social media accounts.

Pickax-wielding woman smashes home's windows

CA PASADENA — A woman was arrested after police said she used a pickax to smash several windows of a home where a baby was sleeping in suburban Southern California.

Home security video aired by ABC 7 in Los Angeles showed the woman on the front porch of the home in Pasadena, swinging the pickax and smashing window after window.

Homeowner Arman Tchouka-



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

Blades and a bridge

A roller-blader glides across a boulder bridge Thursday in Rock Creek Park, a forested oasis in downtown Washington, D.C.

darian told the news station that his mother-in-law was babysitting his 6-week-old daughter at the time, who was sleeping by a window.

Police arrested a 65-year-old woman who officials said owns property nearby.

Police Commander Bill Grisafe said there was no known relationship between the suspect and the victims and the woman might have suffered "some type of mental health crisis."

Father, son convicted in assault over Pokemon Go

MO CLAYTON — A Missouri jury has convicted a father and son for attacking a Pokemon Go rival in a dispute that ended with all three men in a lake.

The St. Louis County jury found Robert Matteuzzi, 75, and Angelo Matteuzzi, 33, guilty of third-degree assault. Jurors recommended a sentence of three days in jail and a fine for the father, and only a fine for the son.

In June 2018, the Matteuzzis were on one team and the victim was on another. Both teams wanted to claim a Kirkwood Park gym — a site in the game where teams can compete for control.

After a scuffle, Angelo Matteuzzi and the victim rolled into a lake. Prosecutors said Robert Matteuzzi jumped in, dunked the victim and held him underwater while his son punched him. The victim

suffered facial abrasions and other injuries, including to his eye.

State begins removing naughty license plates

ME PORTLAND — Maine is cleaning up its roadways by removing the flip-pin' vulgarities from license plates.

The state is enforcing new rules to eliminate f-bombs and other obscenities that appeared on vanity license plates after the state effectively eliminated its review process.

The state began issuing recall letters this month, with a handful each day. It'll take a couple of months to complete the process.

Secretary of State Shenna Bellows is passionate about free speech as a former director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine. But she said obscenities should not be on license plates, which are state property.

"What I would say to those who want to engage in objectionable or questionable speech: Get a bumper sticker," she said.

Man drowns after fleeing police, jumping in pond

OK TULSA — A naked suspect in a Tulsa apartment clubhouse burglary broke from their custody, jumped into a pond and drowned, police said.

In a social media posting, Tulsa

police said officers answering a burglar alarm at the Shoreline Apartments clubhouse found its front door shattered and a naked man inside with his wet clothing strewn around the room.

Officers handcuffed the man, who initially was cooperative but suddenly broke from them, kicked open a back door, scaled a patio railing and jumped into a pond. Officers jumped in after him, but the man failed to resurface.

A dive team later found the man's body in 10 feet of chilly, murky water.

Police were withholding the man's identity until they could notify his relatives.

Huffing driver convicted in crash that killed family

FL WEST PALM BEACH — A young man who killed a family in a high-speed crash after ingesting household dust cleaner has been convicted of vehicular homicide.

Jurors found Paul Streater, now 25, guilty of four counts of vehicular homicide in the 2018 crash, which killed a family visiting Florida from Mexico and Argentina.

Prosecutors said Streater, who was in rehabilitation for drug abuse at the time, was on a "euphoric" high from huffing a can of household dust cleaner and traveling at speeds reaching 100 mph when he crashed into the family's minivan in Delray Beach.

Assistant State Attorney Storm

Tropea said Streater faces up to 40 years in prison in the deaths of Jorge Raschiotto, 50, his sister Veronica Raschiotto, 42, and her two children, Diego, 8, and Mia, 6.

Defense attorney Samuel Halpern told jurors that the chemical found in Streater's bloodstream was inadvertently ingested due to the car having been cleaned and detailed that day.

He also argued that a "catastrophic" malfunction caused Streater's vehicle to accelerate and left him unable to stop.

7-year-old child brings gun to school

MA BOSTON — Police and school officials in Boston are trying to figure out how a 7-year-old child managed to bring a loaded gun to a city school.

Police responded to UP Academy Holland in the city's Dorchester neighborhood for a report of a student with a firearm, police said in a statement on the department's website. Responding officers confiscated the weapon.

No injuries were reported.

"I'm speechless. I don't have the words. This is truly devastating," Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper said in a statement. "We have to ask ourselves how a very young student becomes in possession of and gains access to a firearm."

Police are still investigating.

From Associated Press

MUSIC REVIEWS

Out of the woods

Taylor Swift's 'Midnights' heralds the return of a pop-music mastermind

BY MIKAEL WOOD
Los Angeles Times

Taylor Swift's pin-sharp new album, "Midnights," closes with a song in which the pop superstar patiently explains to someone — perhaps many millions of someones — that their intimate relationship wasn't a product of kismet but of design.

"I laid the groundwork," she sings over a blippy electronic groove, her voice edging slightly ahead of the beat, "and then just like clockwork the dominoes cascaded in a line." The tune is called "Mastermind," which is what Swift calls herself in the chorus, neatly rhyming the word with "now you're mine." And plenty of its characteristic detail can make you think she's describing a romance. But "Mastermind" is also about Swift's one-of-a-kind career — about the deliberation and the ingenuity of the moves that took the 32-year-old from being a teenage country phenom to being one of the two or three biggest acts in all of music.

"No one wanted to play with me as a little kid," she sings near the end of "Mastermind," which might be the saddest and funniest line on an LP teeming with both kinds, "so I've been scheming like a criminal ever since to make them love me and make it seem effortless." (Take a second to savor the intricate rhythm of those words before you've even heard them

SEE SWIFT ON PAGE 13



Taylor Swift
Midnights (Republic)



VALERIE MACON/TNS

On her latest album, "Midnights," singer Taylor Swift, photographed Sept. 9 at the Toronto International Film Festival, ponders the delights and anxieties of her own celebrity.

Meghan Trainor

Takin' It Back (Epic Records)

Meghan Trainor is back with that doo-wop style of music that made her famous, but this time adding a twist to it.

Her new album isn't your usual journey of self love; this is a more mature Trainor. Riding the ups and downs we all secretly experience, moments of bursting confidence to self doubt and sadness with a sprinkle of reassuring reality.

Like in her single "Don't I Make It Look Easy," Meghan talks about filtering the truth and showing the best part of herself to the world, even when it just feels like a straight-out lie.

Since her last album, Trainor has done some growth of her own, getting married and becoming a mom, and she's imparting all that she learned on the way.



Beginning to end, this album feels like a therapy session. With her lyrics, Trainor is holding the mirror to our fears, as well as being a wise voice for the rainy days.

Don't get me wrong. Like in life, this album is not just slow songs about self reflection; it's also an uplifting, fun experience.

Like in the single "Made You Look," where a loud and sexier Trainor sings "I could wear my Louis Vuitton, but even with nothin' on, bet I made you look."

The music video is a family affair, featuring the singer's best friend and Tik-Tokker Chris Olsen and former "Spy Kids" actor and her husband, Daryl Sabara.

Moreover, Trainor experiments through different music genres, like in the track "Mama Wanna Mambo." Featuring Dominican singer Natti Natasha and Cuban-American musician Arturo Sandoval, it's sure to raise your dancing fever.

In the 12th track "While You're Young," Trainor's lyrics feel like that familiar

voice in our head we always ignore, sometimes even involuntarily.

She tries to shake all the worries away and asks us to be more vulnerable.

"You've only just begun and you're good enough / And I know it doesn't help with the pain, but have you ever tried to dance in the rain? / You're not the only one who's feelin' this way."

The album ends with the slow song "Final Breath," which brings you back to the center of your emotions, just like the best therapy session would do right before sending you out into the real world.

Meghan sings "If I could, I'd do it all over again," and as you end this fluctuation of genres and feelings, you feel reassured that you are not going through all of this alone.

— Matrina Inchingolo
Associated Press

MUSIC REVIEWS



TERRY WYATT/TNS

Taylor Swift, shown Sept. 20 at the Nashville Songwriter Awards in Nashville, returns to an earlier Swift mode on “Midnights” in both sonic and lyrical terms, with slick, beat-heavy arrangements.

Swift: Singer returns with strong collection

FROM PAGE 12
set to music.)

Pondering the delights and the anxieties of her own celebrity has been a hallmark of Swift’s work for years — or at least it was until 2020, when she set aside much of the autobiographical life-of-a-pop-star stuff for the ostensibly fictional character-driven narratives of her twin pandemic albums, “Folklore” and “Evermore.” Full of songs about small-town grifters and awkward high-school kids and unhappily married people — even a murderer — those projects also radically recast her sound, veering away from the synthed-up productions that sent her up the Hot 100 toward a rootsy, mostly acoustic vibe she formulated with Aaron Dessner of the indie-rock band the National.

Swift suggested that the isolation of the pandemic had set her imagination free; certainly, the music’s smaller scale reflected the demands of remote collaboration. Yet “Midnights,” her 10th studio full-length, returns to an earlier Swift mode in both sonic and lyrical terms: This 13-track set, which she produced with her longtime creative partner Jack Antonoff, feels like it picks up right where 2014’s “1989” and 2017’s “Reputation” left off, with slick, beat-heavy arrangements that seem dimly aware of hip-hop’s existence and with lyrics peppered with juicy allusions to Swift’s various high-profile feuds and love affairs.

It’s easy in a sense to understand why she took this approach, given that she spent 2021 rerecording her albums “Fearless” and “Red” as part of a plan to create new versions of the LPs she lost partial control of when her old record label changed hands.

As meticulous a diarist as pop

has ever known, Swift has clearly been thinking — thinking more than usual — about her journey and about her younger selves; “Nothing New,” one of many freshly recorded outtakes she included on “Red (Taylor’s Version),” captures a woman in her 30s confronting her 20-something suspicions about how her chosen industry would treat her as she aged out of ingenue-hood.

“Midnights” opens with the steamy, R&B-adjacent “Lavender Haze,” in which Swift laments the scrutiny she’s under as a famous person dating another famous person (in her case, the English actor Joe Alwyn); the song — co-written by and featuring background vocals from actress Zoë Kravitz — seeks a safe space removed from a realm where her loose talk threatens to “go viral,” as she puts it. In “Anti-Hero,” over Antonoff’s buzzing synths and booming ’80s-rock drums, she weighs the public’s harshest opinions of her, copping to a “covert narcissism” and admitting that sometimes she feels like “a monster on the hill ... slowly lurching toward your favorite city.”

The vicious and shimmering “Karma” seemingly takes aim at the powerful music executive Scooter Braun, who engineered the label purchase that spawned Swift’s rerecording enterprise: “Spiderboy, king of thieves / Weave your little webs of opacity,” she sings — heed the conspicuous “S” and “B” in “Spiderboy” — before describing what she views as her cosmic advantage with a series of vivid metaphors: “Karma is my boyfriend / Karma is a god / Karma is the breeze in my hair on the weekend.” The breeze in her hair on the weekend! Good night, Spiderboy.

Swift’s storytelling impulse

isn’t dead on “Midnights,” which she’s said grew out of her bent toward wee-hours contemplation. “Midnight Rain,” a slow and woozy number with pitch-shifted vocals, narrates a tale of a guy and a girl with differing life goals, neither of whom appear to be Swift or Alwyn; ditto “Maroon,” in which the guy and girl get drunk off her roommate’s “cheap-ass screw-top rosé.”

Then there’s the pulpy, Billie Eilish-ish “Vigilante S—,” about a woman who helps a betrayed wife get revenge on her dirtbag husband.

Yet the songwriting and the vocal performances here are so strong — she’s playing with cadence and emphasizing the grain of her voice like never before — that eventually you stop caring what’s drawn directly from Swift’s real life and what’s not. It’s just a pleasure to get lost in tunes like “Labyrinth,” in which the singer explores her fear of falling in love again, and “Snow on the Beach,” a gorgeous duet with Lana Del Rey with some of the album’s most affecting imagery: “My smile is like I won a contest,” Swift sings in regards to a surprising new fling, and that’s all you need to conjure the precise picture in your head.

She paints another indelible picture in “Mastermind,” referring to herself as “the wind in our free-flowing sails” after she offers context for why she’s been so thorough in her interactions with her boyfriend (or her audience). “All the wisest women had to do it this way ‘cause we were born to be the pawn in every lover’s game,” she sings.

Then she takes a breath and adds: “If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.”

Only Swift could make a self-help slogan sound like a fairy tale.

Tyler Childers

Can I Take My Hounds to Heaven?
(Hickman Holler Records/RCA)

Tyler Childers does what he wants when he wants, and while he’d like you to buy his music, he probably doesn’t care what you think. His last album followed two best-selling country records with an utterly non-commercial deep dive into traditional Appalachian melody.

So it comes as no surprise that on his latest offering, “Can I Take My Hounds to Heaven?,” the red-headed Kentucky native has something different in mind. Or that he does it with fearless exuberance.

This time, Childers has taken eight songs about faith and produced each three different ways. There’s the straightforward “Hallelujah Version,” featuring his fabulous touring band, the Food Stamps. There’s the “Jubilee Version,” which dials up the production with boisterous horns, background vocals and over-the-top attitude. And there’s the “Joyful Noise Version,” an eclectic set that mixes spoken-word samples ranging from Andy Griffith to Thomas Merton with rhythmic, off-the-wall sonic experimentation.

The album is built on a gospel foundation, but Childers’ faith is more about love than judgment. Everybody’s welcome in his heaven.

The repeat takes give the album a behind-the-curtains feel, offering intriguing glimpses into the creative range of Childers and his band. Still, Childers might’ve had a more compelling album if he’d made some painful choices.

The Hallelujah versions are generally the best because his band is so sure-footed, though at times the “Jubilee” takes are soaring — on a song called “Angel Band” in particular. A couple of the “Joyful Noise” takes might have worked better in a mix, but including all eight here feels indulgent. The best of them might be the muscular, anthemic jam-session take on “Heart You Been Tendin’,” but it would’ve had more power as a closer if we hadn’t already heard the same song twice.

But that brings us back to where we started. Childers probably doesn’t care what we think. He’s fine going his own way as one of country music’s most compelling and unpredictable artists, saying his piece about faith.

He’ll bring us all along if we care to join him, but he knows where he’s headed — and it turns out to be another wild ride.

— Scott Stroud
Associated Press



Carly Rae Jepsen

The Loneliest Time (Interscope Records)

Dating in the 21st century might be a lonely time, but Carly Rae Jepsen has found a way to make an album around those experiences that’s as bright and hopeful as it is grounded. From the euphoric “Sideways” to the heart-break of “Go Find Yourself or Whatever,” on her sixth studio album, “The Loneliest Time,” the 36-year-old makes one thing clear: It’s rough out there in the dating world.

While the themes of “The Loneliest Time” are timeless, there’s a specificity to the experiences that reflect the modern age. Jepsen’s second single from the album, “Beach House,” is the best example of this. The kitschy song mirrors the experience of endless scrolling on dating apps.

After describing a myriad of bad dating experiences and pleading with men to not view dating as hunting season, male vocals join in with tongue-in-cheek promises that get more preposterous as they go, from “I’m probably gonna never call you” to “I’m probably gonna harvest your organs.” It’s a sure-to-be camp classic from the Canadian pop icon.

Despite what are certainly lows described on “Beach House,” Jepsen’s optimism on “Surrender My Heart” shows she hasn’t given up on love quite yet. A highlight of the album, the synth bop opener finds her embracing vulnerability.

Throughout the LP are disco and ’80s influences, heard most strongly on the title track and “Far Away.” The pop anthems for which Jepsen is known are not in short supply, with softer tracks like “Bends” and “Go Find Yourself or Whatever” sprinkled in between. “Go Find Yourself or Whatever” is endearing in its empathy, opening with an acoustic guitar and building to include an electric guitar, mandolin and sitar.

“The Loneliest Time” is a collection of songs that encompass the highs and lows of searching for love, a journey full of second chances, mistakes and elation. It can be lonely at times, but as she articulates on the opener, her past experiences haven’t stopped her from opening her heart: “I wanna be brave enough for everything.”

— Ragan Clark
Associated Press



BOOKS

The Cinderella of rock 'n' roll music

In his memoir, 'Lives of Brian,' AC/DC lead singer Johnson recounts how he got his start, never gave up on his dream

BY MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

Before he began tearing the roof off arenas as lead singer of hard rock icon AC/DC, Brian Johnson was fixing roofs.

In his new memoir, the "Hells Bells" singer recounts how he went from being a vinyl car roof fitter in the northeast of England to leading one of the most hailed bands in the world.

It's a Cinderella story.

Only Johnson, now 75, was a Cinderella at least three times, never giving up on his dream of singing in a rock 'n' roll band.

"I don't know what it is, I just never, ever sort of gave in," he said recently by phone from his

home in Florida. "I was always willing to give something a shot when more pessimistic people wouldn't have. I always thought the glass was half-full."

"The Lives of Brian" goes chronologically through his ups and downs growing up near Newcastle, ending with him joining AC/DC and recording the band's seminal "Back in Black" album.

"It wasn't so much to validate my life," he said of the book. "It was to validate the lives of all the wonderful people that I met that helped shape my life — friends from school, friends at the factories, friends in the music."

Music was his North Star and he recalls first hearing Little Richard sing "Awop



JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP

Brian Johnson of AC/DC, shown in 2021, says his memoir, "The Lives of Brian," isn't meant to validate his life, but is to validate the lives of those who helped shape his life.

bop/a-loo bop/awop bam boom" at 11 and freaking out. "Many have described that song, 'Tutti Frutti,' as the sound of rock 'n' roll being born — which is fitting, because my dream of becoming a singer was born in that moment, too," he writes.

Johnson was an apprentice engineer who sang on the side and was a young father and husband. To earn enough money for a PA system, he joined an airborne infantry regiment of the British Army.

He attended one of Jimi Hendrix's first shows in Britain, saw Sting perform when the soon-to-be-star of The Police was 15 and made friends with members of Slade and Thin Lizzy. He would meet Chuck Berry, but it didn't go well. "Never meet your heroes," he writes.

Johnson, who would later pen the immortal lines "Forget the hearse / 'cause I'll never die," made his live debut in the deliciously named The Toasty Folk Trio,

survived a horrific car crash and finally found some success in the band Geordie.

The band made it to the "Top of the Pops" — a show that was a crowning achievement for any nascent band. He gave up a good career at his engineering firm, but Geordie had only one Top 10 hit and soon fizzled out.

"At the age of 28, I'd lost everything. My marriage, my career, my house," he writes. He moved in with his parents and recalls once watching AC/DC on BBC. "I loved every second of it. But, of course, it was also a reminder that I'd had my shot and blown it."

Johnson rebuilt his life, becoming a windscreen fitter — later a car roof fixer — and founded Geordie II. He was happy. He had a little business and a little band. "I thought that was my second Cinderella story, but there was more to come," he says.

Still, part of Johnson was unfulfilled. It was a meeting with singer Roger Daltrey that proved pivotal. The Who's frontman invited Johnson — then living with his band in an apartment with just four mattresses on the floor — over for a meal at his manor house.

"He said, 'I'm going to give you one piece of advice, Brian. Never give up. Do you understand me? Never, ever give up.' And I really took that to heart," Johnson recalled. "He's probably forgotten that he said that, but I didn't."

Bon Scott, the original lead singer of AC/DC, died in 1980, and Johnson got an audition to replace him based on recommendations, including from Scott himself, who had heard him sing one night. Only years later did Johnson realize they'd met.

Johnson's editor, Rowland White, an author whose most recent novel is "Into the Black," said the shape of Johnson's story is "extraordinary because it doesn't usually happen like that." "He was happy with the idea that he'd given it a shot and he made his peace with that. And it's what makes the shot at AC/DC somehow more joyful because it was no longer something that he was straining for," White said.

The book ends just as Johnson finally achieves his lifetime goal. If fans are hoping for more about the origins of AC/DC, he argues that's not his story to tell — it's for surviving members guitarist Angus Young, bassist Cliff Williams and drummer Phil Rudd. "That book belongs to the persons who were there from the start because that's what I want to hear," he said.

Harry Potter's Felton reflects on stardom in 'Beyond the Wand'

BY THOMAS FLOYD
The Washington Post

"Beyond the Wand," Tom Felton's self-portrait of child stardom and adulthood aimlessness, follows beats not unlike the arc of his Harry Potter performances. As Slytherin bully Draco Malfoy, Felton delivered a requisite amount of sneering during the eight-movie series' early installments, then cast a more nuanced spell in the last few films. Such is the rhythm of the 35-year-old actor's memoir, subtitled "The Magic and Mayhem of Growing Up a Wizard": After offering many a rote recollection from the saga, he summons his demons and delves deep in the final pages.

That introspection, about Felton's more recent struggles with drugs and alcohol, elevates what otherwise would be a diverting but disposable tome of Harry Potter trivia. Still, if you don't know a horcrux from a hippogriff, feel free to move along — "Beyond the Wand" should only be assigned reading for Hogwarts completists.

That's partially because Felton liberally pulls from the wizarding lexicon, referring to his parents and three older brothers as his "Muggle family" and recalling how Harry Potter props "miraculously apparated" inside one mischievous sibling's bag. But it's mostly because Felton's on-set observations feel painstakingly curated.

Although he has little to say about the Harry Potter filmmakers (aside from original director Chris Columbus) and dances around touchier matters (such as co-star Jamie Waylett's arrest and franchise exit), Felton does drop endearing tidbits about the movies' parade of British acting royalty.

Michael Gambon is the subject of a charming story from the filming of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood

Prince," when he and Felton shared a smoke between takes of Dumbledore's death scene. Felton also recounts Hagrid actor Robbie Coltrane's playful streak and marvels at Jason Isaacs for being able to flip a switch from the heinous Lucius Malfoy to his gentler real-life persona. An anecdote in which Felton draws Alan Rickman's ire by trampling on his flowing robes amuses, as does the disarming thought of the Snape actor lining up for lunch on set.



"I was rather intimidated by Alan from day one," Felton writes. "But seeing him wait patiently, in full Snape mode, for his sausage sandwich took the edge off just a little."

When it comes to being cast as Draco and rocketing to global fame, Felton is self-aware about his good fortune and cautions that he was "born enthusiastic rather than talented." He's more generous toward his youthful cohorts, lauding Daniel Radcliffe for playing Harry with dedication to his craft and portraying Rupert Grint as an easygoing goof with a big heart — not unlike Ron Weasley. But he has the most to say about Hermione Granger actress Emma Watson, whom he acknowledges had to navigate altogether different terrain in a world that unfairly sexualizes female stars. Dutifully, if vaguely, he addresses their long-standing dating rumors: "I've always had a secret love for Emma, though not perhaps in the way that people might want to hear."

For a book so dominated by Harry Potter — down to the chapter titles, which are chock full of Easter eggs — it's Felton's experiences outside the Wizarding World that

make "Beyond the Wand" worth reading. His brothers come across as colorful characters whose ribbing went a long way toward keeping Felton grounded. And Felton's disastrous audition alongside Anthony Hopkins for the 2012 film "Hitchcock" is deliciously cringeworthy.

When Felton finally opens up on his personal struggles, the change in tone isn't entirely unexpected. Earlier, he alludes to the uneasy burdens of being a teen star — including receiving a death threat when he was 15 — while also citing his problems with tutoring and a few brushes with the law. As Felton details his post-Harry Potter life in Southern California, grinding through the audition circuit, he paints a striking picture of a well-adjusted actor beaten down by Hollywood's superficiality.

"Beyond the Wand" finds greater purpose when Felton explains how he fell into his drinking habits, and chronicles the intervention that shook his world. His experience sneaking out of rehab and wandering the Pacific Coast Highway, trying to find his way back to his neighborhood bar on foot, is especially distressing.

"Just as we all experience physical ill-health at some stage in our lives, so we all experience mental ill-health too," he writes. "There's no shame in that. It's not a sign of weakness. And part of the reason that I took the decision to write these pages is the hope that by sharing my experiences, I might be able to help someone else who is struggling."

Ultimately, the hook of Felton's memoir is his perspective on living a one-in-a-billion experience. Yet "Beyond the Wand" is most insightful when Felton translates his tale into something more universal. Sure, the "boy who lived" was never Draco's moniker — but considering his eventful existence, it suits Felton just fine.

CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

TERMINAL CONNECTIONS

BY PAOLO PASCO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

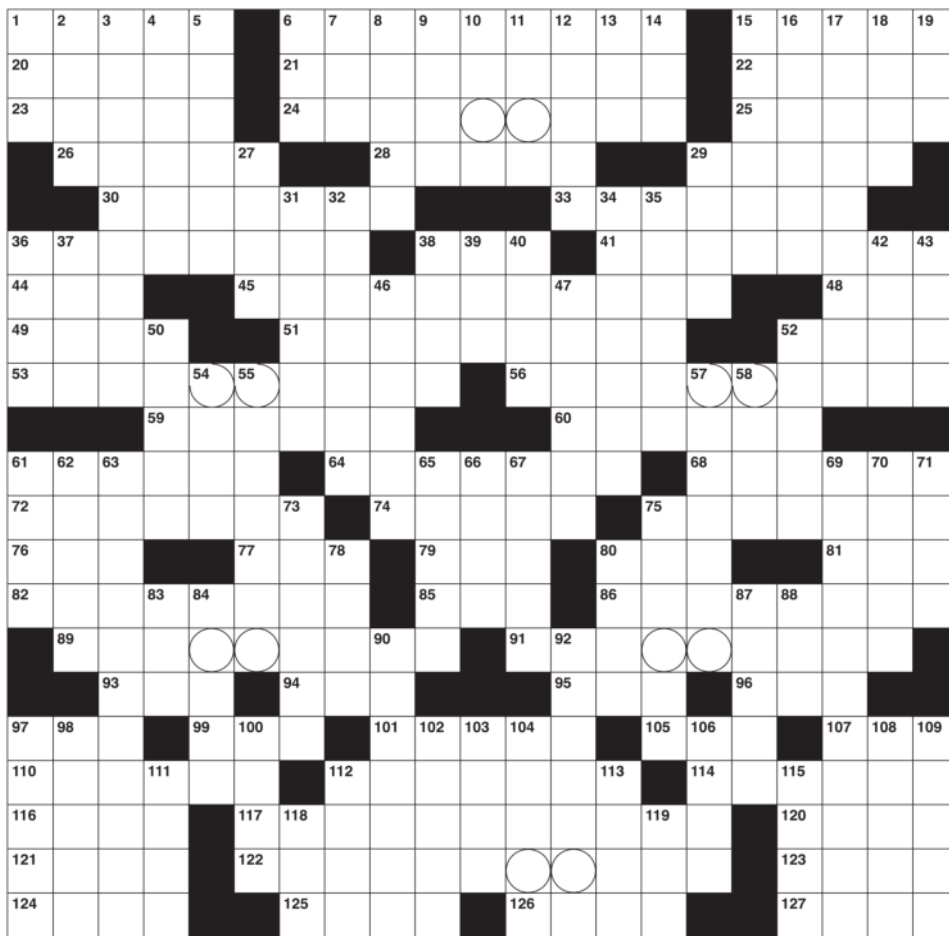
Paolo Pasco is a recent Harvard graduate, now working in data science in San Diego. He's been making puzzles for The Times since he was 15. His job interview was partly about crosswords and included a programming problem to find words, Boggle-style, in a grid. How lucky was that? He says he thought of this puzzle's theme during a class back in April and fleshed it out while walking back to his dorm. — W.S.

ACROSS

- 1 "Te quiero ____" (Spanish words of endearment)
- 6 ____ axis, half of an ellipse's shorter diameter
- 15 See-worthy?
- 20 Volume on an iPad, say
- 21 Singer of "Fame" fame
- 22 "____: Game Over" (2014 video-game documentary)
- 23 Grown-up efts
- 24 Old-fashioned letter opener
- 25 Turn into confetti
- 26 12/25, e.g.
- 28 ____ Lewis, singer of the 2007 No. 1 hit "Bleeding Love"
- 29 Tennis star Naomi, who was born in 29-Across
- 30 "I'm gonna tell you something huge"
- 33 Mossy growths
- 36 River with a "White" counterpart
- 38 Lil ____ Howery ("Get Out" actor)
- 41 Stuffs into a hole, say
- 44 F-, for one
- 45 Ritual with bamboo utensils
- 48 God, in Italy
- 49 Repeated word in an "Animal House" chant
- 51 Pastry with the same shape as an Argentine medialuna
- 52 Attorney general before Garland
- 53 Online promotions, collectively
- 56 What businesses go by
- 59 Cut down
- 60 "Eureka!"
- 61 Word with easy or stop
- 64 Provide change in quarters?
- 68 Long, tragic stories
- 72 Up to this point
- 74 Best supporting actress nominee for "The Power of the Dog," 2021
- 75 Letter opener, pencil cup, inbox tray, etc.
- 76 Phanerozoic ____ (what we live in)
- 77 Classroom aides, for short
- 79 British term of address
- 80 Currency for the prize on "Squid Game"
- 81 Reddit Q. and A. session, in brief
- 82 Most unpleasantly old and mildewy
- 85 Letters before Constitution or Enterprise
- 86 Popular subcompact hatchback from Japan
- 89 Rock commonly used in asphalt
- 91 Part of a hotel with décor fitting a certain motif
- 93 Video-game series with settings in Liberty City and San Andreas, for short
- 94 Gobsmack
- 95 Scottish interjection
- 96 "Everything Everywhere ____ at Once" (Michelle Yeoh movie)
- 97 R.&B. artist whose name sounds like a pronoun
- 99 Eats
- 101 Travis of country music
- 105 One of 2,297 for Hank Aaron, for short
- 107 Annoyance for a Twitch streamer
- 110 Figure with equal angles
- 112 Sunday ____ (end-of-week anxiety, casually)
- 114 Country whose flag depicts a machete
- 116 With 121-Across, company that sells scuba gear
- 117 Certain furniture-store purchases
- 120 Missing
- 121 See 116-Across
- 122 "Be My Baby" group, 1963
- 123 Bygone Microsoft media player
- 124 The lights in fairy lights
- 125 Some travel considerations, in brief
- 126 Tarnish
- 127 Donkey Kong and others
- 4 One who's super-good-looking
- 5 Affirmative gesture
- 6 *Baseball pitching style . . . or a weapon
- 7 Afore
- 8 Dining-hall offerings
- 9 About, on a 10-Down
- 10 See 9-Down
- 11 Volunteer's words
- 12 Tennis's "king of clay"
- 13 Hour, in Italy
- 14 *Big name in hotels
- 15 Access providers
- 16 Within reach
- 17 Actress who played "Jessica" in "Parasite"
- 18 No-go ____
- 19 Something to pry or twist off
- 27 Volunteer's words
- 29 [Gasp!]
- 31 Chooses
- 32 More run-down
- 34 Period in ancient history
- 35 Like a defeatist's attitude
- 36 *Indentation on a chew toy
- 37 Textile-making device
- 38 *Light again
- 39 "I mean . . ." sounds
- 40 *Whom Holmes tells, "You do find it very hard to tackle the facts"
- 42 Telegram
- 43 *Many a Viking
- 46 Pulled a fast one on
- 47 College near Vassar
- 50 Where van Gogh and Gauguin briefly lived together
- 52 Dyeing method using wax

DOWN

- 1 Bachelors, e.g.
- 2 ____ Eats
- 3 Ninja Turtle's catchphrase



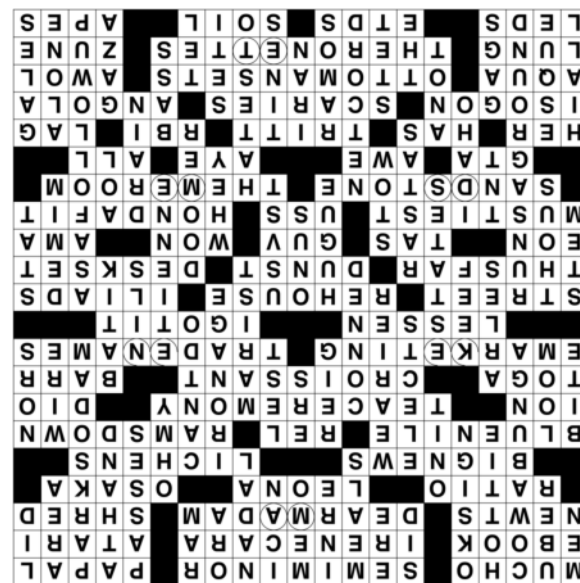
- 54 Chief ____ (rapper with a rhyming name)
- 55 Where feudal workers worked
- 57 French equivalent of "Stephen"
- 58 ____ van der Poel, Olympic speedskater
- 61 Academic acronym
- 62 *Grand
- 63 Hits shore unintentionally
- 65 *Early French Protestants
- 66 Burden
- 67 *Basic rivalry
- 69 "Continuing where we left off last time . . ."
- 70 *"G.I. Jane" star, 1997
- 71 Field goal avg., e.g.
- 73 Believers in Jah, informally
- 75 Fatalistic sort, in slang
- 78 Place in an overhead bin
- 80 No ____! (punnily named dairy-free chocolate brand)
- 83 Explosive stuff
- 84 U.S. ID?
- 87 Bad place to pour grease
- 88 "Have ____ make my email stop" (Destiny's Child lyric)
- 90 Cable in the middle of a tennis court
- 92 Would really rather not
- 97 "What's up, everyone!"
- 98 -ish
- 100 *"Encore!"
- 102 Fidel ____, 1990s Philippine leader
- 103 Tehran's home
- 104 Fork prongs
- 106 *Actress Angela
- 108 How to play solitaire
- 109 They have high ratings on the Beaufort scale
- 111 Joker's arsenal
- 112 "Leave it," on paper
- 113 Alien-seeking org.
- 115 Strip near Tel Aviv
- 118 Beverage at un café
- 119 Business-card abbr.

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and online at gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



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GADGETS & TECHNOLOGY

Emotional support squid now streaming

Millions chilling out to lo-fi California aquarium videos

BY JULIE CARMEL
Los Angeles Times

When Avi Silver settles into work each morning, they usually put a YouTube video titled “2 Hours Of Chill

Shrimp To Work/Study/Relax” on their living room TV.

“It has shrimp, it’s great, it’s so relaxing,” they said. “And then at the one hour and 22-minute mark, it gets inexplicably funky for about four minutes, and then goes back to being chill. It’s a whole experience.”

Silver, who works in publishing from their home in Hamilton, Ontario, is one of the millions of people who have streamed the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s ambient and lo-fi videos, which fuse the aquarium’s livestreams with the popular low-fidelity hip-hop music that’s all over YouTube.

Emily Simpson, a social media content creator for the Monterey Bay Aquarium, said the team began making these videos in 2020 while the aquarium was closed.

“Especially when the pandemic hit, we had to pivot to a lot of new social outreach just to keep the aquarium’s presence front of mind,” Simpson said.

The aquarium’s first lo-fi video, “2 Hours Of Squid To Relax/Study/Work To,” was posted that August and has since become the third-most-popular video on its YouTube channel, with more than 2.3 million views.

“Everyone be quiet,” the video’s top comment reads, “I’m watching my emotional support squid.”

The videos are used in many ways: Simpson said that people have commented and messaged about how they play the videos while they’re sleeping, studying, meditating or even entertaining pets who are left home alone.

“There are hospitals that will broadcast the live cams in waiting rooms,” Simpson said, “and there are so many people who turn to those live cams to just have this really calm, almost meditative thing on in the background.”

Lo-fi music is often associated with Lofi Girl: the uber-famous YouTube channel that runs a 24/7 stream of lo-fi music set to an illustration of an animated girl wearing a green sweater and large over-ear headphones and calmly writing. With more than 11 million subscribers (and tens of thousands of people streaming at most hours of the day and night), it became national news when the Lofi Girl stream was removed for two days during July.

Griffin Candey, a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan’s School of Music, Theatre & Dance, said that he came across the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s lo-fi videos while he was working on a paper about the lo-fi hip-hop community for his musicology class.

“This kind of hip-hop is not new,” Candey said as he traced aspects of the lo-fi subgenre back to Brian Eno’s 1978 album “Ambient 1: Music for Airports.” “But (the Lofi Girl) channel is kind of the primary disseminating voice.”

Candey likened contemporary lo-fi music to an Eno quote about how ambient music should “accommodate many levels



LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Millions of people have streamed the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s ambient and lo-fi videos, which fuse the aquarium’s livestreams with popular low-fidelity hip-hop music.

of listening attention without enforcing one in particular; it must be as ignorable as it is interesting.”

“Because it has a very repetitive structure, or that kind of predictability, it’s not a thing that you have to actively use a lot of brain power on,” he said. “They just very easily blend into one another.”

But as lo-fi hip-hop grew from that ambient ethos, it was also heavily influenced by the work of the Detroit-born producer J Dilla and the Japanese producer Nujabes, who inspired the genre’s smooth and funky beats.

“Those two artists also use this technique called sidechain compression, which is basically when the kick drum of the kit hits, it reduces the volume of the rest of the instruments,” Candey said. “So the combination of asymmetrical beats, sidechain compression and the sampling digital media that brings natural imper-

fections into the music creates a kind of wavy texture, which is a very lo-fi thing.”

Silver, who watches these videos as they work from home, said the background noise can also be an essential tool for focusing.

“I have ADHD, and I have such a hard time balancing two things at once,” they said. “But I find it’s really good for my brain. Because it’s sort of the same few videos, I can rotate and have consistency while half-listening, so I find it’s been a really good access tool, honestly.”

But regardless of whether these fishy videos are used by viewers to sleep, survive chemistry 101 or just vibe, their effects seem to be overwhelmingly positive.

“Wow. This is truly the pinnacle of human creation,” one comment on the shrimp video reads. “The internet was made so I could chill alongside two shrimps.”

True wireless speakers broadcast solar-powered sound

BY GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

After this past summer’s brutal heat, we are finally having some outdoor social weather where I live in Texas, which is perfect for bringing the tunes outside with iLive Outdoor Dual Bluetooth 5.0 true wireless speakers.

They come in a pair for stereo sound. Each cylindrical-shaped speaker (6.57 inches long by 3.03 inches rounded) broadcasts 360-degree full-bodied sound with speakers under a matte black rubber finish.

The speakers are built with an IPX6 water-resistant design, allowing them to withstand a rain shower, but they should not be submerged into water deeper than 3 feet. Each speaker has a rubberized coating, and the fabric grills over the speakers are waterproof.

The pair also comes with individual removable stakes, so they can be placed in the ground to

spread the stereo sound to 60 feet for the speaker and 33 feet between each speaker.

There’s no need to run power cords, use portable USB batteries or swap out internal batteries. The iLive Outdoor speakers run and power themselves off using energy from built-in solar panels on the top side of the cylinder.

Once powered, pairing them is flawless, and if your area is smaller, the speakers can be used as a single speaker.

The stereo sound was far better than I expected. The clear and powerful sound was perfect for backyard atmospheres. The speakers aren’t going to perform like speaker systems that cost hundreds of dollars, but you can’t go wrong with \$69.99 for the pair.

Aside from broadcasting music, the iLive Outdoor Dual Bluetooth 5.0 true wireless speakers have a built-in microphone to work as a hands-free speakerphone for calls, an FM Scan Ra-

dio and a built-in Micro SD card slot (card not included) to support audio file playback of personalized playlists. There’s also a 3.5 mm audio input.

While many of the features of the iLive Outdoor stereo speakers were designed with the outdoors in mind, they are perfect for any indoor setting as well.

Online: iliveelectronics.com

The work-from-home lifestyle seems to be here to stay, making it even more essential to hear and talk with headsets, which need to work well and feel comfortable.

Cyber Acoustics’ new CA Essential USB headset

(HS-2000BT) is an excellent WFH USB stereo headset designed to work with both PC and Mac computer systems and is comfortable for all-day use.

The over-the-head headset has a padded adjustable headband. Soft padded ear cushions cover

40 mm drivers in each ear to broadcast clear speech for meetings or calls and excellent stereo sound for music.

A boom with a unidirectional microphone is on the lightweight headset and can be muted by angling it up. An LED light indicates the mic is on with a green light, and shines red when muted. The mic can be positioned on either side of the headset.

Setup and pairing for use is as easy with Bluetooth connections for up to two devices. On-ear controls are easy to access for volume, play/pause and answering calls. There’s also a busy light to indicate that you are on a call or in a meeting.

Environmental noise cancellation and active noise cancellation keep out background sound so your voice is heard clearly by those on the other end. An internal battery is charged with the included USB-C cable or on a Qi wireless charging pad (not in-



CYBER ACOUSTIC/TNS

Cyber Acoustics’ CA Essential USB headset works with both PC and Mac computer systems.

cluded). The battery life with the ANC on is 20 hours, 27 hours with it off.

Online: cyberacoustics.com; \$79.99

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published week-days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

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Leaders, lettuce and crisis in Britain

By ARTHUR I. CYR

Special to Stars and Stripes

Rishi Sunak has been elected leader of the Conservative Party, and become the next prime minister of the United Kingdom (Britain plus Northern Ireland). This follows the incredibly brief and tumultuous tenure of hapless Prime Minister Liz Truss.

Sunak is a promising choice, and the process by which he was selected reassuring. Conservative Members of Parliament nominate candidates to be leader, and party members around the country vote if there is more than one nominee.

Others withdrew in deference to Sunak, who has senior executive experience in government and finance. This effectively underscores the gravity of the current situation.

The British possess distinctive humor, cutting and subtle. As the woes of Truss multiplied, with astonishing speed, the tabloid newspaper Daily Star pointed a webcam at a head of lettuce and asked readers to monitor whether the lettuce would last longer than the prime minister.

The lettuce won.

After Truss resigned after only 45 days in office, the head of lettuce received a gold plastic crown to go along with a blond wig. As her resignation became official, the webcam indicated 20,000 were looking at the lettuce on YouTube.

The Economist inspired the lettuce gimmick by asking rhetorically whether the next prime minister could last longer than a head of lettuce. This effectively implies current governmental instability.

Britain has had three prime ministers in

just over three years: Theresa May, Boris Johnson and Liz Truss. There now have been three prime ministers in less than three months.

Brexit, shorthand for leaving the European Union, was finally carried out by Johnson's government. The vexing details of disengaging from the EU bureaucracy were responsibly addressed by May, but Parliament rejected her complex plans.

Characteristically, Johnson largely ignored the difficulties and rammed Brexit through. This has created special problems regarding Northern Ireland. The province

Sunak is a promising choice, and the process by which he was selected reassuring.

is in Ireland but under British sovereignty. To a significant degree, Britain's current political disorder is a direct function of not addressing resulting economic and policy problems.

Truss brought forward a radical supply-side budget, including dramatic tax cuts at the top of the income scale. Global financial markets reacted quickly, and severely. So-called "gilts," short for gilt-edged security, issued by the Treasury and listed on the London Stock Exchange, immediately declined precipitously.

The Bank of England reacted quickly, of necessity, to stabilize the market. Otherwise, the British financial system could conceivably have collapsed.

In reaction, mass media concern has fo-

cused on London and other financial markets, in particular the United States. Could the same sort of crisis unfold quickly on the other side of the Atlantic? Since the turn of the century, both Democratic and Republican administrations have presided over enormous fiscal deficits, and Federal Reserve policies that have kept real interest rates very close to zero for many years.

Nevertheless, a comparable U.S. financial crisis seems unlikely, though financial panics are always possible. The vast scale and wealth, and unequaled global influence, of the American economy provide reliable underwriting for public debt that has expanded rapidly.

Britain lacks these obvious assets, but does possess more subtle advantages. These include an effective military, skillful diplomats and a history of developing worthwhile alliances, not least with the United States. The Ukraine war shows importance of British strengths.

Nowhere is this better demonstrated than in NATO. That war has remarkably energized and renewed this durable alliance, in existence since 1949. Formerly neutral Finland and Sweden have now joined the alliance, after initial opposition from the government of Turkey was successfully addressed. The British government was crucial in brokering the participation of Canada and the United States from the beginning in this organization.

Rishi Sunak's lineage is from India, a first among Britain's prime ministers. That may foster fresh, imaginative approaches to public policy that current circumstances require.

Arthur I. Cyr is author of "Liberal Politics in Britain."

Corporate America is facing a compensation conundrum

By KARL W. SMITH

Bloomberg Opinion

The highest rates of inflation in 40 years and the response by central banks around the world to aggressively raise interest rates have created an unfamiliar double-edged sword for both businesses and households.

On one side of the blade you have employers with little experience taking inflation into account when determining compensation. With interest rates rising so fast and a recession in the cards, it might seem like common sense to freeze wages and cut overtime and part-time hours. Such a strategy would protect so-called core employees, or those who are full-time workers that have been with the company for an extended period and are least likely to quit in the near future.

However, with inflation as high as it is, freezing wages essentially amounts to an 8% pay cut. That's enough to create cash-flow problems for many households, especially those that can't afford to take on debt with rates on consumer credit also rising fast. Nor can they grind through by putting in extra time at work because flexible employee hours are being reduced. Worse, there is an amplifier effect. The more companies turn to strategies like freezing wages and reducing overtime to protect core workers, the fewer options all households have for dealing with a cash-flow shortage and the more vulnerable core employees are to inflation eroding their

earnings.

On the other side of the blade, employers may be acutely aware that hefty raises are required so their core workers can keep up with the rising cost of everyday necessities such as food and energy. To accomplish this, employers might lay off workers who fall outside the core group. Doing so allows businesses to better protect the people most likely to still be with them when conditions might start to improve. The problem, though, is that protecting core workers against the ravages of inflation raises the cost per worker for businesses, and that itself contributes to inflation. This scenario leads to the dreaded unmooring of inflation expectations that the Federal Reserve fears above all else. It means that even getting inflation to slow just a little requires large increases in unemployment because those workers who are still employed retain their purchasing power.

Taken together, the two blades imply that the Fed's attempt to lower inflation expectations by rapidly increasing interest rates will either lead to a sharp and contagious rise in financial instability for working class households or an unmooring of inflation expectations caused by businesses. In either case the hit to working class households may be much harder than just about anyone is estimating because the current high level of inflation creates offsetting threats that we haven't seen at least since the mid-1970s, when the economy was last adjusting to structurally high inflation. Back then, roughly half of the

baby boomer generation were full-time employed adults. The younger half of that generation and the ones that followed haven't experienced the challenge of adjusting to sudden, unexpected and persistent inflation.

There is no obvious way of resolving dynamic double-edged problems. As the problems get worse, the risks of being too slow in solving them grow. Alternatively, the potential side-effects associated with solving the problems quickly increase. It's difficult to anticipate where and how those effects will balance out. The Fed has opted for the fast route of aggressive rate hikes, confident that there won't be a repeat of the financial instability that followed former Chairman Alan Greenspan's aggressive rate hikes between 2004 and 2006 thanks to new rules and regulations that have made the banking system safer.

I support the Fed's current route, and I have no doubt those new safeguards have made the financial system more stable. Nonetheless, I won't be surprised if policymakers find themselves with some financial instability that no one considered, because it is precisely the novel threats this new inflationary environment creates that are the most susceptible to amplification and contagion if the Fed tries quickly to bring inflation back to its target.

Karl W. Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Friday's scores

EAST	
Yale 41, Columbia 16	
SOUTH	
Belhaven 70, Lagrange 16	
FIU 42, Louisiana Tech 34, 2OT	
MIDWEST	
Illinois College 28, Cornell (Iowa) 14	
FAR WEST	
East Carolina 27, BYU 24	

PRO SOCCER

MLS playoffs

Quarterfinals	
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	

Conference Finals

Sunday, Oct. 30	
Austin at Los Angeles FC	
New York City at Philadelphia	
Championship	
Saturday, Nov. 5	
Conference champions	

NWSL playoffs

Sunday, Oct. 16	
Quarterfinals	
Kansas City 2, Houston 1	
San Diego 2, Chicago 1	
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	

DEALS

Friday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League American League

HOUSTON ASTROS — Reassigned RHP Seth Martinez to the minor leagues. Activated LHP Will Smith.

National League

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Activated RHP Nick Nelson and SS Nick Maton. Reassigned LHP Bailey Falter and SS Dalton Guthrie to the minor leagues.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Named Michelle Gravert assistant general manager, Ryan Neely mascot coordinator, Louis Miller operations assistant, Logan Ulmer sales and service department ticket account manager, Jamie Skipper director of concessions and Mackennon Watson head groundskeeper for the Double-A affiliated Altoona Curve.

FOOTBALL
National Football League

CHICAGO BEARS — Reinstated OT Alex Leatherwood to the active roster from the non-football injury list (NFL).

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed LS Charley Hughlett to a four-year contract extension.

DENVER BRONCOS — Placed S Caden Sterns on injured reserve.

LOS ANGELES RAMS — Reinstated WR Van Jefferson and CB Troy Hill to the active roster from injured reserve.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Announced a mutual agreement with DE Robert Quinn to void final years of contract making him a unrestricted free agent.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Placed OLB Shaq Barrett on injured reserve.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League

NHL — Suspended Detroit F Michael Rasmussen two games without pay for high-sticking in a game against Boston on Oct. 27.

ARIZONA COYOTES — Placed D Lukas Klok on waivers.

BOSTON BRUINS — Recalled D Mike Reilly and C Jakub Lauko from Providence (AHL).

CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled C Lane Pederson from Chicago (AHL) and traded him to Vancouver.

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Reinstated LW Boris Katchouk from injured reserve.

MINNESOTA WILD — Placed D Dakota Mermis on waivers.

NEW YORK RANGERS — Loaned D Ben Harpur to Hartford (AHL).

SAN JOSE SHARKS — Reassigned F Ozzy Wiesblatt to San Jose (AHL) from Wichita (ECHL).

VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Recalled G Michael DiPietro from Abbotsford (AHL) loan. Acquired D Ethan Bear and C Lane Pederson from Carolina in exchange for a 2023 fifth-round draft pick. Assigned RW William Lockwood to Abbotsford.

WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Assigned D Alex Alexeyev to Hershey (AHL) on a conditioning loan.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer

CF MONTREAL — Signed M Samuel Piette to a three-year contract for the 2023-2025 seasons.

SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC — Signed M Sota Kitahara to a two-year contract with club options for 2025 and 2026.

National Women's Soccer League

HOUSTON DASH — Announced interim head coach Juan Carlos Amorós elected to pursue other opportunities and the search for a new head coach will begin immediately.

PRO FOOTBALL

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**: OUT: G Max Garcia (shoulder), LB Dennis Gardeck (ankle), C Rodney Hudson (knee), CB Christian Matthew (hamstring), RB James Conner (ribs). **QUESTIONABLE**: OT D.J. Humphries (back), K Matt Prater (right hip), RB Darrel Williams (knee), CB Byron Murphy (back). **FULL**: FS Jalen Thompson (calf), OT Cody Ford (ankle), CB Trayvon Mullen (hamstring). **MINNESOTA**: **QUESTIONABLE**: DE Jonathan Bullard (illness). **FULL**: WR Jalen Nailor (hamstring).

CAROLINA PANTHERS at ATLANTA FALCONS — **CAROLINA**: OUT: RB Chuba Hubbard (ankle). **QUESTIONABLE**: DE Marquis Haynes (illness), OLB Frankie Luvu (shoulder), CB Jaycee Horn (ribs), S Justin Harris (hip). **FULL**: OT Taylor Moton (illness), DT Daviyon Nixon (illness), G Mike Jordan (NIR-personal), DT Matthew Ioannidis (concussion), LB Arron Mosby (hamstring), WR Laviska Shenault Jr. (hamstring), S Sean Chandler (hamstring), DB Myles Hartsfield (hamstring), LB Cory Littleton (groin), G Austin Corbett (knee). **ATLANTA**: OUT: CB A.J. Terrell (hamstring), FS Jaylenn Hawkins (concussion). **QUESTIONABLE**: DB Dee Alford (hamstring).

CHICAGO BEARS at DALLAS COWBOYS — **CHICAGO**: OUT: OL Larry Borom (concussion). **FULL**: DL Armon Watts (NIR-personal). **DALLAS**: **DOUBTFUL**: RB Ezekiel Elliot (knee). **QUESTIONABLE**: WR Noah Brown (foot), LB Devin Harper (achilles), S Malik Hooker (hamstring), LB Micah Parsons (shoulder), TE Dalton Schultz (knee), T Terrence Steele (neck), DE Sam Williams (knee). **FULL**: DT Quinton Bohanna (shoulder), LB Damone Clark (neck), DT Neville Gallimore (wrist), DT Trysten Hill (thigh), S Jayron Kearse (foot).

DENVER BRONCOS at JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — **DENVER**: OUT: DB Essang Bassey (hamstring), WR Tyrie Cleveland (groin), OT Cameron Fleming (quadriple), S Caden Sterns (hip). **DNP**: LB Baron Browning (hip). **FULL**: NT Mike Purcell (knee), ILB Josey Jewell (knee), QB Russell Wilson (hamstring). **JACKSONVILLE**: OUT: DE Tavaghn Campbell (NIR-did not travel), DE Adam Gotsis (NIR-did not travel), DE Tyree Gillespie (NIR-did not travel). **QUESTIONABLE**: WR Jamal Agnew (knee).

GREEN BAY PACKERS at BUFFALO BILLS — **GREEN BAY**: OUT: CB Shemar Jean-Charles (ankle), WR Allen Lazard (shoulder). **QUESTIONABLE**: OT David Bakhtiari (knee), OLB Rashaan Gary (concussion), G Elgton Jenkins (knee), WR Christian Watson (hamstring). **LIMITED**: QB Aaron Rogers (right thumb), WR Sammy Watkins (hamstring). **FULL**: TE Marcedes Lewia (NIR-resting veteran). **BUFFALO**: OUT: T Spencer Brown (ankle), **QUESTIONABLE**: RB Taiwan Jones (knee). **DNP**: LB Von Miller (NIR-resting veteran), WR Stefon Diggs (NIR-resting veteran). **FULL**: WR Jake Kumerow (ankle), CB Cam Lewin (forearm), C Mitch Morse (NIR-resting veteran/elbow), DT Jordan Phillips (NIR-resting veteran).

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

MIAMI DOLPHINS at DETROIT LIONS — **MIAMI**: **QUESTIONABLE**: TE Tanner Conner (knee), S Clayton Fejedelem (groin), CB Xavier Howard (groin), P Thomas Morstead (NIR-illness), TE Durham Smythe (hamstring). **DNP**: T Terron Armstead (toe). **LIMITED**: RB Raheem Mostert (knee), DT Christian Wilkins (hand). **FULL**: LB Jerome Baker (hip), CB Keion Crossen (knee), OL Liam Eichenberg (knee), OL Rob Hunt (hip), CB Kader Kohou (oblique), T Gerg Little (achilles), CL Zach Sieler (hand/ankle), QB Skylar Thompson (right thumb), WR Jaylen Waddle (shoulder). **DE-**

TENNIS

Evans, Britain, 6-3, 6-3.

Swiss Indoors Basel

Friday
At St. Jakobshalle
Basel, Switzerland
Purse: Euro 2,135,350
Surface: Hardcourt indoor
Men's Singles
Quarterfinals

Felix Auger-Aliassime (3), Canada, def. Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 6-2, 6-3.
Carlos Alcaraz (1), Spain, def. Pablo Carreno Busta (5), Spain, 6-3, 6-4.
Roberto Bautista Agut (6), Spain, def.

TROIT: OUT: S DeShon Elliott (finger), DE Charles Harris (groin), CB Mike Hughes (knee), CB Chase Lucas (ankle), S Ifeatu Melifonwu (ankle), T Matt Nelson (calf). **QUESTIONABLE**: G Jonah Jackson (neck), WR Amon-Ra St. Brown (concussion protocol). **FULL**: T Taylor Decker (neck), CB Will Harris (hip), TE T.J. Hockenson (knee), C Frank Ragnow (foot), WR Josh Reynolds (knee), RB D'Andre Swift (ankle/shoulder).

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

NEW YORK GIANTS at SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — **NEW YORK GIANTS**: OUT: TE Daniel Bellinger (eye), OL Ben Bredeson (knee), DB Cor'Dale Flott (calf), WR Kenny Golladay (knee), OL Evan Neal (knee), LB Oshane Ximines (quadriple), **QUESTIONABLE**: OL Tyre Phillips (toe), DB Jason Pinnoch (foot), DL Leonard Williams (elbow). **SEATTLE**: OUT: LB Nick Bellore (concussion). **DOUBTFUL**: WR Penny Hart (hamstring). **QUESTIONABLE**: DE Poona Ford (ankle), G Phil Haynes (concussion), G Gabe Jackson (hip, knee), CB Sidney Jones (groin), WR Tyler Lockett (hamstring, ribs), WR DK Metcalf (knee), LB Darrell Taylor (groin).

PITTSBURGH STEELERS at PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — **PITTSBURGH**: OUT: CB Levi Wallace (shoulder), DT Larry Ogunjobi (knee). **QUESTIONABLE**: CB Josh Jackson (groin), K Chris Boswell (groin). **FULL**: CB Ahkello Witherspoon (hamstring), DT Montravius Adams (hamstring), WR Steven Sims (hamstring), TE Pat Freiermuth (ankle), DT Cameron Heyward (NIR-resting player). **PHILADELPHIA**: **QUESTIONABLE**: DE Brandon Graham (hamstring). **LIMITED**: QB Jalen Hurts (NIR-personal), FULL: G Isaac Seumalo (ankle, rest), CB Josh Jobe (shoulder), OT Lane Johnson (concussion).

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS at LOS ANGELES RAMS — **SAN FRANCISCO**: OUT: DT Arik Armstead (foot, ankle), LB Dre Greenlaw (calf), FB Kyle Juszczyk (finger), WR Deebo Samuel (hamstring). **QUESTIONABLE**: WR Jauan Jennings (hamstring), CB Jason Verrett (knee). **FULL**: DE Samson Ebukam (achilles), S Jimmie Ward (hand), T Trent Williams (NIR-resting player). **LOS ANGELES RAMS**: OUT: RB Cam Akers (NIR-personal matter). **QUESTIONABLE**: WR Brandon Powell (ankle). **DNP**: LB Terrell Lewis (NIR-personal matter). **FULL**: C Brian Allen (knee), CB Cobie Durant (hamstring), RB Darrell Henderson (illness).

TENNESSEE TITANS at HOUSTON TEXANS — **TENNESSEE**: OUT: FB Tory Carter (neck), LB Rashad Weaver (back). **QUESTIONABLE**: NT Jeffery Simmons (ankle), QB Ryan Tannehill (ankle/illness). **DNP**: FS Kevin Byard (NIR). **LIMITED**: G Nate Davis (foot), C Ben Jones (knee). **FULL**: G Aaron Brewer (toe), LB Dylan Cole (hamstring), LS Morgan Cox (ankle), OLB Bud Dupree (hamstring), ILB David Long (groin), ILB Zach Cunningham (elbow), LB Joe Jones (knee). **HOUSTON**: **QUESTIONABLE**: DT Maliek Collins (chest), WR Nico Collins (groin), WR Brandin Cooks (wrist), OT Kenyon Green (shoulder), G Justin McCray (hand), G A.J. Cann (illness), DL Rasheem Green (knee).

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS at INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — **WASHINGTON**: OUT: WR Jahan Dotson (hamstring), LB Cole Holcomb (foot), CB William Jackson (back), TE Cole Turner (concussion). **QUESTIONABLE**: G Saahdiq Charles (illness), WR Dyan Brown (groin), TE Logan Thomas (calf). **FULL**: RB Jonathan Williams (knee), OT Sam Cosmi (finger), QB Taylor Heinicke (calf), DT Jonathan Allen (NIR-rest).

Monday

CINCINNATI BENGALS at CLEVELAND BROWNS — **CINCINNATI**: **DNP**: CB Eli Apple (hamstring), WR Ja'Marr Chase (hip), DE Trey Hendrickson (neck), WR Morgan Stanley (hamstring), DT Josh Tupou (calf). **LIMITED**: DT La'el Collins (ankle), TE Hayden Hurst (groin/ankle). **FULL**: DE Jeff Gunter (knee), LB Logan Wilson (shoulder). **CLEVELAND**: **DNP**: DE Pharaoh Brown (concussion/neck), TE Jack Conklin (NIR-rest), DE Myles Garrett (shoulder/biceps), TE David Njoku (ankle), LB Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah (knee), G Wyatt Teller (calf), CB Denzel Ward (concussion), CB Greedy Williams (illness). **LIMITED**: DE Jadeveon Clowney (ankle), CB Greg Newsome (oblique). **FULL**: WR David Bell (ankle), G Joel Bitonio (NIR-rest), TE Harrison Bryant (thumb), WR Amari Cooper (NIR-rest), OL Joe Haeg (concussion).

Stan Wawrinka, Switzerland, 7-5, 7-6 (5).
Holger Rune, Denmark, def. Arthur Rinderknech, France, 7-6 (0), 6-2.

Tampico Open

Friday
At Centro Libanes Mexicano de Tampico
Tampico, Mexico
Purse: \$115,000
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Women's Singles
Semifinals

Elisabetta Cocciaretto, Italy, def. Zhu Lin (6), China, 6-4, 7-6 (4).
Magda Linette (5), Poland, def. Rebecca Marino (8), Canada, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

GOLF

Butterfield Bermuda

Championship

PGA Tour	
Friday	
At Port Royal Golf Course	
Southampton, Bermuda	
Purse: \$6.5 Million	
Yardage: 6,828; Par: 71	
a-amateur	
Partial Second Round	
Suspended due to darkness	
Ben Crane	66-62-128 -14
Adam Schenk	63-66-129 -13
Aaron Baddeley	65-64-129 -13
Robby Shelton	63-66-129 -13
Ben Griffin	65-64-129 -13
Austin Smotherman	62-67-129 -13
Seamus Power	65-65-130 -12
Kevin Yu	64-66-130 -12
Zecheng Dou	65-65-130 -12
Nico Echavarría	66-64-130 -12
Dylan Wu	64-66-130 -12
Fabián Gómez	68-63-131 -11
Scott Brown	63-68-131 -11
Thomas Detry	64-67-131 -11
Erik van Rooyen	66-66-132 -10
Denny McCarthy	65-69-132 -10
Harrison Endycott	62-70-132 -10
Scott Harrington	66-66-132 -10
Brian Stuard	65-67-132 -10
Justin Lower	64-68-132 -10
Sean O'Hair	64-68-132 -10
Brian Gay	66-66-132 -10
Patrick Rodgers	65-67-132 -10
C.T. Pan	66-67-133 -9
Chesson Hadley	66-67-133 -9
Richy Werenski	67-66-133 -9
Ben Martin	64-69-133 -9
Greyson Sigg	64-69-133 -9
Trevor Werbylo	65-68-133 -9
Brent Grant	66-67-133 -9
Charley Hoffman	67-66-133 -9
Russell Knox	66-67-133 -9
Lucas Glover	66-67-133 -9
Nick Watney	67-67-134 -8
Nick Taylor	66-68-134 -8
Alex Smalley	65-69-134 -8
Matti Schmid	67-67-134 -8
Will Gordon	68-66-134 -8
Cameron Percy	66-68-134 -8
Arjun Atwal	63-71-134 -8
Seung-Yul Noh	68-67-135 -7
Brandon Wu	71-64-135 -7
Byeong Hun An	65-70-135 -7
Robert Streb	66-69-135 -7
Austin Cook	68-67-135 -7
Jonathan Byrd	69-66-135 -7
Ben Taylor	70-65-135 -7
Caleb Surratt (a)	71-64-135 -7

LIV Golf Team Championship

Friday	
At the Trump National Doral Golf Club	
Miami	
Purse: \$50 million	
Yardage: 7,702; Par: 72	
(Seeding in parentheses; seeds 1-4 received a first-round bye)	
Quarterfinal	
Match Play	
Smash GC 2, Niblicks GC 1,	
Harold Varner III def. Brooks Koepka, 4 and 3.	
Peter Uihlein def. James Piot, 5 and 3.	
Jason Kokrak/Chase Koepka def. Turk Pettit/Hudson Swafford, 2 and 1.	
Majesticks GC 3, Iron Heads GC 0,	
Ian Poulter def. Kevin Na, 4 and 2.	
Lee Westwood def. Sihwan Kim, 4 and 3.	
Sam Horsfield/Henrick Stenson def. Sadom Kaewkanjana/Phachara Khongwatmai, 4 and 2.	
Cleeks GC 2, Torque GC 1,	
Joaquin Niemann def. Shergo Al Kurdi, 5 and 3.	
Laurie Canter def./Jediah Morgan, 1 up	
Graeme McDowell/Richard Bland def. Scott Vincent/Adrian Oategui, 2 up	
Punch GC 2, Hyflers GC 1,	
Cameron Smith def. Phil Mickelson, 1 up	
Marc Leishman def. Matthew Wolff, 4 and 2	
Bernd Wiesberger/Cameron Tringale def. Matt Jones/Wade Ormsby, 3 and 2	
Team Scores	
(Seeding in parentheses)	
TC-team captain; NPTC-non-playing team captain	
(1) Four Aces GC (C-D.Johnson, P.Reed, T.Gooch, P.Perez) First Round Bye	
(2) Crushers GC (C-B.Dechambeau, P.Casey, C.Howell, A.Lahiri) First Round Bye	
(3) Fireballs GC (C-S.Garcia, A.Ancer, C.Ortiz, E.Chacarra) First Round Bye	
(4) Stinger GC (C-L.Oosthuizen, C.Schwartzel, B.Grace, H.Du Plessis) First Round Bye	
(5) Smash GC (TC-B.Koepka, J.Kokrak, P.Uihlein, C.Koepka) 2 points (advance)	
(6) Majesticks GC (TC-I.Poulter, L.Westwood, H.Stenson, S.Horsfield) 3 points (advance)	
(7) Torque GC (TC-J.Niemann, S.Vincent, H.Tanihara, J.Morgan) 1 point	
(8) Hy Flayers GC (TC-P.Mickelson, B.Wiesberger, M.Wolff, C.Tringale) 1 point	
(9) Iron Heads GC (TC-K.Na, S.Kaewkanjana, P.Khongwatmai, S.Kim) 0 points	
(10) Cleeks GC (TC-M.Kaymer, G.McDowell, L.Canter, R.Bland) 2 points (advance)	
(11) Punch GC (TC-C.Smith, M.Leishman, M.Jones, W.Ormsby) 2 point (advance)	
(12) Niblicks GC (NPTC-Bubba Watson, H.Varner, H.Swofford, J.Piot, T.Pettit) 1 point	

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/NHL

Georgia's Dooley dies at 90

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Vince Dooley, the football coach who carried himself like a professor and guided Georgia for a quarter-century of success that included the 1980 national championship, died Friday. He was 90.

The school announced that Dooley died peacefully at his Athens home in the presence of his wife, Barbara, and their four children, including former Tennessee coach Derek Dooley. No cause of death was given.

Dooley was hospitalized this month for what was described as a mild case of COVID-19, but he pronounced himself fully recovered and ready to attend his regular book-signing session at the campus bookstore before an Oct. 15 game against Vanderbilt.

Dooley had a career record of 201-77-10 while coaching the Bulldogs from 1964 to 1988, a stretch that included six Southeastern Conference titles, 20 bowl games and just one losing season.

“Our family is heartbroken by the death of Coach Dooley. He was one of a kind with an unmatched love for UGA!” current Georgia coach Kirby Smart said.

Dooley is the fourth-winningest coach in SEC history, trailing only Bear Bryant, Nick Saban and Steve Spurrier.

“Vince Dooley was one of my favorite people in the world,” Saban said. “Vince represented the University of Georgia and all of college football with tremendous integrity and class as both a coach and athletics director.”

After retiring from coaching, Dooley continued as the school's AD, a job he held from 1979 until 2004. The field at Sanford Stadium was dedicated in his honor during the 2019 football season.

Josh Brooks, the school's current athletic director, said the big-money program he now guides “is what it is today because of Vince Dooley.”

Dooley was the second prominent member of Georgia's storied football history to die in the past two weeks.

Hall of Famer Charlie Trippi, who starred at Georgia in the 1940s and went on to claim an NFL championship with the Chicago Cardinals, died Oct. 19 at the age of 100.

Retired AP sports writer Tom Saladino contributed to this report.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Boston	9	8	1	0	16	39 21
Florida	8	4	3	1	9	24 25
Toronto	8	4	3	1	9	22 22
Buffalo	7	4	3	0	8	25 19
Ottawa	7	4	3	0	8	27 22
Detroit	7	3	2	2	8	23 23
Tampa Bay	8	4	4	0	8	24 25
Montreal	8	4	4	0	8	20 23
Metropolitan Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Philadelphia	7	5	2	0	10	21 17
New Jersey	8	5	3	0	10	24 22
Carolina	7	4	2	1	9	22 20
Pittsburgh	8	4	3	1	9	31 26
N.Y. Islanders	8	4	4	0	8	28 20
Washington	8	4	4	0	8	25 26
N.Y. Rangers	8	3	3	2	8	22 26
Columbus	9	3	6	0	6	25 37
Western Conference						
Central Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Dallas	8	5	2	1	11	25 15
Winnipeg	8	5	3	0	10	25 23
Colorado	8	4	3	1	9	25 22
Chicago	7	4	3	0	8	25 23
Minnesota	7	3	3	1	7	26 30
Nashville	8	3	4	1	7	22 26
St. Louis	6	3	3	0	6	14 18
Arizona	7	2	4	1	5	21 32
Pacific Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Vegas	9	7	2	0	14	30 16
Calgary	6	5	1	0	10	22 17
Edmonton	8	5	3	0	10	31 26
Seattle	9	3	4	2	8	30 33
Los Angeles	9	4	5	0	8	32 39
Vancouver	9	2	5	2	6	28 35
San Jose	10	3	7	0	6	21 30
Anaheim	8	1	6	1	3	16 36

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.

Friday's games
Vegas 4, Anaheim 0
Boston 4, Columbus 0
New Jersey 1, Colorado 0
N.Y. Islanders 6, Carolina 2
Vancouver 5, Pittsburgh 1
Winnipeg 3, Arizona 2, OT

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

Sunday's games
Columbus at New Jersey
Minnesota at Chicago
N.Y. Rangers at Arizona
Toronto at Anaheim
Winnipeg at Vegas

Monday's games
Detroit at Buffalo
Washington at Carolina
Los Angeles at St. Louis

Tuesday's games
Ottawa at Tampa Bay
Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers
Vegas at Washington
Boston at Pittsburgh
Montreal at Minnesota
Los Angeles at Dallas
N.Y. Islanders at Chicago
Nashville at Edmonton
Seattle at Calgary
Florida at Arizona
New Jersey at Vancouver
Anaheim at San Jose

Scoring leaders				
Through Friday				
	GP	G	A	PTS
David Pastrnak, BOS	9	7	10	17
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	8	4	11	15
Connor McDavid, EDM	8	8	7	15
Jesper Bratt, NJ	8	3	10	13
Artemi Panarin, NYR	8	4	8	12
Valeri Nichushkin, COL	7	7	5	12
Nikita Kucherov, TB	8	2	9	11
Sidney Crosby, PIT	8	4	7	11
Mats Zuccarello, MIN	7	5	6	11
R. Nugent-Hopkins, EDM	8	5	6	11

8 tied with 10 pts.



Ross D. FRANKLIN/AP

Winnipeg Jets right wing Blake Wheeler, center, celebrates his game-winning goal against the Arizona Coyotes with left wing Pierre-Luc Dubois, left, and defenseman Neal Pionk during overtime of Friday's game in Tempe, Ariz. The Coyotes were playing their first game at their new home, Mullett Arena.

ROUNDUP

Wheeler, Winnipeg spoil Coyotes' new arena debut

Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Blake Wheeler scored 32 seconds into overtime and the Winnipeg Jets spoiled the Arizona Coyotes' Mullett Arena debut with a 3-2 victory Friday night.

Arizona opened the season with six straight road games before returning to the desert and The Mullett.

Mullett Arena, Arizona State University's new arena, is by far the smallest venue in the NHL and a temporary home until a permanent one is built.

The Coyotes had the early jump in front of 5,000 mullet-wearing fans — headbands with long locks were the giveaway — going up 2-0 on Christian Fischer's first-period goals.

The Jets whittled their way back. Cole Perfetti scored in the first period and Winnipeg picked up the pressure in the third, tying it on Mark Scheifele's goal.

David Rittich, who stopped 19 shots, made a couple of nice saves to start overtime, and Wheeler beat Karel Vejmelka on a one-timer after Pierre-Luc Dubois created a 2-on-1 after stealing the puck from Shayne Gostisbehere.

Vejmelka had 32 saves. **Bruins 4, Blue Jackets 0:** Linus Ullmark made 30 saves for his fifth career shutout, Charlie Coyle scored short-handed and NHL-leading Boston beat host Columbus for its fifth straight victory.

Matt Grzelcyk, Jake DeBrusk and David Pastrnak also scored to

help Boston improve to 7-1-0.

Elvis Merzlikins stopped 25 shots for the Blue Jackets before being replaced in the third period by Daniil Tarasov, who stopped six. Columbus has lost three straight at home and six of its first nine games.

Devils 1, Avalanche 0: Jack Hughes scored on power play early in the third period and Vitek Vanecek made 24 saves for his first shutout with New Jersey in its victory over visiting Colorado.

The Devils won for the fifth time in six games after dropping the first two games of the season. New Jersey also denied defending Stanley Cup champion Colorado's NHL-best power play.

Hughes scored his third of the season on the power play at 2:59 of the third, shooting the puck past Pavel Francouk.

Golden Knights 4, Ducks 0: William Karlsson had a goal and an assist, Logan Thompson made 29 saves and Vegas beat Anaheim in a Nevada Day matinee.

Thompson had his second shutout of the season and third overall to help Western Conference-leading Vegas improve to 7-2-0. Chandler Stephenson, Reilly Smith and Nic Roy also scored.

Anaheim goaltender John Gibson made 14 saves in two periods, and Anthony Stolarz stopped three shots in the third. Since a 5-4 overtime victory over Seattle in the opener, the Ducks have lost seven straight to drop to 1-6-1.

Islanders 6, Hurricanes 2: Josh Bailey scored the go-ahead goal in his 1,000th game, and visiting New York set an NHL record for successful penalty kills to begin a season in its victory over Carolina.

With three more penalty kills, the Islanders haven't allowed a power-play goal in their first eight games, the first team in league history to accomplish that feat.

Brock Nelson had two goals in the third period for the Islanders, who won for the first time in three road games this season. Oliver Wahlstrom and Matt Martin also scored before Zach Parise added a short-handed empty-netter.

Islanders goalie Ilya Sorokin made 32 saves after making 41 stops in a 3-0 victory over the New York Rangers on Wednesday night. Martin Necas and Brent Burns scored for the Hurricanes.

Canucks 5, Penguins 1: Bo Horvat scored twice, Andrei Kuzmenko had a goal and an assist and host Vancouver won its second straight after a season-opening skid, beating Pittsburgh.

Tanner Pearson and J.T. Miller also scored, Ilya Mikheyev had two assists and Spencer Martin made 34 saves. On Thursday night in Seattle, the Canucks beat the Kraken 5-4 to end their season-opening losing streak at a franchise-record seven games.

Rickard Rakell scored for Pittsburgh and Tristan Jarry made 24 saves. The Penguins have lost three straight to fall to 4-3-1.

NBA

ROUNDUP

Bucks beat Knicks, move to 4-0

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee Bucks remained the NBA's lone unbeaten team by relying on their defense.

That's just the way Giannis Antetokounmpo likes it.

Antetokounmpo had 30 points, 14 rebounds and nine assists as the Bucks led nearly the whole way in a 119-108 victory over the New York Knicks on Friday night.

Milwaukee (4-0) won despite shooting a season-low 38.5%.

"We have the personnel that can defend on any given night," Antetokounmpo said. "At the end of the day, as long as we defend, we put ourselves in position to win. That's our identity moving forward. We cannot go away from that."

Antetokounmpo scored eight points during an 18-0 run that gave the Bucks a 24-point lead in the third quarter. The Knicks got the margin down to nine in the final two minutes but couldn't get any closer.

"At the end, I thought we had more urgency and did a better job, but you have to play for 48 minutes against these guys," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "I don't think we did that."

Brook Lopez had 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Bucks, while Bobby Portis had 12 points and 12 rebounds. Grayson Allen scored 17 points, Jrue Holiday had 16, Jevon Carter had 14 and George Hill had 12.

"Everyone was scoring, everyone was moving around and passing," Allen said. "There were a bunch of possessions where the ball swung all the way around from one side to the other."

Timberwolves 111, Lakers 102: Anthony Edwards scored 16 of his 29 points in the third quarter, Rudy Gobert added 22 points and 21 rebounds, and host Minnesota handed Los Angeles its fifth



MORRY GASH/AP

The Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo shoots past the New York Knicks' Mitchell Robinson during the second half of Friday's game in Milwaukee. The Bucks won 119-108.

straight loss to open the season.

With his eighth field goal of the night, LeBron James recorded his 1,135th career 20-point game, passing Karl Malone for the most such games in NBA history.

Cavaliers 132, Celtics 123 (OT): Donovan Mitchell and Caris LeVert each scored 41 points to help visiting Cleveland rally past Boston.

The Cavaliers trailed by as many as 15 in the first half and overcame a 75-point first half by the Celtics to earn their fifth straight win.

Spurs 129, Bulls 124: Keldon Johnson scored 33 points, spoiling a milestone evening for former teammate DeMar DeRozan and leading host San Antonio past Chicago.

DeRozan scored 33 points, be-

coming just the 50th player in NBA history to reach 20,000.

Pacers 127, Wizards 117: Tyrese Haliburton had 25 points and 12 assists, Myles Turner added 27 points and visiting Indiana beat Washington.

Assistant Lloyd Pierce was coaching the Pacers because Rick Carlisle had a previously scheduled event recognizing his daughter as cheer captain on her senior night. Buddy Hield scored 25 points for Indiana, which led by as many as 20 points in both the second and third quarters.

76ers 112, Raptors 90: Tyrese Maxey scored a career-high 44 points, carrying visiting Philadelphia without Joel Embiid to a victory over Toronto.

Embiid sat out because of a sore right knee. A five-time All Star and the reigning NBA scoring champion, Embiid is averaging 27.6 points and 10 rebounds in five games.

Magic 113, Hornets 93: Pablo Bancho had 21 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists, and host Orlando got its first victory of the season.

Mo Bamba had 19 points and six rebounds, Wendell Carter Jr. added 15 points and five rebounds, and Bol Bol had 11 points and seven rebounds for Orlando, which had opened the season with five straight losses. The Magic led by 32 points in the third quarter.

Hawks 136, Pistons 112: Trae Young had 36 points and 12 assists in just three quarters and visiting Atlanta overcame Cade Cunningham's career-high 35 points to beat Detroit for the second time in

three nights.

Dejounte Murray had 26 points for Atlanta, which outscored the Pistons 67-45 in the second half. Aoneka Okongwu added 16 points, Aaron Holiday scored 14 and De'Andre Hunter chipped in 12.

Nuggets 117, Jazz 101: Bones Hyland made seven three-pointers and scored 26 points, DeAndre Jordan hit the second three of his 15-year NBA career, and host Denver beat Utah.

Michael Porter Jr. added 22 points and 13 rebounds and Nikola Jokic had 12 points, 10 rebounds and six assists while shooting just 3-for-10 from the field for the Nuggets, who were blown out in their season opener against the surprising Jazz.

Trail Blazers 125, Rockets 111: Jusuf Nurkic had 27 points and 15 rebounds, and host Portland won despite the absence of star guard Damian Lillard.

Anfernee Simons led all scorers with 30 points, including seven three-pointers, for the Blazers, who led by as many as 18 points. With the win, Portland improved to 5-1 this season.

Suns 124, Pelicans 111: Mikal Bridges scored a season-high 27 points, Devin Booker added 16 and host Phoenix beat injury-depleted New Orleans.

The Suns' usual scoring stars were fairly quiet but they got a productive game from Bridges and their bench players. Torrey Craig finished with 13 points on 6-for-6 shooting, Cameron Payne added 12 points and Bismack Biyombo had 11 points and 13 rebounds.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	3	2	.600	—
New York	3	2	.600	—
Toronto	3	3	.500	1½
Philadelphia	2	4	.333	2½
Brooklyn	1	4	.200	2

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	4	1	.800	—
Washington	3	2	.600	1
Charlotte	2	3	.400	2
Miami	2	4	.333	2½
Orlando	1	5	.167	3½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	4	0	1.000	—
Cleveland	4	1	.800	½
Chicago	3	3	.500	2
Indiana	2	4	.333	3
Detroit	1	5	.167	4

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	4	1	.800	—
San Antonio	4	2	.667	½
New Orleans	3	2	.600	1
Dallas	2	2	.500	1½
Houston	1	5	.167	3½

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	5	1	.833	—
Utah	4	2	.667	1
Denver	4	2	.667	1
Minnesota	4	2	.667	1
Oklahoma City	2	3	.400	2½

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	4	1	.800	—
Golden State	3	2	.600	1
L.A. Clippers	2	3	.400	2
Sacramento	0	4	.000	3½
L.A. Lakers	0	5	.000	4

Friday's games

Orlando 113, Charlotte 93
Atlanta 136, Detroit 112
Philadelphia 112, Toronto 90
Indiana 127, Washington 117
Cleveland 132, Boston 123, OT
Milwaukee 119, New York 108
Minnesota 111, L.A. Lakers 102
San Antonio 129, Chicago 124
Denver 117, Utah 101
Portland 125, Houston 111
Phoenix 124, New Orleans 111

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

Monday's games

Philadelphia at Washington
Sacramento at Charlotte
Atlanta at Toronto
Indiana at Brooklyn
Detroit at Milwaukee
Memphis at Utah
Houston at L.A. Clippers

Tuesday's games

Chicago at Brooklyn
Golden State at Miami
Orlando at Oklahoma City
Minnesota at Phoenix

Scoring leaders

Through Friday					
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Doncic, DAL	4	52	31	145	36.3
Antetokounmpo, MIL	4	53	27	138	34.5
Durant, BKN	5	55	47	166	33.2
Morant, MEM	5	54	42	163	32.6
Tatum, BOS	5	56	35	162	32.4
Mitchell, CLE	5	54	30	155	31.0
Lillard, POR	5	48	39	155	31.0
Curry, GS	5	51	25	154	30.8
Fox, SAC	4	49	13	122	30.5
Irving, BKN	5	54	28	148	29.6
Young, ATL	5	44	47	147	29.4



JACK DEMPSEY/AP

Denver Nuggets center DeAndre Jordan, left, pressures Utah Jazz guard Leandro Bolmaro during the fourth quarter of Friday's game in Denver. The Nuggets beat the Jazz 117-101.

MARINE CORPS MARATHON/AUTO RACING

'72 Olympic champ reflects on win, aftermath

By JOE GROMELSKI

Special to Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — When Frank Shorter shocked the sports world by winning the marathon at the 1972 Olympic Games, there was no such thing as the Marine Corps Marathon, and long-distance running in the United States was pretty much confined to a dedicated group of intense, wiry individuals.

After Shorter brought home the gold medal — the first by a U.S. marathoner since 1908, and no American has won it since — distance running took off in this country. Numerous races joined the venerable Boston event on the annual marathon schedule, and in 1978 the U.S. Marine Corps first sponsored what became an iconic 26.2-mile race through the streets of Washington, D.C., and its environs.

This weekend, Shorter is in the nation's capital as an ambassador of the Marine Corps Marathon for Sunday's 47th running, and on Friday he talked about his 1972 Olympic triumph at Munich and its aftermath.

"At that point, Americans weren't considered endurance athletes," he said. "I wasn't one of the favorites, even though I was coming up very quickly. I was just, in a way, an average, normal American from upstate New York who just got better and better at what he was doing in college (at Yale), and got out of college and decided he wanted to go to the Olympics ... but just in case, I'll go to law school. So I went to law school in Florida full time, and then trained for the Olympics. So I win, and I think it just surprised a lot of people."



Olympic marathon champion Frank Shorter talks with Col. Michael Brooks, Marine Corps Base Quantico commanding officer, after Friday's Marine Corps Marathon press conference in Arlington, Va.

And it prompted many of them to lace up track shoes and hit the roads.

"I think what happened is, (Americans) didn't realize that it was really a part of American culture — that ability to sort of endure and just constantly work at something, and have a goal and be able to focus on that goal, and anyone can do it," Shorter said. "I think I kind of demystified the distance. The fact that, 'well, if (Shorter) can run that far, I can do that.'"

"The best example I have is (four-time Boston Marathon champion) Bill Rodgers, who was another person in the running boom. He was a smoker at the time, watched

me in '72. We had run against each other when we were in college, and the way I put it is, he probably put out his cigarette and said 'I can do that,' and became one of my big rivals. So he was another part of that puzzle."

But Shorter believes there was more to the 1970s running boom than the performances of a few individuals.

"The other part of it was, at the time, health and fitness were being quantified through research," he said. "You had people like Kenneth Cooper, he came up with the term 'aerobics.' That was his book. Then there was this guy named Jim Fixx, who wrote a book on running. So it

was a combination of a lot of those things, and I think when people first started to do it, they realized it was stress relief. And that's what it was for me in college.

"For a lot of Americans, there's something about us, we just like to go out there and put one foot in front of the other."

All that running can take its toll, though, especially for those who have trained at a high level.

"I went out and walked six miles this morning," Shorter said, "and it was apparent when I was getting up there on the stage (at the Marathon press conference). Over time, orthopedically, you just are going to pay that price. People now realize

Scoreboard

47th Marine Corps Marathon

When: Sunday.
Where: Start and finish lines are in Arlington, Va.
Starting time: 7:50 a.m.
Other races on Sunday: MCM 10K (6.2 miles), MCM 50K (31 miles).

that and go to softer surfaces, and the new shoes are very good about giving much more cushion and protection.

"But it's inevitable. One, you get older, and two, we all have what I call 'orthopedic limit.' Over time, at a very high intensity of training, your body is only going to last so long. No matter who you are. There's a window, and eventually for some people it's two or three years, some people it can be six, eight years. I was about eight years, nine years."

Shorter recalled that for him, the moment of truth came "in the middle of a race (in his hometown of Middletown, N.Y., in 1982). I was winning, and I was beating Rod Dixon, who was the No. 1-ranked road racer in the world at the time, and I said to myself, 'this is harder than it should be.' And I realized, I was 35, and I just knew. So at that point, my goal — really, right in the middle of the race — I said, OK, from now on, my goal is to slow down as slowly as possible. I know I'm slowing down, but whatever I can do to sort of mitigate that, as I go down, that's what I've tried to do.

"But again, it's like this morning — sometimes you overdo it. It's a club. It's called the 'do as I say, not as I do, track club.'"

Blaney crew chief returns in time for critical playoff race

By JENNA FRYER

Associated Press

Ryan Blaney gets his crew chief back for the most important weekend of his NASCAR season after an untimely suspension. The first task for Jonathan Hassler? Get his driver a strong starting spot in the last race to qualify for the championship.

There are three spots up for grabs at Martinsville Speedway on Sunday race, and Joey Logano is the only driver qualified for next week's winner-take-all final four at Phoenix Raceway.

Seven drivers are vying for the final three positions, and starting position will be critical. The spring stop at the paperclip-shaped 0.526-mile short track was a passing nightmare with only five lead changes and four cautions — two of which were for stage breaks.

"Yeah, passing was a little bit of an issue in the spring," Blaney said. "Qualifying is going to be huge, trying to set yourself up. It's super hard to pass the leader from second or third, and I just think qualifying is



TERRY RENNA/AP

Driver Ryan Blaney stands on pit road during NASCAR Cup Series practice at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Oct. 22.

going to be super important."

Blaney was one of four drivers to lead, but his Ford was out front for a measly five laps in a race dominated by winner William Byron and Hendrick Motorsports teammate Chase Elliott. They combined to lead all but six of the 403 laps.

Blaney, Denny Hamlin, Chris-

topher Bell and Chase Briscoe are all below the cutline headed into Sunday, with Bell and Briscoe essentially needing a victory to make the final four. Ross Chastain, Elliott and Byron are above the cutline, and only 32 points separate Chastain in second from Blaney in sixth.

Blaney is hopeful a June test at

Martinsville helped Goodyear develop a better-performing tire that will make this weekend's race more competitive. He also noted that "it's going to be warmer this weekend than it was in the spring."

And if the product isn't any better? Well, Blaney predicts the remaining playoff drivers will get desperate toward the end of the race for every possible position.

"If you get some cautions toward the end of this thing, then pandemonium ensues," Blaney said. "You've seen that, especially in this race, when it's the last chance for guys to get into the (finale). If they're in position, they're going to be aggressive."

As for the return of Hassler — one of many crew chiefs to receive four-race suspensions this season for loose wheels on the new Next Gen car — Blaney hopes it gets him into victory lane for his first points-paying win this season. He won the All-Star race but it didn't count in the standings, where he's hovered in the top three almost the entire season.

It began to unravel, literally,

when Blaney's Team Penske crew allowed a wheel to roll off the No. 12 at Bristol in September to draw the automatic four-race suspensions, which began at Talladega Superspeedway at the start of October. Blaney managed a second-place finish there, but was 26th at Charlotte in the final race of the second round of the playoffs.

Blaney opened the third round with a 28th-place finish at Las Vegas, and after contending at Homestead-Miami Speedway for most of last week's race, he spun coming off of pit road and finished 17th.

"Those situations at Vegas and Homestead are all on me," Blaney said. "There's no ifs, ands, or buts or ways around it. It's all on me making mistakes and (Hassler) gets it. The biggest thing we talk about is we win or lose as a team. ... The past couple of weeks they've brought really good cars and I've just let them down. So he and I talked about it really quickly, and then it's just full shift. You get over that. Learn from it."

WORLD SERIES



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander walks to the dugout after the top of the first inning in Game 1 of the World Series against the Philadelphia Phillies on Friday in Houston.

Even with five-run lead, Verlander can't get win

BY RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Justin Verlander was dejected. Even with a five-run lead, he couldn't get his first World Series win.

Perfect through three innings, he was utterly fallible in the fourth and fifth. Nick Castellanos started Verlander's downfall with an RBI single, and Alec Bohm and J.T. Realmuto each hit a two-run double as the Phillies rallied for a 6-5, 10-inning win over the Houston Astros in Friday night's opener.

"Disappointing," Verlander said. "My team gave me a five-run lead and I wasn't able to hold it. I feel really confident that 99% of the time that I'm able to hold that lead and unfortunately today I wasn't."

Verlander was pulled after five innings. The 39-year-old right-hander allowed six hits and two walks in a no-decision that left him 0-6 with a 6.07 ERA in eight World Series starts — the highest ERA of any pitcher to throw at least 30 innings in the Fall Classic.

"I need to do better. No excuses," he said. "Just need to execute pitches better. I felt like I had some guys in good situations and just wasn't able to quite make the pitches that I wanted to."

Verlander became the fourth-oldest pitcher to start a Series game after 43-year-old Roger Clemens, 40-year-old David Wells and Early Wynn, a slightly more aged 39. Verlander said he was ready and looked the part, his face

Scoreboard

World Series (Best-of-seven) (x-if necessary)	
Philadelphia 1, Houston 0	Friday: Philadelphia 6, Houston 5, 10 innings
	Saturday: at Houston
Monday, Oct. 31: at Philadelphia, AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, CET; 8 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, JKT.	
Tuesday, Nov. 1: at Philadelphia, AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2, CET; 8 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2, JKT.	
x-Wednesday, Nov. 2: at Philadelphia, AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, CET; 8 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, JKT.	
x-Friday, Nov. 4: at Houston, AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, CET; 8 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, JKT.	
x-Saturday, Nov. 5: at Houston, AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, CET; 8 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, JKT.	

filled with stubble from his habit of shaving only right after a start.

Likely headed to his third Cy Young Award after going 18-4 with a big league-best 1.75 ERA in his return from Tommy John surgery this season, Verlander has said he hopes to pitch until age 45.

His first three innings could not have been smoother. A sharp fastball averaging 95 mph, a curve and a slider kept the Phillies off balance the first time through the batting order. Verlander needed 36 pitches to get nine outs, 27 of them strikes.

But then Rhys Hoskins singled to center on a fastball with one out in the fourth, Bryce Harper singled on a slider with two outs, and Castellanos singled on a slider to drive in the Phillies' first run.

"I thought we did a great job grinding at-bats out," Harper said.

Bohm hooked a first-pitch hanging curveball into the left-field corner to cut the gap to 5-3.

"You've seen it once. So there's some familiarity there," Phillies manager Rob Thomson said of Verlander's second time through the order. "We got his pitch count up pretty good. I thought his stuff was good. But we did, we had some good at-bats."

Only after Bryson Stott worked out a 10-pitch walk did Verlander retire Jean Segura on an inning-ending pop, his 31st pitch of the inning.

"He made some mistakes with his breaking ball, because almost every pitch they hit was a breaking ball," Astros manager Dusty Baker said. "He couldn't get the breaking ball down. That's what changed. Sometimes you change your game plan. You can't keep throwing the same guys the same way all the time. That's rare for him not to make those pitches."

Then in the fifth, No. 9 hitter Brandon Marsh doubled leading off to break an 0-for-14 slide, Kyle Schwarber walked and one out later, Realmuto drove another hanging curve off the chain-link fence in left-center to tie the score.

"Maybe just I wasn't executing pitches as well. They got some traffic on the bases and managed to have some really good at-bats and put the ball in play," Verlander said. "They have a great lineup, they have been hot, and we knew that coming in. To cool them off I feel like you have to execute."

Roar: Realmuto comes through for Philadelphia

FROM PAGE 24

head, "Oh, please just don't catch it, just don't catch it."

He didn't, the ball sailing just beyond his reach.

Realmuto circled the bases in a scene he dreamed about as a kid.

"Oh, absolutely. Yeah. Absolutely. I mean Wiffle Ball games in the backyard, the whole 3-2, bases-loaded, two-out situation. I probably had 7,000 at-bats in that situation growing up," he said.

And did he usually deliver?

"Every time, yes," Realmuto said, laughing.

Realmuto became the first catcher to hit an extra-inning home run in the World Series since Carlton Fisk waved his walk-off fair in the 12th inning of Game 6 in the 1975 Series against Cincinnati at Fenway Park.

Big-hitting Bryce Harper added two singles for the Phillies in his World Series debut. The two-time NL MVP is batting .426 (20-for-47) with five homers this postseason.

Tucker homered twice for the Astros, who had been 7-0 in this postseason.

"Disappointing, yeah, for sure," Verlander said. "I need to do better. No excuses."

Houston had a chance in the 10th when Alex Bregman doubled with one out. After Yuli Gurriel drew a two-out walk, David Robertson bounced a wild pitch that put runners on second and third.

Pinch-hitter Aledmys Diaz was then hit by a 2-0 pitch from David Robertson — but plate umpire James Hoye ruled that Diaz leaned into the pitch and didn't permit him to go to first to load the bases.

Diaz grounded out on a 3-1 pitch to end it.

The last team to blow a 5-0 lead in the World Series was the 2002 San Francisco Giants, who squandered their chance in Game 6 to close out the Angels and win the ti-

tle under manager Dusty Baker.

Baker saw it happen again this time as manager of the Astros, by the same 6-5 final score.

The 106-win Astros hadn't lost to anyone since Philadelphia beat them on Oct. 3 behind Aaron Nola to clinch a wild-card spot as a third-place team and earn its first playoff trip in 11 years.

Houston raced out to a big lead thanks in large part to Tucker's two homers. But the Phillies stormed back as Verlander again struggled in the World Series.

Perfect as he took a 5-0 lead into the fourth, he exited after the fifth with the score 5-all. That left him 0-6 with a 6.07 ERA in eight career World Series starts — hardly the line for a pitcher who's expected to soon pick up his third Cy Young Award.

The Astros fell to 0-5 in World Series openers and dropped their first game this postseason after sweeping the AL Division Series and AL Championship Series.

Seranthony Dominguez pitched a scoreless ninth to get the win when Castellanos made his stellar play.

With Jose Altuve on second base after his two-out single and stolen base, Peña hit a ball that came off the bat at 68 mph and went only about 200 feet. Castellanos ran a long way, then with a lunge made the inning-ending catch while sliding to the ground.

Right before the pitch, Castellanos moved in a little closer.

"That was just what my instincts told me to do. I just thought he had a better chance of trying to bloop something in there than torching something over my head," he said.

In the opener of the NL Division Series against Atlanta, Castellanos drove in three runs and helped preserve the lead with a somewhat similar catch in the ninth of that 7-6 win.



ERIC GAY/AP

Astros right fielder Kyle Tucker can't get a glove on a home run by the Philadelphia Phillies' J.T. Realmuto during the 10th inning of Game 1 of the World Series on Friday in Houston.

NFL



JED JACOBSON/AP

San Francisco 49ers defensive end Nick Bosa, top, sacks Los Angeles Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford during the first half of their game on Oct. 3 in Santa Clara, Calif.

Rams strive to end skid in regular season vs. 49ers

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — The Los Angeles Rams' rivalry with the 49ers has been thoroughly, shockingly one-sided in San Francisco's favor over the past several seasons.

Well, except in the one meeting that mattered the most.

But that NFC championship game victory by the Rams last January meant nothing when San Francisco routed LA yet again four weeks ago. It means even less this Sunday before the Rams' second meeting of the season — and fourth meeting of 2022 — with the 49ers, who have won a whopping seven consecutive regular-season games against Los Angeles.

Even the Rams' only victory over the 49ers since 2018 was hardly convincing: San Francisco had to blow a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter, and Niners safety Jaquiski Tartt had to drop a surefire late interception while the Rams surged into the Super Bowl.

With fresh optimism after their bye week, the Rams (3-3) are hoping this will be the week they finally break through in decisive fashion against the 49ers (3-4), who have lost two straight and have beaten only one team other than Los Angeles since Week 2.

"What's happened in the past isn't any of my concern, other than

San Francisco 49ers (3-4)
at Los Angeles Rams (3-3)
AFN-Atlantic

9:25 p.m. Sunday CET
5:25 a.m. Monday JKT

this week and being here right now," Rams coach Sean McVay said. "I like the look in our guys' eyes."

This latest meeting is even more difficult for the Rams because they took yet another loss to the 49ers only last week — and now they've got to face the star veteran acquisition who went to San Francisco instead of Los Angeles.

Christian McCaffrey will play his second game for the 49ers after they outbid the Rams for the prolific running back in discussions with Carolina. Los Angeles' dismal ground game could have used McCaffrey, who also played against the Rams' defense in their most recent game, a victory over the Panthers two weeks ago.

The Rams are intimately familiar with the 49ers' versatile offense, yet defensive coordinator Raheem Morris doesn't take any comfort from that knowledge, his recent game-planning for McCaffrey or the injury absence of Deebo Samuel, who romped through LA's defense for a 57-yard TD catch four weeks ago.

"This team, they do what they do," Morris said of the Niners.

"Will (McCaffrey) bring some different wrinkles? There's no doubt. ... That just adds another dynamic player to their offense."

The Niners sacked Matthew Stafford seven times in their 24-9 win four weeks ago, and their defensive line's dominance has been a significant factor in just about every victory in this streak. But Arik Armstead hasn't played on the Niners' line since the first win over LA, and is out again this weekend with injuries.

The Rams' offensive line health has improved marginally, with center Brian Allen back in the lineup Sunday after missing five games. Alaric Jackson, the undrafted free agent taking over at left tackle for the Rams, will get a serious test from the Niners' remaining pass rushers.

The Rams' inconsistent offense will finally get Van Jefferson back in its lineup after the receiver had knee surgery early in training camp.

Jefferson started 21 games and served as a dependable No. 3 option for the Super Bowl champions' roster, and the Rams have missed him while struggling even to establish newcomer Allen Robinson as a No. 2 threat behind Cooper Kupp.

"The juice that he brings is pretty special, so I'm glad to have him back in the huddle," Kupp said of Jefferson.

Surprising Giants, Seahawks collide in NFC showdown

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Forgive Brian Daboll if he's essentially walking around with ear plugs and blinders on, doing his best during the week to try to avoid the avalanche of attention being placed on the New York Giants.

Even if that focus is a good thing in this case.

"I can only speak of the games. The games have been great," the Giants head coach said. "I get in my car and drive home and drive here. I don't really do anything else."

The Giants (6-1) are among the hottest teams in the NFL, riding a four-game winning streak into Sunday's matchup against the equally surprising Seattle Seahawks. The Giants' streak is tied for the second-longest active streak in the league, while Seattle (4-3) has won its last two to move into first place in the NFC West.

Both Seattle and New York were expected to be among the dregs of the NFC this season — the Giants because of a new coaching staff taking over a franchise that won just four games in 2021; the Seahawks because they traded a franchise quarterback with no obvious replacement at the position.

But New York has found an uncanny way to win a bunch of close games thanks to smart decisions by quarterback Daniel Jones and a dynamic season to date from running back Saquon Barkley. And Seattle discovered it already had its quarterback replacement in Geno Smith, who is among the best in the league through seven games.

The game is the only matchup this week featuring both teams having winning records. If that statement had been made before the season, some good money could have been made betting on the unlikelihood of that being the case.

"It's been an interesting year. I

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

think there a lot of surprises around the league as far as the play and the way the ball bounces and wins and losses," Seattle tight end Will Dissly said. "We kind of know who we are, and we are excited."

The Giants and Seahawks are among the two best teams in the NFL at running the ball. For New York, it has been a lot of Barkley leading the way.

He leads the NFL in yards from scrimmage and is second in yards rushing through seven weeks. But they've had the added element of Jones running the ball, including a career-high 107 yards last week against Jacksonville, and Seattle has struggled at times stopping running quarterbacks this season. The Giants rank second in the league in rushing.

On the other side, there's been no falloff with rookie Kenneth Walker III stepping in after Rashaad Penny was lost for the season due to injury. Walker rushed for 167 yards and two touchdowns last week against the Chargers and is averaging over 6 yards per carry the past two weeks.

The Giants are expected to have significant changes on their offensive line with right tackle Evan Neal and left guard Ben Bredeson both suffering knee injuries last week against Jacksonville. Neither is expected to play against the Seahawks, especially with New York's bye coming next week.

The Giants could end up getting a boost if Nick Gates is ready to play. Gates was added to the active roster this week after missing most of last season following a major injury fracturing both bones in his lower left leg. Gates underwent seven surgeries to repair the injury.



PHELAN M. EBENHACK/AP

New York Giants running back Saquon Barkley leaps over Jacksonville Jaguars safety Andre Cisco on a rush during the first half of their game last weekend in Jacksonville, Fla.

SPORTS

Olympic champion reflects

Shorter discusses impact of his 1972 win ahead of Marine Corps Marathon » Page 21



The Philadelphia Phillies' J.T. Realmuto hits a home run Friday during the top of the 10th inning of Game 1 of the World Series against the Astros in Houston.

SUE OGROCKI/AP

WORLD SERIES

Phils roar back, win Game 1



ERIC GAY/AP

Phillies right fielder Nick Castellanos makes a sliding catch of a fly ball hit by Houston's Jeremy Pena to end the ninth inning.

Philadelphia rallies from 5 runs down to stun Astros

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

HOUSTON — A timely swing by J.T. Realmuto propelled the Philadelphia Phillies to an unlikely win in the World Series opener.

A terrific stab by right fielder Nick Castellanos gave him that shot.

Realmuto hit a solo home run in the 10th inning and the Phillies, saved by Castellanos' sliding catch, rallied past the Houston Astros 6-5 Friday night.

Down 5-0 early against Astros ace Justin Verlander, the Phillies became the first team in 20 years to overcome a five-run deficit to

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win a World Series game.

They can thank Castellanos for getting the chance. Known much more for his bat than glove, he rushed in to make a game-saving grab on Jeremy Peña's bloop hit with two outs in the ninth inning and a runner on second.

"All in all, it was a great game, a

great come-from-behind victory, and it just showed the resilience of the club again and how tough they are and they just never quit," Phillies manager Rob Thomson said.

Realmuto, who hit a tying, two-run double in the fifth off Verlander, completed the comeback when he led off the 10th by sending a fastball from Luis García into the seats.

Realmuto hoped for the best as he saw right fielder Kyle Tucker pursuing the ball.

"Once I saw him running back to the wall, I was thinking in my

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