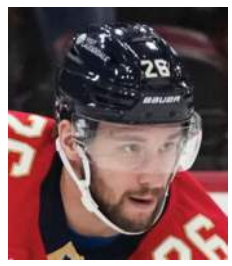
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**Hegseth fires secretary of the Navy's chief of staff** ›› Military, Page 6


# STARS AND STRIPES

stripes.com

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ANTHONY VAZQUEZ, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES/AP

**Federal officers hold down a protester Saturday in Chicago, where agents have used helicopters and chemicals for immigration operations.**

# 'Making it a war zone'

## Governor decries aggressive arrest tactics by federal immigration agents in Chicago

BY SOPHIA TAREEN
*Associated Press*

CHICAGO — Storming an apartment complex by helicopter as families slept. Deploying chemical agents near a public school. Handcuffing a Chicago City Council member at a hospital.

Activists, residents and leaders say increasingly combative tactics used by federal immigration agents are sparking violence and fueling neighborhood tensions in the nation's third-largest city.

### Ruling halts any Guard deployments to Oregon
**Page 5**

"They are the ones that are making it a war zone," Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker said Sunday on CNN. "They fire tear gas and smoke grenades, and they make it look like it's a war zone."

More than 1,000 immigrants have been ar-

**SEE WAR ON PAGE 5**



ETHAN SWOPE/AP

**A protester yells at officers during a protest Sunday at a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Portland, Ore.**

# DOD rate of motorcycle accidents proves costly

BY GARY WARNER
*Stars and Stripes*

A video shows a lone Harley-Davidson motorcycle rumbling up a sunny quay and pulling to a stop. The rider removes his helmet and speaks to the camera.

"Greetings from Naval Base Coronado, I'm your air boss," says Vice Adm. Daniel Cheever, commander of Naval Air Forces and Naval Air Forces, Pacific Fleet. "As a fellow longtime rider, I wanted to thank you for your service and ask you to ride safe, to preserve your life and our readiness."

After noting that 74% of motorcycle accidents are at least partially the rider's fault, the three-star Harley rider makes his central point.

"Navy motorcycle fatalities are currently projected to be the highest since 2008," Cheever says in the video posted June 4. By that time, the Navy had already surpassed the 28 off-duty motorcycle crash fatalities recorded in all of 2024. "It's unacceptable to lose one of you, let alone dozens, which we have this year. Let's reverse the trend as we serve, excel and make a difference. Fly Navy, ride safe."

From June to the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, 10 more sailors and Marines died in crashes, ranging from a 37-year-old Navy lieutenant in Portsmouth, R.I., to a 20-year-old Marine corporal on Okinawa. In all, 30 sailors and 15 Marines died in motorcycle accidents in 2025.

The U.S. military's death toll from motorcycle crashes in 2025 was 84, including 28 in the Army and 11 in the Air Force.

In 2023, motorcycle riders accounted for 15% of all traffic fatal-

**SEE COSTLY ON PAGE 4**

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Fifth Third Bancorp to buy Comerica for $10.9B

*Associated Press*

Fifth Third Bancorp is buying Comerica for $10.9 billion in an all-stock deal, tying up two big regional banks.

The buyout will create the 9th largest U.S. bank with approximately $288 billion in assets, the companies said Monday.

The combined company will have operations in the Southeast, Texas and California, and will greatly solidify Fifth Third's position in the Midwest.

It is anticipated that over half of Fifth Third's branches will be located in the Southeast, Texas, Arizona and California by 2030.

"This combination marks a pivotal moment for Fifth Third as we accelerate our strategy to build density in high-growth markets and deepen our commercial capabilities," Fifth Third Bank Chairman and CEO Tim Spence said in a statement.

Comerica's stockholders will receive 1.8663 Fifth Third shares for each share they own.

This represented $82.88 per share as of Fifth Third's closing stock price on Friday.

Fifth Third shareholders will own about 73% of the combined company, while Comerica shareholders will own approximately 27%.

Three members of Comerica's board will join Fifth Third's board once the deal is complete.

The deal is expected to close at the end of the first quarter of 2026.

The deal still needs to receive the approval of both companies' shareholders.

## EXCHANGE RATES

**Military rates**

| | |
|---|---|
| Euro costs (Oct. 7) | 0.83 |
| British pound (Oct. 7) | $1.31 |
| Japanese yen (Oct. 7) | 143.00 |
| South Korean won (Oct. 7) | 1365.00 |

**Commercial rates**

| | |
|---|---|
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3744 |
| Britain (Pound) | 1.3461 |
| Canada (Dollar) | 1.3961 |
| China (Yuan) | 7.119 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 6.3806 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 47.5654 |
| Euro | 0.8546 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.7823 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 332.037 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 3.2754 |
| Japan (Yen) | 149.903 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.3056 |
| Norway (Krone) | 9.9294 |
| Philippines (Peso) | 58.211 |
| Poland (Zloty) | 3.6355 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7463 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.2918 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1409.27 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 0.7965 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 32.43 |
| Turkey (NewLira) | 41.6893 |

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

## INTEREST RATES

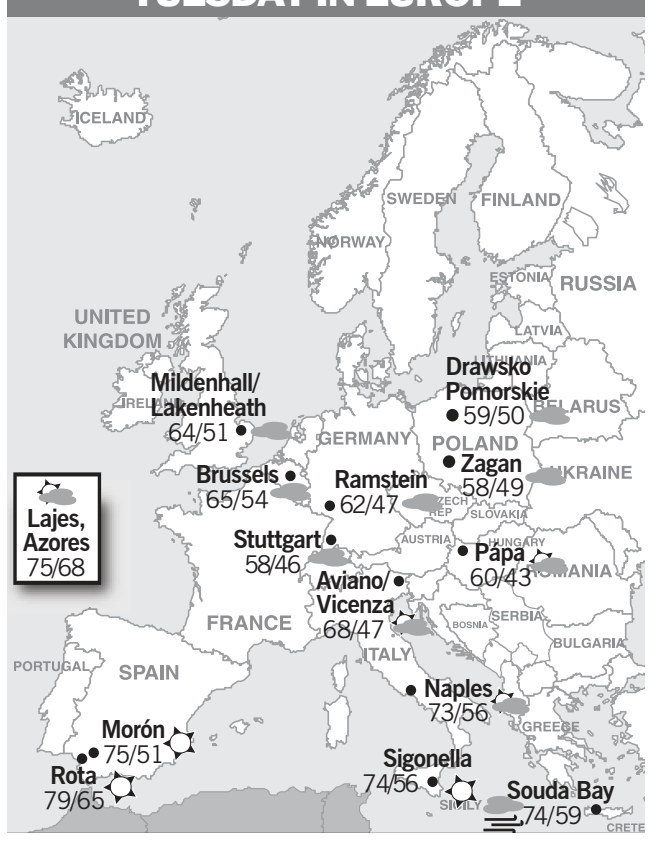
| | |
|---|---|
| Prime rate | 7.25 |
| Interest Rates Discount rate | 4.25 |
| Federal funds market rate | 4.12 |
| 3-month bill | 3.96 |
| 30-year bond | 4.71 |

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST




### TUESDAY IN EUROPE




### WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC




This weather is compiled from weather.com reports.

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MILITARY

# Renshaw takes helm of US Navy's 5th Fleet

By Shannon Renfroe
*Stars and Stripes*

A high-ranking officer who has served more than three decades and has deployed to all Navy theaters of operation worldwide recently took the helm of one of the service's most active combat regions.

Vice Adm. Curt Renshaw assumed command of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet from Vice Adm. George Wikoff on Sunday in a ceremony at U.S. Naval Support Activity Bahrain.

Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of U.S. Central Command, presided over the ceremony, the Navy said in an email Monday.

Wikoff took charge of NAVCENT/5th Fleet in February 2024 as attacks on commercial shipping by Iran-backed Houthi militants in Yemen intensified in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

The assignment marks a return to familiar waters for Renshaw, who previously served in Bahrain as deputy commander for NAVCENT from 2019 to 2021. He most recently was director of operations for U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Fla.



Shannon Renfroe/Stars and Stripes

**Vice Adm. George Wikoff addresses sailors and coalition leaders during a change-of-command ceremony in Bahrain on Sunday. Rear Adm. Curt Renshaw succeeded Wikoff as commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, U.S. 5th Fleet and the Combined Maritime Forces.**

Renshaw's sea tours included assignments aboard the cruisers USS Shiloh and USS Anzio. He commanded the cruiser USS Robert Smalls, where he also served as air defense commander for Task Force 70. He also previously commanded Carrier Strike Group 8, according to his Navy biography.

In his first address as NAVCENT commander, Renshaw emphasized readiness and unity.

"Every drill, every evolution, every moment of preparation is a direct investment in our collective ability to respond, to deter and, if necessary, to win," Renshaw said. "Our readiness is the shield that protects our interests."

The command must remain forward-thinking in an era of rapid change, he added.

"We will not be ready for the next fight if we prepare for the last one," Renshaw said.

Wikoff, a career fighter pilot, was confirmed in August for promotion to admiral and is slated to assume command of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa and Allied Joint Force Command Naples.

Before arriving in Bahrain, he served as acting commander of Naval Air Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Wikoff praised sailors at sea and the teams that supported them from headquarters, saying their efforts saved lives even when combat unfolded far from shore.

"Together we understand maritime security is not just a task; it's our duty," he said. "By continuing to work together, regardless of flag, we demonstrate the sum is better than the parts and the consequences of collective failure are catastrophic."

# Trump celebrates Navy's 250th anniversary at rally-like event

By Josh Boak and Ben Finley
*Associated Press*

NORFOLK, Va. — President Donald Trump did not let the government shutdown interfere with a stop in Norfolk, Va., on Sunday to salute the Navy as it celebrates its 250th anniversary — using his speech to praise both the Navy and himself.

Trump delivered remarks that by his own recognition bordered on making it more like a campaign event, generating some cheers from the crowd before closing out with a recording of his theme song, "YMCA" by Village People.

"Let's face it, this is a rally," Trump told the crowd of about 10,000 sailors in their dress-white uniforms.

Navy planes flew overhead as the president began his speech, fueling the crowd's energy and prompting many of the sailors to chant "USA! USA! USA!"

The president spoke on a pier in between two towering Navy vessels, an aircraft carrier and an amphibious assault ship.

The carrier displayed a Navy fighter jet, which had the words "President Donald J. Trump '45-47'" printed on the fuselage right under the cockpit window.

The Republican president criticized his political opponents and attacked Democratic lawmakers as the shutdown entered its fifth day, causing military personnel to work without pay until the government reopens.

"I want you to know that despite the current Democrat induced shutdown, we will get our service members every last penny. Don't worry about it," Trump said to cheers from the crowd.

The government shutdown that began Wednesday has sparked partisan blame games as several thousand federal employees are furloughed and key infrastructure and energy projects in Democratic-run areas such as New York and Chicago have been put on hold.

It lurked in the background of the event as Trump praised a Navy that he said has "never failed to hunt, kill and win."

Senate Democrats rejected efforts to preserve a continuation of government operations when the new budget year started on Wednesday. They cited the lapse in subsidies that could cause health insurance costs to climb rapidly for people who get coverage through the 2010 Affordable Care Act. Democratic lawmakers also have sought to reverse cuts to Medicaid that Trump signed into law.

Democrats oppose Trump's move to have his administration decline to spend congressionally approved funds, saying it undermines the budgeting process, among other concerns. Meanwhile, Trump has explored laying off federal workers at what he called "Democrat Agencies."

Among those joining Trump for the festivities were first lady Melania Trump, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Navy Secretary John Phelan, Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins and U.S. Rep. Ronny Jackson, R-Texas, a former Navy rear admiral who was a White House doctor during Trump's first term.

After his arrival in Norfolk, Trump went to the USS George H.W. Bush and spoke to the sailors and handed out challenge coins.

The Trumps then watched a military demonstration while standing on the deck of the aircraft carrier.

Navy destroyers launched missiles and fired shells into the Atlantic Ocean, Navy SEALs descended from helicopters and fighter jets catapulted off.

The president has increasingly sought to leverage support from within the military as he has escalated its role in American society, asking troops to patrol the streets of U.S. cities, including Los Angeles, Washington, Chicago, Memphis, Baltimore and Portland, Ore.



Alex Brandon/AP

**Sailors listen as President Donald Trump speaks during a celebration for the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Harry S. Truman at Naval Station Norfolk on Sunday in Norfolk, Va.**

In his June speech for the 250th anniversary of the Army, Trump similarly broke down presidential norms by calling protesters in Los Angeles "animals" and "a foreign enemy," claims that left some in the audience feeling uneasy.

The sailors on Sunday were far more engaged and responsive to the president's jokes and political quips than the military's top brass were at a meeting on Tuesday at a base in Quantico, Va. They had been abruptly summoned by Hegseth from across the globe.

In his speech to the generals, Trump proposed using U.S. cities as training grounds for the armed forces and he spoke of needing military might to combat what he called the "invasion from within." Hegseth declared an end to "woke" culture and announced new directives for troops that include "gender-neutral" or "male-level" standards for physical fitness.

The administration is seeking to reshape Pentagon culture and use military resources for the president's priorities, including quelling domestic unrest and violent crime.

MILITARY

# Garrison: Water halt about power, not politics

BY LYDIA GORDON
*Stars and Stripes*

VILSECK, Germany — A recent social media post claiming to explain the hot water halt at a U.S. Army base in this Bavarian city was all wet when it came to the real culprit, according to a garrison official.

Friday's shutoff in living quarters at Rose Barracks and another building on base was caused by a local power outage, U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria civilian spokesperson Andreas Kreuzer said Monday in response to questions.

That contradicted a post made the same night on the popular U.S. Army WTF Moments Instagram and Facebook pages featuring a screenshot of a chat message claiming that the incident was "because of (the) government shutdown."

U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria said Saturday morning on Facebook that "all issues with the hot water supply at Rose Barracks were fixed (Friday)." The post urged residents to report any additional problems.

A similar issue at the Hohenfels Training Area on Sunday morning affected four buildings and was resolved within five hours of being reported, Kreuzer said.

Both incidents were unrelated to the government shutdown, he added.

The WTF Moments post, which had no listed source, quickly drew thousands of likes and comments on both platforms.

The channel, moderated by several Army veterans, has a history of using its large platform to highlight various aspects of military life, including addressing issues related to soldiers' quality of life, misconduct and leadership.

Kreuzer didn't comment on questions about who sent the message in the post or why the outage was initially linked to the ongoing impasse in Washington, D.C.

"Garrison services related to life, health and safety are not affected by the shutdown," he said.




MICHAEL SLAVIN/Stars and Stripes

**Rose Barracks in Vilseck, Germany, is seen in 2023. A viral post Friday on a popular Army-related social media channel said a hot water outage at Rose Barracks was caused by the U.S. federal government shutdown, but a U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria spokesperson said Monday that a local power failure was to blame.**

# Costly: 'Sports motorcycles' dominate recent fatal crash stats

FROM PAGE 1

ities nationwide, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In the U.S. military that year, the most recent year with comparable statistics, about half of all traffic fatalities involved motorcycles, according to the Pentagon.

The appearance of a flag officer in a video about off-duty motorcycle riding safety underscores the high cost in lives and dollars caused by crashes.

The loss of life is the highest price of motorcycle crashes — more than 750 service members have died in motorcycle crashes in the past decade, the Pentagon says — which is why the military's central message continues to focus on reducing deaths. But those who survive can face injuries serious enough to end their military careers.

An Army study showed that for every motorcycle death, there are five motorcycle-related hospitalizations and 22 outpatient visits. Hospital stays average 20 days. Each accident costs the Army an average of $100,000 in medical treatment and lost duty work time.

Injuries to scores of military motorcycle riders each year range from traumatic brain injuries and broken limbs to eye damage and "road rash," in which skin peels away as a fallen rider skids across coarse pavement.

Michael Reed, chief of research for the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., said one of the best ways to improve safety is simply to provide riders with the facts about the dangers.

"Information is power," Reed said in a statement. "It gets the information out on what is hurting and killing our soldiers in the realm of motorcycle mishaps."

Crashes were usually caused by swerving between lanes, oversteering, loss of traction on wet or loose surfaces, driving while fatigued, not wearing helmets and other safety equipment, wearing low-visibility clothing and the failure of poorly maintained motorcycle parts, according to Pentagon studies.



HUNTER KIRKLAND/U.S. Air Force

**Motorcyclists conduct checks on their bikes before setting out for a Motorcycle Mentorship Ride at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., on Aug. 18. The mentorship ride gives base personnel the ability to conduct recurring motorcycle training and build up the community of military riders both active duty and retired.**



KEITH JOHNSON/U.S. Air Force

**Staff Sgt. Zach Herick, Base Motorcycle Safety Day 2018 lead at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, directs more than 120 motorcycle riders as they depart on an optional 38-mile group ride as part of the event.**

About one-third of fatal accidents involve the consumption of alcohol, about the same as civilian statistics, the Army said.

The one key area where military motorcycle riders differed was speed. About half of all fatal accidents involving service members occur at excessive speeds, compared with a third of accidents for civilian riders.

And demographics play a role: 8% of Americans ride motorcycles, but military ridership is 16%, the Pentagon estimates.

Also, men under 29 are most likely to be involved in a motorcycle crash, according to the National Safety Council. The U.S. military is more than 80% male with a median age of 26, according to the Pentagon.

A Navy Safety Command report showed that crashes in July had a high proportion of young, lower-ranking sailors — 48% of crashes involved riders 25 and under, and 71% involved ranks E-5 or below.

Younger service members are drawn to high-speed "sports motorcycles" made by manufacturers such as Kawasaki and Suzuki that accelerate rapidly and can top out at speeds of 200 mph.

The cost of owning even those superbikes is significantly lower than that of other motor vehicles; prices for a superbike can be as low as $25,000, half of the average of $46,000 for a new car or $65,000 for a new full-size pickup truck, according to car website Clark.com.

And those are the motorcycles involved in the majority of fatal crashes recorded by the military. The Air Force reported that all five of its fatal crashes from Oct. 1 of last year through the end of April 2025 involved sports motorcycles.

Since the record 118 deaths in 2008, the Defense Department has instituted mandatory safety training and defensive riding courses. Older service members have been asked to mentor younger riders. Beginning this month, all military personnel who ride motorcycles must register with their command and certify that they have passed safety and driver awareness classes and possess the proper headgear, clothing and equipment for riding.

The Pentagon has also appealed to the motorcyclist's sense of duty and patriotism, telling service members that avoiding accidents keeps them ready to deploy at any time, anywhere.

"Ride right — Stay in the fight," one poster said.

## Correction

An Oct. 6 story on DODEA's plan to reverse the lengthening of school days on Okinawa should have said the reversion to the previous schedule will be on Oct. 27, according to a letter sent to parents.

MILITARY

# Judge blocks Guard deployment to Portland

BY CHRISTOPHER WEBER AND JACK BROOK
*Associated Press*

A federal judge late Sunday temporarily blocked the Trump administration from deploying any National Guard units to Oregon at all, after a legal whirlwind that began hours earlier when the president mobilized California troops for Portland after the same judge blocked him from using Oregon's National Guard the day before.

During a hastily called evening telephone hearing, U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut granted a temporary restraining order sought by California and Oregon.

Immergut, who was appointed by President Donald Trump in his first term, seemed incredulous that the president moved to send National Guard troops to Oregon from neighboring California and then from Texas on Sunday, just hours after she had ruled the first time.

"How could bringing in federalized National Guard from California not be in direct contravention to the temporary restraining order I issued yesterday?" she questioned the federal government's attorney, cutting him off.

"Aren't defendants simply circumventing my order?" she said later. "Why is this appropriate?"

The White House did not immediately comment on the judge's decision.

Oregon is fighting to prevent federalized National Guard troops from coming to Oregon's largest city to address ongoing protests at an immigration processing facility there.

Small protests have been going on outside the Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility since Trump's second term began in January. There have been occasional flare-ups, including in June, but for weeks nightly demonstrations attracted only a few dozen people.

Trump, however, has turned his attention to the city, calling Portland "war ravaged," and a "war zone" that is "burning down" and like "living in hell."

Local officials have pointed out that the protest occupies one city block far from the downtown in a city that covers 145 square miles. They also say many of his claims and social media posts appear to rely on images from 2020, when unrest that grew out of the Black Lives Matter protests roiled the city for several months. Trump sent federal law enforcement to the city then, as well.

Under a new mayor and police chief, the city has reduced crime, and the downtown has seen a decrease in homeless encampments and increased foot traffic.



ETHAN SWOPE/AP

**A protester stands off against officers at a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Portland, Ore., on Sunday.**

# War: Chemical agents, helicopters increasingly used by agents

FROM PAGE 1

rested since an immigration crackdown started last month in the Chicago area. The Trump administration has also vowed to deploy National Guard troops in its agenda to boost deportations.

But U.S. citizens, immigrants with legal status and children have been among those detained in increasingly brazen and aggressive encounters that pop up daily across neighborhoods in the city of 2.7 million and its many suburbs.

Activists and residents were taking stock Sunday at an apartment building on Chicago's South Side where the Department of Homeland Security said 37 immigrants were arrested recently in an operation that's raised calls for investigation by Pritzker.

While federal agents have mostly focused on immigrant-heavy and Latino enclaves, the operation early last Tuesday unfolded in the largely Black South Shore neighborhood that's had a small influx of migrants resettled in Chicago while seeking asylum.

Agents used unmarked trucks and a helicopter to surround the five-story apartment building. NewsNation, which was invited to observe the operation, reported agents "rappelled from Black Hawk helicopters." Agents then went door to door, woke up residents and used zip ties to restrain them.

Residents and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, which canvassed the area, said those who were zip tied included children and U.S. citizens.

Rodrick Johnson, a U.S. citizen briefly detained, said agents broke through his door and placed him in zip ties.



ANTHONY VAZQUEZ/AP

**An ICE officer watches protesters as a Lenco BearCat vehicle drives to the scene in Chicago's Brighton Park neighborhood on Saturday.**

"I asked if they had a warrant, and I asked for a lawyer," the 67-year-old told the Chicago Sun-Times. "They never brought one."

Dixon Romeo with Southside Together, an organization that's also been helping residents, said doors were knocked off the hinges.

"Everyone we talked to didn't feel safe," he said. "This is not normal. It's not OK. It's not right."

Pritzker, a two-term Democrat, directed state agencies to investigate claims that children were zip tied and detained separately from their parents, saying "military-style tactics" shouldn't be used on children. Several Democratic members of the Illinois congressional delegation met near the site Sunday, calling for an end to immigration raids.

Then on Monday, Illinois and Chicago filed a lawsuit aiming to stop the administration from sending hundreds of National Guard troops to the city, just as troops prepared to deploy and hours after a federal judge blocked their deployment to Portland, Ore.

The lawsuit alleges that "these advances in President Trump's long-declared 'War' on Chicago and Illinois are unlawful and dangerous."

DHS officials said the recent operations were targeting connections to the Tren de Aragua gang. Without offering details on arrests or addressing how children were treated, DHS said "some of the targeted subjects are believed to be involved in drug trafficking and distribution, weapons crimes and immigration violators."

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem on Saturday posted heavily edited video clips of the operation to X showing agents blasting through doors, helicopters and adults in zip ties, but music played over most of the roughly 1 minute video.

Brandon Lee, with ICIRR, said while some residents were placed on ankle monitors, others remained unaccounted for.

Meanwhile, the use of chemical agents has become more frequent and visible in the past week. Used initially to manage protesters, agents used it on city streets and during immigration operations, according to ICIRR.

An emergency hotline to report immigrant agent sightings topped 800 calls on Friday, the same day activists said agents threw a canister of a chemical near a school in the city's Logan Square neighborhood. The activity in the northwest side neighborhood prompted nearby Funston Elementary School to hold recess indoors.

The same day Chicago Alderperson Jessie Fuentes was placed in handcuffs at a hospital. She said she asked agents to show a warrant for a person who'd broken his leg while chased by ICE agents who then transported him to the emergency room.

"ICE acted like an invading army in our neighborhoods," said state Rep. Lilian Jiménez, a Democrat. "Helicopters hovered above our homes, terrifying families and disturbing the peace of our community. These shameful and lawless actions are not only a violation of constitutional rights but of our most basic liberty: the right to live free from persecution and fear."

Immigration agents shot a woman they allege was armed and tried to run them over after agents were "boxed in by 10 cars." She and another person were charged Sunday with forcibly assaulting, impeding and interfering with a federal law enforcement officer. However, activists said immigration agents caused the multi-vehicle crash and detained the woman, who is a U.S. citizen.

Noem has defended the aggressive tactics, calling the mission treacherous to agents and alleging threats on officers' lives.

"It's an extremely dangerous situation," she said Sunday on the "Fox & Friends" weekend show.

Leaders of a Chicago suburb that's home to an immigration processing center have taken their fight against federal agents to court.

The village of Broadview has become a front line in the immigration operation. The center in the community of 8,000 people is where immigrants are processed for detention or deportation.

Protests outside have become tense with near daily arrests. Civil rights organizations have blasted aggressive tactics by agents, while village officials have launched three separate criminal investigations against federal agents.

City officials have demanded the federal government remove an 8-foot fence they say was "illegally" put up outside the facility. They filed a federal lawsuit Friday seek a temporary restraining order and the immediate removal of the fence they say blocks fire access.

MILITARY

# After Cao confirmed, Hegseth fires Navy head's chief of staff

*Stars and Stripes*

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth fired the chief of staff for the secretary of the Navy on Friday, according to media reports.

The Pentagon confirmed Jon Harrison's departure in a statement to Politico, which first reported it.

"He will no longer serve as Chief of Staff to the Secretary of the Navy," the DOD said in a statement to Politico. "We are grateful for his service to the Department."

Harrison, who was appointed to the civilian role in January, had worked with Navy Secretary John Phelan to make changes to the Navy's policy and budgeting offices.

Before being confirmed as the Navy's chief of staff, Harrison was a principal shareholder and board member of engineering group Albers Aerospace and had served as a chairman of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, according to Florida Atlantic University, where he is a member of the Board of Trustees.

Harrison's ouster follows the Senate confirmation of Hung Cao as the Navy's undersecretary on Wednesday. Cao was confirmed as the service's second-ranking civilian leader in a 52-45 vote.

As Navy undersecretary, Cao is expected to play a key role in the daily management of the Navy and Marine Corps and help the Navy address its persistent problems with building and repairing an aging ship fleet.

The Trump administration also has fired several senior military officers since returning to office. Among the firings are Air Force Gen. Charles "CQ" Brown, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Adm. Lisa Franchetti, the chief of naval operations; Adm. Linda Fagan, commandant of the Coast Guard; and Air Force Gen. James Slife, the service's vice chief of staff.



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

**Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth addresses senior military leaders at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., on Sept. 30.**



SPENCER TOBLER/U.S. Air Force

**An Air Force CV-22 Osprey assigned to the 21st Special Operations Squadron sits on the flightline at Yokota Air Base, Japan, in June. An Osprey assigned to Yokota made a precautionary landing at a Japan Air Self-Defense Force base last week, according to the service and Japanese officials.**

# US Air Force Osprey lands at Japanese base out of caution

BY BRIAN MCELHINEY AND KEISHI KOJA
*Stars and Stripes*

A U.S. Air Force tiltrotor aircraft made a precautionary landing at a Japan Air Self-Defense Force base in central Japan last week, according to the service and Japanese officials.

The CV-22 Osprey, assigned to the 21st Special Operations Squadron at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, touched down around noon Thursday at Hamamatsu Air Base in Shizuoka prefecture "out of an abundance of caution," said 1st Lt. Cullen Drenkhahn, spokesman for the 353rd Special Operations Wing on Okinawa.

No injuries or damage occurred, and airport operations were not interrupted.

"The landing was executed safely and in accordance with policies," Drenkhahn told Stars and Stripes on Monday. "An assessment is ongoing to gather additional information."

He declined to provide additional information, citing operational security.

The aircraft landed in response to an inflight warning indicator, a North Kanto Defense Bureau spokesman said by phone Monday. Official spokespeople in Japan are often required to speak to reporters only on condition of anonymity.

Maintainers were working on the aircraft at noon Monday at the Self-Defense Force base, he said.

The incident follows two other precautionary landings this summer by the squadron's Ospreys at commercial airports in Japan.

On July 24, a tiltrotor landed at Iwate Hanamaki Airport in Hanamaki city, Drenkhahn said at the time. On July 18, another Osprey landed at Odate Noshiro Airport in Kitaakita city, according to a news release from Akita prefecture. No injuries or damage were reported in either incident.

The Osprey is a twin-engine tiltrotor aircraft that takes off and lands like a helicopter but flies like a fixed-wing plane.

A fatal crash of a Yokota-based CV-22B Osprey on Nov. 29, 2023, prompted the United States and Japan to ground their tiltrotor fleets for three months. The tiltrotor, with Air Force Special Operations Command, crashed into the sea near Yakushima, an island south of Kyushu, killing all eight airmen aboard.

An investigation determined the crash was caused by a catastrophic mechanical failure, compounded by what officials described as a "lack of urgency" by the crew in addressing an engine issue.

U.S. tiltrotors were briefly grounded again on Dec. 6 after a CV-22B Osprey from Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., lost an engine but landed safely following gearbox-related warning indications.

# New Zealand will compensate Samoa for navy ship wreck

BY CHARLOTTE GRAHAM-MCLAY
*Associated Press*

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — New Zealand's government said Monday it had agreed to pay $3.6 million in compensation to Samoa's government, a year after New Zealand sailors drove a navy ship aground on a reef off the Pacific Island nation.

All 75 people on board evacuated to safety as the boat foundered about a mile off the coast of Upolu, Samoa's second largest island, before it caught fire and sank. The wreck of HMNZS Manawanui remains at the site of the sinking on Oct. 6, 2024, and a decision about whether it will remain there hasn't been made.

The vessel sank due to failings of the crew and ship, an official inquiry found. The ship's crew didn't realize the vessel was on autopilot and believed something else had gone wrong as it plowed toward the reef, according to a report that highlighted the lack of training, qualifications and experience among those on board.

The compensation announced by New Zealand foreign minister Winston Peters on Monday was the full amount requested by Samoa's government, a spokesperson for Peters said. It will be drawn from New Zealand military funds.

"We have responded to the Government of Samoa's request in full and with good faith," Peters said in a statement. "We have always said we will do the right thing."

Samoa's government didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

New Zealand officials would continue to work with the Samoan counterparts to decide the future of the wreck, Peters said. Work so far has included the removal of fallen shipping containers, pollutants and military equipment.

An independent wreck assessment and environmental studies are expected, according to a statement from New Zealand's military.

"It is pleasing to note that monitoring by the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa has shown the seawater in the area is clear and uncontaminated from elevated hydrocarbons resulting in the warning on fishing being lifted completely in February," Capt. Rodger Ward of the New Zealand Defense Force said in a statement.

The military recognized "the impact that the sinking has had on the people of Samoa, particularly the communities of the South coast," Ward said.

The specialist dive and hydrographic vessel had been in service for New Zealand since 2019 and was surveying the reef that it ran aground on. Its sinking provoked alarm about environmental catastrophe for Samoan villagers living on the coast where it capsized, who said they feared permanent damage to the fragile reef ecosystem.

The military said work was underway to implement the wide-ranging recommendations made by a Court of Inquiry into the disaster, which published its final report in April. Any disciplinary proceedings against those on board have yet to be determined, Monday's statement said.

The vessel, one of only nine in New Zealand's navy, was the first the country had lost at sea since World War II.

NATION

# Senate back with no shutdown deal in sight

By Riley Beggin and Theodoric Meyer
*The Washington Post*

Senators return to Washington on Monday without a deal to end the government shutdown now entering its sixth day.

The shutdown has sidelined 750,000 federal workers and forced many others to work without pay since funding laws expired early Wednesday. It has almost completely shuttered agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Education Department, though national security and law enforcement functions are continuing.

President Donald Trump has also said the shutdown provides an "unprecedented opportunity" to scale back federal government operations he says don't align with his priorities, including withholding funding for green energy projects in multiple states with Democratic senators and for transportation projects in Chicago and New York.

Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill take the same positions they have since the funding laws expired, hoping that public sentiment against the shutdown will begin to wear the other side down.

Democrats insist they cannot vote to reopen the federal government without an agreement to extend Affordable Care Act subsidies put in place during COVID that expire at the end of the year — a proposal that has already faced fierce resistance from fiscal conservatives in both chambers.

Democrats have also said they need assurance that any spending laws would be implemented as written. Trump and White House budget director Russell Vought have attempted to block funding written into law, which the Government Accountability Office, an independent arm of Congress, has ruled is illegal.

"We've been trying for months and months to sit down with them and have a serious conversation addressing America's health care needs. And they've refused and refused and refused," Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., told CBS's "Face the Nation" on Sunday.

Republican leaders have indicated they're open to extending the ACA subsidies with reforms, but they say they will not negotiate while the government is closed.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said Friday that Republicans could support an extension of the ACA subsidies only with changes, which he argued would be too complicated to do before the open enrollment period begins Nov. 1, as Democrats have suggested.

"These things that they want to do and we're talking about, we're happy to have a conversation about," Thune said on Fox News's "Sunday Morning Futures." "But that can't happen with the government shut down, so it's open up the government or else."

Republicans have proposed a funding extension that would fund the government through Nov. 21, while Democrats have proposed an extension through Oct. 31 with additional Democratic priorities attached, including the ACA subsidies. Both plans have repeatedly failed to get the necessary 60 votes to pass the upper chamber without a filibuster.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., has canceled votes last week and this week to pressure Democrats to accept the GOP proposal without changes. The House, which already passed the GOP plan, is scheduled to return Oct. 14.

# Government shutdowns have become normal, this one is not

By Karen Tumulty
*The Washington Post*




Jose Luis Magana/AP

**A sign that reads "Closed due to federal government shutdown," is seen outside of the National Gallery of Art on Monday in Washington, the sixth day of the government shutdown.**

Government shutdowns are a familiar autumn rite of dysfunctional government. But this one is different from any that have come before. That makes it a harder test of both sides' resolve and discipline.

**ANALYSIS**

President Donald Trump is reveling in a legally shaky plan to employ the shutdown to punish his enemies — or more accurately, their constituents.

The administration has put a halt on tens of billions of federal dollars that are going to blue states, including roughly $18 billion for New York's subway and Hudson Tunnel projects. Not coincidentally, those are in the hometown of the Democratic leaders of the U.S. House and Senate.

And instead of furloughing federal employees and giving them back pay when the government reopens, as has happened in past shutdowns, Trump is threatening to fire them and gut entire agencies.

As much as the White House is trying to blame this on Democrats, who have refused to give Republicans the eight votes they need in the Senate to reopen the government, a survey by The Washington Post showed that a large plurality of Americans are holding Trump and the Republicans responsible.

Nearly three-quarters support the Democrats in their central demand that subsidies lowering the cost for health coverage purchased under the Affordable Care Act should be extended, rather than expiring as scheduled at the end of the year.

Strikingly, where Trump claimed during last year's campaign that he had "nothing to do" with Project 2025 — a 900-plus-page plan to remake the federal government put together by many of his hard-right allies, including current budget director Russell Vought — he now embraces it as his strategy.

"I have a meeting today with Russ Vought, he of PROJECT 2025 Fame, to determine which of the many Democrat Agencies, most of which are a political SCAM, he recommends to be cut, and whether or not those cuts will be temporary or permanent," Trump wrote Thursday on his Truth Social platform. "I can't believe the Radical Left Democrats gave me this unprecedented opportunity."

In the meantime, he has been gleefully trolling the opposition, spreading deepfake videos that include one portraying Vought as the grim reaper. Another depicts House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y, who is Black, in a mustache and sombrero. The racist imagery promotes a false Republican claim that Democratic lawmakers are trying to force the government to offer full health care benefits to undocumented immigrants.

Past shutdowns, as traumatic as they were, rarely ended up having much long-term impact on the economy. But that is also where this one could be different, given Trump's stated goal of using it to permanently slash the government workforce at a time when the job market already appears to be softening.

It is worth noting that none of this would be happening if Congress had done its job and funded the government before the new fiscal year. However, for the second year in a row, that deadline went by without one of the dozen regular appropriations bills being passed.

The Republican endgame, says former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, is one that Vought spent four years planning while Trump was out of office.

"They really do see this as an opportunity," Gingrich said in an interview. "And if he has his way, Russ will have eliminated more jobs than Elon Musk and DOGE," referring to the billionaire and his chaotic operation deemed the Department of Government Efficiency, which has fallen well short of its goals for cutting spending and streamlining how the government operates. Musk departed the administration in May.

The back-to-back shutdowns Gingrich engineered in late 1995 and early 1996 are the closest thing to a template for what is happening now — and they should be an object lesson for Republicans heading into the 2026 midterms.

With the GOP having won the House for the first time in four decades, Gingrich was at the height of his power in June 1995, when he told me in an interview that a year-end shutdown would be the "heart of the revolution."

The speaker planned to leave President Bill Clinton with a choice: "He can run the parts of government that are left, or he can run no government. Which of the two of us do you think worries more about the government not showing up?"

Then, as now, much of the dispute centered on health care. Republicans wanted to raise Medicare premiums, curb other parts of the program and cut social spending, in part to pay for tax cuts.

Even Clinton believed, as he later recalled in his memoir, that the standoff initially "seemed likely to doom my presidency." But, he wrote, he was "ready to see it through to the end."

Gingrich lost control of the narrative after he confessed at a breakfast with reporters that his intransigence was also fueled by pique over the fact that he had been seated at the back of Air Force One on an overseas trip and had been forced to exit by the rear stairs.

The whole saga is now regarded as having boosted Clinton's reelection prospects — something that seemed improbable when it began. It also, as Gingrich noted, put the country on a path to a balanced budget, something for which both parties could take credit.

Granted, these are different times, with a different media environment. The country is far more polarized than it was three decades ago, and the Democrats are operating in a situation where they have limited institutional leverage. But what held then may also be the case now, especially if the shutdown drags on as it appears likely to do: Victory goes to the side that remains focused, clear about its goals and disciplined.

NATION

# Experts, data dispute Trump investment claim

By Josh Boak
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The economic boom promised by President Donald Trump centers on a single number: $17 trillion.

That's the sum of new investments that Trump claims to have generated with his tariffs, income tax cuts and aggressive salesmanship of CEOs, financiers, tech titans, prime ministers, presidents and other rulers. The $17 trillion is supposed to fund new factories, new technologies, more jobs, higher incomes and faster economic growth.

"Under eight months of Trump, we've already secured commitments of $17 trillion coming in," the president said in a speech last month. "There's never been any country that's done anything like that."

But based on statements from various companies, foreign countries and the White House's own website, that figure appears to be exaggerated, highly speculative and far higher than the actual sum. The White House website lists total investments at $8.8 trillion, though that figure appears to be padded with some investment commitments made during Joe Biden's presidency.

The White House didn't lay out the math after multiple requests as to how Trump calculated $17 trillion in investment commitments. But the issue goes beyond Trump's hyperbolic talk to his belief that the brute force of tariffs and shaming of companies can deliver economic results, a strategy that could go sideways for him politically if the tough talk fails to translate into more jobs and higher incomes.

Just 37% of U.S. adults approve of Trump's handling of the economy, according to a September poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs. That's down from a peak of 56% in during Trump's first term — a memory he relied upon when courting voters in last year's election.

Adam Posen, president of the Peterson Institute of International Economics, said the public commitments announced by Trump do represent a "meaningful increase" — but one that amounts to hundreds of billions of dollars, not trillions. Even then, that comes with long-term costs as countries might be less inclined to invest with the U.S. after being threatened to do so.

"It is a national security mistake because you're turning allies into colonies of a sort — you're forcibly extracting from them things that they don't see as entirely in their interest," Posen said. "Twisting the arms of governments to then twist the arms of their own businesses is not going to get you the payoff you want."

The Trump administration is betting that tariffs are an effective tool to prod other countries and international companies to invest in the United States, a big stick that other administrations failed to wield. Trump's pitch to voters is that he will play a role in directly managing the investment commitments made by foreign countries — and that the allocation of that money starting next year will revive what has been a flagging job market.




Jacquelyn Martin/AP

**Federal agents regroup before heading out on an operation Sept. 29 in a residential neighborhood in northwest Washington.**

# ICE ad blitz aims to lure local law enforcement officers to join

By Thomas Beaumont and Rebecca Santana
*Associated Press*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is spending millions of dollars on television advertising in select metro areas around the country, an Associated Press tally found, aimed at recruiting local officers frustrated with their cities' restrictions on immigration enforcement into President Donald Trump's mass deportation efforts.

"You took an oath to protect and serve, to keep your family, your city, safe," the narrator says, as images of the cities targeted and ICE agents arresting people move across the screen. "But in sanctuary cities, you're ordered to stand down while dangerous illegals walk free."

The campaign — airing in more than a dozen cities, including Chicago, Seattle and Atlanta — is part of ICE's $30 billion initiative to hire 10,000 more deportation officers by the end of the year to supercharge deportations. The money is part of the $76.5 billion sought by Trump's Republican administration for ICE — a 10-fold increase in its current budget — as part of the sweeping, multitrillion-dollar tax breaks and spending cuts bill enacted in July.

ICE is already offering bonuses of up to $50,000 for new recruits and other benefits such as tuition reimbursement as it seeks to fast-track hiring.

And while some parts of the federal government are shut down as the result of Congress' failure to pass a spending measure last week, the ICE ads reflect that the push for mass deportations, the Trump administration's top priority, is still flush with cash.

The ads open with video of each metro's familiar skyline and the narrator's voice announcing, for example, "Attention, Miami law enforcement." Beyond that, the spots are identical, inviting officers to "join ICE and help us catch the worst of the worst. Drug traffickers. Gang members. Predators," according to a review of the ads on the ad-tracking service AdImpact.

The 30-second spots began running in mid-September in Albuquerque, N.M.; Boston; Chicago; Denver; New York; Philadelphia; Sacramento, Calif.; Seattle; and Washington, D.C.

Adding to the list a week ago: Atlanta; Dallas; El Paso, Texas; Houston; Miami; Salt Lake City; and San Antonio.

As of Friday, total spending on the ads had topped $5.7 million, with the most spent since mid-September being $853,745 in the Seattle area. However, Atlanta saw the most in the past week, $794,084, according to AdImpact.

It was unclear why ICE targeted those locations and not others.

# Voting underway in California on maps to swing US House

By Michael R. Blood
*Associated Press*

LOS ANGELES — The midterm elections might be a year away, but the fight for control of the U.S. House is underway in California.

Voting opened statewide Monday on whether to dramatically reshape California's congressional districts to add as many as five Democrat-held seats in Congress — a possible offset to President Donald Trump's moves in Texas and elsewhere to help Republicans in the 2026 election.

The outcome of the 70-word, "yes" or "no" question could determine which party wins control of the closely divided House and whether Democrats will be able to blunt Trump's power in the second half of his term.

The national implications of California's ballot measure are clear in both the money it has attracted and the figures getting involved. Tens of millions of dollars are flowing into the race — including a $5 million donation to opponents from the Congressional Leadership Fund, the super PAC tied to House Speaker Mike Johnson. Former action-movie star and Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has spoken out to oppose it, while former President Barack Obama is in favor, calling it a "smart" approach to counter Republican maneuverings aimed at safeguarding House control.

The election that concludes Nov. 4 will also color the emerging 2028 presidential contest in which Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom — the face of the campaign for the new, jiggered districts — is widely seen as a likely contender.

The unusual special election amounts to a Democratic gambit to blunt Trump's attempt in Texas to gain five Republican districts ahead of the midterms, a move intended to pad the GOP's tenuous grip on the House.

The duel between the nation's two most populous states has spread nationally, with Missouri redrawing House maps that are crafted state by state. Other states could soon follow, while the dispute also has become entangled in the courts.

A major question mark has emerged in Texas, where a panel of federal judges is considering whether the state can use a redrawn congressional map that boosts Republicans.

If the Texas map is blocked even temporarily, it's not clear how that decision would influence California — if at all — where voting is underway. Newsom has previously indicated that California could keep its current map if other states pull back efforts to remake districts for partisan advantage, but that language was not included in the final version of what's officially known as Proposition 50.

If approved in California, it's possible the new political map could slash five Republican-held House seats while bolstering Democratic incumbents in other battleground districts. That could boost the Democratic margin to 48 of California's 52 congressional seats, up from the 43 seats the party now holds.

# NATION




LISA BONOS/The Washington Post

**Mountain View High School in Los Altos, Calif., has a program in which student "interns" provide the school with technical support and work on tech projects. Above, workshop attendees discuss what they learned and the questions they have about the use of artificial intelligence in schools.**

## Calif. district asks its students to help draft schools' AI policy

BY LISA BONOS
*The Washington Post*

LOS ALTOS, Calif. — At schools across the country, educators and administrators are scrambling to set rules for how students and educators use ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence tools for homework and other assignments.

In one Silicon Valley school district, a group of high-schoolers is guiding the discussion.

"A lot of times middle-schoolers won't necessarily listen to adults saying things," said 17-year-old Dhruv Vijay, a high-schooler. "But they might listen to us."

Vijay is one of half a dozen students at Mountain View High School helping students, parents and staff from the local Los Altos School District draft a statement defining its philosophy on AI in classrooms.

Some school districts hire consultants to work on AI policies, and ChatGPT could have spat something out in a snap. But Grace Choi, who coordinates curriculum and instruction for the school district, said it was "so necessary" to have students involved in creating the policies that will affect them and their peers.

The assignment has thrown the students into one of the toughest and fastest-moving debates raised by OpenAI's ChatGPT and other AI tools. At times they have been shaken by how quickly technology has rewired the middle school experience they recently lived through. (The Washington Post has a content partnership with OpenAI.)

"Back in my day, my shortcut was doing a sloppy job on things, rushing through problems," 16-year-old Yash Maheshwari said. Now, students like his 13-year-old sister cut corners by leaning on AI, he said, which can rush out assignments with little human input.

Vijay, Maheshwari and the handful of others working on the project are "tech interns" at Mountain View High, students who have volunteered to provide tech support for the school and engage with the local community.

For their AI policy assignment the interns planned discussion workshops to draw out opinions on where AI could be helpful or harmful.

The first workshop began with a card game where attendees pondered sticky hypothetical situations involving AI. Vijay and his fellow intern Claire Schwarzhoff, a 17-year-old senior, asked a group of sixth-graders, parents and educators to consider a scenario in which a school implements an AI tool that scans student laptops for inappropriate content, alerting administrators if certain concerning keywords or images are detected.

Sara Panigrahi, an 11-year-old sixth-grader, was concerned about the potential for error.

"If AI gets it wrong and alerts an administrator, maybe the administrator trusts AI so much that they don't even look through it and then they'll get the student in trouble," even if the student didn't break the rules, Panigrahi tells the group — describing a concept called automation bias that has been documented among pilots and doctors.

That would be "unfair to the student who didn't do anything wrong," she said. The adults nod their heads.

Teachers can tell when a student has turned to AI to do an assignment, said Nikita Shah, a Los Altos elementary school principal in the AI discussion group.

"I personally know kids who've had impact on their educational careers because they thought this is an easy tool," Shah said, citing an otherwise strong high school student who got an F after using AI on a final and getting caught because it didn't write in their style.

While her school has set boundaries around AI, Shah said, it's only a small number who've been using the technology inappropriately. Parents have helped students understand the importance of developing knowledge and skills honestly, she said, and "not just using ChatGPT for a quick answer."

## On justices' plate: Presidential power, LGBTQ+ cases

BY MARK SHERMAN AND LINDSAY WHITEHURST
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is beginning a new term with a sharp focus on President Donald Trump's robust assertion of executive power.

Pivotal cases on voting and the rights of LGBTQ+ people also are on the agenda. On Tuesday, the justices will hear arguments over bans passed by nearly half of U.S. states on therapy aimed at changing sexual orientation or gender identity.

The opening session on Monday has lower-profile cases, including a dispute over the right of a criminal defendant to consult with his lawyer during an overnight break in his testimony. The judge in a Texas murder trial ordered defense lawyers not to talk to their client about his testimony.

A major thrust of the next 10 months, however, is expected to be the justices' evaluation of Trump's expansive claims of presidential power.

The court's conservative majority has so far been receptive, at least in preliminary rulings, to many emergency appeals from Trump's Republican administration. But there could be more skepticism, however, when the court conducts in-depth examinations of some Trump policies, including the president's imposition of tariffs and his desired restrictions on birthright citizenship.

The justices are hearing a pivotal case for Trump's economic agenda in early November as they consider the legality of many of his sweeping tariffs. Two lower courts have found the Republican president does not have the power to unilaterally impose wide-ranging tariffs under an emergency powers law.

In December, the justices will take up Trump's power to fire independent agency members at will, a case that probably will lead the court to overturn, or drastically narrow, a 90-year-old decision. It required a cause, like neglect of duty, before a president could remove the Senate-confirmed officials from their jobs.

The outcome appears to be in little doubt because the conservatives have allowed the firings to take effect while the case plays out, even after lower-court judges found the firings illegal. The three liberal justices on the nine-member court have dissented each time.

## Texas mom charged with shooting her 4 children

*Associated Press*

ANGLETON, Texas — A Texas mother who shot her four children over the weekend, killing two of them, faces murder charges, authorities said Sunday.

The 31-year-old mother is being charged with two counts of murder and two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, Brazoria County Sheriff Bo Stallman told reporters. She is being held on a $14 million bond.

Two of the children, ages 13 and 4, were fatally shot inside a vehicle Saturday. The other children, ages 8 and 9, are in "stable condition" after being flown by a medical helicopter to a Houston-area hospital, Stallman said.

The children's mother called 911 to alert authorities after the shooting, Stallman said. Authorities recovered a weapon at the scene, he added.

"It is impossible to make sense of a senseless tragedy like this, but we will do everything we can to seek justice for these children," Stallman said.

The shooting took place in Angleton, about 45 miles south of Houston.

## High court rejects appeal from Epstein's former girlfriend Maxwell

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday rejected an appeal from Ghislaine Maxwell, the imprisoned former girlfriend of Jeffrey Epstein.

On the first day of their new term, the justices declined to take up a case that would have drawn renewed attention to the sordid sexual-abuse saga after President Donald Trump's administration sought to tamp down criticism over its refusal to publicly release more investigative files from Epstein's case.

Lawyers for Maxwell, a British socialite, argued that she never should have been tried or convicted for her role in luring teenage girls to be sexually abused by Epstein, a New York financier. She is serving a 20-year prison term.

As is their custom, the justices did not explain why they turned away the appeal.

Trump's Republican administration had urged the high court to stay out of the case.

Maxwell's lawyers contended that a non-prosecution agreement reached in 2007 by federal prosecutors in Miami and Epstein's lawyers also protected his "potential co-conspirators" from federal charges.

WORLD

# French PM quits just after naming his government

*Associated Press*

PARIS — France's new prime minister Sébastien Lecornu resigned less than 24 hours after naming his government and after less than a month in office, plunging the country into a deep political crisis and leaving French President Emmanuel Macron with few options.

The French presidency said in a statement Monday that Macron, who has been hitting record lows in opinion polls, has accepted the resignation.

Lecornu had replaced his predecessor, François Bayrou, on Sept. 9 to become France's fourth prime minister in barely a year during a prolonged period of political instability. Lecornu is now the shortest-serving prime minister in the history of the Fifth Republic, which started in 1958.

French politics have been in disarray since Macron called snap elections last year that produced a deeply fragmented legislature and a political impasse.

Despite more than three weeks of efforts to secure enough support to avoid a no-confidence vote, Lecornu was forced out just hours after forming his Cabinet on Sunday, having lost the support of conservatives who hold 50 seats and who objected to his choice for defense minister.

Lecornu's government will manage day-to-day affairs until a new prime minister and Cabinet are appointed. It is now up to Macron either to name a new head of government or to dissolve the National Assembly and call early legislative elections.

Macron's office announced Monday evening that he has asked Lecornu to hold more "final negotiations" over the next two days in the interest of national stability — suggesting a potential second chance for Lecornu to stay and attempt to form a new government. The brief statement gave no additional details.



Lecornu

A faithful ally of Macron, Lecornu said conditions were no longer met to remain in office after failing to build a consensus.

"It would take little for it to work," Lecornu said in his resignation speech. "By being more selfless for many, by knowing how to show humility. One must always put one's country before one's party."

With less than two years before the next presidential election, Macron's opponents immediately tried to capitalize on the resignation, with the far-right National Rally calling on him to either call for new snap parliamentary elections or resign.

"This raises a question for the President of the Republic: can he continue to resist the legislature dissolution? We have reached the end of the road," far-right leader Marine Le Pen said.

Ministers appointed just the previous night found themselves in the bizarre situation of becoming caretaker ministers — kept in place only to manage day-to-day affairs until a new government is formed — before some of them had even been formally installed in office.



LINGSUIYE/AP

**Villagers with their oxen and horses ascend Mount Everest during rescue efforts to reach hundreds of hikers trapped by heavy snow at tourist campsites on a slope in Tibet on Sunday.**

# Storm traps hundreds of hikers at campsites on Mount Everest

*Associated Press*

BEIJING — Rescuers were helping hundreds of hikers trapped by heavy snow at tourist campsites on a slope of Mount Everest in Tibet, Chinese state media said.

About 350 hikers had reached a meeting point in Tingri country and rescuers were in contact with another 200, state broadcaster CCTV said late Sunday. There was no immediate update on rescue efforts on Monday.

The hikers were trapped at an elevation of more than 16,000 feet, according to an earlier report from Jimu News, a Chinese online site. Mount Everest is about 29,000 feet tall.

A hiker who rushed to descend before snow blocked the way told Jimu News that others still on the mountain told him the snow was 3 feet deep and had crushed tents.

Hundreds of rescuers headed up the mountain Sunday to clear paths so that trapped people could come down, the Jimu report said. A video shot by a villager showed a long line of people with horses and oxen moving up a winding path in the snow.

The snowstorm struck during a weeklong national holiday in China, when many travel at home and abroad.

In another mountainous region in western China, one hiker died of hypothermia and altitude sickness and 137 others were evacuated in the north part of Qinghai province, CCTV said Monday.

The search in an area in Menyuan county with an average altitude of more than 13,100 feet was complicated by the terrain, unpredictable weather and continuous snowfall, a CCTV online report said.

Mount Everest, known as Mount Qomolangma in Chinese, straddles the border between China and Nepal, where recent heavy rains have left more than 40 people dead.

Climbers attempt to scale the world's tallest peak from base camps in both countries. The base camp for climbers is separate from the tourist camp where hikers were trapped by the snowfall.

A strong earthquake killed at least 126 people in the same area in January.

The Chinese side of Everest is in Tibet, a remote western region where the government has cracked down harshly on dissent and poured in funds for economic development including roads and tourism.



YUICHI YAMAZAKI, POOL/AP

**Sanae Takaichi, newly-elected leader of Liberal Democratic Party, attends a press conference in Tokyo, on Saturday.**

# Japan's head of ruling party could be first female PM

**BY MARI YAMAGUCHI**
*Associated Press*

TOKYO — Japan's embattled governing party now has its new leader, former Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi, a hardline conservative who is poised to become the country's first female prime minister.

Takaichi, 64, immediately needs to seek ways to get her long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party to stay in power and regain public support by delivering measures to address inflation and diplomatic challenges such as President Donald Trump.

A staunch supporter of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's conservative vision, Takaichi is on the verge of losing her party's long-time coalition partner, the Buddhist-backed dovish centrist Komeito, because of her ultra-conservative politics. Those include a revisionism of wartime history and regular visits to the Yasukuni Shrine, seen as a symbol of militarism.

She faces the dilemma of sticking to her ideology and losing the coalition partner or shifting to the center, which would lose her fans of her hawkish politics.

The LDP and opposition parties are currently considering convening the parliament in mid-October to elect a new prime minister.

Takaichi is likely to be Japan's leader because the LDP, even without a majority in either house of parliament following consecutive election losses, is still by far the largest in the lower house, which decides the national leader, and because opposition groups are highly splintered.

She will need to address rising prices to restore support for the struggling party.

She also faces another big test when she hosts a possible summit later this month with Trump as his trip to Asia to attend international conferences is planned.

In her first press conference Saturday as LDP leader, Takaichi vowed to ensure strengthening of the Japan-U.S. alliance as essential to her country's diplomacy and security, while also seeking to expand trilateral partnerships including South Korea, Australia and the Philippines.

Takaichi said she will honor the tariffs and investment agreements between the government of the current prime minister, Shigeru Ishiba and the Trump administration.

One of Takaichi's most urgent tasks is to secure cooperation from the opposition. The LDP seeks to expand its current coalition with the moderate centrist Komeito to include at least one of the key opposition parties.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Prosecutors want former Green Beret in custody

FL MIAMI — Federal prosecutors are seeking to return to custody a former Green Beret accused of plotting to invade Venezuela in 2020, arguing he is at risk of fleeing the United States after allegedly threatening a filmmaker who posted a $2 million bond for his release.

Over the objections of prosecutors, a judge in Tampa, Fla., last year ordered Jordan Goudreau's release a few weeks after he was arrested on weapons smuggling charges tied to the failed coup attempt.

Filmmaker Jen Gatien had pledged her $2 million Manhattan apartment as collateral. In a court filing Friday, prosecutors said the court would have likely kept Goudreau jailed pending trial had it known about an "undisclosed side agreement" for the three-time Bronze Star recipient to surrender to his attorney "significant cryptocurrency holdings" and other assets to mitigate her financial risk.

Gatien is the co-director of "Men of War," based on Goudreau's account of the raid that ended with several combatants killed by security forces and two of his U.S. Special Forces buddies locked away in a Venezuelan prison. The documentary debuted last month on Amazon Prime.

Despite their once-close relationship, Gatien said she fears Goudreau may attempt to flee.

Trial in the case is currently scheduled for February.




CHARLES KRUPA/AP

**Not too scared for a selfie**

**Bob and Cheryl Belanger, of Wells, Maine, take a selfie with some of the scarecrows on display in the Chester, N.H., town commons Saturday.**

## Governor signs bill into law after refugee's death

NC RALEIGH — North Carolina's Democratic governor signed into law on Friday a criminal justice measure that the state's Republican-controlled legislature approved in response to the stabbing death of a Ukrainian refugee on a Charlotte commuter train, even while opposing provisions within or wishing for others left out.

Gov. Josh Stein said he signed the bill because it "alerts the judiciary to take a special look at people who may pose unusual risks of violence before determining their bail. That's a good thing."

The new law bars cashless bail for certain violent crimes and for many repeat offenders. It also limits the discretion magistrates and judges have in making pretrial release decisions.

Stein accepted the measure even as Republican lawmakers, including President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance, have blamed Democratic leaders in Charlotte and statewide for soft-on-crime policies they allege allowed the suspect in Iryna Zarutska's Aug. 22 death to stay out of custody. The outrage intensified with the release of security video showing the attack.

Decarlos Brown Jr., the man accused in Zarutska's death, has been arrested more than a dozen other times and previously served more than five years on a violent robbery count, according to court records.

A magistrate allowed Brown to be released on a misdemeanor charge in January on a written promise to appear.

## Candidate apologizes for political violence texts

VA RICHMOND — Virginia's Democratic candidate for attorney general has apologized for widely condemned text messages from 2022 that revealed him suggesting that a prominent Republican get "two bullets to the head."

The texts put the Democratic challenger, Jay Jones, on the defensive in what has been a hard-hitting campaign. Early voting is well underway in Virginia ahead of the November general election.

Jones' campaign didn't challenge the accuracy of the texts, first reported by The National Review, and he offered a public apology to Todd Gilbert, the target of the messages. Gilbert was speaker of Virginia's House of Delegates at the time of the text messages but is no longer a legislator.

Jones is challenging Republican incumbent Jason Miyares for the job as Virginia's top prosecutor.

The Republican Attorneys General Association said Jones should withdraw from the campaign for his "abhorrent" text messages. The group's chairman, Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach, said the messages were unacceptable "from someone who wants to represent law enforcement."

"There is no place for political violence, including joking about it — especially from an elected official," Kobach said.

## Universal to reopen ride 2 weeks after man's death

FL ORLANDO — Universal Orlando Resort plans to reopen its Stardust Racers ride at Epic Universe more than two weeks after a 32-year-old man died of blunt force injuries after going on the high-speed roller coaster.

Signs will be updated to reinforce existing warnings and eligibility requirements to help visitors decide if they should go on the dual-launch coaster, which reaches speeds up to 62 mph, Karen Irwin, president and chief operating officer at Universal Orlando Resort, said Friday in a memo to workers. The ride reopened on Saturday.

The family of Kevin Rodriguez Zavala publicly had urged Universal not to reopen the ride until all investigations were finished and they had a better understanding of how he died. The medical examiner for the Orlando area ruled the cause of death as multiple blunt impact injuries and said the manner of death was an accident. The full autopsy report hasn't been made public.

Zavala had a spinal disability from birth and used a wheelchair, but his family's attorneys said his disability didn't cause his death on Sept. 17.

Irwin said the ride at Universal's newest theme park had undergone an extensive operational and technical review that confirmed the ride systems had functioned properly and Universal workers had followed proper procedures. The ride system's manufacturer and an independent roller coaster engineering expert also conducted on-site testing which supported Universal's findings, she said.

## 2 girls killed in apparent game of 'subway surfing'

NY NEW YORK — New York City police found two girls dead early Saturday morning in what apparently was a game of "subway surfing" that turned out to be fatal, authorities said.

Police said they responded to a 911 call at the Marcy Avenue stop in Brooklyn just after 3 a.m. to find two unconscious and unresponsive females who were pronounced dead at the scene.

Police didn't identify the victims or give their ages. But New York City Transit President Demetrius Crichlow described them as girls involved in subway surfing.

"It's heartbreaking that two young girls are gone because they somehow thought riding outside a subway train was an acceptable game," Crichlow said in a statement. "Parents, teachers and friends need to be clear with loved ones: getting on top of a subway car isn't 'surfing' — it's suicide."

Police said the investigation was ongoing.

## Nectar's, club venue that launched Phish, closes

VT BURLINGTON — As a Greek immigrant who came to the United States in 1956, Nectar Rorris never imagined the Vermont restaurant and music club he opened 50 years ago would become synonymous with Phish, but he credits the jam band with giving Nectar's a national spotlight and making it a place sought out by local and traveling musicians alike.

"Phish made Nectar's," the 86-year-old Rorris said recently.

Phish meanwhile credits Rorris with their early success, giving them a stage to experiment on when they were starting out in the early 1980s.

But now, the iconic Burlington venue that fostered a community of diverse artists has closed its doors, despite negotiations to keep the music going.

"As a musician, you want to move up. You get a few fans; you go to a bigger club. That's what Nectar's was," said Chris Farnsworth, who covers Burlington's music scene for the Vermont newspaper Seven Days.

The band's 1992 record was titled "A Picture of Nectar" as a tribute to the venue and to Rorris, who gave the fledgling band a residency for nearly two years.

From wire reports

WORLD

# Police in Australia seize guns from 'sovereign citizens'

By Charlotte Graham-McLay
*Associated Press*

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Police in Western Australia have seized guns and revoked or suspended firearms permits from dozens of owners linked to what investigators describe as sovereign citizen ideologies, or views that reject government authority.

Officials linked the crackdown on firearms users believed to hold such views to the fatal shooting in August of two police officers in Victoria state, in the country's east. The suspect in those killings, 56-year-old Dezi Freeman, remains at large, weeks after he is said to have killed two officers visiting his rural property to serve a search warrant.

In the years before the shooting, Freeman appeared to have embraced so-called sovereign citizen views during court appearances. Members of such movements use debunked legal theories to reject government authority.

Freeman is suspected of killing Detective Senior Constable Neal Thompson and Senior Constable Vadim de Waart-Hottart and wounding a third officer. Following the shooting, investigators in Western Australia used bolstered gun laws enacted in 2024 to identify weapons owners who they said held similar views to Freeman's.

"The mission of this operation was simple and that was to validate and verify our intelligence on who may hold sovereign citizen ideologies here in Western Australia," the state's Police Commissioner Col Blanch told reporters on Sunday. Posts and information from other gun owners was used to identify those targeted.

Officers visited 70 properties over five days in late September and early October, seizing 135 firearms and suspending or revoking 44 gun licenses, Blanch said. Investigators relied on a legal provision that allows only someone who meets the standard of a "fit and proper person" to hold a gun permit.

"If you have made it very clear that you do not abide by the laws of Western Australia, set by the Parliament, then there is no way that you can be a fit and proper person," Blanch said.

In explaining the raids, Blanch said that in the past three years, six police officers in four states have been shot dead by members of the public, which he said was "unprecedented" in Australia.

Shooting deaths in Australia are otherwise rare. A 1996 massacre in the Tasmanian town of Port Arthur prompted the government to drastically tighten gun laws and made it much more difficult for Australians to acquire firearms.




CLAUDIO BRESCIANI/AP

**A screen showing the photos of Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi, who were awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology, at the Nobel Assembly of the Karolinska Institute, in Stockholm, Sweden, Monday.**

# Nobel Prize in medicine goes to 3 scientists for work on immune system

*Associated Press*

STOCKHOLM — Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Dr. Shimon Sakaguchi won the Nobel Prize in medicine on Monday for their discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance.

Brunkow, 64, is a senior program manager at the Institute for Systems Biology in Seattle. Ramsdell, 64, is a scientific adviser for Sonoma Biotherapeutics in San Francisco. Sakaguchi, 74, is a distinguished professor at the Immunology Frontier Research Center at Osaka University in Japan.

The immune system has many overlapping systems to detect and fight bacteria, viruses and other bad actors.

Key immune warriors such as T cells get trained on how to spot bad actors.

If some instead go awry in a way that might trigger autoimmune diseases, they're supposed to be eliminated in the thymus — a process called central tolerance.

The Nobel winners unraveled an additional way the body keeps the system in check.

The Nobel Committee said it started with Sakaguchi's discovery in 1995 of a previously unknown T cell subtype now known as regulatory T cells or T-regs.

Then in 2001, Brunkow and Ramsdell discovered a culprit mutation in a gene named Foxp3, a gene that also plays a role in a rare human autoimmune disease.

The Nobel Committee said two years later, Sakaguchi linked the discoveries to show that the Foxp3 gene controls the development of those T-regs — which in turn act as a security guard to find and curb other forms of T cells that overreact.

The work opened a new field of immunology, said Karolinska Institute rheumatology professor Marie Wahren-Herlenius.

Researchers around the world now are working to use regulatory T cells to develop treatments for autoimmune diseases and cancer.

"Their discoveries have been decisive for our understanding of how the immune system functions and why we do not all develop serious autoimmune diseases," said Olle Kämpe, chair of the Nobel Committee.

The trio will share the prize money of nearly $1.2 million.

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WORLD

# Talks on peace plan involving Israel, Hamas begin in Egypt

By Samy Magdy, Melanie Lidman and Wafaa Shurafa
*Associated Press*

CAIRO — Israeli and Hamas officials launched indirect talks Monday at an Egyptian resort on a U.S.-drafted peace plan to end the ruinous war in Gaza on the eve of its second anniversary.

Many uncertainties remain about the plan presented by U.S. President Donald Trump last week, including the disarmament of the militant group — a key Israeli demand — and the future governance of Gaza. Trump has indicated an agreement on Gaza could pave the way for a Middle East peace process that could reshape the region.

Despite Trump ordering Israel to stop the bombing, Israeli forces continued to pound Gaza with airstrikes, killing at least 19 people in the last 24 hours, the territory's Health Ministry said.

An Egyptian official said talks began Monday afternoon at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly about the talks.

The Israelis are led by top negotiator Ron Dermer, while Khalil al-Hayyah leads the Hamas delegation.

Egypt's state-owned Al-Qahera News television station reported that the talks began with a meeting between Arab mediators and the Hamas delegation. Mediators will then meet with the Israeli delegation, the station said. Egyptian and Qatari mediators will discuss the outcome of their meetings with both parties, before U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff joins the talks, it said.

Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner is also expected to join the talks, Egypt's state-run al-Ahram reported.

Hamas said negotiations will focus on the first stage of a ceasefire, including the partial withdrawal of Israeli forces as well as the release of hostages held by the militants in Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention.

This latest push for peace comes after Hamas accepted some elements of the U.S. plan that Israel also said it supported. Under the plan, Hamas would release the remaining 48 hostages — about 20 of whom are believed to be alive — within three days. It would give up power and disarm.

The talks in Egypt are expected to move quickly. Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu said they would be "confined to a few days maximum," though some Hamas officials have warned that more time may be needed to locate bodies of hostages buried under rubble.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi hailed Trump's efforts, underscoring the importance of preserving the U.S.-crafted "peace system" in the Middle East since the 1970s, which he said "served as a strategic framework for regional stability."

El-Sisi spoke in a televised address commemorating the anniversary of the start of the 1973 war with Israel that led to Egypt reclaiming the Sinai Peninsula, where Sharm el-Sheikh is located.

The U.S. has said Israel's heavy bombardment of Gaza would need to stop for the hostages to be released. Israel says it's largely heeding Trump's call. The Israeli military said it is mostly carrying out defensive strikes to protect troops, though dozens of Palestinians have been killed since the military's statement Saturday night.

Gaza's Health Ministry said Monday that the bodies of 19 people, including two aid-seekers killed by Israeli strikes and gunfire, had been brought to hospitals over the past 24 hours. Another 96 were wounded. The deaths brought the Palestinian toll to 67,160 since the Hamas attack on Oct. 7, 2023, triggered the war, with nearly 170,000 wounded, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, families of Israeli hostages petitioned the Nobel Prize Committee to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Trump for what they called his unprecedented contributions to global peace.

"At this very moment, President Trump's comprehensive plan to release all remaining hostages and finally end this terrible war is on the table," the families wrote. "For the first time in months, we are hopeful that our nightmare will finally be over."



LEO CORREA/AP

**A fire erupts amid buildings destroyed during Israeli ground and air operations, following an Israeli military strike in the northern Gaza Strip, as seen from southern Israel, on Monday.**




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# OPINION

## America's elite universities have lost their way

By Allison Schrager
*Bloomberg Opinion*

If you doubt that America's elite universities have lost their way, consider that, as part of a settlement with the Trump administration, Harvard is considering building trade schools. Whatever Harvard's comparative advantage is — and it has many! — it is not in vocational education.

U.S. colleges and universities attract the world's best students and academics, and produce research that powers the global economy. But the share of Americans who have a lot of trust in higher education has declined 15 percentage points over the last decade, to 42% — and trust in the Ivy League stands at just 15%. President Donald Trump is going after America's elite universities for a reason: Institutions that should be a source of national pride have become divisive (if not detested) because they have lost sight of their mission and why they are worthy of taxpayer support.

And what is that mission? If you listen to college administrators, they describe institutions that are less about nurturing academic excellence than about constructing an elite with the right values and sense of civic engagement. In 2016, for example, Princeton changed its informal motto to be, "In the Nation's Service and the Service of Humanity."

To some extent, this impulse can be traced back to their founding. One of the original purposes of liberal-arts schools was to educate the children of elite families so they would become well-rounded citizens. In the mid-20th century, however, it shifted: Schools wanted to find the smartest students, a goal that better reflected America's meritocratic values.

Eventually, universities combined these goals. They would take the best and brightest and mold them into the nation's elite. But the latter goal came to dominate the former as the population grew and the competition for admission increased — as did the potential economic rewards and prestige from attending an elite university.

Some of this self-importance is overblown, of course; many successful people didn't go to Ivy League schools, and going to an elite school does not on average increase your earnings, though it does increase the odds you'll make it to the top percentiles of earners.

Since they had their pick of bright students, elite universities turned to their larger project: fixing what was broken in American society, which they saw (not unjustifiably) as stubborn racial and economic inequality and inadequate K-12 education. If it was a university's job to select and build the nation's elite, then administrators were going to make sure the elite reflected their values. It was not just the admissions department: The mission of shaping the political and moral views of future leaders also infected the curriculum, as professors became less tolerant of differing points of view and confused teaching opinion with teaching knowledge.

This is one reason grade inflation became so prevalent. If teaching and learning are secondary to making the world a better place, why bother making students unhappy by giving low grades? Eventually students responded to these incentives and extracurricular activities, often with a social mission, become more important than classwork.

This social mission is also why universities became so political. Their job was not just to teach math or (as the case may be) comparative literature — it was to form and shape the elite. But this politicization came at a cost, as their universities increasingly found themselves estranged from (if not hostile to) the values of a large share of the public, on whose tax money they relied. True, there is something noble about their endeavor. Many students from disadvantaged backgrounds were able to transform their lives by attending elite universities. And if elite schools admitted applicants only from competitive high schools or with perfect SATs, they would further entrench inequality and immobility in America.

At the same time: Should it be the job of the university to fix what is broken in America? Especially if Americans themselves can't agree about what that is? And even if universities accept that mission, should it become secondary to providing a meaningful education?

American universities are at a crossroads. More Americans are skeptical a college education is worth it at all. College graduates aren't finding jobs. Artificial intelligence makes it easier to cheat and not learn very much, while universities have yet to figure out how to train their students for an AI job market that will eliminate some knowledge jobs and create new ones. Elite schools have the extra challenge of winning back the nation's trust.

What they need to do is explicitly make education their primary mission again. They should adopt more objective admissions criteria; stop inflating grades as part of a drive to make science, social science and humanities classes more rigorous; and rededicate themselves to putting excellence in education and research first. The sooner students realize they don't have to go to an elite school to get a great education — and those schools realize that their loftier goals may be undermining their ability to provide one — the sooner U.S. higher education can get back on track. As I've noted before, the best thing for both America and its system of higher education would be for its elite schools to become less elite.

Allison Schrager is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering economics. A senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, she is author of "An Economist Walks Into a Brothel: And Other Unexpected Places to Understand Risk." 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.

## The shutdown conversation neither party wants

*A Washington Post editorial*

As the partial government shutdown enters its second week, neither party is leveling with the American people about the hard choices required to get federal spending off a fiscally ruinous trajectory.

President Joe Biden and congressional Democrats used COVID-19 to justify chasing the mirage of a European-style welfare state without raising the necessary taxes to pay for it. Now, prodded by the left, party leaders have shut down the government in a bid to permanently extend what was sold in 2021 as emergency subsidies to help people struggling during the pandemic afford health insurance.

President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans were eager to extend tax cuts when they regained control of government, but they were unwilling to make deep enough cuts to pay for them. The bill Trump signed on July 4 will reduce spending by $1.1 trillion over the next decade, but that is more than offset by $4.5 trillion of tax cuts that will do little for growth.

The U.S. national debt stands at $37.9 trillion, a figure that dwarfs the annual gross domestic product of every other country. It has grown dramatically since the pandemic. In the 2019 fiscal year, the federal government spent $5.47 trillion but took in only $4.26 trillion. Five years later, spending clocked in at $6.75 trillion as revenue failed to keep up with this dramatic expansion of government.

Gushers of borrowed money flowed toward expanding food stamps, Medicaid eligibility, veterans benefits and student debt forgiveness. Rising interest rates compound the costs. Ultimately the United States will need to grow its way out of this debt, but fiscal irresponsibility makes that harder.

Yet Democrats have demanded that Republicans agree to extend the COVID-era insurance subsidies without proposing any way to pay for it. The Congressional Budget Office estimates this will cost $350 billion over the next decade. These temporary benefits were included in the American Rescue Plan of March 2021 and extended the next year in the misnamed Inflation Reduction Act until the end of 2025. The real problem is that the Affordable Care Act was never actually affordable. President Barack Obama's signature achievement allowed people to buy insurance on marketplaces with subsidies based on their income. The architects of the program assumed that risk pools would be bigger than they turned out to be. As a result, policies cost more than expected.

To salvage the program, Democrats expanded subsidies to entice more people to buy plans. Many poor families wound up getting insurance for free, and the rolls grew: 24 million people now have coverage through the ACA exchanges. People earning more than 400% of the poverty line — about $129,000 for a family of four — would see their subsidies go away.

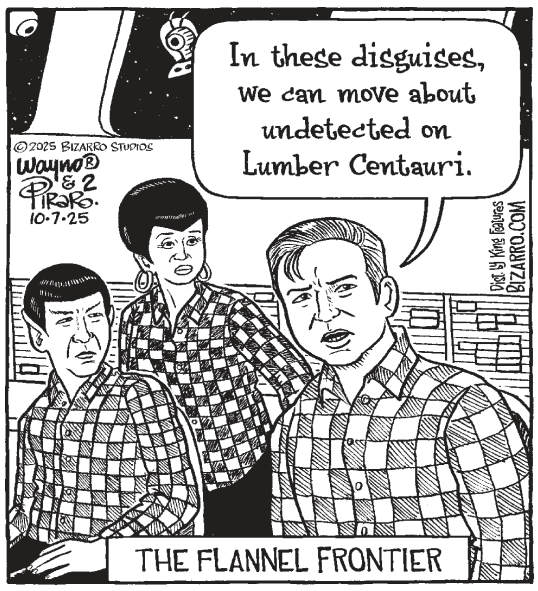
Democrats picked this fight because they see health care as a winning issue. A Post poll, conducted on the first day of the shutdown, found that 71% of Americans say federal insurance subsidies should be extended while 29% say they should end as scheduled. Just as significantly, the question divides Republicans: 38% support extending the subsidies, and 62% want them to end.

This is how entitlement programs work. Once you habituate people to some generous government handout, they grow dependent on it. And it becomes politically perilous, if not impossible, to fully claw it back. Conservatives fought so hard to stop Obamacare 15 years ago because they anticipated fights like this one.

That's why Capitol Hill insiders expect a compromise on subsidies to eventually get hammered out. Republican leaders have tried to keep health care disentangled from their support for reopening the government at Biden-era spending levels into the holidays. Democrats have refused.

In a CBS-YouGov poll released Sunday, only 9% identified government spending as the most important issue facing the country. Why would anyone be worried, given that both parties have effectively disassociated spending from revenue? The likeliest outcome of the shutdown is that both sides agree to spend more money without paying for it, let alone being honest with voters about the trade-offs too many have ignored for too long.

## Bizarro



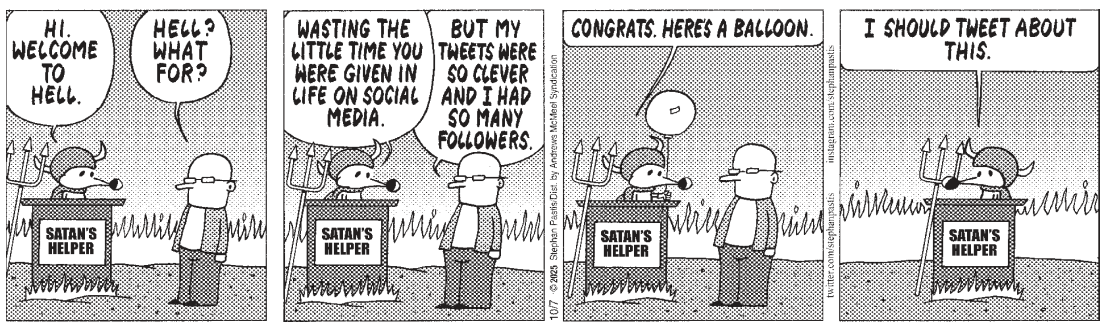

## Loose Parts



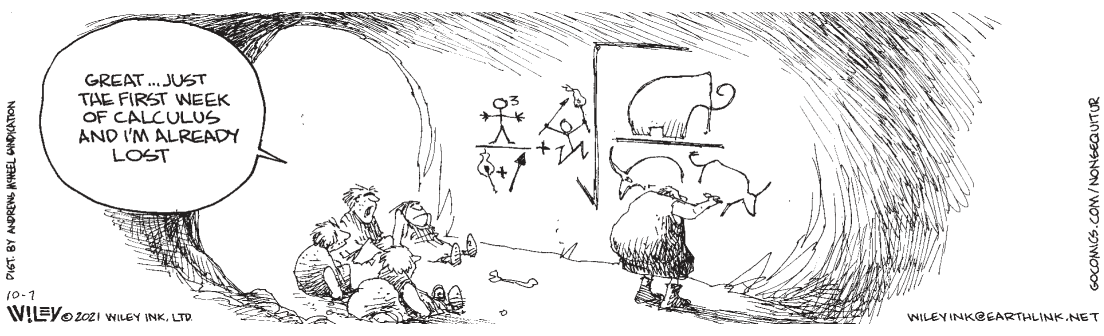

## Frazz




## Pearls Before Swine



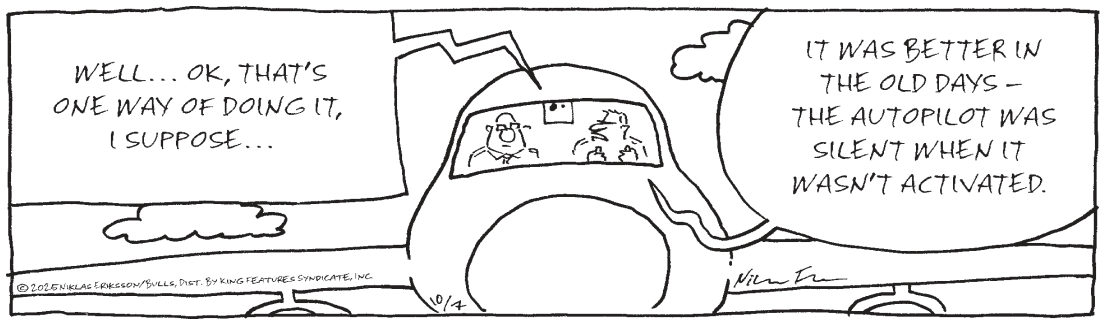

## Non Sequitur




## Wumo




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| 42 | | | ■ | 43 | 44 | | | | | 45 | 46 | 47 |
| 48 | | | ■ | 49 | | | | ■ | 50 | | | |
| 51 | | | ■ | 52 | | | | ■ | 53 | | | |

### ACROSS

1 Workout count
5 Eager
9 Passing craze
12 Jai —
13 Taylor of "Mystic Pizza"
14 Flamenco cry
15 Flame-colored gems
17 Caviar base
18 Earth sci.
19 Constructor
21 Postpone
24 Has a cold
25 Goofs
26 Saving diary
30 Fib
31 North African capital
32 Half of XIV
33 Arctic floaters
35 Left on a map
36 Spoken
37 Buenos —
38 To date
40 Morays
42 Sprite
43 End without a bang
48 — kwon do
49 Addict
50 Celestial bear
51 Aleppo's land (Abbr.)
52 News reporter Logan
53 Indigent

### DOWN

1 U.K. military fliers
2 Yalie
3 Standard
4 All-out attacks
5 Dog's bowlful
6 Test tube
7 Under the weather
8 Send away
9 Pays up, reluctantly
10 Soap additive
11 Antelope's playmate
16 "— the fields we go ..."
20 Cleric's garment
21 Sub shop
22 Rocker Clapton
23 Promotional strategy
24 Unrepaired
26 Knitting stitch
27 "Hulk" director Lee
28 French river
29 Young foxes
31 Weepy
34 Bikini top
35 Get smart
37 100%
38 Collections
39 Skin care brand
40 Weizman of Israel
41 Poet Pound
44 "This — stickup!"
45 Acapulco gold
46 Mil. morale booster
47 Sailor

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | A | V | E | ■ | O | O | H | ■ | S | P | A | S |
| H | A | C | I | E | N | D | A | ■ | Q | U | I | T |
| H | A | R | D | E | N | E | R | ■ | U | R | D | U |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | E | L | O | ■ | D | N | A | L | A | B |
| H | E | N | R | Y | ■ | T | B | A | R | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| E | R | O | S | ■ | H | E | A | V | E | N | S | ■ |
| N | I | B | ■ | M | A | P | L | E | ■ | O | L | E |
| ■ | Q | U | A | R | R | E | L | ■ | T | R | A | M |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | S | I | D | E | ■ | B | R | A | V | O |
| R | E | M | I | S | S | ■ | B | I | O | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| A | R | I | A | ■ | H | A | R | D | P | A | S | S |
| T | I | N | G | ■ | I | R | I | S | H | S | E | A |
| S | E | G | O | ■ | P | E | G | ■ | Y | A | W | N |

**10-7**

## CRYPTOQUIP

OW GRFA WZOAKMG VZA BVHOKN V NVEWAGU VERCU V HAZQ WVFRCG PAXAEZOUQ, OG UBVU OMRX PBVUUAZ?

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** BIG CAR SHOW HAVING MODELS WITH NAMES SUCH AS CUTLASS CIERA AND ALERO: A NO-OLDS-BARRED EVENT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals H

# FACES



MARVIN JOSEPH/The Washington Post

**Actor Eric Dane poses Sept. 30 at the St. Regis hotel in Washington before venturing to Capitol Hill to lobby for funding for ALS research.**

## Daring to make a difference

### 'Grey's Anatomy' heartthrob Eric Dane confronting ALS diagnosis, hoping to help others

BY EMILY YAHR
*The Washington Post*

After six seasons starring as the sexy doctor known as "McSteamy" on "Grey's Anatomy," Eric Dane has received all kinds of feedback from fans. But his favorite is the comment he hears regularly: "I went through med school because of that show."

The legacy of the astonishingly long-running hospital soap opera continues — ABC rolls out Season 22 this week — but the sentiment means something different now to Dane, who has gained a new window into the world of medicine since his diagnosis last year of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a neurodegenerative disease that strikes at muscle control and progressively limits the ability to move, walk, speak and breathe.

Dane, 52, first noticed his symptoms in early 2024 when he felt an unexplained weakness in his hand. As much as he would have preferred to keep his devastating health crisis private, he knew he should get ahead of the Hollywood rumor mill. In April, he gave a statement to People magazine, and a couple of months later, sat for an interview with Diane Sawyer on "Good Morning America."

"It wasn't something I ever really wanted to do. It was something I felt like I had to do," Dane said. "It was getting increasingly difficult to hide what was going on. And instead of letting people speculate what was happening, I just said it. ... And I've never experienced a bigger outpouring of love and support than I have after I announced that."

He also realized there was something else he could do by talking about ALS publicly: He could help others in the same situation feel less alone. And he could use his fame to draw notice to the efforts to raise money to find a cure for the terminal disease.

Dane spoke to The Washington Post Sept. 30 at the St. Regis hotel in Washington shortly before heading to Capitol Hill with an advocacy group to lobby members of Congress to reauthorize the four-year-old Accelerating Access for Critical Therapies for ALS Act, which boosts federal funds and establishes grant programs for ALS research. The law, known as ACT for ALS, expires September 2026, and advocates hope to avoid any delays in funding.

**"[Revealing the ALS diagnosis] wasn't something I ever really wanted to do. It was something I felt like I had to do."**

**Eric Dane**

"We're on this cusp of ALS progress right now. So it's a really important moment for us to be able to leverage Eric's celebrity to raise awareness of the disease, which leads us to more attention, funding and support, and make sure we reauthorize this bill," said Andrea Goodman, chief executive of I Am ALS, the organization that partnered with Dane.

Even on the eve of a government shutdown, Dane had the ability to command attention from members of Congress. His McSteamy storyline coincided with "Grey's" peak cultural relevance 20 years ago, when its early seasons regularly averaged 20 million viewers an episode. Dane arrived in Season 2 and was soon cemented in TV history with a debut scene in which he walked out of the bathroom wearing only a strategically placed towel, steam billowing behind him. (Series creator Shonda Rhimes has said it's one of her favorite moments of the show.) He has also appeared in movies including "X-Men: The Last Stand" and "Valentine's Day," and Generation Z now knows him as Nate Jacobs' dad on HBO's teen nightmare-fuel drama "Euphoria."

His candor about his illness is no surprise to fans who followed him through past challenges. Dane made no secret of going to rehab in 2011 to wean himself off pain medication, and he opened up about the role his addiction issues probably played in producers' decision to write his character out of "Grey's Anatomy" in 2012. He and his wife, actress Rebecca Gayheart, announced a split in 2018, though they dismissed the divorce petition this year; they have two teenage daughters.

According to the organization, 30,000 Americans are living with ALS, and patients typically live an average of two to five years after the diagnosis.

"It's unfortunately the same story when I hear from people. It's like, "I lost my father, mother, cousin, brother, friend,'" Dane said. "It's never, 'My father, mother, cousin, brother, friend has been living with it for 10 years now.'"

Dane still hopes he can provide some comfort to others. He knows he's luckier than most, that he has resources and access to the best medical care, and hopes the spotlight on him can have a bigger purpose.

"I have been an open book about certain things in my life. This is something I felt compelled to share with people," Dane said. "I don't really have a dog in the fight, per se, when it comes to worrying about what people are going think about me. This is more of a: 'How can I help? How can I be of some service?'"

## Taylor Swift's 'Release Party' film nabs $33M

BY JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.
*Associated Press*

This weekend's box office belonged to two undeniable draws: Taylor Swift and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

It might have looked like a heavyweight matchup, but Swift's devoted fanbase once again proved unstoppable with her film "The Official Release Party of a Showgirl," which debuted at No. 1 with $33 million in North America, according to Sunday estimates from Comscore. The AMC Theatres release served as a companion piece to Swift's 12th studio album, packaging music videos, behind-the-scenes footage and lyric visuals into an 89-minute experience.

The film played at all 540 AMC theaters in the U.S. for three days. AMC also aired the show in Mexico, Canada and across Europe.

"For Taylor Swift to harness the power of the movie theater to build her brand, create excitement among her fans and create a communal experience outside of her touring, outside of her live performances, is really a stroke of genius," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore.

Meanwhile, Johnson saw a more modest showing. His A24 drama "The Smashing Machine," co-starring Emily Blunt, opened in third place with only $6 million, trailing Paul Thomas Anderson's "One Battle After Another," which earned $11.1 million and has made $107 million globally.

Despite strong reviews and a 15-minute standing ovation at the Venice Film Festival — where Johnson drew praise for portraying MMA legend Mark Kerr — the film marked one of the lowest openings for a Johnson-starring film.

The rest of the weekend lineup offered a wide mix ranging from animated adventures to horror sequels and international releases.

DreamWorks Animation's family adventure "Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie" debuted in fourth place with $5.2 million, expanding the popular Netflix preschool series to the big screen. Warner Bros.' supernatural thriller "The Conjuring: Last Rites" followed in fifth with $4 million. It has earned $458.2 million globally in four weeks.

"Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba — Infinity Castle," the latest entry in the hit Japanese anime saga, earned $3.5 million in its third week. A rerelease of "Avatar: The Way of Water" made a splash in seventh with $3.1 million — a solid return for the 2022 blockbuster ahead of "Avatar: The Fire and Ash" on Dec. 19.

# SCOREBOARD/WNBA FINALS

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

### AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Oct. 4, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

| | Record | Pts | Prv |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Ohio St. (40) | 5-0 | 1620 | 1 |
| 2. Miami (FL) (21) | 5-0 | 1579 | 3 |
| 3. Oregon (5) | 5-0 | 1542 | 2 |
| 4. Mississippi | 5-0 | 1376 | 4 |
| 5. Texas A&M | 5-0 | 1361 | 6 |
| 6. Oklahoma | 5-0 | 1346 | 5 |
| 7. Indiana | 5-0 | 1213 | 8 |
| 8. Alabama | 4-1 | 1202 | 10 |
| 9. Texas Tech | 5-0 | 1135 | 11 |
| 10. Georgia | 4-1 | 1084 | 12 |
| 11. LSU | 4-1 | 949 | 13 |
| 12. Tennessee | 4-1 | 892 | 15 |
| 13. Georgia Tech | 5-0 | 782 | 17 |
| 14. Missouri | 5-0 | 775 | 19 |
| 15. Michigan | 4-1 | 707 | 20 |
| 16. Notre Dame | 3-2 | 610 | 21 |
| 17. Illinois | 5-1 | 522 | 22 |
| 18. BYU | 5-0 | 463 | 23 |
| 19. Virginia | 5-1 | 452 | 24 |
| 20. Vanderbilt | 5-1 | 407 | 16 |
| 21. Arizona St. | 4-1 | 214 | 25 |
| 22. Iowa St. | 5-1 | 165 | 14 |
| 23. Memphis | 6-0 | 153 | - |
| 24. South Florida | 4-1 | 150 | - |
| 25. Florida St. | 3-2 | 147 | 18 |

**Others receiving votes:** Cincinnati 129, Texas 111, Penn St. 97, Utah 84, Nebraska 60, Southern Cal 46, UNLV 19, North Texas 16, TCU 14, Washington 10, Mississippi St. 10, Navy 4, Louisville 3, Auburn 1.

### USA Today Coaches Poll

The USA Today Coaches Poll Top 25 with team's records through Saturday in parentheses, total points based on 25 for first place through one point for 25th, ranking in last week's poll and first-place votes received

| | | Pts | Prv | 1st |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ohio State (5-0) | 1,638 | 1 | 59 |
| 2 | Oregon (5-0) | 1,572 | 2 | 3 |
| 3 | Miami (Fla.) (5-0) | 1,531 | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | Mississippi (5-0) | 1,402 | 4 | 0 |
| 5 | Texas A&M (5-0) | 1,330 | 5 | 1 |
| 6 | Oklahoma (5-0) | 1,283 | 8 | 0 |
| 7 | Indiana (5-0) | 1,206 | 9 | 0 |
| 8 | Alabama (4-1) | 1,183 | 11 | 0 |
| 9 | Georgia (4-1) | 1,128 | 10 | 0 |
| 10 | Texas Tech (5-0) | 1,082 | 14 | 0 |
| 11 | LSU (4-1) | 999 | 13 | 0 |
| 12 | Tennessee (4-1) | 889 | 15 | 0 |
| 13 | Georgia Tech (5-0) | 819 | 16 | 0 |
| 14 | Missouri (5-0) | 736 | 18 | 0 |
| 15 | Michigan (4-1) | 653 | 20 | 0 |
| 16 | Notre Dame (3-2) | 491 | 21 | 0 |
| 17 | Illinois (5-1) | 484 | 22 | 0 |
| 18 | Brigham Young (5-0) | 453 | 23 | 0 |
| 19 | Texas (3-2) | 372 | 7 | 0 |
| 20 | Vanderbilt (5-1) | 329 | 17 | 0 |
| 21 | Iowa State (5-1) | 295 | 12 | 0 |
| 22 | Penn State (3-2) | 294 | 6 | 0 |
| 23 | Arizona State (4-1) | 292 | 24 | 0 |
| 24 | Virginia (5-1) | 258 | NR | 0 |
| 25 | Memphis (6-0) | 162 | NR | 0 |

**Dropped out:** No. 19 Florida State (3-2); No. 25 Utah (4-1).

**Others receiving votes:** Utah (4-1) 134; Florida State (3-2) 93; Cincinnati (4-1) 70; South Florida (4-1) 65; North Texas (5-0) 28; Navy (5-0) 26; Washington (4-1) 25; Southern California (4-1) 23; UNLV (5-0) 21; Nebraska (4-1) 17; TCU (4-1) 15; Old Dominion (4-1) 13; Louisville (4-1) 10; Tulane (4-1) 8; Auburn (3-2) 7; Duke (4-2) 7; Iowa (3-2) 5; SMU (3-2) 2.

### AP Top 25 schedule

**Friday's game**

No. 24 South Florida (4-1) at North Texas (5-0)

**Saturday's games**

No. 1 Ohio St. (5-0) at No. 17 Illinois (5-1)
No. 3 Oregon (5-0) vs. No. 7 Indiana (5-0)
No. 4 Mississippi (5-0) vs. Washington St. (3-2)
No. 5 Texas A&M (5-0) vs. Florida (2-3)
No. 6 Oklahoma (5-0) vs. Texas (3-2) at Dallas
No. 8 Alabama (4-1) at No. 14 Missouri (5-0)
No. 9 Texas Tech (5-0) vs. Kansas (4-2)
No. 10 Georgia (4-1) at Auburn (3-2)
No. 11 LSU (4-1) vs. South Carolina (3-2)
No. 12 Tennessee (4-1) vs. Arkansas (2-3)
No. 13 Georgia Tech (5-0) vs. Virginia Tech (2-4)
No. 15 Michigan (4-1) at Southern Cal (4-1)
No. 16 Notre Dame (3-2) vs. NC State (4-2)
No. 18 BYU (5-0) at Arizona (4-1)
No. 21 Arizona St. (4-1) at Utah (4-1)
No. 22 Iowa St. (5-1) at Colorado (2-4)
No. 25 Florida St. (3-2) vs. Pittsburgh (3-2)

## AUTO RACING

### Bank of America Roval 400

**NASCAR Cup Series**
**Sunday**
**At Charlotte Motor Speedway Road Course**
**Concord, N.C.**
**Lap length: 2.28 miles**
**Start position in parentheses**

1. (2) Shane Van Gisbergen, Chevrolet, 109 laps, 56 points.
2. (4) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 109, 49.
3. (7) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 109, 45.
4. (5) Chris Buescher, Ford, 109, 33.
5. (6) Michael McDowell, Chevrolet, 109, 37.
6. (29) Ryan Preece, Ford, 109, 31.
7. (20) Daniel Suárez, Chevrolet, 109, 32.
8. (15) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 109, 40.
9. (9) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 109, 28.
10. (1) Tyler Reddick, Toyota, 109, 37.
11. (13) William Byron, Chevrolet, 109, 28.
12. (3) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, 109, 33.
13. (11) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 109, 34.
14. (8) Chase Briscoe, Toyota, 109, 27.
15. (12) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 109, 22.
16. (33) Josh Berry, Ford, 109, 21.
17. (31) Todd Gilliland, Ford, 109, 20.
18. (25) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 109, 19.
19. (26) Ricky Stenhouse Jr, Chevrolet, 109, 18.
20. (17) Joey Logano, Ford, 109, 20.
21. (10) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 109, 29.
22. (18) Cole Custer, Ford, 109, 16.
23. (14) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 109, 14.
24. (24) Zane Smith, Ford, 109, 13.
25. (21) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 109, 12.
26. (35) John H. Nemechek, Toyota, 109, 11.
27. (16) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 108, 11.
28. (30) Noah Gragson, Ford, 108, 9.
29. (27) Carson Hocevar, Chevrolet, 108, 8.
30. (23) Riley Herbst, Toyota, 108, 7.
31. (37) Erik Jones, Toyota, 108, 6.
32. (36) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 108, 5.
33. (34) Josh Bilicki, Ford, 108, 0.
34. (32) Cody Ware, Ford, 108, 3.
35. (28) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 100, 2.
36. (22) Brad Keselowski, Ford, garage, 89, 1.
37. (19) Austin Cindric, Ford, 87, 1.

**Race Statistics**

**Average Speed of Race Winner:** 81.101 mph.
**Time of Race:** 3 hours, 3 minutes, 51 seconds.
**Margin of Victory:** 15.160 seconds.
**Caution Flags:** 3 for 10 laps.
**Lead Changes:** 15 among 6 drivers.
**Lap Leaders:** T.Reddick 0-3; S.Van Gisbergen 4-14; C.Buescher 15-19; S.Van Gisbergen 20-27; A.Allmendinger 28-40; S.Van Gisbergen 41-48; R.Blaney 49-52; S.Van Gisbergen 53-62; K.Larson 63-71; S.Van Gisbergen 72-73; K.Larson 74-86; S.Van Gisbergen 87-91; K.Larson 92-95; S.Van Gisbergen 96; K.Larson 97; S.Van Gisbergen 98-109
**Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led):** S.Van Gisbergen, 8 times for 57 laps; K.Larson, 4 times for 27 laps; A.Allmendinger, 1 time for 13 laps; C.Buescher, 1 time for 5 laps; R.Blaney, 1 time for 4 laps; T.Reddick, 1 time for 3 laps.
**Wins:** D.Hamlin, 5; S.Van Gisbergen, 5; C.Bell, 4; K.Larson, 3; R.Blaney, 3; W.Byron, 2; C.Briscoe, 2; C.Elliott, 2; J.Logano, 1; B.Wallace, 1; R.Chastain, 1; A.Cindric, 1; A.Dillon, 1; J.Berry, 1.
**Top 16 in Points:** 1. D.Hamlin, 4036; 2. K.Larson, 4032; 3. W.Byron, 4032; 4. C.Bell, 4028; 5. R.Blaney, 4028; 6. C.Briscoe, 4018; 7. C.Elliott, 4018; 8. J.Logano, 4007; 9. T.Reddick, 2187; 10. B.Wallace, 2177; 11. R.Chastain, 2172; 12. S.Van Gisbergen, 2142; 13. A.Bowman, 2110; 14. A.Cindric, 2094; 15. A.Dillon, 2091; 16. J.Berry, 2078.

## DEALS

### Sunday's transactions

**HOCKEY**
**National Hockey League**

**BOSTON BRUINS** — Assigned D Victor Söderström to Providence (AHL). Placed G Michael DiPietro, F Alex Steeves, F Matej Blümel and D Jonathan Aspirot on waivers for the purpose of assignment to Providence (AHL).
**BUFFALO SABRES** — Assigned C Josh Dunne to the Rochester (AHL).
**CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS** — Assigned D Kevin Korchinski to Rockford (AHL).
**EDMONTON OILERS** — Placed F Max Jones on waivers for the purpose of assignment to Bakersfield (AHL).
**LOS ANGELES KINGS** — Placed D Kyle Burroughs on injured reserve.
**MINNESOTA WILD** — Placed G Cal Petersen and F Tyler Pitlick on waivers.
**MONTREAL CANADIENS** — Placed G Kaapo Kähkönen and F Sammy Blais on waivers for the purpose of assignment to Laval (AHL).
**NEW JERSEY DEVILS** — Placed F Nathan Légaré, F Jonathan Gruden, G Nico Daws and D Calen Addison on waivers for the purpose of assignment to Utica (AHL). Waived F Mike Hardman.
**OTTAWA SENATORS** — Placed F Olle Lycksell, F Hayden Hodgson, F Jan Jeník, G Mads Søgaard, D Lassi Thomson and F Arthur Kaliyev on waivers for the purpose of assignment to Belleville (AHL).
**SAN JOSE SHARKS** — Acquired D Ryan Ellis and a conditional 2026 sixth-round pick from Philadelphia for F Carl Grundström and D Artem Guryev. Placed F Pavol Regenda on waivers for the purpose of assignment to San Jose (AHL).
**SEATTLE KRAKEN** — Placed F John Hayden on waivers for the purpose of assignment to Coachella Valley (AHL).
**ST. LOUIS BLUES** — Assigned F Dalibor Dvorský to Springfield (AHL).
**VANCOUVER CANUCKS** — Assigned D Victor Mancini and D Tom Willander to Abbotsford (AHL).

## PRO SOCCER

### MLS

**Eastern Conference**

| | W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Philadelphia | 20 | 7 | 6 | 66 | 57 | 33 |
| Cincinnati | 19 | 9 | 5 | 62 | 49 | 40 |
| Inter Miami CF | 17 | 7 | 8 | 59 | 72 | 53 |
| Charlotte FC | 18 | 13 | 2 | 56 | 53 | 46 |
| NYC FC | 17 | 11 | 5 | 56 | 49 | 42 |
| Nashville | 16 | 11 | 6 | 54 | 56 | 40 |
| Orlando City | 14 | 7 | 11 | 53 | 60 | 45 |
| Chicago | 15 | 11 | 7 | 52 | 66 | 58 |
| Columbus | 13 | 8 | 12 | 51 | 52 | 50 |
| New York | 12 | 14 | 7 | 43 | 47 | 44 |
| New England | 9 | 16 | 8 | 35 | 42 | 49 |
| Toronto FC | 5 | 13 | 14 | 29 | 33 | 40 |
| CF Montréal | 6 | 17 | 10 | 28 | 34 | 57 |
| Atlanta | 5 | 15 | 12 | 27 | 37 | 58 |
| D.C. United | 5 | 18 | 10 | 25 | 29 | 65 |

**Western Conference**

| | W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Diego FC | 18 | 9 | 6 | 60 | 60 | 41 |
| Vancouver | 17 | 6 | 9 | 60 | 63 | 35 |
| Minn. United | 16 | 7 | 10 | 58 | 55 | 37 |
| LAFC | 16 | 7 | 8 | 56 | 61 | 37 |
| Seattle | 13 | 9 | 10 | 49 | 55 | 47 |
| Austin FC | 12 | 12 | 8 | 44 | 35 | 43 |
| Portland | 11 | 11 | 11 | 44 | 41 | 44 |
| FC Dallas | 10 | 11 | 11 | 41 | 49 | 52 |
| Real Salt Lake | 12 | 16 | 4 | 40 | 36 | 46 |
| Colorado | 11 | 15 | 7 | 40 | 42 | 54 |
| San Jose | 10 | 15 | 8 | 38 | 58 | 62 |
| Houston | 9 | 15 | 9 | 36 | 43 | 56 |
| St Louis City | 8 | 18 | 7 | 31 | 42 | 56 |
| Sporting KC | 7 | 20 | 6 | 27 | 46 | 70 |
| LA Galaxy | 5 | 18 | 9 | 24 | 42 | 64 |

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

**Saturday's games**

Charlotte FC 1, D.C. United 0
Nashville 1, CF Montréal 1, tie
FC Dallas 2, LA Galaxy 1
Miami 4, New England 1
Cincinnati 1, New York 0
Columbus 1, Orlando City 1, tie
Philadelphia 1, New York City FC 0
St Louis City 3, Austin FC 1
Toronto FC 2, Chicago 2, tie
San Diego FC 4, Houston 2
Minnesota 3, Sporting Kansas City 0
Real Salt Lake 1, Colorado 0
Seattle 1, Portland 0

**Sunday's games**

Vancouver 4, San Jose 1
Los Angeles FC 1, Atlanta 0

**Wednesday's game**

Toronto FC at Los Angeles FC

**Saturday, Oct. 11**

Atlanta at Miami
Vancouver at Orlando City
Real Salt Lake at Seattle
FC Dallas at LA Galaxy

**Sunday, Oct. 12**

Los Angeles FC at Austin FC

### NWSL

| | W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kansas City | 18 | 2 | 2 | 56 | 44 | 11 |
| Washington | 12 | 4 | 7 | 43 | 39 | 28 |
| Gotham FC | 9 | 6 | 8 | 35 | 31 | 18 |
| Portland | 9 | 7 | 7 | 34 | 32 | 28 |
| Seattle | 9 | 7 | 7 | 34 | 28 | 26 |
| Orlando | 9 | 8 | 6 | 33 | 28 | 24 |
| Louisville | 9 | 9 | 5 | 32 | 31 | 35 |
| San Diego | 8 | 8 | 7 | 31 | 31 | 29 |
| North Carolina | 7 | 9 | 7 | 28 | 29 | 35 |
| Houston | 7 | 10 | 6 | 27 | 26 | 35 |
| Angel City | 6 | 10 | 6 | 24 | 28 | 36 |
| Utah Royals FC | 5 | 11 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 37 |
| Bay FC | 4 | 12 | 7 | 19 | 24 | 35 |
| Chicago | 2 | 11 | 10 | 16 | 28 | 46 |

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

**Friday's game**

Orlando 1, Houston 1, tie

**Saturday's games**

Louisville 3, North Carolina 1
Portland 2, Bay FC 1

**Sunday's games**

Washington 2, San Diego 1
Seattle 0, Gotham FC 0, tie
Utah Royals FC 2, Chicago 2, tie

**Monday's game**

Kansas City at Angel City

**Friday, Oct. 10**

Chicago at Louisville
Portland at Orlando
Bay FC at Seattle

**Saturday, Oct. 11**

Gotham FC at Kansas City
Washington at North Carolina
San Diego at Utah Royals FC

**Sunday, Oct. 12**

Houston at Angel City



JOHN LOCHER/AP

**Aces guard Jackie Young, left, drives against Mercury forward Natasha Mack during the second half on Sunday in Las Vegas.**

# Young's 21 points in third lift Aces

BY MARK ANDERSON
*Associated Press*

LAS VEGAS — Jackie Young, exhausted from the grueling five-game semifinal series against Indiana, wasn't quite herself when the Aces began the WNBA Finals against Phoenix and even did something rare in the opener. She asked out of the game.

But after a day of rest, there was no stopping Young on Sunday.

She set a finals record with 21 points in the third quarter, finishing with 32 to carry Las Vegas to a 91-78 victory over the Mercury and 2-0 series lead.

Game 3 is Wednesday in Phoenix, where the Aces hope to put a stranglehold on the series as they chase their third title in four years. The Mercury have the tall task of needing to win four of five games to capture their fourth championship, which would tie the WNBA record.

Young, who tied a career playoff high in total points, fell just short of the league record of 22 points for any postseason quarter. Three players have accomplished that, most recently in 2021 when Young's teammate, Jewell Loyd, hit that number for Seattle against the Mercury.

"We had a couple of play calls for her, but it was really her being really aggressive and in attack mode," Aces coach Becky Hammon said. "I'm always spurring her on to be in attack mode. ... When she hits the 3-ball and gets a couple to go down, it becomes difficult for her to be defended because she's fast, she's big, strong."

Young's performance was quite an answer to the Aces' Game 1 victory on Friday, when she scored 10 points and made just 3 of 13 shots.

"My shots were very short," Young said. "I was getting everything I wanted Game 1, but they were darts. I was trying to change it, but just didn't have it. Luckily, we have a lot of great players on this team."

Four-time league MVP A'ja Wilson scored 20 of her 28 points in the first half and had 14 rebounds. Had Wilson scored two more points, the Aces would've been the first team to have two 30-point scorers in a WNBA Finals game.

"Take the numbers away, I'm so proud of Jackie," Wilson said. "When you see someone that works so hard every single day and then you get to see the hard work paying off, it's a beautiful thing to witness. I'm just so grateful to be her teammate and come to work with her every single day."

## Scoreboard

### WNBA Finals

**Best-of-seven**
**x-if necessary**
**Las Vegas 2, Phoenix 0**

**Friday:** Las Vegas 89, Phoenix 86
**Sunday:** Las Vegas 91, Phoenix 78
**Wednesday:** at Phoenix
**Friday, Oct. 10:** at Phoenix
**x-Sunday, Oct. 12:** at Las Vegas
**x-Wednesday, Oct. 15:** at Phoenix
**x-Friday, Oct. 17:** at Las Vegas

NHL PREVIEW

# Central as tough as ever with 3 contenders at top

By Stephen Whyno
*Associated Press*

Mikko Rantanen was a staple for Colorado, helping the Avalanche win the Stanley Cup as part of his dominant decade in Denver. Then, all of a sudden last winter he was gone, traded to Carolina and by spring back in the division with bitter rival Dallas.

"Someone was like, 'Yeah, we might be like getting Rantanen,' and we're like: 'What are you talking about? Like, there's no way,'" Stars goaltender Jake Oettinger recalled. "Then all of a sudden the guy you hate is walking into the dressing room and you're all like, 'Oh.' And then he's just a great guy and a great teammate."

Rantanen now plays deep in the heart of Texas for the Stars, who have made three consecutive trips to the Western Conference Final. His former team has Gabriel Landeskog back healthy after the long-term captain missed three years with a chronic knee injury. And Winnipeg hasn't changed much from the group that was the best in the NHL last season, making the Central an unending gantlet from October through the playoffs, with at least three Stanley Cup contenders at the top.

"Unless you win the Cup, it's a failure," said Jets goaltender Connor Hellebuyck, who won the Vezina Trophy as well as the Hart as MVP. "It doesn't matter how far you make it. You're always looking for what's going to get you to the next step, and that's where we are now."

## On the rise

Colorado's point total has declined from 119 points during the championship season to 109, 107 and 102, but two-time Norris Trophy-winning defenseman and 2022 playoff MVP Cale Makar isn't bothered. Landeskog is back, Nathan MacKinnon and Makar remain two of the top five players in the league and the Avalanche believe they've found their goalie in Mackenzie Blackwood.

"We're going into this year with — as of right now, knock on wood — fully healthy," Makar said. "There's no question marks with anything. ... Just as a collective whole, I think it's a completely different feel with our organization and the excitement that's around us."

Dallas has a new coach, Glen Gulutzan, after firing Peter DeBoer following a rough end to the most recent trip to the West final when he abruptly pulled Oettinger and seemed to pin outsized blame on the franchise netminder. Oettinger says the Stars are full of confidence about getting over the hump.

Just getting to the playoffs would be momentous for the Utah Mammoth in their first season with that name and second in Salt Lake City since relocating from Arizona. The young core of captain Clayton Keller, fellow forward Logan Cooley and defenseman Mikhail Sergachev got a boost with an offseason acquisition of two-time 25-goal-scorer JJ Peterka and the Mammoth look capable of taking a big step forward.

"Each year, we've kind of gotten a bit better and realized how hard it is to win and how just tough it is make it, year in and year out," Keller said. "It's an exciting time, and I think we're all ready for that challenge and I really think JJ is going to help us out."

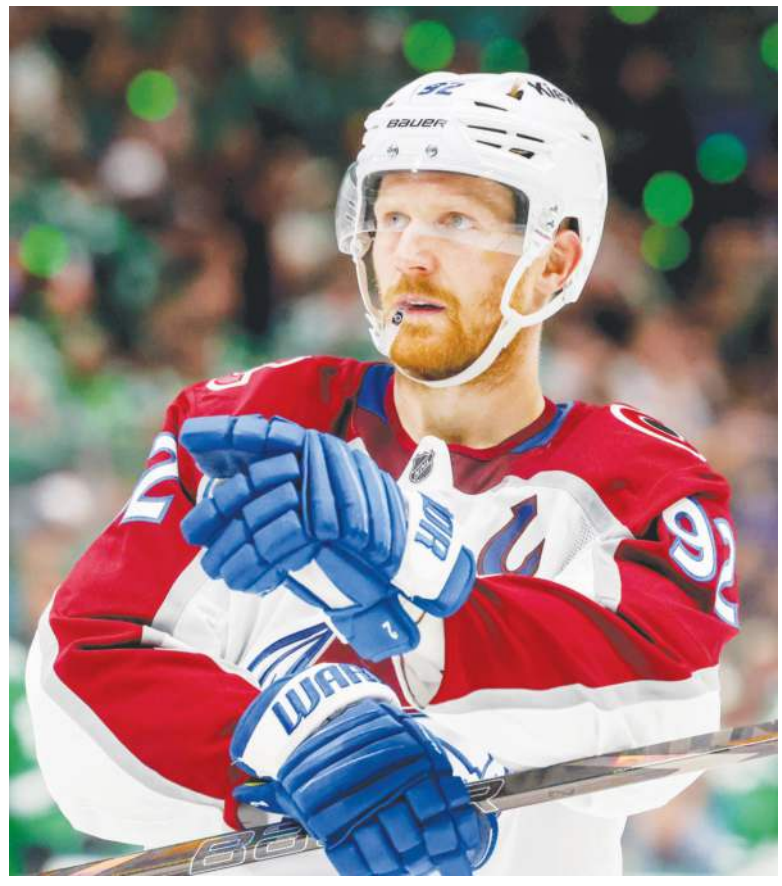
## On the decline

Winnipeg has nowhere to go but down in the regular season after winning the Presidents' Trophy with 116 points on 56 wins. The Jets should still be one of the NHL's best.

Chicago is expected to struggle in 2023 No. 1 pick Connor Bedard's third season. The good news: There are some exciting young players around him, from forward Frank Nazar to defenseman Artyom Levshunov and the Blackhawks hope Spencer Knight is their solution in net. It will take more time — especially with the salary cap rising — to improve.

Nashville general manager Barry Trotz joked at the start of training camp he was hoping the Predators would prove preseason expectations wrong a third time in a row. Two years ago that was a good thing when they made the playoffs and not so much in 2024-25 when they were a massive bust following a free agent spending spree.

"We started gelling and started playing more team hockey by the end of the season, so we once last season ended, I think everyone was just hitching to get a clean slate," said Brady Skjei, who was one of those additions on a seven-year, $49 million contract. "We really got to start off on the right foot this year and have a great start — kind of get that swagger back that we've known a lot of us have had in the past."



Gareth Patterson/AP

**The Avalanche have captain Gabriel Landeskog back healthy after missing three years. That has given Colorado hope they return to the form it showed when it scored 119 points and won the championship.**

# Atlantic teams on the rise still have to get past Florida duo

By John Wawrow
*Associated Press*

Of the NHL's four divisions, the Atlantic has stood above all recently and that is not going to change this year if the threepeat-minded Florida Panthers have their say.

No matter how many games — 314 including playoffs — the two-time defending champion Panthers have logged making three straight Stanley Cup Final appearances, or the loss of captain Aleksander Barkov to a season-ending injury, forward Sam Reinhart has faith Florida is bigger than the sum of its parts.

"It's a team in every sense," Reinhart said. "I think just the trust in each other and the confidence that that when the moment comes to us, we're going to be prepared to play our game."

The band — including Brad Marchand — is mostly back together in south Florida, minus Barkov and with Matthew Tkachuk out until December after surgery to repair a sports hernia and torn adductor muscle.

And the Cup familiarly runs through the state of Florida, after the Panthers displaced the two-time Cup-winning Tampa Bay Lightning, who won back-to-back titles in 2020 and '21, before losing to Colorado in '22.

The Toronto Maple Leafs remain contenders, even though there's no more talk of the "Core 4" following Mitch Marner's offseason departure for Vegas. And there's a revived regional rivalry brewing between Ottawa and Montreal, who feature lineups filled with youth, speed and talent.



Chris O'Meara/AP

**Tampa Bay captain Victor Hedman knows the Lightning can't get back to the Stanley Cup Final if they can't get past archrival Florida.**

All totaled, the Atlantic has produced the Eastern Conference's past seven finalists, including Tampa Bay and Montreal meeting at the end of the pandemic-altered 2021 season. And the NHL hasn't featured a division as dominant as the Atlantic since Edmonton and Calgary ruled the Smythe in the 1980s.

That leaves Buffalo, in the midst of an NHL-record 14-season playoff drought, Detroit and the rebuilding Boston Bruins bringing up the rear.

In Tampa Bay, captain Victor Hedman is itching to renew the Lightning's rivalry with the Panthers after being eliminated by Florida in the first round of each of the past two playoffs.

"They have a phenomenal team. And they have everyone staying, pretty much," Hedman said.

"If we get them again, we know each other inside and out."

## On the rise

The Canadiens are ahead of schedule in making the playoffs three years into GM Kent Hughes' rebuilding plan. Montreal is stocked with emerging talent with forward Juraj Slafkovsky and defenseman Lane Hutson, the NHL's rookie of the year last season.

The Canadiens beefed up their blue line by landing Noah Dobson in a trade with the Islanders. Meantime, there's buzz revolving around 2024 first-round pick Ivan Demidov, who made the jump from Russia at the end of last season, and forward Oliver Kapanen competing for a roster spot.

"I feel I'm equipped with more options than I ever had in the past, which is a good problem to have," Canadiens coach Martin St. Louis said.

The Senators also made a jump in qualifying for the playoffs for the first time in eight seasons under first-year coach Travis Green.

"For us, it comes down to knowing that we have the capacity to do it again but also have the humbleness to understand that it's not going to be automatic," said Linus Ullmark, who solidified the Senators goaltending position last year.

## On the decline

The Bruins are in rebuilding mode a mere two seasons after setting the NHL record with 135 points. Boston bottomed out in finishing last in the Atlantic with 76 points. Former player Marco Sturm takes over as a first-time head coach.

And the team is leaning heavily on forward David Pastrnak to lead the offense and defenseman Charlie McAvoy to rebound from an injury-shortened season. Goaltender Jeremy Swayman had 29 losses in 58 outings last season after just 33 losses in his first 132 career appearances.

NHL PREVIEW

# Oilers are still the class of Pacific Division

By Stephen Whyno
*Associated Press*

Connor McDavid, Leon Draisaitl and the Edmonton Oilers, for all the questions swirling around them, remain the class of the Pacific Division when it comes to success when it matters most.

While the Oilers extended McDavid on Monday, goaltending remains an uncertainty, but they've won the Western Conference to reach the Stanley Cup Final each of the past two years and are favored to do so again.

"They're a good team — they're a great team," Los Angeles Kings forward Adrian Kempe said. "They are arguably one of the two best teams the last two years in the playoffs, so they're tough to beat."

The Vegas Golden Knights after adding Mitch Marner to a core that has already won a championship figure to be the strongest challenger. Kempe's Kings, in captain Anze Kopitar's final NHL season, could also push the Oilers.



Mark J. Terrill/AP

**Los Angeles Kings right wing Adrian Kempe celebrates scoring a goal last season against the Edmonton Oilers in Los Angeles.**

The Anaheim Ducks look primed to make a major leap forward under new coach Joel Quenneville.

"He's done it before: He's won three Stanley Cups for a reason," Ducks center Mason McTavish said. "Obviously, he's got a great relationship with his players and he leans on them and we lean on him. Super excited to play for him and give him my all."

## On the rise

Vegas finished atop the Pacific last season with five more standings points than LA and nine more than Edmonton. Getting Marner in a sign-and-trade from Toronto and inking him to a $96 million contract through his prime only makes the Golden Knights more likely to hoist that silver chalice again.

"Tons of credit to management to be able to add a player like Mitch," said No. 1 center Jack Eichel, who is unsigned beyond this season. "It goes to say a lot about our organization and playing here. Obviously Mitch was going to be a free agent and had, I would assume, his pick of the litter of where he wanted to play, so I think that there's something to be said for that."

Quenneville's hire isn't the only reason for optimism in Orange County. The Ducks have someone they think is a budding elite goaltender in Lukas Dostal and young talent including McTavish, Cutter Gauthier, Leo Carlsson and Jackson LaCombe.

Add to them the acquisition of veteran forward Chris Kreider, and it's a mix that might have the Ducks playoff-bound for the first time since 2018.

"I think that's what we really needed was those veteran guys," said Dostal, who will get more action in net after the trade of John Gibson to Detroit. "They're going to really help our young core."

## On the decline

Vancouver — at least for now — has one of the best defensemen in the NHL in captain Quinn Hughes. Brother Jack has made no secret about wanting to play with Quinn, who has two years left on his contract.

The Canucks lost coach Rick Tocchet, promoted Adam Foote to take his place and may need goalie Thatcher Demko to carry them many nights. J.T. Miller plays for the New York Rangers now after a schism with Elias Pettersson led to a trade, and Quinn Hughes just hopes everyone can move on from that drama.

"Our team should be in a position now where there's no distractions," Hughes said. "We've got a new coaching staff, and hopefully Demko's healthy and we'll be ready to go."

Seattle also has a new coach, Lane Lambert, after the experiment with Dan Bylsma lasted only one season that ended 20 points out of the final playoff spot in the West.

"We really underperformed what we're capable of," said captain Jordan Eberle, who believes the Kraken "definitely need to be in the mix" for a playoff spot. That would be a surprise.

## Scoreboard

**Eastern Conference**

**Atlantic Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Florida | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Detroit | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ottawa | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Buffalo | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Toronto | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Montreal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Boston | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tampa Bay | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Metropolitan Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N.Y. Rangers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pittsburgh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Jersey | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Washington | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Columbus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Carolina | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Philadelphia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Western Conference**

**Central Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colorado | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dallas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nashville | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| St. Louis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Minnesota | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chicago | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Winnipeg | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Utah | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Pacific Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anaheim | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vegas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Calgary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vancouver | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Los Angeles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| San Jose | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Seattle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Edmonton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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

**Tuesday's games**

Chicago at Florida
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers
Colorado at Los Angeles

**Wednesday's games**

Montreal at Toronto
Boston at Washington
Calgary at Edmonton
Los Angeles at Vegas

# Season: Panthers eye first threepeat in decades

FROM PAGE 24

good as you can from the start."

Hedman and the Lightning won the Cup back to back in 2020 and '21. Crosby's Pittsburgh Penguins did it in '16 and '17. No team has gone back to back to back since the New York Islanders won four consecutive championships from 1980-83.

During an offseason availability, Hedman joked, "They're not going to win three in a row" as he walked past Florida star Sam Reinhart, but who's betting against a team that has won 11 of 12 playoff series since trading for Matthew Tkachuk and hiring Paul Maurice as coach?

Barkov's long-term injury, and Tkachuk likely missing the first two months after his own surgery gives the Panthers longer odds. They're now 11-1 to win it all, behind co-favorites Edmonton and Vegas as well as Carolina, Colorado and Dallas, according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

"Be the best you can be at the start of the season: That's all you can focus on," Reinhart said. "What we learned last year is throughout it, you kind of have that — not necessarily doubt, but you kind of wonder if you're going to have it again, that juice, that energy. You just kind of trust that you'll find it when the time comes."

Champions usually suffer a bit of attrition, but with the salary cap increasing a record amount, Florida kept all three of its big three free agents: playoff MVP Sam Bennett, defenseman Aaron Ekblad and winger Brad Marchand, whose acquisition at the trade deadline paved the way for another parade in Fort Lauderdale.



Gene J. Puskar/AP

**The Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby looks on during the first day of training camp. Crosby knows how difficult it is to win three in a row.**

"They're the top dog right now," Carolina's Seth Jarvis said.

## Other contenders

Florida has won consecutive finals against McDavid and the Oilers with one of the best teams constructed since the NHL's cap era began in 2005.

Edmonton, with McDavid and longtime running mate Leon Draisaitl, is an 8-1 Cup co-favorite with Vegas. After Minnesota signed Kirill Kaprizov to a record-setting $136 million contract just before the season started, all eyes are on McDavid, who could break the bank if he stays or goes.

"I have every intention to win in Edmonton — that's my only focus maybe next to winning a gold medal with Canada," McDavid told reporters in Calgary in August. "I want the group to be as focused and dialed in and ready to roll come Day 1 as possible. We don't need any distractions."

The other rivals with shorter title odds than the Panthers are Jarvis' Hurricanes, MacKinnon's Colorado Avalanche and the Stars. Dallas reached the Western Conference final each of the past three years.

"It's just what do we have to do to get over that hump?" Stars goaltender Jake Oettinger said. "We have pretty much same group of guy, and a lot of guys are entering their prime or in their prime right now and we feel like now's our time to do it."

## Other storylines

The league is full of other intriguing things to watch:

■ Alex Ovechkin breaking Wayne Gretzky's career goals record in April was a highlight of last season. The 40-year-old Washington Capitals captain goes into the final year of his contract — and maybe his final NHL season — with needing ony three goals to reach 900.

"Knowing Ovi, it probably won't take that long," teammate Pierre-Luc Dubois said.

■ While Crosby and the Penguins are languishing through a rebuild that sparks plenty of trade rumors, Sullivan taking over the Rangers is one of nine coaching changes leaguewide. Fellow multiple-time Stanley Cup champion Joel Quenneville is also back behind a bench with Anaheim, his first job since the investigation into Chicago's 2010 sexual assault allegations.

■ Auston Matthews said he is healthy going into the season, and that makes Toronto's captain a legitimate candidate to score 60 goals. Former Maple Leafs teammate Mitch Marner could also put up 100 points with the Vegas Golden Knights.

■ New York Islanders No. 1 pick Matthew Schaefer headlines an intriguing rookie class that includes skilled Montreal winger Ivan Demidov and Washington's Ryan Leonard.

■ The Penguins and Nashville Predators are set to play two games in Sweden in November. Four teams are taking it outside in the Sunshine State this winter: The Panthers host the Rangers on Jan. 2 in the Winter Classic, and the Lightning and Boston Bruins face off in the Stadium Series in Tampa on Feb. 1.

# NHL PREVIEW/AUTO RACING



KARL B DEBLAKER/AP

**The Hurricanes' Seth Jarvis skates with the puck against the Panthers in the playoffs last season. Carolina has been a legitimate contender but it keeps running into Florida in the Eastern Conference.**

## Metropolitan old guard holding on amid changes

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
*Associated Press*

The winds are beginning to change in the NHL's Metropolitan Division, though not before the old guard gets at least one more shot.

Washington easily won the division last season and has much of the same lineup back, potentially with career goal scoring leader Alex Ovechkin playing his final season for the Capitals.

Carolina added one of the top free agents in Nikolaj Ehlers to a core that has been to the Eastern Conference final two of the past three years. while the New York Rangers have a new coach in Mike Sullivan. Across the river in New Jersey, the Devils are getting No. 1 center Jack Hughes back healthy and ready to make the run they've been building toward.

"Everybody's goal is to win a Stanley Cup, but to do that you've got to have the right process," New Jersey general manager Tom Fitzgerald said. "Consistency from the get go is so important. I think the top teams are consistent from game one to game 82 and then carry it over into the playoffs."

Just getting into the top eight in the East to make the playoffs is tough to crack for those on the outside looking in. That includes the Rangers, who are counting on Sullivan getting them back after a disappointing year.

### On the rise

The Hurricanes keep running into the Florida Panthers, similarly to how the Capitals and Pittsburgh Penguins knocked each other out so many times during the Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby rivalry heyday. Still, there is belief in Raleigh that in the eighth year under Rod Brind'Amour Carolina can get over the hump and play for the Cup.

"Our group has seen a lot of different scenarios, and when we get to those moments now, I do think we have a lot more confidence and we're a little bit more comfortable in those positions," said center Seth Jarvis, who led the team with 32 goals last season. "Obviously there is a few more steps you have to take till you win, but I think for me for the last five years we've always had a super competitive team, so just knowing that every year we have a chance to compete and a chance to win is awesome."

The Rangers made the East final in 2024, though much has gone wrong since. Jacob Trouba and Chris Kreider are gone, shipped to Anaheim in separate trades, Peter Laviolette was fired and replaced by Sullivan and GM Chris Drury sought to upgrade on defense by signing Vladislav Gavrikov and trading K'Andre Miller.

"The expectations haven't changed," Drury said. "You can't win the whole thing without getting in the playoffs. We want to just keep getting better every week, every month: hopefully accumulate enough points and wins to get in the playoffs and go from there."

### On the decline

The Penguins continue to languish near the bottom of the standings, even with Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and Kris Letang still around and under contract. Crosby has been the subject of trade rumors, which he understands since Pittsburgh has missed the playoffs each of the past three years. Crosby still wants to win at 38, but the postseason seems a distant hope for the only NHL organization he has ever played for.

There's more hope around the New York Islanders after they won the draft lottery and selected smooth-skating defenseman Matthew Schaefer with the first pick. But after being in the mix and deciding to sell at the deadline, it feels like a time of transition on Long Island with sights set more on winning down the road than right now.

It's similar in Philadelphia with new coach Rick Tocchet taking over the day-to-day operations of a rebuilding process. Exciting young prospect Matvei Michkov should be even better in his second season in North America, but the Flyers aren't taking that next step yet.

## Logano clinches final playoff spot in dramatic finish

BY JENNA FRYER
*Associated Press*

CONCORD, N.C. — Joey Logano, winner of two of the last three Cup Series championships, was never part of the conversation of potential elimination from NASCAR playoffs.

At least not until Sunday's race at Charlotte Motor Speedway, where the Team Penske driver found himself struggling most of the race and in a tense battle with Ross Chastain for the final spot in the round of eight.

The two swapped the final transfer spot multiple times as NASCAR prepared to cut the field from 12 drivers to eight ahead of the third round of the playoffs. Chastain was in, then it was Logano, then the two were tied with Logano holding the tiebreaker.

> **"We're still in. We're still alive, baby."**
>
> **Joey Logano**

Logano, on fresher tires, worked his way through the field for every point possible. Chastain was nursing old Goodyears and holding off every challenging driver closing quickly in his rearview mirror.

But then came Denny Hamlin, who for the second week in a row played a pivotal role in the finish and the playoff field. A week ago, his hard racing of Bubba Wallace kept Wallace from winning at Kansas Speedway and ultimately led to Wallace being eliminated from the playoffs.

This time it was chasing down Chastain. The two cars had contact, Chastain spun, and crossed the finish line backward in 21st, one spot behind Logano. It was enough to give Logano the final spot in the third round of the playoffs and eliminate Chastain.

An animated Hamlin on pit road complained to his No. 11 crew that he was not made aware of the situation and would not have passed Chastain had he known it would benefit three-time Cup Series champion Logano.

"I didn't know anything about anything on that last run, I wasn't very good," Hamlin said. "I saw (Chastain) and I didn't know anything about anything going on. I didn't know. I thought I was racing for about 18th. I just wish I knew so I could have been either prepared or made a different decision."

Shane van Gisbergen, meanwhile, won his fifth consecutive race on a road or street course. Charlotte, called The Roval in this configuration, is a hybrid road course/oval.

The theory headed into Charlotte was that van Gisbergen had the race locked up and the only way a driver below the cutline could save his championship chances was if the New Zealander was beat.

Kyle Larson and Christopher Bell both put tough challenges on van Gisbergen, but van Gisbergen emerged from a car-slamming battle with Larson through the turns with 14 laps remaining and took the lead for good with 11 laps remaining.

That eliminated any shot for Tyler Reddick and Wallace of 23XI Racing, or Austin Cindric of Team Penske, claiming the final playoff position. Chastain of Trackhouse Racing remained in the hunt, though, as Logano couldn't get his Penske Ford running well enough to secure his spot in the playoffs.

"Everybody was telling me how close it was going to be there. We're still in. We're still alive, baby," Logano said as he reveled in a loud chorus of fan booing. "I knew it was within a point there, and I knew we were going to be tied there at the end and Ross was going to do whatever he had to do to make it happen.

"If you want drama, the playoffs bring it every time. What an entertaining finish there. We've still got a shot."

It was similar to a year ago when Logano left Charlotte eliminated from the playoffs, only to learn hours later while having dinner with his family that Alex Bowman had been disqualified and Logano was back in the field. He went on to win the Cup Series championship.

"Unforced errors, it's just terrible," Chastain said of two early race speeding penalties that made him want to "start the whole day over."

"It's heartbreaking for almost 200 employees at Trackhouse," Chastain said. "It's not acceptable, just completely unacceptable. To get here and fail is a terrible feeling. I will wake up tomorrow and get right back to work."

The eight drivers moving on to the third round of the playoffs are Ryan Blaney and Logano of Penske, Chase Elliott, Larson and William Byron of Hendrick Motorsports, Hamlin, Bell and Chase Briscoe of Joe Gibbs Racing.

Chastain, Cindric, Reddick and Wallace were eliminated — which takes both of the Michael Jordan-owned cars out of title contention.

NFL ROUNDUP

# Titans snap skid with crazy rally vs. Cards

*Associated Press*

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Cam Ward threw for a career-high 265 yards, Joey Slye made a 29-yard field goal as time expired and the Tennessee Titans snapped a 10-game skid with an improbable fourth-quarter comeback, beating the mistake-prone Arizona Cardinals 22-21 on Sunday.

The Titans (1-4) trailed 21-6 in the fourth quarter, but took advantage of two massive Cardinals blunders to win the game.

Emari Demercado looked as if he ran for a game-sealing 72-yard touchdown with 12:51 left, but the running back dropped the ball in celebration just before he ran into the end zone. Instead of giving the Cardinals a 28-6 lead, it was ruled a fumble out the back of the end zone, giving the Titans possession at their 20.

Tennessee took advantage of the blunder, driving 80 yards for its first touchdown in eight quarters. Calvin Ridley caught a pass for 47 yards during the scoring drive, which was capped by Tony Pollard's 1-yard touchdown run, making it 21-12.

Slye missed the extra point, keeping it at a two-possession game.

Arizona (2-3) made another huge miscue later when Dadrion Taylor-Demerson intercepted Ward's pass but immediately fumbled. Titans receiver Tyler Lockett fell on the ball in the end zone, cutting the Cardinals lead to 21-19 with 4:51 left.

The Cardinals had a chance to close the game on offense, but couldn't make it happen. They punted to the Titans with two minutes left and Ward completed a 38-yard pass to Ridley on the game-winning drive, setting up Slye's field goal.

Ridley finished with five catches for 131 yards.



RICK SCUTERI/AP

**The Titans' Tyler Lockett recovers a Cardinals fumble for a touchdown, which started Tennessee's comeback in the fourth quarter.**

**Colts 40, Raiders 6:** Jonathan Taylor ran for three touchdowns and a 2-point conversion, and Daniel Jones threw two touchdown passes as host Indianapolis routed Las Vegas.

The 34-point margin was Indy's largest since it won 37-3 at Jacksonville in 2013.

Jones finished 20 of 29 for 212 yards and moved to 4-1 as a starter this year, surpassing his combined victory total over the past two seasons with the New York Giants. Taylor rushed 17 times for 66 yards and caught three passes for 20 yards — ending a streak of nine straight games with 95 yards or more from scrimmage.

The Colts (4-1) took full advantage of the Raiders' miscues. They converted a blocked punt, two interceptions and a turnover on downs into TDs.

Las Vegas (1-4) lost its fourth straight on another productive day for Ashton Jeanty. The rookie had 14 carries for 67 yards and five receptions for 42 yards. Geno Smith was 25 of 36 for 228 yards with the two picks.

**Texans 44, Ravens 10:** C.J. Stroud threw for 244 yards and four touchdowns, and Houston strolled to a win over a depleted Baltimore team, matching both the most lopsided road win in Texans' history and the most lopsided home loss in Ravens' history.

Baltimore (1-4) was without two-time MVP quarterback Lamar Jackson, and that was far from its only problem. Defensive standouts Kyle Hamilton, Roquan Smith and Marlon Humphrey all missed the game, and the Ravens already were weakened on that side of the ball because of a neck problem that ended Nnamdi Madubuike's season. Baltimore was also without All-Pro fullback Patrick Ricard and tackle Ronnie Stanley.

The Texans (2-3) outgained the Ravens 417-207 and won their second straight game after losing their first three. Houston scored on its first eight possessions before Stroud exited after a 23-for-27 passing day.

The Ravens have lost 10 of their last 12 games when playing without Jackson.

Before the season, this probably looked like one of the toughest games on Houston's schedule. The Texans had lost six straight to the Ravens and failed to score an offensive touchdown in the last three meetings. That drought ended immediately Sunday, when Houston drove 67 yards in 10 plays on the game's first possession and scored on a 5-yard pass from Stroud to Xavier Hutchinson.

**Cowboys 37, Jets 22:** Dak Prescott threw two of his four touchdown passes to Jake Ferguson, Dallas scored on two 90-yard drives in the second quarter with a makeshift offensive line missing four starters and the visiting Cowboys rolled past winless New York.

Prescott finished 18 of 29 for 237 yards behind a line that had left guard Tyler Smith (knee), left tackle Tyler Guyton (concussion), right guard Tyler Booker (ankle) and center Cooper Beebe (foot) all out. Right tackle Terence Steele was the only regular starter playing.

The Cowboys' victory gave coach Brian Schottenheimer a win over the team for which he was the offensive coordinator from 2006-11. It also kept the Jets (0-5) winless under Aaron Glenn, who's the first coach in franchise history to begin his tenure with five losses. It's New York's fourth 0-5 start and first since starting 0-13 in 2020 under Adam Gase.

**Saints 26, Giants 14:** Spencer Rattler passed for an 87-yard touchdown to Rashid Shaheed, safety Jordan Howden returned a fumble 86 yards for a score, and host New Orleans defeated turnover-prone New York for the Saints' first victory under rookie coach Kellen Moore.

Rattler earned his first victory in 11 career starts, passing for 225 yards without a turnover, while Shaheed finished with four catches for 114 yards for the Saints (1-4).

New York (1-4) turned the ball over five times in all, none more costly than when running back Cam Skattebo was stripped by defensive tackle Bryan Bresee at the Saints 12-yard line, giving Howden the chance to scoop up the loose ball on the 14 and sprint untouched the other way early in the fourth quarter.

**Panthers 27, Dolphins 24:** Bryce Young threw a go-ahead, 4-yard touchdown pass to Mitchell Evans with 1:59 remaining, Rico Dowdle ran for 206 yards and a score, and host Carolina overcame a 17-point first-half deficit to beat Miami.

Young completed 19 of 30 passes for 198 yards and two touchdowns after turning the ball over on Carolina's first two possessions, leading to two touchdown passes by Tua Tagovailoa and a 17-0 Miami lead.

Making his first start for the Panthers, Dowdle matched the second-highest rushing total in franchise history.

The Panthers (2-3) remained unbeaten at home and equaled a franchise record with their 17-point comeback. Carolina improved to 4-117 (including playoffs) when trailing by 17 or more.

Tagovailoa finished 27 of 36 for 256 yards with TD passes to De'Von Achane, Darren Waller and Jaylen Waddle in Miami's first game since Tyreek Hill sustained a season-ending knee injury.

**Buccaneers 38, Seahawks 35:** Lavonte David intercepted Sam Darnold with 58 seconds left and Chase McLaughlin kicked a 39-yard field goal as time expired to give Tampa Bay a thrilling road win over Seattle.

Baker Mayfield tied it for the Bucs (4-1) by throwing an 11-yard touchdown pass to Sterling Shepard with 1:08 left, and the Seahawks (3-2) took over with the chance to drive for the winning score.

After a short completion to Cooper Kupp, Darnold was intercepted while throwing off his back foot and toward the middle of the field. His pass deflected off defensive end Logan Hall's helmet and into David's hands.

Tampa Bay took over at the Seattle 36, making further heroics by Mayfield unnecessary. Rachaad White ran three times for 15 yards to get the Bucs well within McLaughlin's range, Mayfield took a knee to run the clock down, and McLaughlin ended it with his third field goal of the day.

**Commanders 27, Chargers 10:** Jacory Croskey-Merritt scored two touchdowns, and visiting Washington rallied from a 10-point deficit after forcing a big fumble in the second quarter to score 27 straight points and beat Los Angeles.

Washington's Jayden Daniels was 15 of 26 for 231 yards and a touchdown in the game's final minute in helping the Commanders (3-2) win for the first time on the road after missing two games with an injured left knee.

The Chargers (3-2) were one of the least penalized teams in the first three weeks of the season, when they were 3-0. But they were done in by sloppy play last week, with 15 penalties for 107 yards in a 21-18 loss at the New York Giants.

**Lions 37, Bengals 24:** David Montgomery ran for a touchdown and threw for one on a trick play in his hometown, Jared Goff passed for three scores and the visiting Detroit Lions rolled to their fourth straight win, over the reeling Cincinnati.

Montgomery, a seven-year veteran, had passing and rushing scores in a game for the second time. The bruising rusher played quarterback at Cincinnati Mt. Healthy High School.

Jahmyr Gibbs also scored for the Lions (4-1), marking the 14th time the third-year running back and Montgomery have each had a TD. That tied Dallas' duo of Emmitt Smith and Daryl Johnston for the most in NFL history.

NFL

# Broncos rally to knock off Eagles

BY DAN GELSTON
*Associated Press*

PHILADELPHIA — Sean Payton had a game ball in hand and stories to tell after he passed his mentor and friend Bill Parcells on the NFL career wins list. The pair of Super Bowl champion coaches caught up recently and shot the breeze, talking about playing tough road games against NFC East teams.

Bo Nix led the Broncos on three scoring drives on three possessions in the fourth quarter, J.K. Dobbins rushed for a 2-yard score in the period and the Broncos wiped out a 14-point deficit to hand the Philadelphia Eagles their first loss of the season, 21-17.

The Broncos batted down Jalen Hurts' last-gasp pass on the final play of the game to send the Super Bowl champions to just their second loss in their last 22 games.

"We just kind of had this sense that we just needed one drive. Let's go down the field, one play at a time, let's put a drive together," Nix said.

Nix had a few of them in his fourth-quarter rally that helped Payton earn his 173rd win to pass Parcells.

He completed 9 of 10 passes for 126 yards and threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Evan Engram in the fourth to stun an Eagles team that totally collapsed over the final 15 minutes.

The Broncos (3-2) caught a huge break in their rally when the Eagles had a late fourth-down conversion called back on an illegal shift penalty whistled against running back Saquon Barkley. The Eagles (4-1) were instead forced to punt.

Nix threw for 242 yards and Denver's formula of run-first offense and a dominant defense came to life in the fourth quarter.

The Broncos totaled just 199 yards and trailed 17-3 at the end of the third before Nix got the offense rolling. Dobbins, who followed his 101 yards rushing against Cincinnati with 79 yards on Sunday, punched in a 2-yard TD run in the fourth to make it 17-10.

The Broncos got the ball back and Nix hit Courtland Sutton for 34 yards on the decisive drive. Nix connected over the middle with Engram for the 11-yard TD.



CHRIS SZAGOLA/AP

**Broncos quarterback Bo Nix looks to pass during the second half against the Eagles on Sunday in Philadelphia. Nix led Denver on three scoring drives in the fourth quarter.**

Payton gambled for the 2-point conversion and the Broncos got it when Nix hit Troy Franklin for an 18-17 lead with 7:36 left in the game.

Yet, these are the Eagles and they weren't going to just easily surrender their 10-game winning streak.

At fourth-and-4 from the Eagles 49, Hurts hit DeVonta Smith on a long reception for what should have been a first down, only for the flag on Barkley to wipe it off the board. Smith had eight catches and 114 yards receiving.

That was it for the Eagles. Wil Lutz tacked on a 36-yard field goal with 1:11 left for a 21-17 lead.

"You don't get a chance to play these games that have a ton of upside," Payton said. "Now don't get me wrong, there's downside, but there's a ton of upside relative to defining what you become. And this is one of them. I think they were confident coming in. I asked them afterwards, 'Who are you afraid of?'"

It sure wasn't the Eagles.

# Diggs helps Patriots hand Bills first loss of season

BY JOHN WAWROW
*Associated Press*

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Receiver Stefon Diggs is quite comfortable putting on a show in Buffalo. The big difference on Sunday night was doing so for the Bills' division rival New England Patriots.

Diggs had 10 catches for 146 yards, with 119 coming in the second half, in a 23-20 win over the Bills sealed by Andy Borregales hitting a 52-yard field goal with 15 seconds remaining.

In teaming up with quarterback Drake Maye and Rhamondre Stevenson, who scored two touchdowns rushing, the Patriots left the NFL without an undefeated team five weeks into the season.

Diggs followed up his six-catch, 101-yard outing in in last week's 43-13 win over Carolina by topping it in the 31-year-old's first return to Orchard Park, New York, since his four-year stint in Buffalo ended with him being traded to Houston in April 2024.

It's a test the up-and-coming Patriots passed under Maye, the blossoming second-year starter, first-year coach Mike Vrabel and veteran running back Rhamondre Stevenson, who scored on 4- and 7-yard runs.



ADRIAN KRAUS/AP

**Patriots Stefon Diggs, left, and Hunter Henry celebrate a win over the Bills on Sunday. Diggs had 10 catches for 146 yards.**

The Patriots won back-to-back games for the first time since winning three in a row midway through the 2022 season. New England has a winning record through five games for the first time since opening the 2019 season 8-0. And the Patriots tightened the AFC East race by moving within one game of the five-time defending division champion Bills (4-1).

Maye finished 22-for-30 for 273 yards, and was near-perfect in the second half by going 13-for-14 for 184 yards. No throw was more impressive than when he began the final drive by eluding the grasp of Bills defensive tackle DaQuan Jones and getting off a 12-yard completion to Diggs.

The Bills essentially beat themselves in snapping a 14-game home winning streak that was one short of the franchise record and dated to a 24-22 loss to Denver on Nov. 13, 2023.

The Bills had 11 accepted penalties for 90 yards against them.

Buffalo and Philadelphia entered the day as the NFL's last unbeaten teams. The Eagles lost to visiting Denver. It's the first time since 2014 and seventh time since the 1970 merger that no team has started 5-0.

The Patriots' defense limited James Cook to 49 yards on 15 carries. Cook was held under 100 yards from scrimmage for the first time this season, and his streak of eight games with a rushing touchdown was snapped.

## Scoreboard

### American Conference

**East**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Buffalo | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 153 | 113 |
| New England | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 125 | 101 |
| Miami | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 107 | 145 |
| N.Y. Jets | 0 | 5 | 0 | .000 | 112 | 157 |

**South**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indianapolis | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 163 | 89 |
| Jacksonville | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 96 | 72 |
| Houston | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 108 | 61 |
| Tennessee | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 73 | 141 |

**North**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pittsburgh | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 96 | 98 |
| Cincinnati | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 85 | 156 |
| Baltimore | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 141 | 177 |
| Cleveland | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 73 | 123 |

**West**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 117 | 84 |
| L.A. Chargers | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 98 | 98 |
| Kansas City | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 97 | 76 |
| Las Vegas | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 83 | 139 |

### National Conference

**East**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Philadelphia | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 125 | 109 |
| Washington | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 134 | 101 |
| Dallas | 2 | 2 | 1 | .500 | 151 | 154 |
| N.Y. Giants | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 87 | 127 |

**South**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tampa Bay | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 135 | 132 |
| Atlanta | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 76 | 86 |
| Carolina | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 102 | 119 |
| New Orleans | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 92 | 135 |

**North**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Detroit | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 174 | 112 |
| Green Bay | 2 | 1 | 1 | .625 | 104 | 84 |
| Minnesota | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 123 | 97 |
| Chicago | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 101 | 117 |

**West**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Francisco | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 106 | 98 |
| L.A. Rams | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 123 | 107 |
| Seattle | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 146 | 105 |
| Arizona | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 103 | 96 |

**Thursday's game**

San Francisco 26, L.A. Rams 23, OT

**Sunday's games**

Minnesota 21, Cleveland 17
Carolina 27, Miami 24
Dallas 37, N.Y. Jets 22
Denver 21, Philadelphia 17
Houston 44, Baltimore 10
Indianapolis 40, Las Vegas 6
New Orleans 26, N.Y. Giants 14
Tampa Bay 38, Seattle 35
Tennessee 22, Arizona 21
Detroit 37, Cincinnati 24
Washington 27, L.A. Chargers 10
New England 23, Buffalo 20
**Open:** Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Chicago, Green Bay

**Monday's game**

Kansas City at Jacksonville

**Thursday, Oct. 9**

Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants

**Sunday, Oct. 12**

Denver vs N.Y. Jets at London
Arizona at Indianapolis
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Dallas at Carolina
L.A. Chargers at Miami
L.A. Rams at Baltimore
New England at New Orleans
Seattle at Jacksonville
Tennessee at Las Vegas
Cincinnati at Green Bay
San Francisco at Tampa Bay
Detroit at Kansas City
**Open:** Houston, Minnesota

**Monday, Oct. 13**

Buffalo at Atlanta
Chicago at Washington

**Thursday, Oct. 16**

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati

**Sunday, Oct. 19**

L.A. Rams at Jacksonville
Las Vegas at Kansas City
Carolina at N.Y. Jets
Miami at Cleveland
New England at Tennessee
New Orleans at Chicago
Philadeplhia at Minnesota
N.Y. Giants at Denver
Indianapolis at L.A. Chargers
Green Bay at Arizona
Washington at Dallas
Atlanta at San Francisco

MLB

# Yesavage, Guerrero help Jays thump Yankees

BY IAN HARRISON
*Associated Press*

TORONTO — Rookie Trey Yesavage set a Blue Jays postseason record by striking out 11 in 5⅓ no-hit innings, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit the first postseason grand slam in team history and Toronto beat the New York Yankees 13-7 on Sunday to take a 2-0 lead in the ALDS.

Daulton Varsho had two home runs among his four extra base hits, and Ernie Clement and George Springer also both homered as Toronto reached double figures in hits (15) and runs for the second straight game.

The Blue Jays had three home runs among their 14 hits Saturday in a 10-1 victory. They have more home runs (eight) than strikeouts (seven) through two games.

Varsho went 4-for-5 with two doubles, scored four runs and drove in four. Guerrero went 3 for 5 and scored twice.

Cody Bellinger homered and drove in three runs and Ben Rice had two hits and two RBIs but Toronto won for the eighth time in nine home meetings with New York. The Blue Jays went 2-4 in six games at Yankee Stadium, where the series shifts for Game 3 on Tuesday night.

Yesavage (1-0) was selected by Toronto with the No. 20 pick last year in the amateur draft. The 22-year-old right-hander rose through four minor league levels this season before joining the Blue Jays and going 1-0 in three September starts.



FRANK GUNN/AP

**Blue Jays pitcher Trey Yesavage, left, slap hands with Vladimir Guerrero Jr. after being pulled during the sixth inning against the New York Yankees in Toronto on Sunday. Yesavage stuck out 11 and Guerrero hit a grand slam in the Game 2 victory.**

"I just couldn't be happier for him," Blue Jays manager John Schneider said. "The journey he's been on this year is unbelievable."

Yesavage needed fewer than four innings to beat Toronto's previous record for postseason strikeouts, eight by Dave Stieb, David Price (twice) and Juan Guzmán.

Known for his elite split-finger fastball, Yesavage set a Blue Jays record by striking out nine Rays batters in his Sept. 15 debut. Eight of his 11 strikeouts Sunday came on the splitter. The other three came on fastballs that reached 96 mph.

"I was just doing what I feel comfortable doing, throwing splits late in the count," Yesavage said. "It just so happens they were swinging and missing at a bunch of them and chasing them down."

Yesavage opened the game by striking out Trent Grisham on a splitter. He walked Aaron Judge on four pitches, then fanned Bellinger and Rice to start a streak of 12 straight outs that ended when Jazz Chisholm Jr. reached on Guerrero's fielding error in the fifth.

Yesavage responded by getting Ryan McMahon to pop up and fanning Anthony Volpe for his 11th strikeout.

Yesavage struck out six straight over the third and fourth innings as Volpe, Austin Wells, Grisham, Judge, Bellinger and Rice were retired.

"We just didn't have an answer for the split," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "He was on his game."

Left-hander Justin Bruihl came on to face Grisham after Yesavage threw 78 pitches, 48 for strikes. Schneider was jeered as he came out to remove Yesavage with Toronto leading 12-0.

The crowd of 44,764 then roared until Yesavage came out for a curtain call, lifting his arms over his head at the top of the dugout steps.

Bruihl retired Grisham on a grounder before Judge reached on an infield single for New York's first hit. Bellinger followed with a homer.

Yankees left-hander Max Fried (0-1) allowed seven runs and eight hits in 3-plus innings. He gave up seven runs in 33⅓ innings in five September starts.

Fried went 11-1 with a 1.82 ERA in 16 starts after a Yankees loss in the regular season, but suffered another difficult start in Toronto. He was 0-1 with a 6.35 ERA in two regular season road starts against the Blue Jays, giving up 10 runs, eight earned, five walks and nine hits, including two home runs.

# Rodríguez, Polanco pull Mariners even with Tigers

BY DOUG MILLER
*Associated Press*

SEATTLE — Julio Rodríguez came through in a big moment for the Seattle Mariners.

Rodríguez hit a tiebreaking RBI double in the eighth inning and the Mariners beat the Detroit Tigers 3-2 in Game 2 of their AL Division Series on Sunday to even the series.

With the game knotted at 2-2 and one out in the bottom of the eighth inning, AL MVP candidate Cal Raleigh doubled with one out. Shortly after, Rodríguez doubled home Raleigh to put the Mariners in front for good.

"In games like this, I feel like any situation is clutch," said Rodríguez, who has recorded an extra-base hit in a franchise-record five consecutive postseason games and has six extra-base hits in his first seven career playoff games. "I feel like the biggest pride I take is helping the team win. In any situation that I can, I feel like that's what makes me feel good. And listen, if they want to say that I'm clutch, too, okay. Cool. So be it."

Closer Andrès Muñoz retired the Tigers in order for the save one night after throwing two innings in a 3-2 loss in 11 innings.

Jorge Polanco homered twice for Seattle.

After going scoreless against Seattle starter Luis Castillo and three Mariners relievers, the Tigers tied the game against Matt Brash in the top of the eighth.

Gleyber Torres worked a leadoff walk, and Riley Greene reached on a fielder's choice that was misfielded by Seattle first baseman Josh Naylor for an error. Spencer Torkelson followed up with a double into the right-field corner to tie the score at 2-2.

Seattle regained the lead in the bottom of the inning.

Raleigh, who led the majors in home runs this season with 60, lined Kyle Finnegan's pitch into the right-field corner and slid headfirst into second base. Rodríguez followed with a double of his own, sending the sellout crowd of 47,431 at T-Mobile Park into a frenzy.

Polanco got the Mariners on the board with a one-out solo homer over the wall in left center field in the bottom of the fourth inning. He added another one off reigning AL Cy Young Award winner Tarik Skubal with two outs in the sixth.

Polanco became the fourth Mariners player with a multi-homer game in the postseason, joining Ken Griffey Jr., Edgar Martinez and Jay Buhner, who all accomplished the feat in 1995.

"I just had a good approach," said Polanco, who added a single in the eighth and finished 3 for 4. "I stayed through the middle so I could recognize the secondary stuff. Like I said, just put a good swing on it."



LINDSEY WASSON/AP

**The Mariners' Julio Rodriguez reacts after hitting a double to knock in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning on Sunday against the Tigers.**

Skubal, who struck out 14 while beating Cleveland in Game 1 of the Wild Card Series, fanned nine across seven innings on Sunday. He limited the Mariners to five hits and walked one.

Castillo, meanwhile, maneuvered through 4⅔ scoreless innings. In the fifth, he surrendered his first hit of the game, a two-out single by Gleyber Torres that put runners on the corners. But left-hander Gabe Speier was summoned to face Game 1 hero Kerry Carpenter and struck him out to end the inning.

Castillo now has a 1.49 career postseason ERA, having given up four earned runs and 18 hits in 24⅓ innings while striking out 22 and walking five.

"Just a great ballgame from Rock," Wilson said of Castillo. "And at a time when we really needed it. It seems like he's done that all along.

"And down the stretch we had some big wins where he kind of stepped up, and tonight was another opportunity for him, and he did exactly what we needed him to do."

## Scoreboard

### Division Series

**Best-of-five**
**x-if necessary**
**American League**
**Toronto 2, New York 0**

**Saturday:** Toronto 10, New York 1
**Sunday:** Toronto 13, New York 7
**Tuesday:** Toronto (Bieber 4-2) at New York (Rodon 18-9)
**x-Wednesday:** Toronto at New York (Schlittler 4-3)
**x-Friday:** at Toronto

**Detroit 1, Seattle 1**

**Saturday:** Detroit 3, Seattle 2, 11 innings
**Sunday:** Seattle 3, Detroit 2
**Tuesday:** Seattle at Detroit
**Wednesday:** Seattle at Detroit
**x-Friday:** at Seattle

**National League**
**Milwaukee 1, Chicago 0**

**Saturday:** Milwaukee 9, Chicago 3
**Monday:** at Milwaukee
**Wednesday:** at Chicago
**x-Thursday:** at Chicago
**x-Saturday, Oct. 11:** at Milwaukee

**Los Angeles 1, Philadelphia 0**

**Saturday:** Los Angeles 5, Philadelphia 3
**Monday:** Los Angeles at Philadelphia
**Wednesday:** Philadelphia at Los Angeles (Yamamoto 12-8)
**x-Thursday:** at Los Angeles
**x-Saturday, Oct. 11:** at Philadelphia

# SPORTS



## Postseason push

Blue Jays rout Yankees; Mariners even series with Tigers ›› MLB, Page 23

NHL PREVIEW




LYNNE SLADKY/AP

**Florida Panthers defenseman Aaron Ekblad reacts after assisting on a goal scored by Evan Rodrigues against the Calgary Flames in March in Sunrise, Fla. The defending Stanley Cup champions kept all three of their big three free agents: playoff MVP Sam Bennett, winger Brad Marchand and Ekblad.**

# Great expectations

## Season to feature Florida threepeat bid, return to Winter Olympics

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
*Associated press*

The immense challenge of three-peating as Stanley Cup champion got even more difficult for the Florida Panthers when they lost their captain and arguably most important player for the next 7-9 months to a knee injury.

Even without Aleksander Barkov, the Panthers have a chance to do something no NHL team has done in more than 40 years. And in between the rest of the league trying to stop their dynasty, the world's best hockey players will return to the Olympics for the first time in over a decade, fresh off the wildly successful 4 Nations Face-Off that reminded fans just how good the game is on the international stage.

"If you're a hockey fan, it doesn't get any better," New York Rangers and U.S. Olympic team coach Mike Sullivan said. "It puts the sport that we love on display to the world."

The puck drops Tuesday on one of the most anticipated seasons in recent history, with Connor McDavid going into his final year under contract in Edmonton still chasing his first championship while also teaming with Sidney Crosby, Nathan MacKinnon and others who will try to bring another gold medal home to Canada.

Before Olympic play opens in Milan, Italy, 909 NHL games will be played, then 403 more down the stretch after the two-week break before another chase for the Cup begins in April.

"It's a lot to look forward to," Tampa Bay defenseman Victor Hedman said. "You've got to hit the ground running and be as

SEE SEASON ON PAGE 19



GARETH PATTERSON/AP

**Edmonton Oilers center Connor McDavid is chasing his first championship as he enters his final year under contract with the team this season.**

## Broncos rally to hand Eagles their 1st loss ›› NFL, Page 22

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