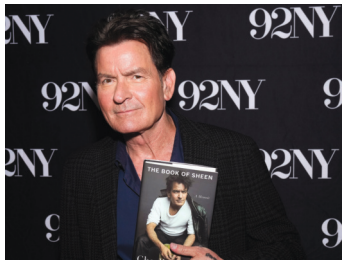


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STARS AND STRIPES®

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas



CRAIG HUDSON/For the Washington Post

Members of the National Guard stand in front of the Lincoln Memorial last month in Washington.

Answering the call

Military-related work absences reach a 19-year high amid deployments

By ABHA BHATTARAI
The Washington Post

The number of Americans missing work for National Guard deployments or other military or civic duty is at a 19-year high, adding disruption to a labor market that's already under strain.

Between January and August, workers reported 90,000 instances of people missing at least a week of work because of military deployments, jury duty or other civil service, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That is more than double the number of similar absences in the same eight-month peri-

od last year and the highest level since 2006, when President George W. Bush deployed the National Guard to Iraq, Afghanistan and the Southwest U.S. border in large numbers.

The absences are due at least in part to a growing military presence in American cities. Since taking office in January, President Donald Trump has sent thousands of National Guard service members — civilians, many with full-time jobs — to Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. He has suggested expansions of those efforts to at least seven more cities, including Chicago, New York, Baltimore and New Orleans, and called for the creation of a

new military unit that can quickly mobilize anywhere in the country.

The ramp-up is happening at a vulnerable time for the labor market. Job openings have dropped in recent months, layoffs are picking up and businesses are slow to hire. Companies added just 22,000 new jobs in August, well below economists' expectations, while the unemployment rate edged up to 4.3%.

Military-related absences so far make up just a sliver of overall workplace disruptions. In August, for example, more than twice as

SEE ABSENCES ON PAGE 7

Army testing new vehicles with lasers to counter drones

By LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

It's no exaggeration to say that the U.S. Army is laser-focused on taking out cheap, deadly drones like the ones that have rained down on Ukrainian battlefields and Middle East bases.

The service now has its first prototypes of specially equipped vehicles that use a 20-kilowatt ray of directed energy to track and shoot down aerial threats, including drones.

Last week's delivery of two infantry squad vehicles outfitted with LOCUST laser systems by manufacturer AeroVironment represents the latest Army effort to develop a high-energy weapon to counter one-way attack drones.

The pair now in the service's possession is the first increment of the Army's Multi-Purpose High Energy Laser prototyping effort, according to the company.

The service first awarded a \$45.7 million contract to BlueHalo in 2023 to develop the laser systems. The company was later acquired by AeroVironment.

The LOCUST systems are mounted on the backs of highly

SEE VEHICLES ON PAGE 7



FACEBOOK/AeroVironment

The Army has its first two prototypes of squad vehicles equipped with lasers.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Murdoch family reaches deal on media empire

Associated Press

Rupert Murdoch's family has reached a deal on control of the 94-year-old mogul's media empire after his death, ensuring no change in direction at Fox News, the most popular network for President Donald Trump and conservatives.

The deal creates a trust establishing control of the Fox Corp. for Lachlan Murdoch, Rupert's chosen heir who has been running Fox in recent years, along with his younger sisters, Grace and Chloe.

Lachlan Murdoch's three older si-

blings, Prudence MacLeod, Elisabeth and James, give up any claims to control of Fox in exchange for stock currently valued at \$3.3 billion, according to The New York Times, which first reported news of the deal.

The new trust will be in place until 2050, according to terms of the deal.

The three siblings sued to block the changes and won an initial ruling in a Nevada probate court. Yet with appeals dragging on and the outcome uncertain, representatives for Rupert Murdoch and his children

met to hammer out a deal to end the family bitterness, and it was announced late Monday.

Lachlan's three older siblings have six months to sell any personal holdings in Fox and have agreed to a long-term ban on acquiring shares of Fox and News Corp. or taking any actions involving the company, Fox said.

The bid to give Lachlan control of the trust was euphemistically named "Project Family Harmony," according to sealed court papers obtained by the Times.

EXCHANGE RATES

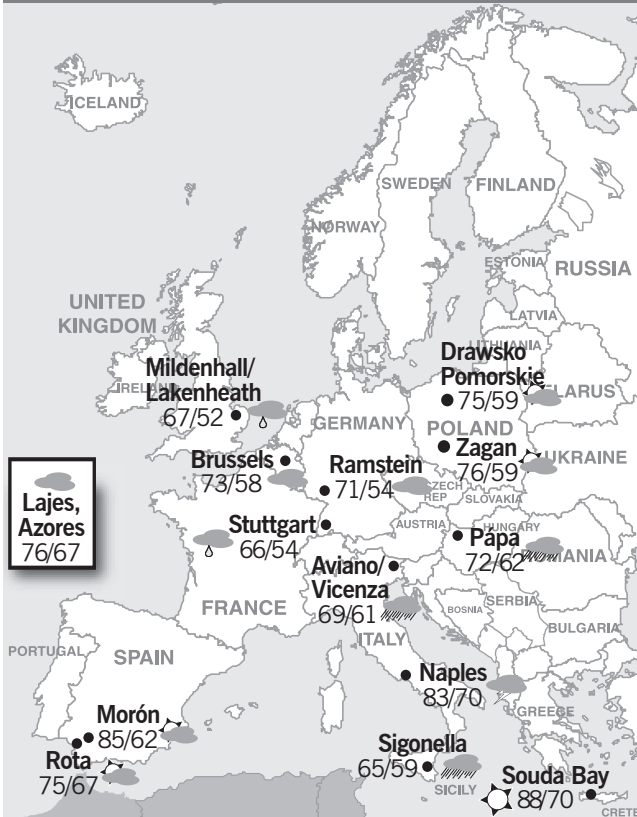
Military rates		Switzerland (Franc)	0.793
Euro costs (Sept. 10)	0.83	Thailand (Baht)	31.589
British pound (Sept. 10)	\$1.32	Turkey (NewLira)	41.27117
Japanese yen (Sept. 10)	144.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for 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.)	
South Korean won (Sept. 10)	1351.00	INTEREST RATES	
Commercial rates		Prime rate	7.50
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.374449	Interest Rates Discount rate	0.25
Britain (Pound)	1.35729	Federal funds market rate	4.38
Canada (Dollar)	1.38061	3-month bill	4.05
China (Yuan)	7.1293	30-year bond	4.69
Denmark (Krone)	6.34724		
Egypt (Pound)	47.9211		
Euro	.085036		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.78693		
Hungary (Forint)	333.898		
Israel (Shekel)	3.3381		
Japan (Yen)	146.577		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.30482		
Norway (Krone)	9.93395		
Philippines (Peso)	56.645		
Poland (Zloty)	3.61351		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.748234		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.27965		
South Korea (Won)	1384.55		

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MILITARY

Hegseth and Caine pay visit to Puerto Rico

By DÁNICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived in Puerto Rico on Monday for an unexpected visit as the U.S. steps up its military operations against drug cartels in the Caribbean.

Their arrival in the U.S. territory comes more than a week after ships carrying hundreds of U.S. Marines deployed to Puerto Rico for what officials said was a training exercise, a move that some on the island have criticized.

But on Monday night, Hegseth said in a video posted on X that the deployed Marines were “on the front lines of defending the American homeland.”

“Make no mistake about it, what you’re doing right now is not training. This is the real-world exercise on behalf of the vital national interest of the United States of America to end the poisoning of the American people,” he said while aboard the USS Iwo Jima.

Earlier in the day, Puerto Rico’s Gov. Jeniffer González said Hegseth and Caine visited on behalf of President Donald Trump’s administration to support those participating in the training.

“We thank President Trump and his administration for recognizing the strategic importance of Puerto Rico to U.S. national security and for their fight against drug cartels and the narco-dictator Nicolás Maduro,” González said.

Hegseth and Caine met with officials at the 156th Wing Muñoz Air National Guard Base in Carolina, a city just east of the capital of San Juan.

González said Hegseth spoke to nearly 300 soldiers at the base and thanked those he described as “American warriors” for their work. He later departed for the USS Iwo Jima.

“The American people are counting on you to ensure the American homeland is kept safe,” Hegseth told the Marines aboard the USS Iwo Jima. “Narco terrorists and drug traffickers are on notice.”

The visit comes as the U.S. prepares to deploy 10 F-35 fighter jets to Puerto Rico for operations targeting drug cartels, a person familiar with the planning said Saturday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity



Hegseth



ALEJANDRO GRANADILLO/AP

A demonstrator holds a sign that reads in Spanish, “No to war” during a protest against U.S. military presence on the island, outside the Muñoz Air National Guard Base in Carolina, Puerto Rico, on Sunday.

because information about the deployments has not been made public.

Tensions escalating

On Sept. 2, Trump announced that the U.S. carried out a strike in the southern Caribbean against a vessel that had left Venezuela and was suspected of carrying drugs. Eleven people were killed in the rare U.S. military operation in the Caribbean, with the president saying the vessel was operated by the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua.

While the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago praised the strike and said the U.S. should kill all drug traffickers “violently,” reaction from other Caribbean leaders has been more subdued.

Barbadian Foreign Minister Kerrie Symonds recently told The Associated Press that members of Caricom, a regional trade bloc, sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio asking for an open line of communication on developments. He said they want to avoid being surprised by any U.S. moves against Venezuela.

Meanwhile, Venezuela’s government on Monday insisted that the U.S. is falsely accusing it of playing a crucial role in the global drug trade. Vice President Delcy Rodríguez told reporters the U.S. government should redirect its recently deployed maritime force to the Pacific, where fast boats and

container ships have long carried Colombian cocaine.

“Those ships that are trying to intimidate Venezuela today should be there in the Pacific if they truly wanted to fight and prevent cocaine from reaching the United States of America,” she said. “They have a GPS location problem. They’re where they shouldn’t be. They need to calibrate their GPS.”

Rodríguez, citing reports from the United Nations and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, added that Venezuela “has absolutely nothing to do with the deaths of (U.S.) citizens from drug overdoses” as the country “is not relevant” in global drug production.

She suggested the U.S. should focus on fighting consumption within its borders.

“There’s a lot of hypocrisy, a lot of double standards, a lot of political manipulation of this issue to attack, to intervene, to aim for regime change in countries that aren’t sympathetic,” she said, referring to drug trafficking.

‘No to War’

The ongoing training of the Marines in Puerto Rico and the upcoming deployment of fighter jets have rankled some in the U.S. territory, where the memories of the U.S. Navy using nearby islands as training ranges for decades remains fresh, with the clea-

nup still ongoing.

The April 1999 death of civilian security guard David Sanes Rodríguez sparked large protests at the time, eventually leading to the U.S. military leaving the island. Rodríguez was killed after two 500-pound bombs were dropped near him as part of a training mission in Vieques.

On Sunday, dozens of people gathered at the National Guard base in Carolina to decry the heightened U.S. military presence on the island.

They held signs that said, “No to War” and “No to military bases in P.R.”

Organizers also warned against the use of Puerto Rico as a staging ground for potential U.S. military actions in the region.

“We denounce the existence of military bases in Puerto Rico,” said Sonia Santiago Hernández, founder of Mothers Against War.

González has dismissed those concerns, saying that Puerto Rico is playing an important role in Trump’s ongoing fight against drug trafficking since it represents a U.S. border in the Caribbean.

She also has noted that the ongoing training of Marines involves logistics exercises and no ammunition.

Marines in Puerto Rico

Siul López, a spokesman for Puerto Rico’s National Guard, told the AP that the Marines were practicing amphibious maneuvers with a variety of vehicles, adding that he did not know how many were on the island.

Meanwhile, González said last week that she estimates more than 1,000 Marines were in Puerto Rico.

The U.S. Marine Corps issued a statement on Aug. 31 noting that marines and sailors from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit would be conducting amphibious training and flight operations in southern Puerto Rico.

“The challenging terrain and tropical climate of Puerto Rico provides an ideal environment for the 22nd MEU to conduct realistic amphibious training and hone specialized skills such as patrolling, reconnaissance and survival techniques, ensuring a high level of readiness while forward deployed,” the Marine Corps said in a statement.

It wasn’t immediately clear how long Hegseth and Caine planned to stay in Puerto Rico, or if they visited other sites while on the island.

López, the National Guard’s spokesman, declined to comment on specifics of the visit.

Correction

A story in the Sept. 1 edition of Stars and Stripes about mental health counseling at Department of Defense Education Activity Schools on select Navy bases overseas incorrectly stated that the pilot program, if successful, may expand to other service branches. The program contains no specific provision for such an expansion, said DODEA-Europe spokeswoman Jessica Tackaberry.

First F-35B goes on display in SC

Stars and Stripes

The last flight of the first F-35B Lightning II covered more than 500 miles. But in this case it had to hitch a ride.

The airframe of the fighter jet, known as the BF-01, was carried Aug. 27 by a U.S. Marine Corps heavy-lift Sikorsky CH-53K King Stallion helicopter from Naval Air Station Patuxent River in Maryland to its new home at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort in South Carolina.

It will be a permanent static display to help tell the story of the new era of Marine Corps Aviation,

MCAS Beaufort said in a news release.

“Static displays usually are retired on the base, and then they just taxi it over to the location it’s going to be at forever,” said Lt. Col. Jarrod Allen, the executive officer of Marine Aircraft Group 31, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. “This is different because it’s coming from Pax River, and I have never heard of anybody moving it via helicopter.”

Though the jet was without its mission and propulsion systems, outer wings and additional equipment, it wasn’t an easy move. The

wings of a fifth-generation fighter generate lift, creating unpredictable challenges for pilots.

The operation required precise coordination between Marine Aircraft Group 29, 2nd Distribution Support Battalion, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron, and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461 from MCAS New River, alongside Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 31 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31 from MCAS Beaufort.

The BF-01 was the first F-35B to perform a vertical landing in



BRYAN GIRALDO/U.S. Marine Corps

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461 transports an F-35B Lightning II.

2010, and the first vertical takeoff in 2013, according to the Marine Corps.

MILITARY

US asset shifts to Pacific could hurt NATO

Think tank foresees problems if conflict erupts with China

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

U.S. ground-based air defenses, drones and warships in Europe could be shifted to the Pacific in the event of a conflict with China, leaving NATO vulnerable to a follow-on attack from Russia, a new report says.

"These gaps in European security would erode the credibility of NATO's deterrence and defense, leading Moscow to perceive a golden opportunity to accomplish its aims," the Center for a New American Security said in a study released this month.

To avoid such a scenario, allies must direct investments toward the kinds of weapons systems the Pentagon would want for itself in the event of conflict in the Indo-Pacific, the report said.

Done in consultation with former high-level U.S. military officials, the study echoes concerns raised by the top U.S. military commander in Europe, who has warned that allies could face a two-front war with Russia and China by 2027.

"We're going to need every bit of kit and equipment and munitions that we can (get) in order to beat that," U.S. European Command's Gen. Alexis Grynkeiwich said in July during a security conference in Wiesbaden.

If Chinese President Xi Jinping makes a move on Taiwan, he likely would coordinate such an attack



A P-8A Poseidon flies alongside the destroyer USS Donald Cook during an exercise.

JUAN SUA/U.S. Navy

with Russian President Vladimir Putin, opening the possibility of a global conflict, said Grynkeiwich, who also serves as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

With the U.S. potentially pulled in two directions, European allies would face pressure to take on greater military responsibility in their backyard.

While conflict in the Pacific would prioritize air and sea capabilities, Army assets in Europe, such as Patriot systems deployed in Germany and rotated to other sites in central and Eastern Europe, also would be in demand, the report said.

"Air and missile defense is one of the most crucial gaps that must be filled to credibly deter Russia, and its degradation will leave allied forces and nations within striking distance of Russia particularly vulnerable," it said.

Warships, including some Navy destroyers based out of Rota, Spain, also would be expected to be moved east.

Pentagon officials have already



SETH WATSON/U.S. Air Force

A KC-135 Stratotanker from the 100th Air Refueling Wing at RAF Mildenhall, England, refuels a B-52H Stratofortress last year.

said Europe should be responsible for the bulk of the conventional defense of the Continent going forward.

But while allies have already boosted defense spending and will invest even more in the years ahead, large gaps still persist.

"The resources required to defend Taiwan are different to the largely land-based forces that are required to bolster European security, but there are also significant areas of overlap where resources are in short supply," the

report said.

For example, there would likely be an acute shortage of intelligence and surveillance platforms in Europe, and that would result "in degraded situational awareness of Russian activity and less timely early warning."

Drones, space-based assets and manned aircraft such as U.S. Navy P-8 submarine hunters based in Italy are among the capabilities that would be sought in the Pacific.

U.S. assets for strategic lift,

such as C-17s, and refueling tankers also would be stretched in the event of competing requirements in Europe and the Indo-Pacific, researchers said.

A lack of U.S. military enablers in Europe, such as strategic airlift required to move troops and gear quickly across the battlefield, could cause the Kremlin to envision overrunning one of the Baltic states in "a fait accompli" scenario, the report said.

As a result, a strategy for allied defense spending should be closely tied to filling such holes that could emerge if the U.S. is limited in its ability to backfill in Europe, the report said.

It added that so far, allies have made little progress in this area of airlift.

After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, some allies depended on the United States to get their troops to Eastern Europe to reinforce the eastern flank, the report said.

"Reinforcement delays could give Russia an opportunity to occupy territory in the event of an ongoing conflict and use coercion to compel NATO to accept the result, complicating NATO's response," the report said.

Extreme shortages in munition stockpiles also should be anticipated in any conflict scenario, according to the report, which said European forces dependent on U.S. stockpiles must hedge by increasing their own holdings of key munitions.

"Although Europe has made progress in increasing its own production in light of the Ukraine war, much more will need to be done," researchers said.

Court hears appeal by contractor ordered to pay Abu Ghraib detainees

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Federal appellate judges on Tuesday heard arguments in case brought by a U.S. military contractor ordered by a lower court to pay \$42 million for contributing to torture and mistreatment of three former detainees at Iraq's notorious Abu Ghraib prison more than two decades ago.

The three-judge panel in the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments and questioned attorneys for nearly an hour in the appeal brought by Reston, Virginia-based CACI, which is challenging last year's civil lawsuit that led to a finding against it. The judges did not immediately issue a ruling. It's not clear when an opinion could come.

The appeal centers on CACI's challenge to the lower court's jurisdiction.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs, Suhail Al Shimari, Salah Al-Ejaili and Asa'ad Al-Zubae, argued the case was fairly litigated at the district

court level.

The hearing delved deeply into legal details and didn't get into the specifics that came up during last year's trial, in which the plaintiffs testified they were subjected to beatings, sexual abuse, forced nudity and other cruel treatment at the prison during the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

A jury awarded each of them \$3 million in compensatory damages and \$11 million each in punitive damages.

The three did not allege that CACI's interrogators explicitly inflicted the abuse themselves, but argued CACI was complicit because its interrogators conspired with military police to "soften up" detainees for questioning with harsh treatment.

CACI supplied the interrogators who worked at the prison. It has denied any wrongdoing and has emphasized throughout 17 years of litigation that its employees are not alleged to have inflicted any abuse on the plaintiffs in the case.

CACI had argued it wasn't complicit in the detainees' abuse and said its employees had minimal interaction with the three plaintiffs in the case.

Fundamentally, CACI argued that any liability for their mistreatment belonged to the government.

Photos of the abuse released in 2004 showed naked prisoners stacked into pyramids or dragged by leashes. Photos included a soldier smiling and giving a thumbs-up while posing next to a corpse, detainees being threatened with dogs, and a detainee hooded and attached to electrical wires.

Military police seen in the photos smiling and laughing as they directed the abuse were convicted in military courts-martial. But none of the civilian interrogators from CACI ever faced criminal charges, even though military investigations concluded that several CACI interrogators had engaged in wrongdoing.



AP

A detainee stands on a box with a bag on his head and wires attached to him in the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2003.

PACIFIC

Homeland defense extends across Pacific

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

WAIKIKI BEACH, Hawaii — The commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said Monday that he was unfazed by media reports that the Pentagon’s draft National Defense Strategy will prioritize defense of the American homeland over challenging Beijing and Moscow globally.

“The homeland is in the Pacific,” Adm. Samuel Paparo told reporters on the sidelines of INDO-PACOM’s four-day International Military Law and Operations Conference on Waikiki Beach.

The American territories of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are in the Western Pacific, while the state of Hawaii is in the Central Pacific, he said.

Meanwhile, the United States is joined in compacts of free association with Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Marshall Islands, which means the U.S. is responsible for their national defense, he said.

“Defense-in-depth means that the Pacific is a priority theater because four of the five priority

threats to the United States of America — to the security, freedom and well-being of the United States — traverses the Indo-Pacific geography,” Paparo said.

The Pentagon has up to now regarded those primary threats as China, Russia, North Korea, Iran and terrorism.

Incoming administrations typically issue a defense strategy that reflects its priorities, but China’s emerging military has been a concern for more than a decade.

Donald Trump’s first administration in 2018 regarded China a priority challenge in its defense strategy.

Elbridge Colby, the Pentagon’s policy chief who supports a more isolationist American policy, is heading the revamped strategy, Politico reported Friday.

The annual MILOPS conference, now in its 36th year, is INDO-PACOM’S effort to bring together military and legal officials from partner nations to collaborate on and advance legal diplomacy in the security realm. It is particularly beneficial for small nations lacking deep legal benches.



Adm. Samuel Paparo, head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, speaks at the International Military Law and Operations Conference on Waikiki Beach, Hawaii, Monday.

In keynote speeches opening the conference Monday morning, Paparo and Surangel Samuel Whipps Jr., the president of Palau, described how China seeks to impose its will on the region using “lawfare.”

“China has made the law a weapon,” Paparo told the atten-

dees from 30 nations. “We must make the law a shield — a shield and a signal. They declare laws unilaterally and then apply them retroactively. They pressure nations to concede sovereign rights that nations lawfully possess. They use false claims of legitimacy to justify coercion. This is not

the rule of law. This is the rule by law, and that distinction between law as a tool of order versus a tool of power is the fault line of our time.”

Palau, which lies about 500 miles southeast of the Philippines, has been the recipient of both China’s largesse and chicanery, Whipps told the audience.

China is Palau’s top investor and top source of tourists, he said.

But Palau remains one of only a handful of nations that maintains formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan, which Beijing considers a renegade province that properly belongs to China.

Palauan officials have determined that businesses and criminal organizations linked to the Communist Party of China make “sham investments” in the nation, in which land is leased and then left undeveloped, he said.

“They’ll get a lease for 99 years and then do nothing with us and say, ‘Well, if you switch to China and dump Taiwan...,’” he said.

The Palauan government is reviewing options to change the law so that “we can kick them out” in such cases, he said.

Exercise in Japan to feature 2 new US missile systems

By BRIAN MCELHINEY AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps will deploy two new missile systems to Japan’s Ishigaki Island for the first time during a joint exercise beginning this week, U.S. and Japanese military officials said.

The Navy-Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System, or NMESIS, and the Marine Air Defense Integrated System, or MADIS, will be used during Resolute Dragon, annual drills running Thursday through Sept. 25 across Japan, III Marine Expeditionary Force said in a news release Friday.

At Camp Ishigaki, Marines will conduct joint anti-ship and anti-air combat training without live fire, according to a Japanese Ministry of Defense document posted Friday on the city’s website.

The missile systems will be deployed only to Ishigaki, a Ground Staff spokesman said by phone Tuesday. It will be their first time deployed on the island, he added.

The exercise, which includes command post and field training, will “rehearse bilateral crisis response and contingency operations,” the Marine release said.

The training comes as China steps up military and coast guard activity near Taiwan and around Japanese-held islands in the East China Sea.

In June, China carried out its first Pacific drills involving both



Members of the 3rd Marine Division unload a Navy-Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System at Naha Military Port, Okinawa, July 10.

of its aircraft carriers, the Shandong and Liaoning. One carrier may have simulated a U.S. carrier in interception drills, The Japan News reported July 18.

Ishigaki lies about 150 miles east of Taiwan.

This year’s Resolute Dragon will be the largest ever, with about 5,200 U.S. and 14,000 Japanese troops participating, according to the Marines.

“By training alongside the

Western Army in realistic, combat-focused scenarios, we sharpen the warfighting edge of our forces and present a clear, credible deterrent to any adversary who would threaten peace and security in the Indo-Pacific,” III MEF commander Lt. Gen. Roger Turner said in the release.

The drills’ growing scale reflects “the importance of this exercise and the desire of joint and allied forces to join in the opportu-

nity to enhance our readiness,” spokesman 2nd Lt. James Selcke said by email Friday.

The Marines’ 3rd Littoral Regiment first deployed MADIS and NMESIS in April during the Balikatan exercise in the Philippines. The systems arrived on Okinawa in July, 1st Lt. Joshua Figueredo, a 3rd Marine Division spokesman, said by email Friday.

MADIS, armed with Stinger missiles, a 30 mm cannon and 7.62

mm machine gun, is designed to counter low-flying aircraft and armed drones. NMESIS mounts Naval Strike Missiles on joint light tactical vehicles to target ships at sea.

The systems are part of the Corps’ Force Design restructuring plan, which calls for littoral regiments to operate within range of enemy fire to seize and hold islands and block hostile vessels from nearby waters.

Separately, U.S. and Japanese troops plan to fire the Marines’ High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, and Japan’s Multiple Launch Rocket System during the exercise, the Marine release said. The systems will be at Yausubetsu Maneuver Area on Hokkaido from Sept. 14-24, according to another Defense Ministry document posted on Betsukai town’s website.

Okinawa Defense Bureau officials told Yonaguni Mayor Tsuneo Uechi on Friday that HIMARS will not be deployed to Yonaguni, a spokesman said that day. The island — Japan’s westernmost territory — is about 80 miles closer to Taiwan than Ishigaki. Uechi had opposed the possible deployment, which was reported earlier in Japanese media.

Some Japanese government officials must speak to the press on condition of anonymity.

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.

PACIFIC

Philippines urges others to resist China push

By David Choi and Yoojin Lee
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The Philippines’ secretary of national defense has called on South Korea and other small nations to band together as they did during the Korean War to resist China’s “creeping occupation” of the Indo-Pacific.

Gilberto Teodoro Jr. delivered opening remarks Tuesday at the annual Seoul Defense Dialogue, a gathering of about 400 diplomats, service members and defense experts.

“The freedoms that we enjoy today came at a cost and must not be taken for granted,” he said at the event hosted by South Korea’s



Teodoro

Ministry of National Defense. “At the outbreak of the Korean War, the Philippines heeded the United Nations’ call for assistance.”

The Philippines deployed 7,420 soldiers to South Korea to support the U.S.-led U.N. Command during the 1950-53 Korean War, according to the South’s Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.

More than 110 Filipino soldiers were killed and nearly 300 were wounded.

Teodoro urged “smaller nations” to “once again stand together as we did 75 years ago to defend

peace, stability and prosperity in our region.”

He added: “The choices we make, together or apart, will determine whether our future is defined by greater instability or a renewed sense of order and security.”

Geopolitical competition in maritime areas continues to stir unease, particularly in the South China Sea, Taiwan Strait, East China Sea and Yellow Sea, Teodoro said.

“What becomes of the rules-based order ... in these waters will directly affect us, for better or for worse,” he said.

Teodoro alleged China is the primary perpetrator of these tensions, as evidenced by its territorial claims over vast swaths of wa-

ter and “strategy of creeping occupation disguised as fishing activity.”

Chinese vessels have routinely clashed with ships from other nations.

On Aug. 11, a Chinese navy warship collided with one of its own coast guard vessels while attempting to drive a Filipino coast guard ship and fishing vessels away from a contested atoll in the South China Sea, according to a news release from the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs the next day.

Beijing’s military also claimed last month that it expelled the destroyer USS Higgins from the same area, alleging it had “seriously violated China’s sovereignty

and security.”

The U.S. Navy’s 7th Fleet said its warship was conducting a freedom-of-navigation operation and denied it was driven away by the Chinese military.

The South Korean and Japanese foreign ministries this year have separately protested China’s installation of buoys and other maritime structures in waters off their respective coasts.

“The greatest obstacle to fair and structured dispute resolution in our region, sadly, and particularly for the Philippines, is the Chinese government,” Teodoro said. “They possess in our people a deficit of trust and credibility that arises from a mismatch between their words and their deeds.”

US and Japan share culture at Bon Odori festival at naval base

By Juan King
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan — This American base outside Tokyo recently welcomed more than 15,000 visitors for its 64th annual Bon Odori festival, a celebration of Japanese tradition with a few American touches.

The event, held Saturday on Taylor Field, featured food and entertainment. Bon Odori, linked to the Buddhist Obon festival that honors ancestors’ spirits, has been celebrated for nearly five centuries in Japan.

Gates opened at noon for the festival, which included performances by local Japanese and base dance groups in colorful yukatas, accompanied by taiko drummers. Visitors joined a dance circle around a yagura, or raised platform.

American and Japanese vendors sold food ranging from pizza

and hot dogs to funnel cakes. Children enjoyed inflatable play areas and paddle boats in a large pool.

The “Warlords” of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 51 staged a flyover in the afternoon, displaying U.S. and Japanese flags. Live entertainment followed, including DJ Kino, singers Jasmine and Tokyo Dream Girl Lili, NAF Atsugi’s children’s taiko drummers and the Tokyo rock band Frozen Assetts.

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force’s Awa Odori troupe closed with its traditional dance before fireworks capped the evening.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Jordan White, volunteering at his second Bon Odori since arriving last year, said he hoped the celebration would strengthen ties.

“It is good to build a better bridge between America and Japan,” he said.



PHOTOS BY JUAN KING/Stars and Stripes

The Naval Air Facility Atsugi children’s taiko drum group performs during the 64th Bon Odori Festival on the base southwest of Tokyo, on Saturday.



Japanese dance groups clad in a variety of colorful yukatas perform.



A Japanese dancer performs during the 64th Bon Odori Festival.



Visitors watch dancers on a raised platform.

MILITARY

Absences: Employers bear costs from guard deployments

FROM PAGE 1

many people reported missing work because of labor disputes, and seven times as many said they were out because of bad weather. Economists also caution that the data are calculated using a small subset of responses, which can distort the numbers. Even so, with the president considering expanding National Guard presence to other parts of the country, they warn the burden on both workers and employers could deepen in the coming months.

“Uncertainty over whether you or your employees might be called to National Guard duty and how long that deployment might last is just adding to the chaos” for families and businesses, said Michael Makowsky, an economist at Clemson University whose work focuses on law enforcement. “Anything that makes it harder to make a plan is generally bad for the economy.”

The White House says its efforts are improving the U.S. economy by combating crime and unrest in major cities.

The “President has rightfully deployed the National Guard to cities like Los Angeles, which was ravaged by violent riots ... and Washington, D.C., while strengthening small businesses and revitalizing our economy,” spokeswoman Anna Kelly said in a statement. “These deployments saved small businesses from further destruction and preserved great American jobs.”

Although military-related work absences tend to fluctuate throughout the year, spiking during hurricane season, they have been consistently higher than in 2024 almost every month so far this year.

“You can see an elevation in the data, that’s for darn sure,” said William Beach, who headed the BLS during Trump’s first term and is now a senior fellow at the



ERIC KAYNE/Stars and Stripes

D.C. National Guard troops pick up trash Aug. 26 near a golf center in East Potomac Park in Washington.



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

Members of the Louisiana National Guard patrol the grounds of the Washington Monument at the National Mall on Sunday in Washington.

Economic Policy Innovation Center. “It’s more than likely because of a military influence — an increase in reserve duty or an increase in military service.”

The data come from the Current

Population Survey, a monthly federal survey that asks Americans whether they missed work in a given week each month and why. Civil or military duty-related absences include jury duty, Armed

Forces reserve duty, National Guard duty or “a similar obligation,” according to the BLS.

National Guard recruitment has recently picked up after years of decline. In an executive order last month, Trump called for the creation of an online job portal to encourage more people to apply to join federal law enforcement efforts, saying they are needed in “cities where public safety and order has been lost.”

Deployment orders are expected to accelerate in the coming weeks, as the president leans on the National Guard to crack down on what he calls rampant crime in U.S. cities. Although a federal judge last week ruled that the Trump administration’s use of troops to carry out domestic law enforcement in Los Angeles was illegal, he did not require that the administration withdraw the 300 service members who are still in

the city.

The Trump administration has appealed that ruling and suggested that it will not hamper plans to send troops to other cities. The White House is also expected to extend the National Guard’s deployment in D.C. — where it has faced criticism for relying on troops for landscaping and trash removal — from mid-September to Dec. 31.

For those who are being deployed, assignments require stepping away from duties at their day jobs. Despite federal protections, some National Guard members say they have trouble finding or keeping work, especially in a labor market weighed down by uncertainty.

“Companies say they’re veteran-friendly until it’s time for you to deploy or there’s a natural disaster, and they realize your time out of the office is going to cost them productivity or they’re going to have to hire someone to cover for you,” said Charlie Elison, a noncommissioned officer in the Army National Guard who also works a day job as an executive director for the city of Philadelphia.

Elison, who until earlier this year worked for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, said his career options have been “very limited” because of growing military responsibilities. He spends about 90 days a year out of the office in uniform, and he usually does a yearlong deployment overseas every four years. Adding crime-related domestic duties to that list, he said, could add new challenges for troops and employers.

“There’s this unfunded mandate across our country, where Guard and reserve members are asked to do more and more every year,” he said. “And there’s this unfunded requirement for our civilian employers to shoulder that burden.”

Vehicles: Lasers deliver at lower cost, without need to reload

FROM PAGE 1

mobile, lightweight squad vehicles and are operated via a common gaming controller, according to the company. The system uses automated tracking to easily switch between targets in high-density threat environments.

The prototypes were tested at Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona before the Army trained soldiers on the equipment at Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

“The need for these systems from real world events is clear,” company executive John Garrity said in the statement. “The time is now for directed energy to get into the hands of warfighters everywhere.”

AeroVironment is set to deliver a second round of laser-mounted tactical vehicles to the Army next month that will also feature LOCUST, radar and command and control systems.

Directed energy weapons such as the LOCUST can be far more cost-effective than traditional methods when it comes to shooting down drones.

Using missiles for that purpose costs millions of dollars per shot, whereas the cost of using a laser to accomplish the task is an estimated \$1 to \$10 per engagement, a 2023 Government Accountability Office report said.

Iran and its proxies have used the highly regarded Shahed

drones in Tehran’s arsenal as part of their layered attacks on Israel, and Russian drone operators have wreaked havoc in Ukraine.

Directed energy weapons also aren’t burdened by magazine capacities, unlike traditional weapons, the GAO said. Lasers can repeatedly fire as long as the systems can generate sufficient power and manage the heat created.

The Army has spent years testing lasers against airborne threats, with mixed results.

In early 2024, the service sent four Stryker-mounted 50-kilowatt laser prototypes to the U.S. Central Command region for testing, but soldiers found it difficult to incorporate the technology into a

moving vehicle, the Army’s then-head of acquisition, Doug Bush, said in Senate testimony.

The service had more success with lower-powered weapons, including those that fired at 20 kilowatts in stationary settings, Bush said.

Earlier this summer, the Army performed a live-fire exercise of laser weapons at Fort Sill in Oklahoma alongside traditional ones.

The laser tests were done in concert with existing short-range air defense systems and pitted prototype lasers against a drone swarm, the Army said.

“Now that we have delivered directed energy capabilities to the Army, we are developing and ma-

turing the domains of policy, doctrine, organization, training and personnel to employ the capability optimally,” Col. Steven Gutierrez, project manager for directed energy at the Army’s Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office, said in a statement following the June trial run.

Those tests provided a glimpse into a layered air defense approach that will help shape the Army’s future development and procurement, the service said in a statement.

In 2026, the Army plans to launch a competition known as the Enduring High Energy Laser program to develop a laser weapons system.

WAR IN UKRAINE

World seeks Ukraine's cutting-edge drones

By DAVID L. STERN
The Washington Post

KYIV — Foreign drone companies are swarming Ukraine, hoping to be a part of one of the most exciting unmanned vehicle production hubs in the world. There's one problem: Ukraine's drone makers are severely limited in exporting their production and know-how.

Drone use and production have skyrocketed in the war between Ukraine and Russia, now in its fourth year, because of these machines' low cost and deadly effectiveness. The constant battle-testing has accelerated the pace of evolution for the drones, with changes taking place within weeks instead of years.

"The speed of innovation is so quick: It's a six-week cycle and then it's obsolete," said a European diplomat who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. Ukraine's drone market is "like a watering hole in the Serengeti — all are coming."

For Western countries, who wish to avoid doing business with Russia, Ukrainian drones are the preferred choice. Among the most sought-after items are long-range attack drones, sea-born drones and drones with advanced electronic warfare capabilities, industry experts say.

Ukrainian drones in particular are adept at overcoming the electronic warfare countermeasures saturating the battlefield that foreign drone companies have yet to confront.

But selling Ukraine's military production to outside buyers is extremely difficult because for a country at war, every piece of equipment is needed on the front lines, officials say.

On paper, Ukrainian drone manufacturers are allowed to export their production, but in reality, this process is slow and bureaucratic.

"If NATO countries want the gold standard in drones, then they want Ukrainian drones," said



A man works in a drone production facility in April in eastern Ukraine.

Ed Ram/For The Washington Post

Alexander Fergusson, a British-based drone manufacturer who has done extensive business in Ukraine. "But they can't have them."

Ukraine's 500-some drone producers, most of which are private start-ups, say the issue is critical and they need to export. They say that they are struggling to increase production, and the added revenue from exports will allow them to expand.

They need this extra capacity to keep up with Russia and its much larger industrial base as it launches nightly devastating attacks against Ukraine's cities. Thanks to a joint production venture with Iran, Russia now sends 500-600 drones per attack, and Ukrainian officials say it is on track to launch up to 1,000 at a time. The D.C.-based Institute for the Study of War said in July this number could reach 2,000 by November.

But the export situation could improve soon.

In June, President Volodymyr Zelensky told journalists that in the coming months, Ukraine

would "sign relevant agreements to start exporting our technologies abroad in the format of opening production lines in European countries" under a Build With Ukraine program.

This production would be "for us and for them," he said, and would include "drones of various types, missiles and, possibly, artillery." He announced agreements in which Ukraine would export its technological know-how to manufacture drones in Denmark and Britain for Ukraine.

Zelensky in August also talked about a proposal to the United States for a "large-scale" five-year drone production deal "worth \$50 billion," but he added that this would probably not happen until after the war.

The latest sign of movement has been a new measure passed by the parliament in August and signed into law by Zelensky to create the "Defense City" legal structure for top Ukrainian military producers, allowing them to enter into joint ventures with Western partners.

The companies could set up pro-

duction lines in Ukraine and abroad and produce for Ukrainian and foreign markets. They would also receive tax breaks, simplified customs and export procedures, and increased security measures as protection. It still leaves the actual rules governing exporting up to the cabinet.

Danylo Getmantsev, chairman of parliament's finance committee and one of the main authors of the legislation, said that exports are critical, as they will provide revenue to expand Ukraine's defense industry.

Ukraine's annual domestic military production is close to \$10 billion, but its capacity is close to \$30 billion, he said. At the same time, Ukraine's Western allies are restricted in their ability to directly finance the country's military sector, and Ukraine's tax revenue is too low.

"We have the potential for growth, but we need money, and we need orders — we need somebody who will pay for these weapons to make our companies work. This is the idea behind this law,"

Getmantsev said in a recent interview, adding that the law was now awaiting Zelensky's signature.

But some of Zelensky's own officials are calling for maintaining export restrictions. In July, newly appointed Defense Minister Denys Shmyhal told the BBC that "direct export is impossible to imagine."

Shmyhal said that there could be "partnership projects, when some [weapons] remain in the warehouses of partners," and that it was "possible to form strong arms exchange chains with partners." But Ukraine's armed forces must first receive "100 plus percent" of what they need. "If there is a surplus of production, we must find ways to finance it and give it to our armed forces."

Shmyhal's comments confused some Ukrainian arms manufacturers, who had believed that restrictions would be lifted soon. "Shmyhal broke down everything that Zelensky has built up over the last months," said one Ukrainian drone producer, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Drone manufacturers in Ukraine said they need the foreign funding and cooperation to scale up production, hire more workers and invest in research and development — as well as repair facilities under constant Russian assault.

A limit on exports also restricts Ukraine's ability to obtain crucial technology from the West that would come with joint ventures, said Kateryna Mykhalko, director general of Tech Force in UA, an umbrella organization for the defense tech industry.

Tech Force wrote an open letter with 36 tech defense companies to Zelensky in May, asking to loosen export restrictions.

"When export is closed, you cannot share your experience with European Union companies and you cannot start joint ventures to ask international companies to share the experience with you," she said.

Russian bomb attack in Ukraine kills people in line to receive pensions

Associated Press

SLOVIANSK, Ukraine — A Russian glide bomb struck a village in eastern Ukraine on Tuesday as people stood in line in the open air to collect their monthly pension. The blast killed at least 24 people and injured 19 others, the Ukraine Emergency Service said.

The bomb hit the Donetsk region village of Yarova at around 11 a.m., authorities said. The village lies about 5 miles from the front line. Donetsk regional head Vadym Filashkin said 23 of the dead

were pensioners.

Yarova resident Hennadii Trush said his wife was killed in the blast as she waited to collect the pension of her bedridden mother-in-law. Afterward, Trush fled Yarova with his elderly mother, who was carried out on a stretcher.

In shock and with soot still on his face, Trush wept as he described the scene of the attack. "It was beyond words," he said. "Before, strikes landed on the outskirts. This time it was right in the center of the village."

It was the latest Russian attack to kill civilians. More than 12,000 Ukrainian civilians have been killed in the three-year war, the United Nations says.

"Frankly brutal," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a post on Telegram of Tuesday's attack, urging the international community to make Russia pay economically for its invasion through additional sanctions.

"The world should not remain silent," Zelenskyy wrote. "The world should not remain inactive. The United States needs a reac-

tion. Europe needs a reaction. The G20 needs a reaction. Strong action is needed so that Russia stops bringing death."

Russia has been scaling up its aerial attacks, despite U.S. President Donald Trump's attempts to persuade Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to agree to a ceasefire and enter peace talks with Zelenskyy — proposals that Ukraine has endorsed.

European Council President Antonio Costa rebuked the Kremlin for its repeated strikes on civilians.

"Is this what Russia means when it talks about peace?" Costa asked on social media. "When will President Putin accept to start peace talks already accepted by President Zelenskyy?"

The major barrages have prompted concerns that Ukraine is using up its air defenses quicker than they can be replaced by its Western allies.

Glide bombs are retrofitted Soviet weapons that have laid waste to eastern Ukraine for months. Some of them now weigh 3,000 pounds.

NATION

Trump denies note to Epstein

Congress releases copy of album with birthday letters for wealthy financier

By MICHELLE L. PRICE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats on the House Oversight Committee released on Monday a sexually suggestive letter to Jeffrey Epstein purportedly signed by President Donald Trump, which he has denied.

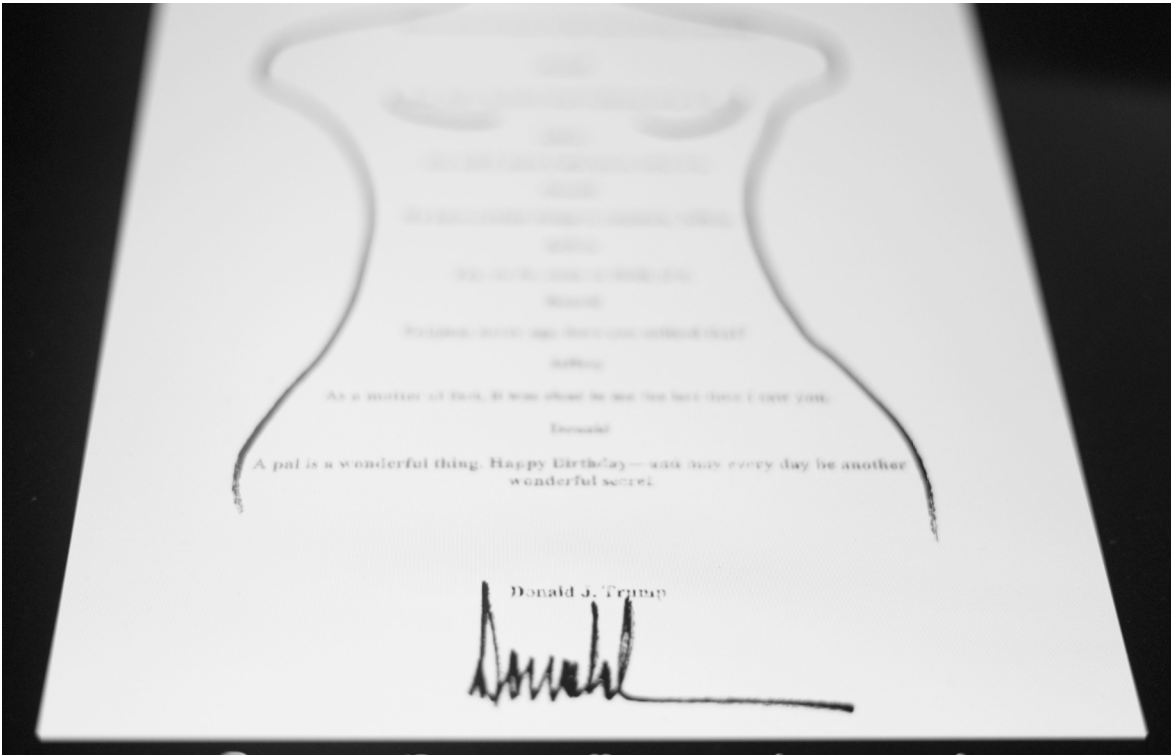
The letter was included as part of a 50th birthday album compiled in 2003 for Epstein, a wealthy and well-connected financier who was once a friend of Trump's. The full House committee on Monday night released a copy of the entire album, which bore names of some other prominent figures such as former President Bill Clinton and attorney Alan Dershowitz in a "friends" section, and included other letters with sexually provocative language.

Trump has said he did not write the letter or create the drawing of a curvaceous woman that surrounds the letter, and he filed a \$10 billion lawsuit against The Wall Street Journal for earlier reporting on his link to the letter.

"As I have said all along, it's very clear President Trump did not draw this picture, and he did not sign it," White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement posted on X. "President Trump's legal team will continue to aggressively pursue litigation."

White House deputy chief of staff Taylor Budowich posted various pictures on X of Trump's signature over the years and wrote, "it's not his signature."

As House Republicans left the



An image posted Monday showing a sexually suggestive birthday note to Jeffrey Epstein alluding to a "wonderful secret" and purportedly signed by President Donald Trump, who has denied sending the note.

Capitol on Monday night, many waved off questions about the letter, echoing a similar theme.

"It's not his signature. I've seen Donald Trump sign a million things," said Rep. Byron Donalds of Florida.

Rep. Thomas Massie, who is leading a bipartisan push for a House vote to force the Justice Department to release its Epstein files, downplayed the letter's relevance entirely.

"It doesn't prove anything. Having a birthday card from Trump doesn't help the survivors and the victims," Massie said.

The release of the drawing comes as the president has for months faced increasing pressure to force more disclosure in the case of Epstein and his former girlfriend Ghislaine Maxwell. Ep-

stein was accused of paying underage girls hundreds of dollars in cash for massages and then molesting them, while Maxwell was convicted of luring teenage girls to be sexually abused by him.

It also once again puts a spotlight on Trump's former friendship with Epstein, which the president has said ended two decades ago after a falling-out. Trump said recently that he cut ties with Epstein because he "stole" young women — including Virginia Giuffre, who was among Epstein's most well-known sex trafficking accusers — who worked for the spa at his Mar-a-Lago resort.

The case against Epstein was brought more than a decade after he secretly cut a deal with federal prosecutors in Florida to dispose of nearly identical allegations.

Trump had suggested during the presidential campaign that he'd seek to open the government's files into Epstein, but much of what the government has released so far had already been out there.

Democrats on the House Oversight Committee received a copy of the birthday album on Monday as part of a batch of documents from Epstein's estate.

Trump has denied writing the letter and creating the drawing, calling The Wall Street Journal report on it "false, malicious, and defamatory."

"These are not my words, not the way I talk. Also, I don't draw pictures," Trump said.

The letter released by the committee looks exactly as described by The Wall Street Journal in its report.

US, Europe to discuss new Russia sanctions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. and European officials met at the U.S. Treasury Department on Monday evening to discuss various forms of economic pressure to exert on Russia, including new sanctions and tariffs on Russian oil purchases, a person familiar with the meeting told The Associated Press.

The person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the meeting, said U.S. officials emphasized to their European counterparts that President Donald Trump is willing to exert significant actions to end the war but expects full cooperation from European partners in whatever actions are taken.

The meeting, which lasted less than two hours, highlighted tariff actions, the need for collective action on whatever is determined on sanctions, and how to manage Russian sovereign assets that are still immobilized largely in Europe, among other issues.

Officials with the Treasury Department, including Secretary Scott Bessent, as well as the White House, State Department and U.S. Trade Representative participated in Monday's meetings. The European team includes staff focused on energy, sanctions, financial services and trade.

The officials are set to meet again Tuesday.

The meeting comes as Trump has tried to get Russian President Vladimir Putin to agree to sit down with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for direct talks aimed at ending the war. Trump held a summit with Putin last month in Alaska.

Trump, allies targets Dem city in NC after Ukrainian woman killed

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Officials in Charlotte are facing sharp criticism over the fatal stabbing of a young Ukrainian refugee on a commuter train last month, a killing that quickly drew the attention of President Donald Trump and MAGA allies who blame Democrats for what they say is out-of-control crime in blue cities.

Critics say the death of Iryna Zarutsky, 23, could have been prevented, and they're blaming officials for failing to keep a man with a history of mental illness, arrests and erratic behavior off the streets before he killed her. Trump wrote on his social media platform on Monday that "Criminals like this need to be LOCKED UP."

The suspect, Decarlos Brown Jr., 34, had served time in prison, been briefly committed for schizophrenia and was arrested earlier this year after repeatedly calling 911 from a hospital.

Zarutsky had come to the United States to escape the war in Ukraine, relatives wrote in a GoFundMe post, describing her as determined to build a safer life.

The Aug. 22 attack, captured in a newly released video, is the latest flashpoint in the debate over whether cities like Charlotte are adequately addressing violent crime, mental illness and transit safety.

It added to an ongoing political debate as Trump has deployed the National Guard in Washington

and threatened to do so in other Democratic-led cities including Chicago and Baltimore. That's even as data show violent crime has decreased nationwide.

Video released Friday shows Zarutsky entering the light-rail train and taking a seat in front of Brown, who was seated behind her.

Minutes later, without any apparent interaction, he pulls out a pocketknife, stands and slashes her in the neck, investigators said. Passengers scream and scatter as she collapses.

Brown was arrested at the scene and charged with first-degree murder. Court records show he had cycled through the criminal justice system for more than a

decade, with 14 prior cases in Mecklenburg County, including serving five years for robbery with a dangerous weapon. His mother told local television she sought an involuntary psychiatric commitment earlier this year after he became violent at home. Doctors diagnosed him with schizophrenia.

In January, Brown was arrested after repeatedly calling 911 from a hospital, claiming people were trying to control him. A judge released him without bail.

Court records also show Brown faced charges ranging from making threats and shoplifting to felony larceny dating back to 2011, although some of those charges appear to have been dismissed.

The stabbing has sparked anger among allies of Trump and figures in his Make America Great Again movement.

They say the attack shows how large cities and governors are failing to protect their residents and justifies the president's federal takeover of Washington and his plans to replicate that effort in other places.

In a speech at the Museum of the Bible in Washington on Monday, Trump sent his love to Zarutsky's family and said video of the attack was "not really watchable because it's so horrible."

"They are evil people. We have to be able to handle that. If we don't handle that, we don't have a country," Trump said.

NATION

ICE launches immigration sweep in Chicago

The Washington Post

CHICAGO — The Department of Homeland Security said Monday that it has launched an immigration enforcement operation here as part of the Trump administration's effort to target "sanctuary cities," and immigrant advocates said several people in heavily Hispanic communities have been detained.

The agency did not provide details of the scale or duration of the undertaking in Chicago, which will be led by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The announcement came after President Donald Trump vowed for weeks that his administration would send federal law enforcement officers — including, potentially, National Guard troops — to the city as part of an effort to crack down on crime.

Local officials and immigrant advocates said federal immigration officers began making arrests in Chicago on Sunday and had taken at least five people into custody, including a well-known flower vendor and people waiting at a bus stop and on the sidewalk. The advocates said there had been "an escalation" in enforcement actions and reported several sightings of ICE vehicles.

The number of reported arrests is relatively few, but immigrant rights advocates said the operation appears to mark a shift in ICE tactics. Before this operation, local activists said, agents had been targeted in their tactics, presenting warrants at specific homes or detaining people at immigration court. Stopping people on the street in what appeared to be a fairly random fashion is new, they said.

"We believe this operation signals the beginning of ICE's full escalation in Chicago and Illinois," said Rey Wences, the senior director of deportation defense for the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

DHS named the enforcement action "Op-



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Masked people leave an immigration processing center Monday, in Broadview, Ill., a suburb of Chicago.

eration Midway Blitz" and said it was in honor of an Illinois woman allegedly killed by an undocumented immigrant driving drunk when he crashed into her vehicle. In announcing the operation, the agency republished an interview with the parents of 20-year-old Katherine Abraham, who died in

January after being rear-ended by a vehicle authorities said was driven by Julio Cucul-Bol of Guatemala.

"President Trump and [Homeland Security Secretary Kristi L.] Noem have a clear message: No city is a safe haven for criminal illegal aliens," DHS spokeswoman

Tricia McLaughlin said. "If you come to our country illegally and break our laws, we will hunt you down, arrest you, deport you, and you will never return."

Immigrant advocates and Democrats in Chicago and Illinois rebuked the administration, accusing it of using the pretext of cracking down on violent crime to target undocumented migrants as part of the president's mass deportation campaign. Studies have found that migrants who enter the United States either legally or without authorization do not commit other crimes at a higher rate than U.S. citizens.

"As President Trump continues to wrongly hyper-fixate on deploying the military to Chicago, his Administration is now ramping up its campaign to arrest hard-working immigrants with no criminal convictions," Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said in a statement.

The ICE operation in Chicago comes after the Trump administration ramped up enforcement actions in Los Angeles, Washington and Boston. Like those jurisdictions, Chicago and Illinois are led by Democratic officials, setting up a clash over immigration at a time when public polls show waning support for some of Trump's hard-line enforcement tactics. Democrats, however, have struggled to project an alternative vision for how the nation should move forward on the issue.

Trump and his top aides have long railed against "sanctuary city" policies that limit cooperation with federal immigration enforcement and have been embraced by many Democratic-led jurisdictions. Chicago and Illinois adopted statutes that prohibit city and state law enforcement from inquiring about a person's immigration status during an arrest or transferring custody of people who are arrested to federal immigration agents unless instructed by a court order.

Attorney: Detained Korean workers had special skills for temp jobs at Hyundai

Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. — A lawyer for several workers detained at a Hyundai factory in Georgia says many of the South Koreans rounded up in the immigration raid are engineers and equipment installers brought in for the highly specialized work of getting an electric battery plant online.

Atlanta immigration attorney Charles Kuck, who represents four of the detained South Korean nationals, said Monday that many were doing work that is authorized under the B-1 business visitor visa program. They had planned to be in the U.S. for just a couple of weeks and "never longer than 75 days," he said.

"The vast majority of the individuals that were detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement that were South Korean were either there as engineers or were involved in after-sales service and installation," Kuck said.

The raid Thursday at the battery factory under construction at Hyundai's sprawling auto plant west of Savannah resulted in the detainment of 475 workers, more than 300 of them South Koreans. Some were shown being shackled with chains around their hands, ankles and waists in video released by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

South Korea's foreign minister was flying to the U.S. on Monday to secure his citizens' return on a charter flight to South Korea, where many people have expressed confusion, shock and a sense of betrayal.

President Donald Trump said the workers "were here illegally," and that instead, the U.S. needs to arrange with other countries to have their experts train U.S. citizens to do specialized work such as battery and computer manufacturing.

But immigration lawyer Kuck said no company in the U.S.

makes the machines that are used in the Georgia battery plant, so they had to come from abroad to install or repair equipment on-site — work that would take about three to five years to train someone in the U.S. to do, he said.

"This is not something new," Kuck said. "We've been doing this forever, and we do it — when we ship things abroad, we send our folks there to take care of it."

While neither government has revealed details about all the workers' visas, it's not unusual for foreign companies to save time and money by sending workers from abroad to set up U.S. factories, and then train U.S. workers, said Rosemary Coates, executive director of the Reshoring Institute, a nonprofit that encourages U.S. manufacturing.

"We saw the same thing happening in the '80s with Japanese carmakers setting up U.S. factories, and in the '90s with German



COREY BULLARD, U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT/AP

Manufacturing plant employees waiting to have their legs shackled at the Hyundai Motor Group's electric vehicle plant, Thursday, in Ellabell, Ga.

carmakers," she said.

Advocates called for the detained workers to be released during a news conference Monday at a church in Savannah, about 25 miles east of the site where Hyundai began producing electric vehicles a year ago.

They included Sarah Park, president of the Korean American Coalition of Atlanta, who also said many of the detained South Korean workers had special

skills needed to get the battery plant running.

Daniela Rodriguez, executive director of Migrant Equity Southeast, said immigrants from Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador and Venezuela also were detained.

She said the group's Savannah office has been flooded with calls from family members of workers who they can't reach and presume are detained.

NATION

High schoolers' math, reading scores dropping

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A decade-long slide in high schoolers' reading and math performance persisted during the COVID-19 pandemic, with 12th graders' scores dropping to their lowest level in more than 20 years, according to results released Tuesday from an exam known as the nation's report card.

Eighth-grade students also lost significant ground in science skills, according to the results from the National Assessment of Education Progress.

The assessments were the first since the pandemic for eighth graders in science and 12th graders in reading and math. They reflect a downward drift across grade levels and subject areas in previous releases from NAEP, which is considered one of the best gauges of the academic progress of U.S. schools.

"Scores for our lowest-performing students are at historic lows," said Matthew Soldner, the acting commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics. "These results should galvanize all of us to take concerted and focused action to accelerate student learning."

While the pandemic had an outsize impact on student achieve-

ment, experts said falling scores are part of a longer arc in education that cannot be attributed solely to COVID-19, school closures and related issues such as heightened absenteeism. Educators said potential underlying factors include children's increased screen time, shortened attention spans and a decline in reading longer-form writing both in and out of school.

The dip in reading scores appeared alongside a shift in how English and language arts are taught in schools, with an emphasis on short texts and book excerpts, said Carol Jago, associate director of the California Reading and Literature Project at UCLA. As a high school English teacher 20 years ago, Jago said it was common for her high school students to read 20 books over the course of a year. Now, some English classes are assigning just three books a year.

"To be a good reader, you have to have the stamina to stay on the page, even when the going gets tough," Jago said. "You have to build those muscles, and we're not building those muscles in kids."

Education Secretary Linda McMahon said the scores show why the Trump administration wants to give states more control



ERIC THAYER/AP

Students work in a classroom at Benjamin O. Davis Middle School in Compton, Calif., on Feb. 6.

of education spending.

"Despite spending billions annually on numerous K-12 programs, the achievement gap is widening, and more high school seniors are performing below the basic benchmark in math and reading than ever before," McMahon said.

The test scores show more students are not reaching what would be considered "basic" achievement across subject areas, said Lesley Muldoon, executive director of the National Assessment Governing Board. While NAEP's definition of "proficient" is a high bar, Muldoon said, it is not an unreasonable one, and it is based on what researchers believe students should be able to achieve by the end of high school.

"These students are taking their next steps in life with fewer skills and less knowledge in core academics than their predecessors a decade ago," she said. "This is

happening at a time when rapid advancements in technology and society demands more of future workers and citizens, not less."

In reading, the average score in 2024 was the lowest score in the history of the assessment, which began in 1992. Thirty-two percent of high school seniors scored below "basic," meaning they were not able to find details in a text to help them understand its meaning.

In math, the average score in 2024 was the lowest since 2005, when the assessment framework changed significantly. On the test, 45% of high school seniors scored below "basic" achievement, the highest percentage since 2005. Only 33% of high school seniors were considered academically prepared for college-level math courses, a decline from 37% in 2019.

The high school reading and math assessments, and the eighth

grade science test, are given less frequently than the biannual fourth and eighth grade reading tests, which were last released earlier this year. The new scores reflect tests taken in schools around the country between January and March 2024.

The gap between the highest- and lowest-performing students was its widest ever among eighth grade science students, reflecting growing inequality in the American school system. The achievement gap widened also in 12th grade math.

The scores also reflect the re-emergence of a gender gap in science, technology, engineering and math courses. In 2019, boys and girls scored virtually the same on the NAEP science assessment. But in 2024, girls saw a steeper decline in scores. A similar pattern occurred in state math assessments, according to an Associated Press analysis.

New data shows job market much weaker than thought

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. job market was much weaker in 2024 and early this year than originally reported, adding to concerns about the health of the nation's economy.

Employers added 911,000 fewer jobs than originally reported in the year that ended in March 2025, the Labor Department reported Tuesday.

The department issues the so-called benchmark revisions every year. They are intended to better account for new businesses and ones that had gone out of business. The numbers issued Tuesday are preliminary. Final revisions will come out in February 2026.

The revision showed that leisure and hospitality firms — including hotels and restaurants — added 176,000 fewer jobs than originally reported, professional and business services companies 158,000 fewer and retailers



ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP

A construction worker carries steel decking at the site of a housing project July 31 in Portland, Maine.

126,000 fewer.

The report comes after the department reported Friday that the economy generated just 22,000 jobs in August, adding to fears that President Donald Trump's erratic economic policies, including massive and unpredictable taxes on

imports, have created so much uncertainty that businesses are reluctant to hire.

Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets said the revisions painted "a much weaker portrait of the job market than initially thought. While the revision

doesn't say much about what has happened since March, it suggests the labor market had less momentum heading into the trade war. And, recent data suggest the market has downshifted further."

Since March, monthly job creation has decelerated to an average 53,000.

When the preliminary benchmark revisions last year showed 818,000 fewer jobs in the year ended March 2024, then-presidential candidate Trump declared the numbers had been rigged to conceal economic weakness and help Democrats in the 2024 election. However, he did not explain why the government would release the revised numbers two and a half months before voters went to the polls. (The final revisions for the 12 months that ended March 2024, which came out in February this year, were less dramatic but still bad: Payrolls ended up 589,000 lower than originally reported.)

The latest revisions will likely increase pressure on the Federal Reserve to cut its benchmark interest rate at its meeting next week to give the economy a boost. James Knightley, an economist at ING, also expects the Fed to cut again at its meetings in October and December.

In a commentary, Knightley wrote that the Labor Department numbers "can be significantly wrong" when the economy is at a turning point. "In the early stages of a downturn they tend to overestimate the jobs created by new start-ups — 'births' — and underestimate the number of jobs lost by the 'death' of failing small businesses," he wrote. "These revisions suggest that jobs momentum is being lost from an even weaker position than originally thought. It also reinforces the belief that even the poor numbers seen in 2025 are probably overstating the health of the employment market."

NATION

Harlem Hellfighters receive honors

BY LINDA F. HERSEY

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Harlem Hellfighters — an African-American regiment that fought longer on the frontlines of World War I than any other Army unit its size — were honored Wednesday with the Congressional Gold Medal more than a century after the conflict ended.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., accompanied by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and other members of Congress, led the presentation of Congress' highest civilian honor for distinguished contributions to the relatives and loved ones of the Harlem Hellfighters.

Nicknamed “hellfighters” for their tenaciousness on the battlefield, the 369th Infantry Regiment fought for 191 days in continuous combat in France, without losing ground or a single soldier captured, according to Johnson and other speakers at the Gold Medal ceremony.

“My grandfather and the other brave men never thought their courage and exploits would be celebrated in such a revered setting,” said Debra Willett, granddaughter of Sgt. Leander Willett.

She accepted the award on behalf of descendants of the Harlem Hellfighters during a packed two-hour ceremony at Emancipation Hall in the Capitol.

The regiment had about 4,500 Black American soldiers who



ERIC KAYNE/Stars and Stripes

Debra Willett, center, granddaughter of Harlem Hellfighter Sgt. Leander Willett, is presented with a Congressional Gold Medal honoring the Harlem Hellfighters on Sept. 3 in Washington.

fought under French command during World War I and experienced about 1,500 casualties.

“Today America pauses to bestow an honor we all know is long overdue,” Johnson told an audience of about 500 people. He said the regiment fought to protect freedoms denied to African Americans of that era.

For Marcia Holmes, who drove from her home in Pittsburgh, Pa., the award connects her with a past she knew nothing about.

Her ancestor, Henry Davis Pri-

mas, was assigned as a private to the regiment's medical detachment due to his background as a pharmacist, according to the National Archives.

“We’ve been shocked and touched to learn about H.D. Primas and his accomplishments,” Holmes said. “I had no information about my great great uncle or his contributions until we received news about the Gold Medal.”

The Harlem Hellfighters originally were a National Guard unit



National Archives

Members of the Harlem Hellfighters, soldiers in the 369th Infantry Regiment, pose for a photo in 1919.

based in Harlem, N.Y. The soldiers fulfilled their mission with purpose, despite experiencing racism and prejudice at home, according to speakers at Wednesday's ceremony.

“These patriots loved America even when America did not show the same love to them,” said Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y.

Col. Bryon Linnehan, commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade, also formally accepted the honor and offered remarks. The brigade is a New York Army National Guard unit that is a descendant of the Harlem Hellfighters.

“It’s humbling to be in the presence of descendants of our famed World War I heroes,” he said.

Hegseth said the Harlem Hellfighters “faced the enemy head-on and at point blank range.”

“They were exceptional Amer-

icans,” he said. “May we honor them forever especially because they were not honored in their time.”

Hegseth took several minutes at the end of the ceremony to detail the history and heroics of the 369th regiment.

The regiment was among the first to be shipped off to Europe to fight in World War I in 1917. But the Harlem Hellfighters faced discrimination within the U.S. Army, which was not desegregated until 1948.

The Army assigned the African-American unit to the French army because of segregation within its own ranks. They were issued French weapons and helmets.

Andres Kerne — a retired Army colonel from Maryland who watched the ceremony — said he considers the Harlem Hellfighters’ achievements to be “a critical part of military history — not just as a Black regiment but as soldiers in general. Their contributions are not forgotten.”

The actions of the Harlem Hellfighters contributed to the eventual desegregation of the military, the Department of Veterans Affairs said after the Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal Act was signed into law Aug. 25, 2021.

“The 369th Infantry Regiment will forever be remembered as pioneers of change and defenders of liberty,” the agency said in a news release.

Feedback sought on future of WWII memorials on Ford Island

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The National Park Service is seeking public input on its plans for managing historical sites on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, which include memorials for the USS Utah and USS Oklahoma that were destroyed in the 1941 surprise attack by the Japanese.

The park service on Thursday published the Ford Island NPS Sites Management Plan, which is intended to guide actions and decisions over the historical sites.

The plan also includes six chief petty officer bungalows built in the decades leading up to World War II.

“These sites honor the events and people connected to the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, which resulted in the U.S. entering World War II,” the park service said in a news release Thursday.

“We look forward to hearing ideas from stakeholders, partners and the public,” Tom Leatherman, superintendent of the Pearl Harbor National Memorial, said



National Park Service

Chief Petty Officer Bungalow 90 stands on Ford Island, Hawaii, in this photo, with the superstructure of the USS Missouri looming behind.

in the release. “This engagement will help tremendously in developing and building this plan.”

Pacific Fleet's Battleship Row, which was decimated in the attack, was moored on the east side of the island. Today, the USS Missouri Memorial and the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum, both operated by not-for-profit entities, are on the island, as is military family housing.

The USS Utah, a Florida-class dreadnaught battleship, was moored on Ford Island's west side on the morning of the attack, an area normally used by aircraft carriers.

Japanese torpedo bombers hit the Utah with several torpedoes within the first few minutes of the attack. It quickly capsized and sank, taking the lives of 58 crew members.

Its partially submerged hull is part of the Pearl Harbor National Memorial, as is the USS Oklahoma.

It was moored in Battleship Row when it was hit, capsized and left 429 crew members dead.

The bungalows were built in the 1920s and 1930s and “are the only remaining historic residential development at Pearl Harbor built for enlisted of U.S. Navy personnel,” according to a park service document.

The purpose of the park service's plan is “to ensure long-term preservation, provide public access, establish sustainable operations and increase accessibility” to the memorials and bungalows, the document states.

The plan is needed to determine what the bungalows can be used for in future, determine whether additional facilities are needed on the island and increase public access to the island, the document states.

The plan outlines three alternative concepts to address the core issues and needs at the Ford Island sites.

The first would basically maintain the programming, staffing and funding now in place, with visitor access remaining limited and occasional guided bus tours by the park service.

The second concept would be to introduce self-guided tours of the Utah and Oklahoma sites and bungalows by piggybacking on the existing shuttles used to bring tourists to the Missouri memorial and the aviation museum.

The third concept would be a “ranger-led experience” on a park service bus tour.

“Visitors would have guided access to the interiors of select CPO Bungalows, with exhibits developed to help illustrate the park's history,” the plan states.

To provide further information, the park service is hosting an in-person open house 4-6 p.m. Sept. 16 at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial at 1 Arizona Memorial Place, Honolulu.

Virtual sessions will be held the following day on Microsoft Teams, with instructions for joining at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov>.

WORLD

Israel strikes Hamas in Qatar, Gaza City evacuates

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Israel launched a strike targeting Hamas’ leadership in Qatar on Tuesday as they considered a U.S. proposal for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. The strike on the territory of a U.S. ally marked a stunning escalation and risked upending talks aimed at winding down the war and freeing hostages.

Qatar, an energy-rich U.S. ally hosting thousands of American troops, had served as a key mediator between Israel and Hamas even before the war. It condemned what it referred to as a “flagrant violation of all international laws and norms” as smoke rose over its capital, Doha.

It was not immediately clear if anyone was hurt in the strike. Hamas has survived numerous assassinations of top leaders and is still intact in Gaza, despite having suffered major blows since the

outbreak of the war triggered by its Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

The future of the long-stalled ceasefire talks was more uncertain, as Israel gears up for a major offensive aimed at taking over Gaza City.

That escalation has been met with heavy international condemnation and opposition within Israel from those who fear it will doom the remaining hostages.

Israel alerted the U.S. ahead of time, according to an Israeli official and another person familiar with the matter, who were not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. There was no official comment from the White House or Pentagon.

The Israeli military said it used “precise munitions and additional intelligence” in the strike, without elaborating. It was not immediately clear what caused the explo-

sions.

Qatar condemned what it referred to as a “cowardly Israeli attack” on Hamas’ political headquarters in Doha. Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari said Qatar “will not tolerate this reckless Israeli behavior.”

The U.S. Embassy in Qatar said it had instituted a shelter-in-place order for its facilities.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military urged a full evacuation of Gaza City on Tuesday morning ahead of its planned expanded offensive in the northern city, where hundreds of thousands of people struggle under conditions of famine.

The announcement was the first warning for a full evacuation of the city in the current round of fighting. Previously, the military has warned specific sections of Gaza City to evacuate ahead of concentrated operations or strikes.



JEHAD ALSHRAFI/AP

Displaced Palestinians fleeing northern Gaza carry their belongings along the coastal road toward southern Gaza, Tuesday.

French government collapses again

Associated Press

PARIS — Legislators toppled France’s government in a confidence vote Monday, a new crisis for Europe’s second-largest economy that obliges President Emmanuel Macron to search for a fourth prime minister in 12 months.

Prime Minister François Bayrou was ousted overwhelmingly in a 364-194 vote against him. Bayrou paid the price for what appeared to be a staggering political miscalculation, gambling that lawmakers would back his view

that France must slash public spending to rein in its debts. Instead, they seized on the vote that Bayrou called to gang up against the centrist who was appointed by Macron last December.

The demise of Bayrou’s short-lived minority government heralds renewed uncertainty and a risk of legislative deadlock as France wrestles with pressing challenges, including budget difficulties and wars in Ukraine and Gaza and the shifting priorities of President Donald Trump.

Although Macron had two

weeks to prepare for the government collapse after Bayrou announced that he’d seek a confidence vote on his unpopular budget plans, no clear front-runner has emerged as a successor.

After Gabriel Attal’s departure as prime minister in September 2024, followed by former Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier’s ouster by parliament in December and Bayrou now gone, too, Macron again is hunting for a replacement to build consensus in the parliament’s lower house that is filled with opponents of the president.

Commercial shipping likely cut Red Sea internet cables

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A ship likely cut cables in the Red Sea that disrupted internet access in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, experts said Tuesday, showing the lines’ vulnerability.

Initial reporting suggested the cut happened off the coast of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, something authorities in the kingdom have not acknowledged, nor have the companies managing the cables.

“Early independent analysis in-

dicates that the probable cause of damage is commercial shipping activity in the region,” John Wrottesley, the committee’s operations manager, told the AP. “Damage to submarine cables from dragged anchors account for approximately 30% of incidents each year representing around 60 faults.”

Madory also told the AP that the working assumption was a commercial vessel dropped its anchor and dragged it across the four cables, severing the connections.

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EUROPE

Germany's latest prep for war: Ravioli reserve

BY KATE BRADY
AND AARON WIENER
The Washington Post

BERLIN — Tanks? In production. Missiles? On order. Ravioli? Still cooking them up.

Germany is preparing for a war it hopes never to fight. In the face of Russian aggression, the German government has pledged to make the country kriegstüchtig — fit for war — by 2029, the year officials believe Russia could be ready to strike a NATO member.

The first step was overhauling spending and debt rules to allow more money to flow to military needs. The country is also working to build up defense manufacturing and embarking on a major military recruitment drive that will likely include reinstating a form of compulsory service.

Next up on the list: a strategic ravioli reserve.

Germany's agriculture and food minister is calling for a rethink of national stockpiles by including more ready-to-eat meals. His plan: Create a "national reserve of ready-made products that can be consumed immediately after heating," such as canned ravioli and canned lentils.

"We are currently in a security situation that makes us all think," the minister, Alois Rainer, said on Politico's Berlin Playbook podcast. "For me, it is important that, in addition to the supply of military equipment, food security also plays a major role."

For decades, Germany's emergency reserves have consisted mainly of unprocessed staples like grains and dried lentils. Rainer thinks these take too long to prepare in a crisis.

His proposal would cost up to \$105 million and rely on major food chains to manage logistics



MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

Soldiers watching new recruits of the German Army Bundeswehr take their oath in front of the North Rhine-Westphalia state parliament in Duesseldorf, Germany, last week.

and storage. The Food and Agriculture Ministry did not respond to a request for further comment.

Rainer emphasized that the stockpile is needed not just in the event of war but also for other crises, such as natural disasters or a nuclear accident at a power plant. Still, it's the threat of a Russian attack on Europe that is top of mind for policymakers and the German public.

The notion of a national ravioli reserve has drawn lighthearted headlines across German media. But it also underscores the serious peril confronting European security at the moment.

In the 80 years since World War II, Germany has largely adopted a pacifist stance. Now the looming risk of war — and fear that the United States might not jump to Europe's defense — is causing a societal rethink from top to bottom. Most attention has focused on rearmament and military readiness, but the ravioli debate highlights how war affects nearly every element of life — a sobering reality illustrated daily in Ukraine — and how little time there is to get prepared.

"Our thinking has changed, so that when you talk about defense capability, you shouldn't just con-

sider the military side," said Florian Weber, head of operations at the Technisches Hilfswerk, Germany's federal civil protection organization, which coordinates technical emergency and disaster relief.

"It's also very much about protecting the population," Weber said. "Because I believe the example of the war in Ukraine shows that while military capabilities are very important, it's also crucial for the state to signal that civil protection can still provide the population with basic services."

The idea of revamping food stockpiles has drawn praise, but skeptics also warn of hurdles, from limited shelf life to the logistical and financial burden of regular replenishment.

National stockpiles are nothing new, having existed in Germany since the 1960s, but they often went unnoticed or unappreciated. When the interior minister at the time, Thomas de Maizière, advised Germans in 2016 to maintain an emergency supply of food and water at home, he was widely mocked for buying into the "prepper" mentality associated with American survivalists or fringe groups. Critics accused him of fearmongering following a number of terrorist attacks in Europe, prompting headlines of Germans "hamstering" away food.

A pandemic later, with memories of toilet paper and pasta shortages still fresh, that kind of guidance is heeded differently today. A German government guide currently urges households to store at least a three-day supply of food and ideally enough for up to 10 days — as well as basic medicines, candles, a battery-powered radio and other essentials.

As Germany considers adding

canned ravioli to its emergency essentials, European neighbors have their own priorities.

In Switzerland, for example, a 2019 proposal by the Swiss Federal Council to completely do away with the country's mandatory coffee stockpile was met with such widespread opposition that the idea was abandoned. Norway advises keeping on hand iodine tablets to protect against radiation in case of nuclear emergencies, as well as playing cards and board games to pass the time.

Food and other supplies, however, are only part of the challenge. Earlier this summer, Germany's top civil protection official said the country must urgently expand its network of shelters. Of 2,000 bunkers from the Cold War era, only 579 remain, with space for just 478,000 people — or 0.5 percent of the 83.5 million population. Finland, by contrast, maintains some 50,000 shelters, enough for 85 percent of its 5.6 million people.

"For a long time, there was a widespread belief in Germany that war was not a scenario for which we needed to prepare," Ralph Tiesler, head of Germany's Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance, told the Süddeutsche Zeitung newspaper this summer. "That has changed."

Tiesler's office wants to repurpose subway stations, basements and underground garages into shelters, a spokesperson told The Washington Post. A digital directory of shelters is also being compiled for an app.

Officials are urging citizens to do their part.

"Build up enough supplies to last you for 10 days if possible," Tiesler told Süddeutsche Zeitung. "Even a supply for at least 72 hours is very helpful."

New Banksy mural to be removed from outside London court

Associated Press

LONDON — A new mural by elusive street artist Banksy showing a judge beating an unarmed protester with a gavel will be removed from a wall outside one of London's most iconic courts, authorities said Monday.

The mural appeared Monday and depicts a protester lying on the ground holding a blood-splattered placard while a judge in a traditional wig and black gown beats him with a gavel. Banksy posted a photo of the work on Instagram, his usual method of claiming a work as authentic. It was captioned "Royal Courts Of Justice. London."

Security officials outside the courthouse covered the artwork Monday with sheets of black plastic and two metal barriers, and it was being guarded by two officers

and a security camera.

Because the Victorian gothic revival style building is 143 years old, the mural will be removed with consideration for its historical significance, according to HM Courts and Tribunals.

"The Royal Courts of Justice is a listed building and HMCTS are obliged to maintain its original character," it said in a statement. Listed buildings are considered the country's most significant historic buildings and sites and are protected by law.

While the artwork doesn't refer to a particular cause or incident, activists saw it as a reference to the U.K. government's ban on the group Palestine Action. On Saturday almost 900 people were arrested at a London protest challenging the ban.

Defend Our Juries, the group

that organized the protest, said in a statement that the mural "powerfully depicts the brutality unleashed" by the government ban.

"When the law is used as a tool to crush civil liberties, it does not extinguish dissent, it strengthens it," the statement said.

The courts have weighed in on the Palestine Action case, with judges initially rejecting the organization's request to appeal its ban. A High Court court judge then allowed the appeal to go forward, though the government is now challenging that decision.

Banksy began his career spray-painting buildings in Bristol, England, and has become one of the world's best-known artists.

His paintings and installations sell for millions of dollars at auction and have drawn thieves and vandals.



BANKSY/AP

Undated photo released by Banksy of the new artwork by the artist which portrays a judge beating a protester with a gavel at the Royal Courts of Justice in London.

FACES

Owning up to his mistakes

Charlie Sheen discusses his road to sobriety and writing his memoir, 'The Book of Sheen'

BY ITZEL LUNA
Associated Press

Charlie Sheen said fatherhood quickly occupied his life when he got sober eight years ago.

"It turned into just an interesting daily grind of just sudden responsibility and, you know, having to answer the call and it was amazing," Sheen said Monday, telling an audience that once he "finally put down the bottle," his children started coming to his home.

Sheen sat down with actor and writer David Duchovny during an event at 92nd Street Y, New York to discuss the writing process behind his memoir, "The Book of Sheen," his journey through sobriety and his passion for acting.

The actor battled addiction throughout his decadeslong career. Writing about it candidly, as he does in his book that was released Tuesday, took years of self-reflection, he said.

Sheen grew up on film sets and began creating home movies as a young child before getting his big break starring in movies like "Platoon" and "Wall Street." His decorated career in Hollywood, however, was accompanied by decades of drug abuse, legal battles, an HIV diagnosis and messy divorces.

"I'm a good guy," Sheen said. "Good guys sometimes do some bad things, but the only way to stay

a good guy is to own that (expletive) and move forward."

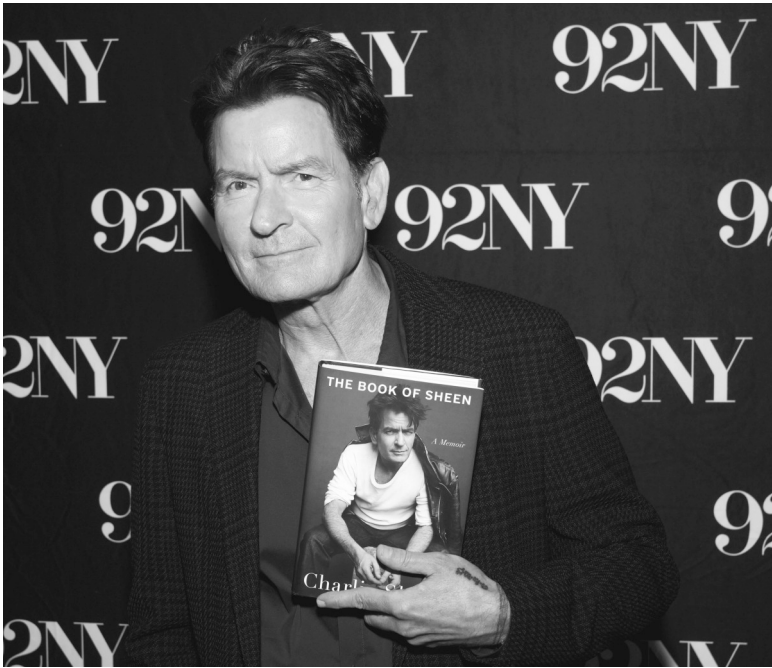
Amid jokes and lighthearted prodding, Duchovny applauded the memoir, which he described as "not vindictive at all. There's no animus against any other person in the book, even yourself, which I really appreciate. Not just your gentleness with other people, but your gentleness with yourself."

The book chronicles Sheen's life from a near-death experience during his birth in 1965 to the moment he decided to get sober in 2017. It carries a unique writing style, with certain words purposefully misspelled and instead written the way Sheen sees them in his mind, he said. Dude, for instance, became "dood."

Sheen said he was inspired by the narration and rhythm in "Apocalypse Now," the 1979 film his father, Martin Sheen, starred in.

"I wanted it to feel like the reader was kind of in the room with me or at the small dinner party hearing this story," he said.

His drug addiction and recovery is at the center of the book and addressed in the latter half of the discussion. Sheen spoke on the "intense sexual component" of a lot of the drugs he grew reliant on, including cocaine. When substance abuse is "the first bridge you build," he said, "that's the one



Charlie Sheen poses backstage Sept. 8 at the 92nd Street Y before discussing his new memoir, "The Book of Sheen," in New York.

you'll keep walking across."

Sheen said he figured out early on that alcohol helped calm his stutter, which had negatively impacted his acting, and it turned into "the most difficult drug for me to deal with."

"The only part of the drinking that I could navigate was the first hour," Sheen said. "But, it's the next 500 hours or just the next 12 hours. So, once I can just abandon that fantasy of living inside that hour, then it is not a big deal."

Sheen struggled to answer whether he'd be open to acting in the future, noting that "writing the book was the most challenging job I've ever had and, hands down, the most rewarding one."

"It was incredible to have a job where I didn't have to get approval ... it's just you and the page," he said. "Maybe I need to write the next thing I act in."

Sheen's career began when he was young, making home movies with childhood friends like the Penn brothers, Chris and Sean, in

the Malibu, Calif., neighborhood he grew up in.

Clips from the movies, which had previously only been enjoyed by family and friends, will be featured in Sheen's upcoming Netflix two-part documentary, "aka Charlie Sheen," which comes out on Wednesday.

The movies, Sheen said, had simple plots, often revolving around a crime, a villain and someone seeking revenge. They were filmed on old cameras with props handed down by his father, and the Penn brothers' parents, who were actors and directors themselves.

"Everybody was surfing or skateboarding or doing other stuff and we just found a way to, just kind of emulate or mimic or copy what our parents were doing," Sheen said.

The documentary, which includes interviews with Sean, felt like "the perfect place for them to finally be put on full display," he said.

Langley, Moroney, Wilson lead CMA Awards noms

Ella Langley, Megan Moroney and Lainey Wilson lead the nominations for the 2025 Country Music Association Awards, with six nods each.

Joining Wilson in competing for the night's highest honor — CMA entertainer of the year — will be Luke Combs, Cody Johnson, Chris Stapleton and Morgan Wallen, last year's winner in the category.

Also among top nominees announced Monday: Zach Top with five nods, and Riley Green and Johnson with four. With three nods were Kristian Bush, Carson Chamberlain, Combs, Charlie Handsome, Stapleton and Wallen.

The 59th annual CMA Awards will be broadcast live from Nashville's Bridgestone Arena Nov. 19 on ABC, and the next day on Hulu. Winners are determined by Country Music Association members.

Langley's six nominations include single, song and music video of the year for "you look like you love me" with Riley Green. She's also nominated for new artist, female vocalist and musical event of the year ("Don't Mind If I Do").

Moroney gets nods in single, album, song and music video of the year for her project "Am I Okay?" and its title track. She's also up for female vocalist of the year and musical event of the year.

Wilson is nominated for entertainer of the year, single and song of the year ("4x4xU"), album of the year ("Whirlwind"), female vocalist of the year and music video ("Somewhere Over Laredo").

Joining Moroney, Wilson, Langley and Green for single of the year nods are Combs ("Ain't No Love In Oklahoma") and Top ("I Never Lie").

The nominees for new artist of the year are Langley, Shaboozey, Top, Tucker Wetmore and Stephen Wilson Jr.

From The Associated Press

New this week: 'Warfare,' Sheeran, 'Only Murders in the Building'

Associated Press

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

Movies

■ The Netflix two-part documentary "aka Charlie Sheen" chronicles the star's up-and-down career, from "Wall Street" to "winning." The film debuting Wednesday features candid interviews with Sheen, friends and co-stars. Andrew Renzi ("Pepsi, Where's My Jet?") directs.

■ Clouds of smoke from improvised explosive devices and cries of agony fill Alex Garland and Ray Mendoza's harrowing film, "Warfare," (HBO Max on Friday) with little but the faces of its Navy SEALs to ground the nearly real-time, based-on-a-true-story dramatization. The movie effectively embeds viewers on a seemingly minor mission in Iraq in 2006.

■ Andrew Ahn's "The Wedding Banquet," which released Monday on Paramount+, joyfully remakes and updates Ang Lee's 1993 queer comedy of errors for a new generation. Ahn's movie stars Kelly Marie Tran, Lily Gladstone, Bowen Yang and Han Gi-chan.

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle



A24/AP

"Warfare," a based-on-a-true-story dramatization of a mission in Iraq in 2006, is out Friday on HBO Max.

Music

■ Ed Sheeran returns with a new album on Friday, his eighth, titled "Play." The release detours away from the acoustic introspection of his last release, 2023's "Autumn

Variations," and instead offers a kind of reserved pop music. "Azizam," a Farsi word which translates to something approximating "my dear one," is a cultural crossover hit; "A Little More" has a much-needed groove. It's clear Sheeran is in it for a good time — and his loyal listeners will follow suit.

— AP Music Writer Maria Sherman

Television

■ "Only Murders in the Building" returned for its fifth season Tuesday on Hulu. The amateur sleuths Charles (Steve Martin), Mabel (Selena Gomez) and Oliver (Martin Short) begin the new episodes trying to figure out who murdered the doorman of their building.

■ Robin Wright and Olivia Cooke star in a new psychological thriller for Prime Video called "The Girlfriend." Wright plays Laura, a very, very protective mother of her grown son, Danny. Her internal alarm goes off when she meets Danny's new girlfriend Cherry, played by Cooke. Cherry is a street-wise real estate agent who does not meet Laura's standards for her son. Make no mistake, both women are unhinged. Each episode shows Laura and Cherry's perspective, which is fun. It premieres Wednesday.

— Alicia Rancilio



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OPINION

What the White House doesn’t get about ‘war’

By ANDREAS KLUTH
Bloomberg Opinion

I have no problem with renaming the Department of Defense into the Department of War, as Donald Trump is trying to do. (It’s technically not up to the president but to Congress, but the Republicans there will oblige him.) After all, that martial label was good enough from George Washington to Harry Truman. And “war” is more honest and descriptive than the somewhat euphemistic “defense.” As Trump put it, “we want to be offensive too if we have to be.” Even that holds water.

But that’s the end of my concurrence with this cosmetic and ridiculous stunt of showmanship. Trump likes to rename things — the Gulf of Mexico/America and such — because doing so looks bold while skirting the complexities and nuances of real policy. Naming is part of turning his presidency into reality TV, and it works to the extent that it grabs our attention. But a new shingle (and URL) outside the Pentagon does not solve the fiendish challenges of running the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and Space Force. Nor does it signal anything, positive or negative, about strategy.

Strategy — the word comes from the Greek strategos, meaning “general” or “commander” — is the domain that Trump and his secretary of war, Pete Hegseth, should be concerned with but aren’t. The Prussian strategist Carl von Clausewitz famously wrote that war is the continuation by other means of policy — or of politics, the German word Politik could mean either. That has often been misinterpreted as a cynical endorsement of warfare. In fact, Clausewitz meant something closer to the opposite: the need to limit war and subordinate it to achieving clearly defined political objectives. This is what Trump and Hegseth don’t get.

When Trump announced the name change,

Hegseth, the Fox News personality who is all-in on Trump’s reality-TV shtick, bloviated again that the new label expresses the “warrior ethos” that he and the president are trying to revive after its alleged near-death under “woke” leaders and elites. The Department of War, Hegseth said, is henceforth about “maximum lethality, not tepid legality, violent effect, not politically correct. We’re going to raise up warriors, not just defenders.”

To people who think deeply about war, and know that it is hell, this vacuous bellicosity is hard to bear. Christopher Preble, who runs a “grand strategy” program at the Stimson Center in Washington, thinks that the Trump-Hegseth obsession with lethality “risks a focus on killing for killing’s sake, and comes at the expense of strategic clarity.”

Even and especially when a nation has the most powerful military in world history, its leaders need humility and wisdom in deploying that force. America didn’t lose in Iraq and Afghanistan because it was insufficiently lethal — “because it didn’t kill enough Iraqis and Afghans,” as Preble puts it — but because it lacked a strategy that was well considered, realistic and attainable.

What is observable during the second Trump administration so far is not the alignment of military and other means to clearly defined ends, but random displays of violence intended to shock and awe audiences foreign and domestic and to keep up the ratings on the reality-TV presidency.

Thus, Trump just ordered a military strike on a skiff in the Caribbean, killing the 11 men on board, who may or may not have been drug smugglers and whom Trump called “terrorists.” Normally, the Coast Guard would have picked up and dealt with such people. The strike was almost certainly unlawful (notice Hegseth’s disdain for “tepid legality”). But it made for a suspenseful video clip, which Trump of course shared, hinting of more

DC’s lawsuit to expel National Guard could backfire

A Washington Post editorial

D.C. Attorney General Brian Schwalb, a Democrat, filed a lawsuit on Thursday seeking to end the National Guard’s deployment in the city — a day after he announced his 2026 reelection bid. Legally, his case does not seem particularly strong. A safer bet is that it will antagonize congressional Republicans and the White House at a delicate moment — perpetuating the situation he is trying to end.

President Donald Trump is on solid legal footing to deploy the Guard around D.C. In all 50 states, the governor commands the Guard. In D.C., the president does. The District does not have the same rights as a state such as California — which won a court victory last week against the administration’s use of the National Guard there — because the Constitution gives the federal government significant control over the capital.

It will be a pity if Thursday’s filing undercuts the cautious and calibrated strategy of D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, a Democrat, to insulate the city from federal interference. That might be why Bowser declined to express support for Schwalb’s lawsuit. “My 100 percent focus is on exiting the emergency,” she said, “and that’s where all our energies are.”

Schwalb’s lawsuit comes as House Republicans are drafting a legislative package that would eliminate his elected position, granting the president the power to appoint the D.C. at-

torney general instead. That is how the U.S. attorney for the District, who prosecutes most adult crimes in the city, gets their job. Until 2015, the D.C. attorney general was appointed by the mayor.

That is one of 14 proposals expected to be voted on this month by the House Oversight Committee. Others would mandate that suspects charged with violent crimes be detained until trial, add new mandatory minimum sentences and lower the age of eligibility for juveniles to be tried as adults from 16 years old to 14 for certain violent crimes. Some of these ideas would help make D.C. safer. Others would be overly punitive and too inflexible. All would reduce the autonomy of officials elected to represent the city’s 700,000 residents. Most significantly, though, the package would be dead on arrival in the Senate.

If House members want to change the city’s laws, they should learn from what happened last year with the D.C. Crimes Act. The House passed a bill that would have permanently restricted the District from changing its criminal sentencing laws, but it went nowhere because it didn’t secure buy-in from Senate Democrats (or President Joe Biden).

The bipartisan clamoring for more stringent penalties for teenagers who commit serious crimes is partly the consequence of excessive leniency over the past decade by the two elected D.C. attorneys general. A well-intentioned desire to keep kids out of the system and

strikes to come.

He and Hegseth seem equally ready to use war — the word and the threat — at home. The president has already deployed the National Guard in some American cities he considers disloyal, forcing Hegseth’s warriors to take a break from lethality to pick up trash and blow leaves. Chicago could be next and, as Trump posted, is “about to find out why it’s called the Department of WAR.” He illustrated his threat with an AI image of himself à la “Apocalypse Now,” with Chicago in the background in place of a burning Vietnam.

This is the same president who habitually confuses aggressor and victim in the war between Russia and Ukraine. Who keeps alienating America’s brothers-in-arms, most recently by ending training programs in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, NATO’s front line facing Russia. Who drives a potential ally, India, into the arms of America’s likeliest adversary, China. Who lacks any observable notion of grand strategy — that is, of a plausible plan to Keep America Great and achieve peace through strength.

So go ahead and rename that department. And do prepare for war. But do so with the goal of preventing war, as Truman did when he chose the label “defense” just after witnessing the full genocidal and even nuclear horror of World War II. He and other American leaders of his time had glimpsed hell and wanted to save humanity from it. They hated war far too much to play with the word.

Trump can’t keep impersonating a warrior while calling himself the President of PEACE. And America can’t keep letting him disdain strategy for the sake of show.

Andreas Kluth is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering U.S. diplomacy, national security and geopolitics. Previously, he was editor-in-chief of Handelsblatt Global and a writer for the Economist. This column reflects the personal views of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

give them second chances — then third, fourth and fifth chances — wound up sheltering violent teens from accountability and making the streets far more dangerous.

A similar backlash might play out following Schwalb’s lawsuit if it prompts Trump to dig in his heels and keep troops on D.C.’s streets longer than he would have otherwise to showcase his executive power.

In the suit, Schwalb argues that Trump is violating the Home Rule Act and a mutual aid compact. He also says that Trump is illegally using the military for domestic law enforcement purposes and improperly commanding troops that seven states have sent to help in D.C.

Nearly 2,300 members of the National Guard are currently stationed in D.C., including 1,340 from the seven states. Crime has dropped over the past month, and the high-visibility patrols have made some residents feel safer, but that’s still an unnecessarily large contingent when there is not a genuine emergency or insurrection to put down.

As part of Trump’s efforts to beautify the city, the Guard has been picking up trash, mulching and groundskeeping. Pictures on social media have shown many soldiers looking quite bored. White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson says Trump is fully within his authority to deploy troops to protect federal assets and “assist law enforcement with specific tasks.”

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39				40			
41				42		43						
			44		45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54			55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- ACROSS
- 60 Bridge
- 61 Sailor's assent
- 27 GOP rivals
- 28 Stitched line
- 29 Egg
- 30 One in a deck
- 31 Lewd material
- 35 Permeates
- 38 Supermarket sections
- 40 Brit. record label
- 42 Connections
- 45 Minus
- 47 Zilch
- 48 Fine
- 49 Docile
- 50 Favorite pal, in texts
- 51 Swiss canton
- 52 Piano support
- 53 Talk and talk and talk ...
- 54 Geological period
- DOWN
- 1 Swedish car
- 2 Sea predator
- 3 Consider
- 4 Fan
- 5 Frilly wrap
- 6 Glitch
- 7 Bone-dry
- 8 Cotton-eating pest
- 9 Horse chow
- 10 Vein contents
- 11 Ninny
- 17 Biz bigwig
- 19 — choy
- 22 Invitation initials
- 23 Elite Navy group
- 25 — Godiva
- 26 Actress Falco
- 1 Turf
- 4 "Waterloo" group
- 8 Horse halter?
- 12 "— you for real?"
- 13 Gloomy
- 14 Canal zones?
- 15 Top card
- 16 Photoelectric cells used for IDing
- 18 Disney deer
- 20 Actor Patel
- 21 Spheres
- 24 Lubricated
- 28 Some Pacific salmon
- 32 Stow cargo
- 33 Zsa Zsa's sister
- 34 Wanders
- 36 Poorly lit
- 37 Mystique
- 39 Ol' — (Sinatra nickname)
- 41 Roman 2502
- 43 Goblet feature
- 44 NBC sketch show
- 46 Wine grape
- 50 Areas on dartboards
- 55 Rap sheet abbr.
- 56 Gratis
- 57 Delhi dress
- 58 River blocker
- 59 Pear-shaped fruits

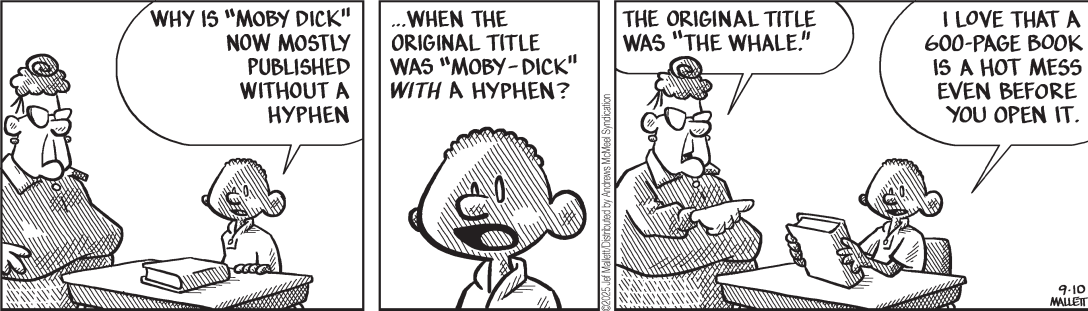
Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	U	L	T		A	L	E	C		M	O	D
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				A	D	A	M		V	A	N	N
P	A	S	T	A				E	E	L	S	
A	R	T	S		M	A	G	N	A	T	E	S
T	I	O		F	U	D	G	E		O	D	E
S	A	N	G	R	I	A	S		S	N	I	T
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A	V	A			W	A	L	L	P	A	P	E
D	E	L			A	R	I	D		C	A	R
A	S	L			Y	E	P	S		E	L	A

9-10 CRYPTOQUIP

AIXW BW LZZURXQ'T NBTY UT
YXXSUWF LQMXQ UW B NIQLWF
LZ SXLSDX, IX'T B QXBD
RQLAM-SLDURXQ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A POOCH WANTED TO PLAY HIGH UP IN A TREE, WHICH KIND DO YOU THINK IT WOULD PREFER? DOGWOOD.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals P

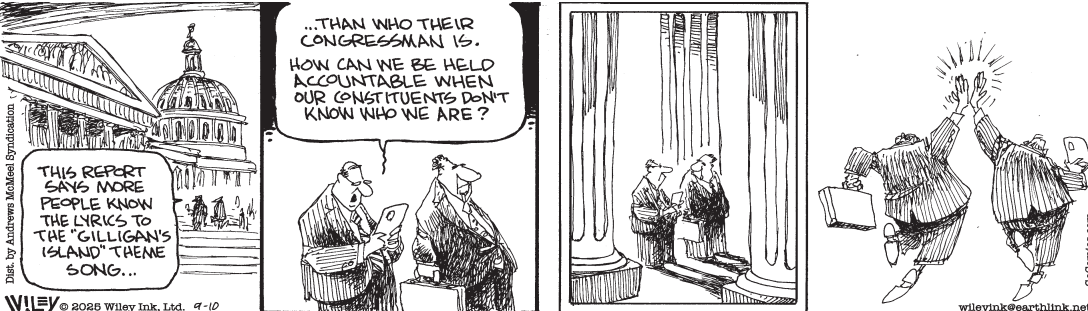
Frazz



Pearls Before Swine



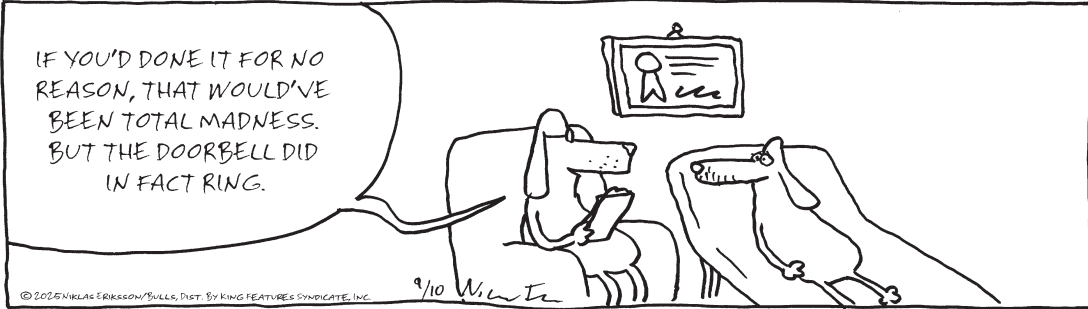
Non Sequitur



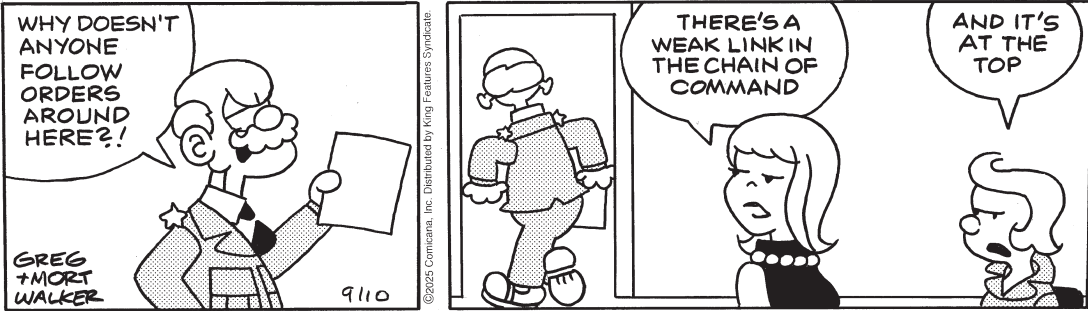
Wumo



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



SCOREBOARD/TRACK AND FIELD

DEALS

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Placed C Logan O'Hoppe on the 7-day concussion list. Transferred OF Jorge Soler to the 60-day IL. Selected the contract of C Sebastian Rivero from Salt Lake (PCL).

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Recalled INF Tim Tawa from Reno (PCL). Placed INF Tyler Locklear on the 10-day IL.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Activated RHP Alexis Diaz. Designated RHP John Brebbia for assignment. Activated C Sandy Leon. Placed C Sean Murphy on the 10-day IL. Selected the contract of C Sandy León from Gwinnett (IL). Optioned RHP Rolddy Muñoz to Gwinnett. Recalled RHP Connor Seabold from Gwinnett. Optioned LHP Hayden Harris to Gwinnett. Recalled RHP Dane Dunning from Gwinnett.

CHICAGO CUBS — Placed RHP Daniel Palencia on the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP Ethan Roberts from Iowa (IL).

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Reinstated 3B Max Muncy from the 10-day IL. Optioned C Chuckie Robinson to Oklahoma City (PCL).

MIAMI MARLINS — Reinstated RHP Janson Junk from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Christian Roa to Jacksonville (IL).

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Reinstated RHP Grant Anderson from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Craig Yoho to Nashville (IL).

NEW YORK METS — Placed C Luis Torrens on the 10-day IL, retroactive to September 7. Recalled C Hayden Senger from Syracuse (IL).

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Recalled 1B Otto Kemp from Lehigh Valley (IL). Transferred RHP Daniel Robert from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL. Selected the contract of 2B Donovan Walton from Lehigh Valley. Placed SS Trea Turner and INF Alec Bomb on the 10-day IL.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Designated 2B Garrett Hampson for assignment. Reinstated 1B Alec Burleson from the 10-day IL. Selected the contract of LHP Nick Raquet from Memphis (IL). Optioned RHP Andre Granillo to Memphis.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association

BROOKLYN NETS — Signed F Ziaire Williams to a contract.

Women's National Basketball Association

GOLDEN STATE VALKYRIES — Released C Elizabeth Kitley.

FOOTBALL
National Football League

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed DT Tommy Akingbesote and S Israel Mukuamu to the practice squad.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Placed DT Perrion Winfrey on injured reserve.

DENVER BRONCOS — Waived DT Kristian Williams from injured reserve with an injury settlement.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed RB Pierre Strong Jr. to the practice squad. Released RB Israel Abanikanda from the practice squad.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed RB Ameer Abdullah to the practice squad. Released RB Khalil Herbert from the practice squad.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Restructured the contract of TE Taysom Hill. Waived LB Fadil Diggs.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Released OL McClendon Curtis. Signed LS Reid Holskey to a contract.

NEW YORK JETS — Signed WR Tyler Johnson to the active roster. Signed OL Liam Fornadel to the practice squad.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Signed OLB Patrick Johnson to the active roster. Signed RB Montrell Johnson and OL Hollin Pierce to the practice squad. Released WR Elijah Cooks from the practice squad.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed WR Rakiem Jarrett to a contract. Released WR Lance McCutcheon.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed OT Colton McKivitz to a three-year contract extension. Signed WR Kendrick Bourne to a one-year contract.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer

ORLANDO CITY SC — Transferred F Ramiro Enrique to Al-Khoolod (Saudi Arabia's Roshn Saudi League).

SEATTLE SOUNDERS — Loaned Ds Cody Baker and Travian Sousa to Sacramento Republic FC and FC Tulsa (USL Championship).

PRO SOCCER

MLS						
Eastern Conference						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	17	6	6	57	49	26
Cincinnati	16	9	4	52	42	36
Charlotte FC	16	11	2	50	48	40
Nashville	15	9	5	50	49	33
Orlando City	13	7	8	47	54	40
Inter Miami CF	13	5	7	46	54	40
Columbus	12	6	10	46	43	39
NYC FC	13	9	5	44	38	32
Chicago	12	10	6	42	53	50
New York	11	11	7	40	42	38
New England	8	14	7	31	38	43
Atlanta	5	12	11	26	32	49
Toronto FC	5	13	10	25	28	35
CF Montréal	5	15	9	24	29	51
D.C. United	5	15	9	24	26	54
Western Conference						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego FC	17	7	5	56	54	34
Minn. United	14	6	9	51	48	32
Vancouver	14	6	7	49	47	31
Seattle	12	7	8	44	48	38
LAFC	11	7	8	41	45	33
Austin FC	11	9	8	41	31	34
Portland	10	9	9	39	36	38
Colorado	10	13	6	36	38	48
San Jose	9	12	8	35	53	51
Houston	8	12	9	33	38	47
Real Salt Lake	9	14	4	31	28	36
FC Dallas	7	11	10	31	40	48
Sporting KC	7	16	6	27	44	59
St Louis City	5	17	7	22	34	51
LA Galaxy	4	16	8	20	33	56

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

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

Tuesday, Sept. 16
Seattle at Miami

NWSL						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	16	2	1	49	38	10
Washington	10	4	5	35	31	25
San Diego	8	5	6	30	28	22
Portland	8	6	5	29	28	22
Orlando	8	7	4	28	24	20
Gotham FC	7	6	6	27	25	17
Seattle	7	6	6	27	25	23
Louisville	7	7	5	26	25	30
Houston	6	8	5	23	24	28
Angel City	6	8	5	23	25	31
North Carolina	5	7	7	22	24	29
Bay FC	4	10	5	17	21	29
Chicago	2	9	8	14	24	38
Utah Royals FC	2	11	6	12	15	33

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

Friday's game
Gotham FC at San Diego
Saturday's game
Angel City at North Carolina
Bay FC at Orlando
Washington at Kansas City
Sunday's game
Portland at Chicago
Houston at Utah Royals FC
Louisville at Seattle

over the Seattle Mariners, MLB and NFL player Deion Sanders returns a punt 68 yards for a touchdown for the Atlanta Falcons, his first.

1989 — Indianapolis Colts running back Eric Dickerson rushes for 106 yards against the San Francisco 49ers to become the fastest player to top the 10,000-yard plateau, which he does in his 91st career game.

1993 — Pernell Whitaker and Julio Cesar Chavez fight to a majority draw. Two judges score the fight 115-115 and the third scores the fight 115-113 for Whitaker. It's the first blemish on the career record for Chavez, who was 87-0 entering the bout.

2000 — Arizona's Randy Johnson becomes the 12th player to reach the 3,000 strikeout plateau, fanning a season-high 14 in seven innings as the Diamondbacks lost to the Florida Marlins 4-3 in 12 innings.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Schedule
Thursday, Sept. 11
SOUTH
NC State (2-0) at Wake Forest (2-0)
Friday, Sept. 12
EAST
Colgate (0-2) at Syracuse (1-1)
MIDWEST
Indiana St. (2-0) at Indiana (2-0)
SOUTHWEST
Colorado (1-1) at Houston (2-0)
FAR WEST
Kansas St. (1-2) at Arizona (2-0)
New Mexico (1-1) at UCLA (0-2)
Saturday, Sept. 13
EAST
Towson (2-0) at Maryland (2-0)
Oklahoma (2-0) at Temple (2-0)
Lehigh (2-0) at Duquesne (1-1)
Sacred Heart (1-1) at LIU Brooklyn (1-1)
St. Francis (Pa.) (0-2) at CCSU (1-1)
Howard (1-1) vs. Morehouse (0-0) at East Rutherford, N.J.
Lafayette (1-1) at Georgetown (2-0)
Marist (1-1) at Wagner (0-2)
Rhode Island (2-0) at Holy Cross (0-2)
Bowie St. (0-0) at Delaware St. (1-1)
Uconn (1-1) at Delaware (1-1)
Norfolk St. (1-1) at Rutgers (2-0)
Pittsburgh (2-0) at West Virginia (1-1)
Villanova (1-0) at Penn St. (2-0)
Fordham (0-2) at Stony Brook (0-2)
VMI (1-1) at Bucknell (1-1)
Stonehill (0-2) at Maine (0-2), 6 p.m.
West Liberty (0-0) at Robert Morris (0-2)
Bentley (0-0) at Bryant (1-1)
E. Kentucky (1-1) at Marshall (0-2)
New Haven (0-2) at Albany (NY) (0-2)
SOUTH
Memphis (2-0) at Troy (1-1)
William & Mary (1-1) at Virginia (1-1)
Wisconsin (2-0) at Alabama (1-1)
Clemson (1-1) at Georgia Tech (2-0)
South Alabama (1-1) at Auburn (2-0)
Davidson (0-2) at Tennessee Tech (2-0)
Elon (1-1) at W. Carolina (0-2)
Tuskegee (0-0) at Jackson St. (1-1)
Georgia (2-0) at Tennessee (2-0)
Richmond (1-1) at North Carolina (1-1)
Furman (1-1) at Campbell (0-2)
Lindenwood (Mo.) (0-2) at Charleston Southern (0-2)
South Florida (2-0) at Miami (2-0)
Alabama A&M (1-1) at Tennessee St. (1-1)
Miles (0-0) at Alabama St. (1-1)
FAU (1-1) at FIU (1-1), 6 p.m.
Fayetteville St. (0-0) at NC Central (1-2)
Bethune-Cookman (0-2) at SC State (1-1)
ETSU (1-1) at West Georgia (2-0)
Monmouth (NJ) (2-0) at Charlotte (0-2)
Merrimack (1-1) at Kennesaw St. (0-2)
Stetson (1-1) at Chattanooga (0-2)
Wofford (0-2) at Mercer (0-1)
Alcorn St. (0-2) at Mississippi St. (2-0)
Appalachian St. (2-0) at Southern Miss. (1-1)
Morehead St. (1-1) at Austin Peay (1-1)
Albany St. (Ga.) (0-0) at Florida A&M (0-2)
Old Dominion (1-1) at Virginia Tech (0-2)
Arkansas (2-0) at Mississippi (2-0)
Hampton (1-1) at NC A&T (0-2)
MVSU (0-2) at SE Louisiana (1-1)
Ersrine (0-0) at Presbyterian (2-0)

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA				
Eastern Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	29	14	.674	—
x-New York	25	17	.595	3½
x-Indiana	23	20	.535	6
Washington	16	27	.372	13
Connecticut	11	32	.256	18
Chicago	10	32	.238	18½
Western Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Minnesota	33	9	.786	—
x-Las Vegas	28	14	.667	5
x-Phoenix	27	15	.643	6
x-Golden State	23	19	.548	10
Seattle	22	21	.512	11½
Los Angeles	20	22	.476	13
Dallas	9	34	.209	24½

x-clinched playoff spot
Sunday's games
Indiana 94, Washington 65
Los Angeles 91, Dallas 77
Las Vegas 80, Chicago 66
Monday's game
Atlanta 87, Connecticut 62
Tuesday's games
Washington at New York
Minnesota at Indiana
Chicago at Las Vegas
Golden State at Seattle
Los Angeles at Phoenix
Wednesday's game
Atlanta at Connecticut
Thursday's games
Golden State at Minnesota
New York at Chicago
Phoenix at Dallas
Las Vegas at Los Angeles

Kentucky St. (0-0) at Grambling St. (1-1)

S. Illinois (1-1) at UT Martin (0-2)

Jacksonville St. (1-1) at Georgia Southern (0-2)

Murray St. (0-2) at Georgia St. (0-2)

The Citadel (1-1) at Gardner-Webb (1-1)

Northeastern St. (0-0) at North Alabama (0-2)

Weber St. (0-2) at McNeese St. (1-1)

Florida (1-1) at LSU (2-0)

E. Michigan (0-2) at Kentucky (1-1)

East Carolina (1-1) at Coastal Carolina (1-1)

New Mexico St. (2-0) at Louisiana Tech (1-1)

Vanderbilt (2-0) at South Carolina (2-0)

Duke (1-1) at Tulane (2-0)

Akron (0-2) at UAB (1-1)

MIDWEST
Oregon (2-0) at Northwestern (1-1)
Houston Christian (1-1) at Nebraska (2-0)
Cent. Michigan (1-1) at Michigan (1-1)
Buffalo (1-1) at Kent St. (1-1)
St. Thomas (Minn.) (1-1) at N. Michigan (0-0)
Butler (1-1) at Hanover (0-0)
New Hampshire (2-0) at Ball St. (0-2)
N. Colorado (1-1) at South Dakota (0-2)
Illinois St. (1-1) at E. Illinois (1-1)
Northwestern St. (1-1) at Cincinnati (1-1)
Southern Cal (2-0) at Purdue (2-0)
Morgan St. (0-2) at Toledo (1-1)
SMU (1-1) at Missouri St. (1-1)
Youngstown St. (2-0) at Michigan St. (2-0)
SE Missouri (1-1) at N. Dakota St. (2-0)
Louisiana-Lafayette (1-1) at Missouri (2-0)
E. Washington (0-2) at N. Iowa (1-1)
Liberty (1-1) at Bowling Green (1-1)
Ohio (1-1) at Ohio St. (2-0)
W. Michigan (0-2) at Illinois (2-0)
Drake (1-0) at S. Dakota St. (2-0)
Valparaiso (1-1) at W. Illinois (0-2)
Texas A&M (2-0) at Notre Dame (0-1)
Umass (0-2) at Iowa (1-1)

SOUTHWEST
Samford (0-2) at Baylor (1-1)
Washington St. (2-0) at North Texas (2-0)
Incarnate Word (1-1) at UTSA (0-2)
Oregon St. (0-0) at Texas Tech (2-0)
Iowa St. (3-0) at Arkansas St. (1-1)
UTEP (1-1) at Texas (1-1), 4:15 p.m.
Lamar (1-1) at Texas Southern (0-2)
Prairie View (1-1) at Rice (1-1)
Tarleton St. (3-0) at Cent. Arkansas (1-1)
Lincoln University (CA) (0-0) at Ark.-Pine Bluff (0-2)
Navy (2-0) at Tulsa (1-1)
Sul Ross State (0-1) at Stephen F. Austin (0-2)
Abilene Christian (1-1) at TCU (1-0)

FAR WEST
North Dakota (1-1) at Montana (1-0)
San Diego (1-1) at Montana St. (0-2)
Utah Tech (0-2) at Idaho (1-1)
Middle Tennessee (0-2) at Nevada (1-1)
W. Oregon (0-0) at Cal Poly (1-1)
Utah (2-0) at Wyoming (2-0)
N. Arizona (1-1) at S. Utah (1-1)
Mercyhurst (1-1) at Sacramento St. (0-2)
Air Force (1-0) at Utah St. (1-1)
Southern U. (1-2) at Fresno St. (2-1)
Minnesota (2-0) at California (2-0)
Boston College (1-1) at Stanford (0-2)
Texas State (2-0) at Arizona St. (1-1)
Portland St. (0-3) at Hawaii (2-1)

AUTO RACING

NASCAR Cup Series
Schedule-winners
April 13 — Food City 500 (Kyle Larson)
April 27 — Jack Link's 500 (Austin Cindric)
May 4 — Würth 400 presented by LIQUI MOLY (Joey Logano)
May 11 — AdventHealth 400 (Kyle Larson)
May 18 — NASCAR All-Star Race (Christopher Bell)
May 25 — Coca-Cola 600 (Ross Chastain)
June 1 — Cracker Barrel 400 (Ryan Blaney)
June 8 — FireKeepers Casino 400 (Denny Hamlin)
June 15 — Viva Mexico 250 (Shane Van Gisbergen)
June 22 — The Great American Getaway 400 Presented by VISITPA.COM (Chase Briscoe)
June 28 — Quaker State 400 Available at Walmart (Chase Elliott)
July 6 — Grant Park 165 (Shane Van Gisbergen)
July 13 — Toyota / Save Mart 350 (Shane Van Gisbergen)
July 20 — Autotrader EchoPark Automotive 400 (Denny Hamlin)
July 27 — Brickyard 400 (Bubba Wallace)
Aug. 3 — Iowa Corn 350 Powered by Ethanol (William Byron)
Aug. 10 — Go Bowling at The Glen (Shane Van Gisbergen)
Aug. 16 — Cook Out 400 (Austin Dillon)
Aug. 23 — Coke Zero Sugar 400 (Ryan Blaney)
Aug. 31 — Cook Out Southern 500 (Chase Briscoe)
Sept. 7 — Enjoy Illinois 300, Madison, Ill.
Sept. 13 — Bass Pro Shops Night Race, Bristol, Tenn.
Sept. 21 — NASCAR Cup Series Playoff Race at New Hampshire, Loudon, N.H.
Sept. 28 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan.
Oct. 5 — Bank of America ROVAL 400, Concord, N.C.
Oct. 12 — South Point 400, Las Vegas
Oct. 19 — YellaWood 500, Talladega, Ala.
Oct. 26 — Xfinity 500, Ridgeway, Va.
Nov. 2 — NASCAR Cup Series Championship, Avondale, Ariz.



SHUJI KAIYAMA/AP

Japan's national stadium will host the world track and field championships this month.

Women have mostly met deadline for sex testing

Associated Press

TOKYO — Nearly all female athletes have completed sex testing ahead of the athletics world championships this month in Japan.

World Athletics said Tuesday that more than 95% of tests — a genetic screening to determine the athlete’s sex at birth — have been completed in the lead up to the world championships that will take place in Tokyo beginning this weekend.

The governing body for track and field said the remainder of the tests — for the French and Norwegian teams and some athletes based in France, both being countries where genetic testing for non-medical reasons is banned — will be done in Tokyo before the start of the competition.

“This has been a whole sport response to a principle that we all fundamentally believe in, which is to protect the female category,” World Athletics President Sebastian Coe said.

World Athletics was the first Olympic sport to reintroduce chromosome testing — previously discontinued in the 1990s — which requires athletes who compete in the women’s events to submit to the test once in their careers. It announced in March that it approved the introduction of cheek swabs and dry blood-spot tests for female athletes in order to maintain “the integrity of competition.”

World Athletics had set a deadline of Sept. 1 for athletes to submit to the gene tests in advance of the world championships.

Last month, the governing body for Olympic-style boxing announced it would require sex testing for all fighters wishing to compete in the women’s division at its world championships this month in Liverpool, England.

SPORTSMANSHIP/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Spitting remains issue despite opposition

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

Inter Miami's Luis Suárez further damaged his reputation. Jalen Carter of the Philadelphia Eagles cost himself the chance to play in a season-opening game. Florida's Brendan Bett gave South Florida a 15-yard gift on its drive that decided its win over the Gators.

Their transgression: spitting. In the span of seven days from last Sunday through this past Saturday, there were three high-profile spitting incidents in sports. They were immediately condemned, including by those close to the offending parties such as the Florida coach who called such behavior "unacceptable." The reviled responses show there are limits to allowable aggressions, even in the most heated competitions.

"There are a lot of written and unwritten rules about how you interact with others," said Dr. Peter Valentin, the chair of the forensic science department at the University of New Haven in Connecticut. "And in the sports world, you can have two opponents vie for supremacy and they go at each other very, very aggressively. But it's done with a measure of respect. ... The idea of spitting on your opponent communicates disrespect. And I would be shocked if that wasn't the intent of that act, to just demonstrate disdain for your opponent."

Suárez, who has been previously sanctioned at times in his career for biting opponents, spit on a member of the Seattle Sounders' staff after Inter Miami's 3-0 loss there in the Leagues Cup final. Carter spit—or spit back, depending on perspective — at Dallas



MATT ROURKE/AP

Eagles defensive tackle Jalen Carter (98) walks off the field after being ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct before the first snap of the game against the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday in Philadelphia.

quarterback Dak Prescott before the first play from scrimmage in the first NFL game of the regular season Thursday night. Bett spit at a South Florida player, and those 15 penalty yards helped the Bulls get a chip-shot field goal to win 18-16 on the final play of the game.

"We'll take a good look at it, but it's unacceptable," Florida coach Billy Napier said. "And I think we have a lot of players in that room as well that have the same belief that it's unacceptable. When a guy does something like that, he's compromising the team."

Around the NFL this week, the reactions to spitting were clear.

"That's just not professional," Arizona offensive lineman Paris Johnson said.

"You can't do that," Green Bay defensive lineman Rashan Gary said.

"You don't want to see anyone getting spit on," Tennessee offensive lineman Lloyd Cushenberry III said.

Suárez got a six-game suspension from future Leagues Cup matches and may still face further penalties from Major League Soc-

cer. Carter got kicked out of the Eagles-Cowboys game and Bett was ejected for what became the final seven plays of the Florida-South Florida game.

"It was a mistake that happened on my side," Carter said. "Just won't happen again."

Replays later revealed that Prescott spit first, but only in the general direction of the Philadelphia defense and not onto an opposing player. Carter, in response, spit on Prescott.

"I guess I needed to spit," Prescott said. "I wasn't going to spit on

my linemen. I just spit ahead. ... I don't wish for anybody to get out of the game. I'm sure he probably regrets that to some extent. I'm pretty sure he knows I didn't try to spit on him or wasn't even aiming to spit on him."

Players around the league could easily see how that sort of back-and-forth was going to escalate quickly.

"You've got to fight me at that point, spitting on another player," Titans tight end Chig Okonkwo said. "If you spit at his feet, I guess it's just like talking. But spitting on another player like that is unacceptable."

Saliva is critical for its role in promoting digestion, assisting with dental health, carrying antibodies and more. But public health officials — in lessons that were hammered home during the pandemic that started in 2020 — also point out that saliva can carry and transmit diseases, everything from cold, flu, the Epstein-Barr virus, strep, some types of hepatitis and even herpes.

It's also, well, icky.

In the way spitting occurred in and after those three games this past week, it was simply considered degrading. And there are few things that seem to trigger stronger reactions in sports than when someone intentionally spits on another person.

"It's just a new level of disrespect, not only for your opponent, but for the game itself," Valentin said. "I understand that the way that people behave around each other is very culturally significant. And you can imagine the culture in a league. The unwritten rules are important. Spitting has never been part of the culture. I am certain of that."

Sarkisian dismisses questions of throwing problems for Manning

BY MARK ROSNER
Associated Press

Texas coach Steve Sarkisian rebuffed a question about Arch Manning's physical well-being after videos posted on social media on the weekend sparked speculation the quarterback might have throwing issues.

On the television broadcast during the No. 7 Longhorns' 38-7 win over San Jose State on Saturday, Manning appeared to grimace as he threw a ball short to receiver Ryan Wingo.

During Sarkisian's weekly news conference Monday, a reporter said that Manning "seemed to be having some throwing pains," and Sarkisian cut him off.

"According to who? Arch said that to you?" Sarkisian responded.

The reporter then asked if there is an explanation for why Manning "looked like that?"

"I've never filmed any of you guys when you're using the bathroom, so I don't know what faces you make when you're doing that," Sarkisian said and then moved on to the next question.

Manning was asked at a post-game news conference if he had any pain.

"No, no I gotta make that throw," Manning said. "He was open. Ran a good dig route, so gotta make that throw."

Sarkisian was also asked after the game if Manning was dealing with any injuries.

"I don't know," Sarkisian responded. "News to me."

Manning completed 19 of 30

passes for 295 yards and four touchdowns while also scrambling 20-yards for another score.

He was badly off target a few times during a 14-7 loss at Ohio State in the season opener Aug. 30, prompting a question about Manning's mechanics at Sarkisian's news conference the following Monday.

"There was a couple times where we had some crossing routes where I didn't feel like he brought his feet to where he wanted to throw the ball, which, in turn, forced kind of a little bit more of a side arm delivery, which isn't his style of throwing," Sarkisian said. "I think if he can get his feet aligned and get his shoulders aligned, that can help with some of his accuracy."



MICHAEL THOMAS/AP

Texas quarterback Arch Manning takes a snap during the first half against San Jose State on Saturday in Austin. The Longhorns won 38-7.

MLB

Guardians' Cecconi flirts with no-hitter



Guardians starting pitcher Slade Cecconi reacts after giving up the Kansas City Royals' first hit of the night Monday in the eighth inning in Cleveland. The Guardians won 10-2.

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Slade Cecconi didn't need anyone in Cleveland's dugout to tell him he was throwing a no-hitter. He found out on his own.

Stealing a glance at Progressive Field's giant scoreboard in the fourth inning, Cecconi noticed something unusual.

"I was like, huh, a lot of zeros up there on our side," he said.

He kept it like that for a while.

Cecconi took a no-hitter into the eighth before Kansas City's Michael Massey hit a leadoff single to spoil the right-hander's bid to throw the majors' first no-hitter this season and finally end the Guardians' four-plus-decades-long drought without a no-hitter.

But that hardly mattered as Cleveland rolled to its fourth straight win, 10-2 to jump the Royals in the standings.

Leaning on a slow curve ball manager Stephen Vogt said had surprising "teeth," Cecconi dominated KC over the first seven innings before Massey lined a 2-1 fastball into left-center for the Royals' first hit.

"I didn't even want to look," Cecconi admitted.

After Massey's hit dropped, the right-hander received a nice ovation and Cecconi stepped off the mound, took off his cap and soaked in the roars.

His performance came at an optimal time for the Guardians, who moved into second place ahead of Kansas City in the AL Central. Cleveland entered the four-game series 2½ games behind Seattle for the final wildcard spot.

"Everybody in that locker room believes that we're a playoff team and we've believed that since the day we showed up to spring," said Cecconi, who was lifted after the eighth. "There's not a guy in that locker room that

doesn't believe that we belong in October."

Making his career-high 20th start and first against the Royals, Cecconi, who was acquired in an off-season trade from Arizona, was in command from the outset. He needed just eight pitches to get through the first.

He got a big defensive stop from second baseman Bryan Rocchio in the fourth, and center fielder Daniel Schneemann raced into the gap to make a catch on the warning track in the third to keep Cecconi's no-no intact.

Once he got through seven, Cecconi had gone further with a no-hitter at home than any Guardians pitcher since 2019.

Cecconi couldn't remember the last time he got so deep.

"I'd have to look back into high school, to be honest with you, to really find another one," he said. "I remember in college, I had one. I think I went out for the fifth and took a line drive off the face that wasn't fun, broke up the no-hitter.

"But I think this is definitely the furthest I've taken in a game in the big leagues, by far."

Cleveland has been here before.

It hasn't had a no-hitter since Len Barker's perfect game in 1981. Its dry spell between no-hitters in the longest current one in MLB — and fourth-longest all-time. It's a shocking gap considering the franchise's rich pitching history with five Cy Young Award winners over the past 44 years.

The Guardians had a close call earlier this season as Gavin Williams took a no-hitter into the ninth against the New York Mets before it was broken up by Juan Soto's one-out homer.

"It's certainly something that sticks out," Cecconi said of Cleveland's drought. "It's an anomaly, especially because we've seen so many people come close."

Rookies: Youth making up for increase in injuries

FROM PAGE 24

"It's awesome," Helman said. "Obviously it's unfortunate with all the guys that we've lost. But some of us younger guys just have to come in here and try and play a role on this team, and try and be in situations to help us win ballgames."

Helman hit the first grand slam of this season for the Rangers. It was the first time in his 30 big-league games he batted with the bases loaded.

This playoff push comes with Texas missing its half-billion dollar middle infield of two-time World Series MVP shortstop Corey Seager (appendectomy) and second baseman Marcus Semien (broken bone-sprained ligament in left foot). Slugging right fielder Garcia (right quad strain) could potentially return, while outfielders Evan Carter (season-ending right wrist fracture) and Sam Haggerty (left ankle) are also out.

The 29-year-old Latz (2-0), who has now started seven of the 79 games he has pitched in parts of four seasons for the Rangers, has made three starts in a row in what had been the rotation spot of Nathan Eovaldi (11-3, career-best 1.73 ERA) before a right rotator cuff strain put him on the IL.

Texas has also lost pitchers Cody Bradford, Tyler Mahle and Jon Gray to injuries, and deadline addition lefty reliever Danny Coulombe is on the IL with shoulder fatigue.

Latz, a lefty, struck out four, walked one and allowed only three singles against the Brewers.

"What a job he did," Bochy said.

"It's just a reminder, it doesn't matter when you're pitching or what role you're in, it's just going out there and executing the pitch," Latz said.

"Being in the bullpen, I've said it a few times, it's helped me just take each pitch, each batter the same."



Texas pitcher Jacob Latz has made three starts in a row for the Rangers.

Scoreboard

Wild Card glance				
American League				
	W	L	Pct	WCGB
New York	80	63	.559	+4½
Boston	80	65	.552	+3½
Seattle	76	68	.528	—
Texas	75	70	.517	1½
Cleveland	73	70	.510	2½
Kansas City	73	71	.507	3

Monday's games				
Cleveland 10, Kansas City 2				
Texas 5, Milwaukee 0				
Seattle 4, St. Louis 2				
Boston 7, Athletics 0				
Tuesday's games				
Kansas City at Cleveland				
Detroit at N.Y. Yankees				
Milwaukee at Texas				
St. Louis at Seattle				
Boston at Athletics				

National League				
	W	L	Pct	WCGB
Chicago	81	63	.563	+5
San Diego	79	65	.549	+3
New York	76	68	.528	—
San Francisco	73	71	.507	3
Cincinnati	72	72	.500	4

Monday's games				
Philadelphia 1, N.Y. Mets 0				
Atlanta 4, Chicago Cubs 1				
Texas 5, Milwaukee 0				
Seattle 4, St. Louis 2				
San Francisco 11, Arizona 5				
San Diego 4, Cincinnati 3, 10 innings				
Tuesday's games				
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia				
Chicago Cubs at Atlanta				
Milwaukee at Texas				
Cincinnati at San Diego				
St. Louis at Seattle				
Arizona at San Francisco				

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	82	61	.573	—
New York	80	63	.559	2
Boston	80	65	.552	3
Tampa Bay	71	72	.497	11
Baltimore	66	77	.462	16
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	82	62	.569	—
Cleveland	73	70	.510	8½
Kansas City	73	71	.507	9
Minnesota	64	80	.444	18
Chicago	55	89	.382	27
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	78	66	.542	—
Seattle	76	68	.528	2
Texas	75	70	.517	3½
Los Angeles	67	77	.465	11
Athletics	66	79	.455	12½
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	84	60	.583	—
New York	76	68	.528	8
Miami	66	78	.458	18
Atlanta	65	79	.451	19
Washington	59	84	.413	24½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	89	56	.614	—
Chicago	81	63	.563	7½
Cincinnati	72	72	.500	16½
St. Louis	72	73	.497	17
Pittsburgh	64	80	.444	24½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	80	64	.556	—
San Diego	79	65	.549	1
San Francisco	73	71	.507	7
Arizona	72	73	.497	8½
Colorado	40	104	.278	40
Monday's games				
Cleveland 10, Kansas City 2 Texas 5, Milwaukee 0 Seattle 4, St. Louis 2 Boston 7, Athletics 0 Minnesota 12, L.A. Angels 3 Philadelphia 1, N.Y. Mets 0 Atlanta 4, Chicago Cubs 1 Washington 15, Miami 7 San Francisco 11, Arizona 5 San Diego 4, Cincinnati 3, 10 innings L.A. Dodgers 3, Colorado 1				
Tuesday's games				
Pittsburgh at Baltimore Kansas City at Cleveland Washington at Miami N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia Detroit at N.Y. Yankees Houston at Toronto Chicago Cubs at Atlanta Tampa Bay at Chicago White Sox Milwaukee at Texas Minnesota at L.A. Angels Cincinnati at San Diego St. Louis at Seattle Arizona at San Francisco Boston at Athletics Colorado at L.A. Dodgers				
Wednesday's games				
Milwaukee (Peralta 16-5) at Texas (Kelly 11-7) Boston (Tolle 0-1) at Athletics (Barnett 1-1) Arizona (Rodriguez 7-8) at San Francisco (Seymour 1-2) Minnesota (Bradley 6-7) at L.A. Angels (Soriano 10-10) Pittsburgh (Skenes 10-9) at Baltimore (Wells 1-0) Kansas City (Wacha 9-11) at Cleveland (Allen 7-11) Washington (Irvin 8-11) at Miami (Pérez 6-5) N.Y. Mets (Holmes 11-7) at Philadelphia (Sánchez 12-5) Detroit (Flaherty 7-13) at N.Y. Yankees (Rodón 16-7) Houston (Alexander 4-1) at Toronto (Berrios 9-5) Chicago Cubs (Assad 2-1) at Atlanta (Sale 5-4) Tampa Bay (Pepiot 11-10) at Chicago White Sox (TBD) Cincinnati (Abbott 8-6) at San Diego (Pivetta 13-5) St. Louis (McGreevy 6-3) at Seattle (Gilbert 4-6) Colorado (Freeland 4-14) at L.A. Dodgers (Snell 3-4)				
Thursday's games				
Pittsburgh at Baltimore Tampa Bay at Chicago White Sox Houston at Toronto Washington at Miami Detroit at N.Y. Yankees N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia Kansas City at Cleveland Colorado at San Diego L.A. Angels at Seattle				

ROUNDUP

Dodgers win after losing another no-no

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tyler Glasnow and Blake Treinen combined to pitch eight innings of no-hit ball before Tanner Scott gave up the Colorado Rockies’ first hit in the ninth and the Los Angeles Dodgers rallied for a 3-1 victory Monday night.

Glasnow struck out 11 and walked two on 105 pitches—one off his season high — 65 for strikes over seven innings in his first career start against Colorado.

“It would’ve been nice,” Glasnow said of the potential no-hitter, “but it doesn’t matter.”

“He was fantastic all night,” manager Dave Roberts said.

Blake Treinen followed with a 1-2-3 eighth. Scott came on in the ninth and promptly gave up a double to Ryan Ritter before retiring the next three batters to end the game.

Los Angeles remained a game ahead of second-place San Diego in the NL West race.

The Dodgers took a 3-1 lead in the seventh on Mookie Betts’ two-out, two-run single to center that scored Andy Pages, who was hit by a pitch, and Shohei Ohtani, who doubled with two outs.

Phillies 1, Mets 0: Aaron Nola returned to form with three-hit ball over six innings and Jhoan Duran stranded two runners when he struck out the final two batters to help host Philadelphia beat New York.

The Phillies stretched their lead in the NL East to eight games over the Mets, pulling away in a race that seemed to tighten when New York completed a three-game sweep of Philadelphia late last month.

Nola (4-8) shook off a season derailed by injuries and career-worst stretches to look like the right-hander who anchored the rotation for most of the last decade. He walked only two and struck out seven.

Braves 4, Cubs 1: Ozzie Albies and Matt Olson homered and Bryce



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Dodgers starting pitcher Tyler Glasnow celebrates after striking out the Colorado Rockies’ Ezequiel Tovar to end the top of the seventh inning Monday in Los Angeles. The Dodgers won 3-1.

Elder had his fourth straight strong outing as host Atlanta beat Chicago.

The Cubs, who lead the NL wild-card race, lost for the fourth time in five games.

Elder (7-9) pitched one-run ball for 6⅓ innings. The 26-year-old right-hander struck out six, walked one and allowed five hits. He has allowed four earned runs in his last four starts over 26⅓ innings.

Nationals 15, Marlins 7: Josh Bell became the second Washington player to homer from both sides of the plate in the same game, finishing with four hits and six RBIs to lead the visiting Nationals over Miami.

Dylan Crews and Luis García Jr also homered as the Nationals matched their season high for

runs and hits (19).

Mariners 4, Cardinals 2: Josh Naylor hit a go-ahead, two-run double in the sixth inning to help host Seattle beat St. Louis.

Naylor, who homered in his last two games, turned on a hanging curveball from Cardinals reliever Gordon Graceffo (3-1) for a two-run shot after Julio Rodríguez got the Mariners on the board with an RBI single. After his double, Naylor made a heads-up play and stole third base, allowing him to score with ease on a sacrifice fly from Jorge Polanco.

Seattle moved to two games back of Houston for first place in the AL West and maintained a 1½-game lead over Texas for the final AL wild card.

Giants 11, Diamondbacks 5: Logan Webb pitched six solid innings and five San Francisco players homered to help the host Giants beat Arizona.

Jung Hoo Lee, Dominic Smith, Heliot Ramos, Matt Chapman and Patrick Bailey each went deep to support Webb (14-9), who allowed four runs — one earned — on five hits with two walks and seven strikeouts.

San Francisco has won 12 of 15. The Giants (73-71) are three games behind the New York Mets for the final wild card spot in the National League, 1½ games in front of the Diamondbacks.

Red Sox 7, Athletics 0: Garrett Crochet (15-5) struck out 10 in seven innings, Trevor Story and Carlos Narváez homered and visiting Boston defeated the Athletics.

The Red Sox moved to three games behind the idle Blue Jays for the AL East lead, and one game back of the idle Yankees in the race for the first AL wild-card spot.

Padres 4, Reds 3 (10): Fernando Tatis Jr. hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning to bring in Jake Cronenworth, and host San Diego beat Cincinnati.

Former Padres right-hander Nick Martinez (10-12) started the 10th for the Reds and committed a throwing error on Freddy Fermín’s bunt that moved Cronenworth, the automatic runner, to third before Tatis stepped up.

San Diego remained one game behind the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL West. The Padres continue to hold the second of three NL wild-card spots, three games ahead of the New York Mets.

Twins 12, Angels 3: Royce Lewis homered twice and drove in four runs as visiting Minnesota beat Los Angeles.

James Outman also went deep as the Twins moved to 4-0 against the Angels this season, outscoring them 33-7.

Phillies’ Turner sidelined with hamstring strain

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The good news for Trea Turner and the Phillies is this: Even as the NL batting leader is out with a strained right hamstring that could cost him the rest of the regular season, Philadelphia’s shortstop expects to be healthy in time to play in October.

Manager Rob Thomson said before Aaron Nola tossed six shutout innings in a 1-0 win Monday night against the New York Mets that the MRI results on Turner’s hamstring were “better than expected” and that the injury wasn’t as severe as the strained left hamstring that sidelined him for six weeks last season.

Turner, in the third season of an 11-year, \$300-million contract, said he was confident he shouldn’t need more than the last three weeks



Turner

of September to get back to full strength.

He can afford to rest.

The Phillies stretched their lead in the NL East to eight games over the Mets, pulling away in a race that seemed to tighten when New York completed a three-game sweep of Philadelphia late last month.

“The playoffs is the most important,” Turner said. “Trying to find that fine line of trying to get ready for that but also not rushing it back, coming back for no reason. Shooting for kind of the playoffs, if not a little bit earlier.”

The Phillies are trying to win their second straight division title and earn the No. 2 seed in the NL playoffs. That would give Philadelphia

a first-round bye and set up Game 1 of the NLDS on Oct. 4 — at home, possibly with Turner back at the top of the lineup.

The 32-year-old leads the National League in both batting average (.305) and hits (179) this season. Turner also had 36 stolen bases.

The Phillies also put 2024 All-Star third baseman Alec Bohm on the 10-day injured list with a left shoulder injury.

“He’s been grinding with this left shoulder for a while now, fighting through it. It’s probably been 10 days,” Thomson said. “He could feel it every once in a while in a swing. Yesterday he felt it on every swing, so we decided to shut this thing down.”

Philadelphia recalled Otto Kemp and Donovan Walton from Triple-A Lehigh Valley to fill Turner’s and Bohm’s spots on the roster.

NFL

Kittle out, Purdy questionable for 49ers

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — San Francisco 49ers star tight end George Kittle will miss at least a few weeks with a hamstring injury and quarterback Brock Purdy's status for this week is in question after he hurt his left shoulder and toe in the season opener.

Coach Kyle Shanahan said the team hasn't decided yet whether to place Kittle on injured reserve which would sideline him for four weeks or keep him on the active roster in case he can return earlier.

Shanahan said the team is also still waiting to get more tests on receiver Jauan Jennings' shoulder injury to determine if he needs to miss any time. An MRI came back clean but Jennings still needed to undergo a CT scan.

Purdy's status remains in question for this week with Shanahan saying that the toe injury is more of a concern than his non-throwing shoulder.

"We're not sure," Shanahan said of Purdy's status for this week.

"We have to see how it heals and how the week goes on it."

Purdy led a game-winning drive on Sunday when he threw a 4-yard TD pass to Jake Tonges with 1:34 to play in a 17-13 win. He went 26 for 35 for 277 yards with two TDs and two interceptions.

Purdy missed two games last season with injuries, sitting out one game with a right shoulder injury and another with a right elbow injury.

If Purdy is unable to play this



JOHN FROSCHAUER/AP

San Francisco 49ers tight end George Kittle celebrates his touchdown during the first half against the Seahawks on Sunday in Seattle. He injured his hamstring later in the half and is likely to miss 3-5 weeks.

week at New Orleans, the Niners would turn to Mac Jones. The former first-round pick by New England in 2021 signed with San Francisco as a free agent in March.

Shanahan has been pleased with what he has seen from Jones, who is back healthy after missing time late in training camp with a knee injury.

"I think he's gotten really used to

what we do," Shanahan said. "He had a little setback there the last couple weeks at camp with the injury that he got. But he had a good week of practice last week, picking up really right where he left off. If he has to go this week, he'll lead the guys, the guys will believe in him and I know he'll do his job at a high level."

Kittle got hurt in the second quarter on Sunday. He had four catches for 25 yards and a TD before the injury. Tonges replaced him and had his first three career catches, including the game-winning TD.

Kittle has dealt with several minor injuries in his career but has played at least 14 games in seven of his eight seasons. He has had four

seasons with at least 1,000 yards receiving and led San Francisco with 78 catches for 1,106 yards and eight TDs last season.

San Francisco did reach an agreement Monday to bring back receiver Kendrick Bourne on a one-year worth up to \$5 million and he could have a significant role this week with Kittle out and Jennings' status in question.

Kicker competition?

Shanahan said the team could look at making a possible change at kicker after Jake Moody missed two field goals Sunday. Moody missed a 27-yarder in the first half and had a 30-yarder blocked in the second half, marking the first time in 19 years that the Niners had two misses inside of 40 yards in the same game.

Moody struggled last season after returning from an ankle injury — missing 9 of 14 attempts from at least 40 yards in his final nine games.

The team brought in Greg Joseph as competition in the offseason but cut him early in camp. Shanahan said the team is considering bringing in another kicker this week.

"We're looking at all that stuff now," he said.

"There's options. Whether it's stay the status quo, bringing guys in for a workout, practice squad. But we're going through all that right now. Just finished with the team and I know the personnel department is going to look into all of that stuff and give us options."

Callahan didn't know catch rule, and it cost the Titans at Denver

By ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

DENVER — Brian Callahan stands corrected — unlike the call he failed to challenge.

The Titans' second-year coach acknowledged Monday that he didn't know the NFL catch rule Sunday when he didn't throw his red challenge flag in Tennessee's 20-12 loss at Denver after his rookie receiver made an acrobatic catch but was ruled to have come down out of bounds.

On first-and-20 with the Titans trailing by a point late in the third quarter, Elic Ayomanor raced down the Tennessee sideline, leaped over cornerback Riley Moss and hauled in a 21-yard pass from Cam Ward.

Ayomanor appeared to get his right elbow down in bounds before any other part of his body hit the white line out of bounds. When the officials ruled an incompletion, however, Callahan didn't challenge the call and the Titans went on to

punt after two more misfires.

It proved to be a big blunder in a one-score road loss in which the Titans, who went 3-14 in Callahan's first season, were held to 133 yards of offense to go with 131 yards in penalties that were walked off against them.

Pressed after the game why he didn't challenge the call, Callahan explained, "You've got to get a foot in bounds, too, which we didn't have a clean look at whether his foot was down, as well. An elbow doesn't equal two feet, so his foot would have had to come down, as well. We didn't have a clean look, so the call from upstairs was that it wasn't worth challenging."

Wrong on all accounts.

One elbow does equal two feet — the NFL rulebook is clear that a catch is good if a player "touches the ground in bounds with both feet or with any part of his body other than his hands."

And it certainly was worth a challenge, something Callahan ac-

knowledgeled Monday.

"My interpretation of the rule was wrong," Callahan said after having had more time to ponder his decision. "I'll own it. We should have challenged the play and that's pretty much all I can say about it."

Asked if those advising him about the play also were unaware of the NFL's rules for what constitutes a catch, Callahan demurred, saying he won't discuss the process and, besides, the decision falls on him as head coach.

If it's any consolation, Callahan's wasn't the only curious call in Denver on Sunday.

Payton's odd call

Facing fourth-and-8 from the Titans' 36 with 1:05 remaining and Denver clinging to its eight-point lead, it appeared Broncos coach Sean Payton had a choice between sending out his rookie punter Jeremy Crawshaw to try to pin Tennessee deep or kicker Wil Lutz to attempt a 54-yard field goal.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Broncos cornerback Riley Moss breaks up a pass to Tennessee Titans wide receiver Elic Ayomanor, right, during the second half, on Sunday in Denver.

After timeouts by both teams, Payton kept his offense on the field, however, and dialed up a pass play. Bo Nix was unable to hit Marvin Mims Jr. at the 5-yard line and the Titans took over. Three incomplections and a strip sack later, the Broncos had the win, after which Payton disputed any notion that going for it was a head-scratcher.

He said he knew the Titans would

be in a cover-zero look with pure man-to-man coverage and no deep safeties, so it wasn't the roll-the-dice choice it might have appeared.

Payton also said he had faith in Lutz making it from that distance, "but the way we're playing defensively, you have to look at the quickest way for them to take the ball 64 yards would be a scoop and score" following a blocked field goal try.

Scoreboard

American Conference							
East							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Buffalo	1	0	0	1.000	41	40	
Miami	0	1	0	.000	8	33	
N.Y. Jets	0	1	0	.000	32	34	
New England	0	1	0	.000	13	20	
South							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Indianapolis	1	0	0	1.000	33	8	
Jacksonville	1	0	0	1.000	26	10	
Houston	0	1	0	.000	9	14	
Tennessee	0	1	0	.000	12	20	
North							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Cincinnati	1	0	0	1.000	17	16	
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	34	32	
Baltimore	0	1	0	.000	40	41	
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	16	17	
West							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Denver	1	0	0	1.000	20	12	
L.A. Chargers	1	0	0	1.000	27	21	
Las Vegas	1	0	0	1.000	20	13	
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	21	27	
National Conference							
East							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	24	20	
Washington	1	0	0	1.000	21	6	
Dallas	0	1	0	.000	20	24	
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.000	6	21	
South							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	23	20	
Atlanta	0	1	0	.000	20	23	
Carolina	0	1	0	.000	10	26	
New Orleans	0	1	0	.000	13	20	
North							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	27	13	
Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000	27	24	
Chicago	0	1	0	.000	24	27	
Detroit	0	1	0	.000	13	27	
West							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Arizona	1	0	0	1.000	20	13	
L.A. Rams	1	0	0	1.000	14	9	
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	17	13	
Seattle	0	1	0	.000	13	17	
Sunday's games							
Arizona 20, New Orleans 13 Cincinnati 17, Cleveland 16 Indianapolis 33, Miami 8 Jacksonville 26, Carolina 10 Las Vegas 20, New England 13 Pittsburgh 34, N.Y. Jets 32 Tampa Bay 23, Atlanta 20 Washington 21, N.Y. Giants 6 Denver 20, Tennessee 12 San Francisco 17, Seattle 13 Green Bay 27, Detroit 13 L.A. Rams 14, Houston 9 Buffalo 41, Baltimore 40							
Monday's game							
Minnesota 27, Chicago 24							
Thursday, Sept. 11							
Washington at Green Bay							
Sunday, Sept. 14							
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets Chicago at Detroit Cleveland at Baltimore Jacksonville at Cincinnati L.A. Rams at Tennessee N.Y. Giants at Dallas New England at Miami San Francisco at New Orleans Seattle at Pittsburgh Carolina at Arizona Denver at Indianapolis Philadelphia at Kansas City Atlanta at Minnesota							
Monday, Sept. 15							
Tampa Bay at Houston L.A. Chargers at Las Vegas							
Thursday, Sept. 18							
Miami at Buffalo							
Sunday, Sept. 21							
L.A. Rams at Philadelphia Atlanta at Carolina Green Bay at Cleveland Houston at Jacksonville Cincinnati at Minnesota Pittsburgh at New England N.Y. Jets at Tampa Bay Indianapolis at Tennessee Las Vegas at Washington Denver at L.A. Chargers New Orleans at Seattle Arizona at San Francisco Dallas at Chicago Kansas City at N.Y. Giants							

McCarthy rallies Vikings over Bears

By Andrew Seligman
Associated Press

CHICAGO — J.J. McCarthy's long-awaited debut for the Minnesota Vikings was looking more like a nightmare.

Even so, coach Kevin O'Connell could sense things were going to change. And he told his quarterback at halftime.

"You are going to bring us back to win this game," O'Connell said he told McCarthy.

McCarthy did just that in the fourth quarter, throwing for two touchdowns and running for another, and Minnesota rallied for a season-opening 27-24 win over the Chicago Bears on Monday night.

Chicago's Caleb Williams had his first career rushing touchdown and threw for a score in Ben Johnson's debut as Bears coach.

McCarthy delivered down the stretch after struggling through the first three quarters in his first meaningful game since Michigan beat Washington for the national championship at the end of the 2023 season. He sat out last year due to a knee injury after the Vikings drafted him with the No. 10 overall pick.

Now, Minnesota is counting on McCarthy.

"I felt poise from the very beginning," O'Connell said.

"The look in his eye was fantastic," O'Connell said. "The best thing was just the belief I felt from the team, from the unit, and ultimately, that doesn't get done without him in the second half."

McCarthy felt empowered by his coach's halftime prediction.

"That guy is one of the best — if not the best — coaches, in my opinion, in the National Football League," he said. "Any kind of compliments or belief like that, it means the world. That just gave me the confidence to go out there



KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/AP

Minnesota Vikings quarterback J.J. McCarthy (9) celebrates with teammates after scoring against the Bears during the second half Monday in Chicago. The Vikings beat the Bears 27-24.

and just execute the ball plays and have a fast arm and make quick, decisive decisions. And it worked out."

Things weren't looking good for McCarthy after Nahshon Wright returned an interception 74 yards for a touchdown to give Chicago a 17-6 lead in the third quarter. But he turned it around in the fourth.

McCarthy connected with Justin Jefferson for a 13-yard touchdown. His 2-point conversion pass failed.

The Vikings then needed just three plays to grab the lead, with McCarthy throwing a 27-yard TD pass to Aaron Jones. The conversion pass to Adam Thielen put Minnesota on top 20-17 with 9:46 remaining.

McCarthy made it a 10-point game with about three minutes left when he faked a handoff and

turned up the right side for a 14-yard touchdown run. The Bears then went 65 yards for a score, with Williams throwing a 1-yard TD pass to Rome Odunze with just over two minutes remaining, but the Vikings hung on to beat Chicago for the eighth time in the past nine games.

"We don't win this game unless J.J. plays the way he did in the second half," O'Connell said. "Most importantly, he kept the belief of this football team behind him, and now, we know it's possible. You hope to not be in these circumstances very often. But this team's made of the right stuff."

McCarthy completed 13 of 20 passes for 143 yards. He grew up in the Chicago area and the first game he attended at Soldier Field was against Minnesota 18 years ago.

Jefferson and Jones each had 44 yards receiving.

Will Reichard kicked two field goals, including a 59-yarder near the end of the first half that matched a Soldier Field record.

Williams, coming off a shaky rookie season after being drafted with the No. 1 overall pick, completed 21 of 35 passes for 210 yards and a score. The former Heisman Trophy winner also ran for a 9-yard TD in the first quarter. He said the way Johnson called the game was not the issue for the Bears.

"It's not a play-call thing, it's not anything like that," Williams said. "It's just being able go out there and execute the plays that are called and be able to execute them at a high level. That's something that we take pride in and today that didn't happen."

Chiefs WRs may be out for Super Bowl rematch

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Chiefs could be without Xavier Worthy and rookie Jalen Royals because of injuries in a depleted wide receiver group when they face the Philadelphia Eagles in a Super Bowl rematch on Sunday at Arrowhead Stadium.

Worthy hurt his shoulder in the opening minutes of the Chiefs' season-opening loss to the Chargers in Brazil, when he collided with tight end Travis Kelce on a crossing route. Kansas City coach Andy Reid did not provide much of an update Monday, when he spoke briefly with local reporters, saying only that the team was taking it "day by day."

"He's rehabbing and working his shoulder," Reid said, "and we'll just see where it goes. See



Worthy

Royals

where we end up."

Royals, a fourth-round pick, did not practice last week and missed Friday night's game while dealing with a knee injury.

"Jalen is doing a good job with his rehab. We'll just see how that ends up this week," Reid said. "We've got a couple of days here that we've had. Guys are making good progress. But we'll see where it rolls. If neither (Worthy nor Royals) play, we've got guys that we played with the other night that are good football players."

Still, the loss of Royals and Worthy would leave the Chiefs without three of their primary wide receivers against the Eagles. Rashee Rice was already serving the second game in his six-game suspension for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy. It is part of his punishment following a March 2024 car crash on a Dallas highway that injured several people.

Kansas City was hoping that the speedy Worthy would help it deal with Rice's absence early in the season, especially after a breakout rookie season in which he led their wide receivers with 59 catches for 638 yards and six touchdowns.

Instead, Worthy was the victim in a friendly fire incident reminiscent of last season, when Rice tore ligaments in his knee when Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes collided with him while trying to

make a tackle following an interception.

"It was just one of those deals. Sometimes that happens," Reid said. "You hope it doesn't very often, for sure."

Marquise Brown, who missed most of last season with a shoulder injury, led Kansas City against Los Angeles with 10 grabs for 99 yards. JuJu Smith-Schuster had five catches for 55 yards and Tyquan Thornton had two for 41 yards.

"Tyquan and Hollywood and JuJu did a great job of filling some of those roles," Mahomes said after the 27-21 defeat. "That's someone (in Worthy) that was a huge part of our game plan, and someone that we're counting on to go out there and make plays against some of the man coverage that they played. I thought guys did a good job kind of stepping up in those roles."

SPORTS



Big debut

McCarthy overcomes slow start, leads Vikings' rally over Bears » **NFL, Page 23**



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

The Rangers' Michael Helman starts to run the bases after hitting a grand slam as teammate Ezequiel Duran, top, celebrates during the fifth inning against the Milwaukee Brewers on Monday in Arlington, Texas.

MLB

Rookies power rising Rangers

Young fill-in players helping win games, keeping Texas in postseason contention

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas

All of those rookie fill-ins are keeping the injury-plagued Texas Rangers in playoff contention.

Center fielder Michael Helman hit a grand slam while driving in all of their runs against baseball's best team and Jacob Latz, while not a rookie but still an inexperienced starter, threw 5½ scoreless innings Monday night in a 5-0 win over the Milwaukee Brewers that got Texas as close as it has been to the AL West lead in more than three months. Cole Winn, Jacob Webb and Chris Martin finished off the Rangers' 14th shutout win.

"These kids have done a great job," manager Bruce Bochy said. "Just doing a nice job of doing something every game they're playing, it seems like, to help us win a ball game."

The series opener against Milwaukee (89-56), which has the best record in the majors and could in this series become the first team to officially clinch a playoff spot, came after Texas won two of three over AL West-leading Houston with other rookies impacting those wins.

The Rangers have won 12 of their last 16 games and now trail the Astros by 3½ games for the first time since May 30. Texas has 17 games remaining, including three in Houston next week, and is 1½ games behind division foe Seattle and a game ahead of Cleveland for the American League's final wild card.

Dustin Harris, just called back that day when Adolis García went on the injured list, hit a game-ending double in the 12th inning Friday night. That drove in Cody Freeman, another rookie, for a 4-3 win in the opener against the Astros.

That series ended with a 4-2 win Sunday when Freeman hit a two-out single in the sixth, then scored from first on Josh Jung's double to break a 1-all tie before Jake Burger's homer.

The Rangers are 11-5 in the games Freeman has started — at second base, third base, right field and designated hitter.

Texas opened last week with a 7-5 win at Arizona when rookie Alejandro Osuna had a two-run single in the 10th inning.

SEE ROOKIES ON PAGE 20

"Some of us younger guys just have to come in here and try and play a role on this team, and try and be in situations to help us win ballgames."

Michael Helman
Rangers center fielder

Spitting on opponents reviled, still a problem » Page 19

