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PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes

Marines train during the Northern Strike military exercise at Camp Grayling, Mich., on Aug. 8. For the first time, this year's biannual exercise was conducted against a simulated Indo-Pacific backdrop.

Pacific training in Michigan

US, Taiwanese troops run combat drills to focus on growing conflict

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

CAMP GRAYLING, Mich. — The rigid-hulled inflatable patrol boat lurched into Lake Huron as three Army Special Forces soldiers and a Michigan State Police officer leaned over the edge, pulling supplies out of the water.

A helicopter had dropped packages into the lake during Northern Strike, the annual military exercise in northern Michigan sponsored by the National Guard Bureau and attended by nearly every U.S. military service.

The team's task: to retrieve the supplies and

pass them to another group of soldiers in a smaller boat to take ashore — a skill organizers say could one day prove valuable in the Indo-Pacific.

For the first time in its decade-plus history, this year's Northern Strike, which wrapped up Saturday, shifted from its traditional European scenario to a simulated Indo-Pacific backdrop, reflecting the Pentagon's growing focus on conflict in that region.

Adding to the significance was the inclusion

SEE TRAINING ON PAGE 7

"We're right smack in the middle of the Great Lakes, so we are able to replicate that island environment."

Col. Todd Fitzpatrick

Northern Strike land exercise director

New goals welcome DODEA kids back to class

By BRIAN McELHINEY
AND JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — John Kendrick, son of Marine Lt. Col. Matthew and Amanda Kendrick, headed to his first day of third grade Monday at Kadena Elementary School with mixed feelings.

Reluctant to return, John said he was mostly looking forward to "lunch and recess." His favorite subjects are math and science, because "math is easy," he told Stars and Stripes alongside his parents and siblings outside Kubasaki High School.

The Kendricks are among thousands of families beginning the year at Department of Defense Education Activity facilities overseas. DODEA enrollment on Monday topped 67,000 at 161 schools worldwide.

The year opens under DODEA's new Blueprint for Continuous Improvement, published in July and announced Aug. 4, which outlines goals for student, school, talent and organizational excellence through 2030.

It will help "identify and pro-

SEE CLASS ON PAGE 4



AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

Students head to class as the bell rings at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Monday.

MILITARY

AFRICOM now headed by Air Force general

BY ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

An Air Force pilot with thousands of flight hours and experience leading the fight against extremism recently assumed the top job at the Germany-headquartered U.S. Africa Command.

Gen. Dagvin Anderson relieved Marine Corps Gen. Michael Langley of command during a ceremony Friday at Kelley Barracks in Stuttgart.

Navy Adm. Christopher Grady, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presided over the ceremony, according to a command statement.

Anderson has more than 3,400 flight hours, including 738 in combat.

His previous assignments include director of Joint Force Development on the Joint Staff and



EMELY ECKELS/U.S. Army

Air Force Gen. Dagvin Anderson, left, and Navy Adm. Christopher Grady, during the U.S. Africa Command change of command ceremony Friday in Stuttgart, Germany.

leadership of Special Operations Command-Africa and Joint Task Force-Quartz, AFRICOM said.

The task force oversaw the

AFRICOM mission to reposition U.S. forces from Somalia to other bases in east Africa.

"I am not new to the challenges

of Africa," Anderson said at the ceremony, adding that he is very familiar with rising threats vying for influence on the continent and "seeking to destabilize and undo the world order that we enjoy."

Russia and China are among the top challengers to the U.S. for gaining a foothold in Africa, offering themselves as commercial and military partners in countries ranging from Libya to the Central African Republic.

Since taking command of AFRICOM in August 2022, Langley worked to strengthen partnerships with African nations and sharpen operational readiness, according to the statement.

He also oversaw the command during a period when military coups toppled governments in several western and central African countries, including Niger,

which previously hosted about 1,000 American service members at two bases.

In August 2024, U.S. forces completed their withdrawal from Niger, a west African country once considered the centerpiece of Washington's security strategy in the Sahel region.

Langley, who was commissioned in 1985, will soon retire, the command said in a post Friday on X.

During the ceremony, Grady underscored the importance of AFRICOM in U.S. national security.

"Militarily, the theater is a nexus where global competitors test our resolve (and) where violent extremist organizations seek sanctuary," Grady said in the statement, adding that "instability ripples far beyond" Africa.

Veteran reunites with tank he drove 80 years ago

BY KAYLYN BARNHART
BATISTA
Stars and Stripes

DUMFRIES, Va. — A 100-year-old World War II veteran and Marine tank driver reunited with the tank that once carried him through the Battle of Iwo Jima, rekindling his memory of one of the fiercest fights in Marine Corps history.

Marine Cpl. Leighton Willhite sat in front of the M4A3 Sherman tank, nicknamed "Lucky," for the first time in 80 years at the National Museum of the Marine Corps' support facility in Dumfries on Friday, the anniversary of Japan's surrender in WWII.

"It's amazing," Willhite said. "I never thought I would see the tank again. That tank was my life." He added that if the tank was in good shape, he would fire it up again.

Willhite was accompanied by his son, grandson and great grandson at the reunion.

"I'm glad this happened while he's still living," said Chad, Willhite's son. "It means everything to him, which is what it means to me. Everybody that has been around him tells his [Willhite's] story."

At 19, Willhite drove Lucky — one of only six confirmed Iwo Jima Sherman tanks in existence today — ashore the black sands of Red Beach II on Iwo Jima with the 5th Tank Battalion in 1945.

"I probably wasn't the best driver in the world, but I wasn't the worst," Willhite said.

As Willhite touched and observed the tank, he reminisced on the days during his service where he and his crew supported infantry units and took part in life-saving rescue efforts.

During the battle, Willhite earned the Bronze Star with valor



PHOTOS BY ERIC KAYNE/Stars and Stripes

World War II Marine veteran Cpl. Leighton Willhite, 100, sits in front of the M4A3 Sherman tank he drove during the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945. The tank is being restored at the support facility for the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Dumfries, Va.

after assisting in the rescue of another Marine tank crew, "Jeanie," under fire at Hill 362A, north of Mount Suribachi.

"My service was probably short, but I gave it all I had," Willhite said.

Jonathan Bernstein, arms and armor curator at the NMMC, saw the tank for the first time in 2023 and spent two years conducting extensive historical research and archaeological work on the tank.

He was finally able to identify Lucky, trace back its service on Iwo Jima and connect the tank to Willhite.

"I was really lucky with how everything came together," Bernstein said, adding that he was "borderline obsessive" with iden-

tifying the tank. "This is the end of the beginning. As we move forward, this is going to get a lot more exciting as Lucky gets back to what she looked like on Iwo Jima."

The NMMC plans to restore Lucky within the next five years and eventually put it on display at the museum.

"I hope that folks that serve in the Marine Corps are differently inspired by this," said Keil Gentry, director at the NMMC. "Those who have not served in the Marine Corps, I think this is a great way to talk about the veteran service and sacrifice"

After the Battle of Iwo Jima ended on March 26, 1945, the 5th Marine Division returned to Hawaii, and the 5th Tank Battalion



From left, Willhite, Jonathan Bernstein, arms & armor curator at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and museum director Keil Gentry stand in front of "Lucky."



A machine gun on the M4A3 Sherman tank.



Rusty treads from the M4A3 Sherman tank rest on a pallet.

turned in their tanks for refitting and training to prepare for the invasion of Japan.

In the 1970s, Lucky made its way to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., where an attempt was made to preserve her.

But due to a lack of funding, the tank was moved into the woods of 2nd Tank Battalion's training areas and remained undiscovered until Master Gunnery Sgt. Lisa Marshall and her platoon found

and recovered Lucky, then shipped her to the NMMC in 2001.

Marshall, who attended the reunion, said she was only following orders at the time and never would have thought she would witness the special reunion of Willhite and Lucky.

"I had a very physical, emotional reaction to knowing that I was able to be a part of ... being able to give a memory back to somebody," Marshall said.

MILITARY

Families back in Bahrain after tense summer

BY LARA KORTE
AND SHANNON RENFROE
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Military families welcomed a return to normalcy Sunday after a summer of high tensions, air raid sirens and last-minute departures at the Navy's Middle East hub.

The kickoff of the new academic year at Bahrain Elementary School and Bahrain Middle High School was especially welcome this year, coming after an early June peak in conflict between Israel and Iran.

At that time, fearing an attack on U.S. bases, the Defense Department authorized a voluntary departure for nonessential family members throughout the region. Iran did not fire on Bahrain but launched 14 missiles at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar.

"I'm excited to see the Bahrain

School get back to doing what it does best: educating and empowering the next generation while building multinational friendships that will last a lifetime," Capt. Zachariah Aperach, the base's commanding officer, said in a statement.

It's unclear how many families have returned to Bahrain. But enrollment levels at the schools are slightly higher compared with last year's, said Jessica Tackaberry, a Department of Defense Education Activity spokeswoman in Europe.

Deidre Harris, a Defense Department employee with two school-age sons, decided to return after the conflict with Iran abruptly cut their summer short.

Harris, whose 27 years in the Marine Corps included combat deployments, said she took the threat seriously and was candid

with her kids about why they had to leave. The most important thing, she said, was getting her family to a safe place.

"I was very open with my children," she said. "My kids are at the age that we can't be make-believe and fairy tale — this is a real-life situation."

Now that the immediate threat has passed, her seventh grader and fourth grader are excited to be back, she said. The family returned to Bahrain about a week before classes resumed and got to attend the open house last week.

"(The kids') reaction was: 'Is it safe? Is everybody OK? Is our school OK?'" she said. "Once they knew that, then yes, OK, we were ready."

David Cuyler, a seventh grader who was also attending the open house, said he's looking forward to physical education. He also gave

some advice for surviving the first day.

"Don't get on the bad sides of your teachers — especially the nice ones — because if you get on the bad sides of the nice ones, they're not gonna be nice anymore," he said.

Some family members decided to remain stateside following the summer departure. Among them is Sabrina Cicchi, the wife of a Marine colonel, who left Bahrain with her three children under voluntary departure status earlier this summer.

She had considered sending her two high schoolers back to Bahrain for their studies.

However, seats on the government's Patriot Express planes were limited, and they couldn't use a pet shipping service due to extreme temperatures. The potential for school disruptions also

remains, she said.

"We missed, like, seven to 10 days of school (in Bahrain) due to credible threats last year," Cicchi said. "I don't anticipate that to be different this year."

She and her husband chose a place in Virginia instead for their children. Her freshman daughter joined the volleyball team, and her second-eldest son gets to experience all the rites of passage that come with senior year, she said.

But because their departure was voluntary, they can't ship their household goods back to the U.S., Cicchi said. The family rented a home and has been cobbling together necessities from friends and family.

"We may not have any furniture," Cicchi said. "But I don't have to worry about whether or not I'm jumping on a flight in seven days or 35 days or 45 days."

Class: DODEA requirements now include personal finance course

FROM PAGE 1

vide the right level of support for each student, whether they need enrichment, targeted help or intensive intervention," DODEA-Pacific spokeswoman Miranda Ferguson said by email Aug. 13.

The blueprint represents a collective approach to education, DODEA Pacific South superintendent Melissa Hayes said at Kubasaki High.

"Whether it's an academic achievement that needs to shore up or whether it's a behavior issue (or) absentee issue, our student support teams are there to step in," she said.

DODEA-Europe spokeswoman Jessica Tackaberry said the agency bolstered mental health services by hiring about 20 school psychologists.

That lowers the student-to-psychologist ratio from 1:900 to 1:700, she said, adding that the eventual goal is 1:500. Interviews in Europe and the Pacific are ongoing for a few more positions.

To support special education students on Okinawa, DODEA has hired two additional psychologists, bringing the total to nine across 13 schools, Hayes said.

The expansion of mental health services was part of a broader staffing reorganization, along with the elimination of potentially hundreds of positions, including some school technologists and assessors for special education and language pathologists.

In response, a group of current and former educators and parents authored a sharply worded open letter warning that the staffing changes would harm educational quality.

Tackaberry said Monday that



AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

A family poses on the first day of classes at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Monday.

"no one lost their job," as DODEA was able to move staffers who declined or were ineligible for early retirement offers into other roles.

The supervisors added to nearly every school are called administrative officers, Tackaberry said. They handle logistics, finance, supply and facilities so principals can focus on "the educational aspect of school operations."

Schools still retain information technologists to manage the network, Tackaberry said, while regional help desks provide support to teachers and students with password and other computer-related issues.

New on tap for all incoming freshmen and sophomores across DODEA is the graduation requirement to take personal finance literacy, a semester course introduced last year, Tackaberry

said.

Back on Okinawa, Kubasaki students began their day with a bell-ringing ceremony in the gym, accompanied by taiko drumming. Marine Corps Installations Pacific commander Maj. Gen. Brian Wolford and Sgt. Maj. Jorge Ortiz rang the bell to start the new year.

Students on Okinawa will see longer days this year, with 20 minutes added to match schedules across the DODEA system.

Meanwhile, at Camp Humphreys in South Korea, members of the Eighth Army Band played rock music as 1,055 fifth through eighth graders arrived for their first day at Humphreys Middle School. It is one of four K-12 campuses at the largest U.S. base overseas.

Eighth grader Derrick Reynolds, who has lived on the penin-



COLIN CRUICKSHANK/DODEA Europe

Ramstein Elementary School students complete a worksheet Monday at the school at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

sula for nine years, said a family trip to New Hampshire was the highlight of summer.

"I'm kind of excited because this summer was kind of boring," he said at the school's main office. "I stayed at home for most of the time."

At Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan, students gathered in the Sullivans Elementary School courtyard for a "ring in ceremony" modeled after the Navy tradition of bells announcing the arrival of officers and dignitaries. Cmdr. Patrick Gutierrez, the base's chief staff officer, did the honors.

"You guys are excited to be here," he told the crowd. "I'm excited for the first day of class — let's ring these kids in."

Fourth grader Isabel Aguon said her summer included a trip to Texas to visit family, but she was most excited about her budding political career.

"I was on the student council, and I was a representative, but now I get to run for office," she said ahead of the ring-in. Aguon

plans to run for president or vice president, though she is still deciding on her campaign platform.

Her principal, Dwayne Jefferson, said the school is embracing the new blueprint's initiatives.

"We really are impressed with the moves that we've made," he said. "We have positive behavior intervention supports put in place, and we have daily check-ins for that resiliency of students."

Back at Kubasaki High, the Kendricks said goodbye to their freshman daughter, Emma, as she started her first class.

"I have friends who have daughters who have graduated from here — sons and whatnot," her mother said. "So, it's just kind of fun to have her walk in those footsteps behind other friends."

Meanwhile, the family's youngest, Morgan, a kindergartner at Kadena Elementary, whispered to her mother that she was looking forward to "making friends."

Stars and Stripes reporters David Choi and Alex Wilson contributed to this report.

PACIFIC

Marines mark Guadalcanal's 83rd anniversary

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

Modern-day Marines paid tribute this month at the site where their predecessors launched the first major U.S. ground offensive against Imperial Japan in World War II.

Members of Marine Rotational Force-Darwin traveled from Australia to the Solomon Islands to mark 83 years since the Battle of Guadalcanal began on Aug. 7, 1942, Capt. Johnny Fischer, a spokesman for the force, said Monday.

About a dozen Marines took part in a ceremony in the capital, Honiara, and visited historic battle sites, including Red Beach, Iron Bottom Sound and Edson's Ridge, said Lt. Col. Andrew Williamson, the unit's executive officer.

Members of the 1st Marine Division made their initial amphibious landing on Red Beach. Roughly 100 Allied and Japanese ships were sunk in Iron Bottom Sound during the campaign.

"But where we felt the weight of the campaign the most was as we stood atop Edson's Ridge, also known as Bloody Ridge," Williamson said.

On the ridge, Marines repelled repeated Japanese assaults to re-



ANITA RAMOS/U.S. Marine Corps

The Marine Corps Forces Pacific color guard marches during a ceremony Aug. 7, marking the 83rd anniversary of the Battle of Guadalcanal in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

take Henderson Field, an airstrip later redeveloped as Honiara International Airport. Medal of Honor recipient Marine Sgt. John Basilone fought there.

"We felt the heat, oppressive humidity and thick jungle landscape, and it gave us a whole new appreciation for the toughness, fortitude and resolve of the Old

Breed as they fought and won on Guadalcanal," Williamson said.

Photographs provided by the unit show the Marine Corps Forces Pacific color guard, along

with veterans, foreign troops, diplomats and local officials, at a sunrise ceremony on Aug. 7 at the Guadalcanal American Memorial overlooking Honiara.

The 2,500-strong rotational force began its six-month deployment to Australia's Northern Territory in March.

The Battle of Guadalcanal lasted until Feb. 9, 1943, and cost the lives of about 30,000 Japanese and 7,000 U.S. and Allied troops. Two U.S. aircraft carriers, numerous other ships and hundreds of aircraft were also lost before Japanese forces withdrew.

Marines have traveled to the Solomon Islands for anniversary observances each year since at least 2016.

Marines from Camp Pendleton, Calif., attended the 2023 ceremony, and Marine Corps Forces Pacific representatives took part in the 80th anniversary in 2022.

The Marines' victory at Guadalcanal was forged in partnership with the Solomon Islands' people, said Col. Jason Armas, the rotational force commander, in an Aug. 11 news release.

"May their courage be remembered and their spirit of unity and resilience live on in our bond of friendship, today and always," he said.

Searchable map highlights US casualties at Battle of Okinawa

By **BRIAN McELHINEY**
AND **KEISHI KOJA**
Stars and Stripes

ITOMAN CITY, Okinawa — An Okinawa firm has created an interactive website where families of U.S. troops killed during the Battle of Okinawa can see their loved ones' names on the island's war memorial.

Ikemiya Shokai Co. Ltd., a printing and scanning company in Naha that specializes in 3D mapping of buildings, launched a website Aug. 1 that features a 3D map of the foreigners' section of the Cornerstone of Peace at Peace Memorial Park in Itoman. The site allows family members living far from Okinawa to find the names of their fallen relatives.

The memorial park marks the site of the final action of one of World War II's bloodiest battles.

More than 14,000 Americans, about 110,000 Japanese troops and at least 140,000 Okinawan civilians died during or immediately after the Battle of Okinawa.

The 80th anniversary of the battle was observed June 23 at a ceremony at the park.

The Cornerstone of Peace, built 50 years after the battle, displays the names of nearly 250,000 who died during the fighting: 14,011 Americans and 227,977 Japanese. The foreigners' section includes

the American names and another 579 names from Britain, North and South Korea and Taiwan.

With the 80th anniversary of the war's end this year, the timing seemed right to launch the website, Ikemiya president Taku Ikemiyagi said June 18 at the company's office.

The map, found at okinawapeacememorial-3dmap.org, is searchable by name. The website also includes an English translation of the purpose of the Cornerstone of Peace, which greets visitors at the entrance.

"The purpose of the Cornerstone of Peace is to pray for all the war dead, no matter if they were enemies or allies," Ikemiyagi said. "That's one of the reasons why we focused on the foreigner's side."

Ikemiyagi and his sales associate Kaneto Fukuhara came up with the idea for the website in 2023. A chance encounter while they were taking test shots at the park inspired them to move forward.

"An American family asked us what we were doing, and we told them about the project," Fukuhara said. "They really liked it and showed enthusiasm, and we thought that this might be a good idea."

The two took 143 pictures at the entire monument to create the



BRIAN McELHINEY/Stars and Stripes

Taku Ikemiyagi, president of Ikemiya Shokai Co. Ltd., checks 3D images of the Cornerstone of Peace monument last month at Peace Memorial Park in Itoman city, Okinawa.

map during an eight-hour session on May 15.

They created their own database of names from the photographs after being unable to obtain the list from the prefecture. They said they plan to update the website every five years with any new names that are added.

Ikemiyagi said he hopes that people from other countries will learn about the memorial and its significance through the site. It

could also help families add to the memorial the names of relatives killed in the battle.

Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Doug Rocks, whose great uncle, Marine Pvt. William George Rocks, died of his wounds during the battle, said he was surprised to discover his great uncle isn't listed on the memorial.

William Rocks, of H Company, 3rd Battalion, 29th Regiment in the 6th Marine Division, was shot

by a Japanese sniper in his right thigh on May 12, 1945, Doug Rocks said. He died at a field hospital on Guam 13 days later, according to his casualty report.

"I guess all the brothers and sisters took it pretty hard, and they really didn't talk about him," Rocks, who serves with Naval Air Forces Atlantic in Norfolk, Va., said by phone July 16. "I didn't even really know he even existed until after I joined."

MILITARY

'Giving our heroes the tools they need'

Veteran demand for service dogs spurs effort to fund their training, placement

BY LINDA F. HERSEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Hank Ford, a 54-year-old Army and Marine Corps veteran, was dozing one morning in February after his wife left for work, when his service dog, Tommy, started barking and pawing his chest to wake up — something he had never done before.

Ford, a retired staff sergeant who served in the military for 20 years, said he got up thinking the Labrador retriever wanted to go outside. But Tommy instead kept barking and jumping up to paw his chest.

Ford said he felt dizzy and realized his heart was racing. He took his blood pressure, saw his "heart rate was out of control" and rushed to a local hospital. Doctors said he had atrial fibrillation, which causes the heart rhythm to spike, and was at imminent risk of a stroke.

Ford underwent an emergency procedure to shock his heart back to a normal rhythm and credits Tommy for alerting him to the life-threatening problem.

"Service dogs have a purpose for disabled vets like me, and they serve that purpose fully. He saved my life," Ford said.

Legislation pending in Congress called the Service Dogs Assisting Veterans Act, or SAVES Act, would award \$10 million annually in funding to help nonprofits meet a growing demand by disabled veterans for service dogs, supporters contend.

The legislation would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs for the first time to award grants to nonprofits to train and



Rep. Jen Kiggans, R-Va., speaks in support of the SAVES Act, which would help nonprofits provide service dogs to disabled veterans at no cost. Cooper, a golden retriever from the nonprofit Warrior Canine Connection, rests during the April news conference in Washington, D.C.

place service dogs at no cost to disabled veterans. Nonprofits that specialize in breeding and training service dogs now largely rely on donations to cover costs that can reach \$50,000 per dog, lawmakers said.

The legislation cleared the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on July 30 after passage in the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. Supporters are hoping the legislation will advance to a final vote when Congress reconvenes in September.

"The Service Dogs Assisting Veterans Act will ensure more veterans have access to highly trained service dogs, expanding support beyond [post-traumatic stress disorder] to include those suffering from traumatic brain injuries, paralysis, military sexual trauma and other service-related conditions. This is about giving

our heroes the tools they need to thrive, not just survive, when they come home," said Rep. Morgan Luttrell, R-Texas, a Navy veteran who led the House version of the bill.

Disabled American Veterans, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and Semper K9 Assistance Dogs are among more than two dozen nonprofits that have endorsed the bill.

"There's a lot of need for service dogs and a long waitlist. Demand is high. This bill would help organizations like ours fulfill our mission and meet the needs of more veterans," said Bill McCabe, vice president of government and external affairs at K9s for Warriors, which trains and places rescue dogs with disabled veterans.

Service dogs provide "a sense

of purpose that pills and therapy simply won't ever do," Cole Lyle, veterans affairs and rehabilitation director at the American Legion, said during a House hearing.

Ford said he obtained Tommy in 2023 as an 18-month-old from Dogs Inc., a Florida-based nonprofit organization that provides service dogs at no cost to recipients.

"My VA therapist encouraged me to get a service dog when I started slipping back into a dark place," said Ford, who has post-traumatic stress disorder.

Ford, who is 100% disabled, served in the military from 1989 to 2009 with multiple deployments to the Middle East.

He said he was paired with Tommy to help him with depression and the negative thoughts that he experiences from PTSD.

"He's not a medical alert dog



Dogs Inc.

Hank Ford, a veteran of the Army and Marine Corps, sits with his service dog, Tommy, he acquired in 2023. Ford credits Tommy for alerting him to a heart problem that prompted him to get lifesaving treatment at a local hospital.

and was never trained to spot medical conditions. Everybody is pretty much amazed," Ford said about the dog's actions that led him to get medical help. "He never barks. It was totally out of character to try to get my attention the way he did — and not stop."

Tommy first arrived with a trainer at Ford's home in September 2023.

"We bonded fast," Ford said. "They told me the bond would continue to grow but I felt it right away."

He had waited nine months for Tommy, after an initial phone interview about his needs and expectations for a service dog.

Tommy now accompanies Ford every day, including to the VA, his volunteer job at a golf course and the grocery store, Ford said.

He said his wife began to see a change in him soon after Tommy's arrival.

"She said it's been dramatic and talks about it all the time," Ford said.

"I feel more at ease. I'm not in my own mind. Tommy wasn't the light at the end of the tunnel. He turned the lights back on."

Motorcycle spill kills Marine lance corporal in northern Okinawa

BY BRIAN MCELHINEY
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A Marine warehouse clerk died over the weekend after his motorcycle hit a curb, sending him into a fence on a main thoroughfare in Nago city in northern Okinawa, according to the Marine Corps and local police.

Lance Cpl. Alexi Gamboa of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, was pronounced dead at 12:47 a.m. Saturday at Nago Hospital, the division said in a Monday news release.

Gamboa, from California, was

based at Foster. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in April 2023 and was promoted to lance corporal in June 2024. His awards include the National Defense Service Medal and a Navy Achievement Medal, according to the release.

"Our thoughts and attention are directed with this young Marine's family and friends," battalion commander Lt. Col. Frank Mastromauro said in the release. "Lance Cpl. Gamboa will always be remembered with honor and for the impact he made across our battalion. His service and sacrifice will not be forgotten. The battalion stands united

in grief alongside his loved ones."

Gamboa was northbound on a section of Route 58 that curved gently to the right in the Kise district of Nago when his motorcycle hit the left curb and he fell off of it, hitting his chest, an Okinawa Prefectural Police spokesman said by phone Monday.

According to a Nago police spokesman, Gamboa "most probably" grazed the curb and flew off his motorcycle into a short, front-facing fence on a bridge.

"We don't know why the accident occurred," he said. "It's not a dangerous place and there's not

much traffic."

Flowers adorned the spot Monday morning where the collision occurred.

No one else was injured in the accident, 3rd Division spokesman 1st Lt. Joshua Figueredo wrote in an email Monday.

The accident is under investigation, the prefectural police spokesman said. The Marine Corps is working with police, according to the division release.

Four other service members have died in motorcycle accidents on Okinawa since 2024.

In May, Cpl. Nathaniel Curtis

was killed and an unidentified Marine was injured in a three-vehicle accident in Nago's Koki district.

U.S. Army Spc. DaJuan Cornish died in December after crashing his motorcycle into guard pipes on the left side of Road 130 heading toward Zukeran.

In November, Marine Lance Cpl. Avery Wayne Leverette was killed in a five-vehicle accident in the Yaka district of Kin town.

And in May 2024, Marine Sgt. Hayden Steingold died after colliding with another vehicle at a T-junction on Route 58 in Ginowan city.

MILITARY

Training: More than 500 Taiwanese troops take part in drill

FROM PAGE 1

of hundreds of troops from Taiwan, a U.S. partner that China claims as its own and that American defense officials view as the most likely flashpoint for a potential war in Asia.

In a briefing attended by Stars and Stripes on Aug. 4, a senior Michigan National Guard official said that more than 500 Taiwanese troops participated in Northern Strike this year. A briefing slide indicated that Taiwan has been quietly sending its forces to the exercise since at least 2021.

As a matter of long-standing policy, the Pentagon doesn't discuss Taiwan's participation in U.S. exercises, a defense official there said when asked for further details.

But in 2024, former U.S. diplomat Joseph Cella confirmed during testimony at a House hearing on the Chinese Communist Party that Taiwanese troops had been training "in strategic and tactical battle operations" in Michigan.

Northern Strike will be organized around an Indo-Pacific scenario indefinitely, said Brig. Gen. Ravi Wagh, assistant to the adjutant general-Army for the Michigan National Guard.

It's part of a push to make Michigan a premier location to prepare forces for potential large-scale combat in the Asian theater.

"As we've seen the national priority shift ... we need to align and plan for that region," Wagh said.

Northern Strike's land exercise director, Col. Todd Fitzpatrick, pointed to the state's geography as a reason it's especially well-suited for Indo-Pacific training.

"We're right smack in the middle of the Great Lakes, so we are able to replicate that island environment," Fitzpatrick said.

In a conflict with China, analysts say, U.S. forces would likely have to disperse across small islands and operate stealthily, given Beijing's missile capabilities, which make large bases vulnerable.

This year's exercise placed greater emphasis on maritime drills, a focus planners say will expand in future editions. To support that shift, the Michigan National Guard is buying several Mark VI patrol boats.

For now, they relied on Michigan State Police boats and crews for many water drills.

A Special Forces soldier aboard one of the boats, who was in Michigan for the first time, said he was struck by the vastness of the lake, which stretches to the horizon in every direction if you're out far enough.

Stars and Stripes agreed to withhold the identities of the Special Forces team for security reasons.

"The world is forever changing, and we want to remain relevant,"



PHOTOS BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes

Airman 1st Class Timothy Cadigan guards a B-2 Spirit stealth bomber in Oscoda, Mich., during a rare aircrew changeover outside the aircraft's home base, Aug. 5. It was part of the Northern Strike military exercise, one of the Defense Department's largest reserve component exercises.

another member said of their participation in the drill.

The soldiers, who normally don't work on the water, received training on delivering supplies to troops on an island, a challenge very different from those faced in Europe, where supplies move overland, or the Middle East, where the U.S. relies on large bases.

"We're plussing ourselves up to ensure we have the capabilities to be able to retrieve cargo and get it back to our troops or whomever it is that we're supporting," the second soldier added.

"That way, later down the road, we can just ease into it naturally."

Northern Strike is one of only a few National Guard Bureau-sponsored exercises accredited by the Pentagon's Joint National Training Capability program, which requires multiple branches of the military to operate together in a realistic environment.

That matters because if war were to break out against a powerful adversary like China, all branches would need to operate seamlessly.

More than 7,500 participants from 36 states and territories, every branch of the military except the Space Force, and nine international partners took part in this year's exercise.

Northern Strike also has a smaller winter portion that focuses on cold-weather operations and joint artillery fire. It simulates a small clash escalating into the larger summer scenario.

The integration of Guard and reserve units with active-duty forces in a JNTC-accredited environment is another key feature that sets the exercise apart.

Guard and reserve forces, which conduct most of their training in the United States, would likely be mobilized for a large-scale conflict in Asia.

Another factor that makes



Special Forces soldiers with the Army National Guard participate in a maritime exercise on Lake Huron, off the coast of Rogers City, Mich., Aug. 6. It was part of Northern Strike.

Michigan a preferred training ground is its 17,000 square miles of military airspace. It's the largest block of such space east of the Mississippi River and high enough to accommodate fifth-generation fighter jets.

Unlike similar ranges in the western U.S., Michigan's airspace allows for live targeting in the water.

The Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center manages that airspace, along with additional sites that include a littoral area at the Rogers City Calcite Quarry, the world's largest limestone quarry.

About 100 miles to the west, Camp Grayling — the largest National Guard training facility in the country — adds nearly 150,000 acres for live fire, an air-to-ground range and a two-runway Army airfield.

Together, Alpena and Grayling make up Michigan's All-Domain Warfighting Center, which was bustling with troops training across land, air and maritime domains throughout the two-week exercise.

"We have different locations around the state that we can send troops to, and they can set up tents and operate in an expeditionary manner and kind of simulate that

island mentality," said Col. Ross Evenhouse, director of operations for the Michigan Air National Guard, who oversaw the air portion of the exercise.

Members of the Missouri-based 131st Bomb Wing, the only nuclear-equipped National Guard unit, camped out at Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport, a former Air Force base some 50 miles south of Alpena that housed nuclear-armed B-52 Stratofortress bombers during the Cold War and now functions as a public airport.

The unit's primary mission is flying the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber, which typically takes off from Whiteman Air Force Base, conducts its mission and returns without ever landing, thanks to midair refueling. That was the case in June, when B-2s struck Iranian nuclear facilities.

On Aug. 5, two of the aircraft landed in Michigan for the first time during Northern Strike, practicing an aircrew changeover.

Maintainers and base defense airmen from the unit supported the operation, which drew attention from nearby residents watching from the fence line.

"We're practicing for the future of warfare," said 2nd Lt. Chris

Bishop, a spokesman with the 131st Bomb Wing, who was camping at the site.

"We're practicing not having everything that we're used to having. We're setting up tents, purifying our own water, practicing different scenarios with limited communications equipment."

B-2 maintainer Senior Airman Antonio Corona said the operations tempo sets Northern Strike apart from training at Whiteman.

"We've had to be in and out, moving, making sure everything's right, making sure everyone's set," Corona said. "It's been a good experience."

A few days later, on Aug. 9, an Air Force C-130 Hercules assigned to the Mississippi-based 815th Airlift Squadron made a first-of-its-kind landing on a section of repaired runway at the Alpena base.

The runway had been purposefully destroyed, as if it had been hit by an enemy missile. Airmen assigned to the 23rd Air Task Force had to repair it with fiber-reinforced plastic matting, a relatively new, lightweight, high-strength surface system for rapid repair.

Since Vietnam, the Air Force has used aluminum matting. Fiber-reinforced plastic resists corrosion, making it better-suited for dispersed island bases in the Indo-Pacific.

Prior to Northern Strike, airmen had not installed matting of that type and then tested it with Air Force aircraft, according to Maj. Anthony Hylko, base civil engineer for the Alpena CRTC.

"It is a true wartime skill set that we need to ensure we are honed in and ready to execute in a contingency environment, and we're doing that here," Hylko said.

China is taking note of the training in Michigan, according to the Michigan National Guard official who spoke at the Aug. 4 briefing.

In August 2023, five Chinese nationals studying at the University of Michigan were caught on Camp Grayling after midnight taking pictures near military vehicles and communications equipment.

They fled when confronted and later were charged by federal prosecutors with conspiracy and lying to investigators. Arrest warrants remain outstanding.

Back in his office at Camp Grayling, Wagh said that while Northern Strike prepares troops for potential conflict in Asia, its larger purpose is to prevent one by showcasing U.S. joint operations and the military's ability to scale up.

"I believe in deterrence, and I believe the best way to create deterrence is by lethal-capable formations," Wagh said.

"And I think we've got something here that creates lethal-capable formations in the joint force."

WAR IN UKRAINE

Zelenskyy, Trump express hope for trilateral talks

European leaders join US, Ukrainian presidents in White House meeting

By JOSH BOAK
AND SAMYA KULLAB
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and President Donald Trump expressed hope that Monday's critical talks with Ukrainian and European leaders at the White House could lead to trilateral talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin to bring an end to Russia's war on Ukraine.

Monday's hastily assembled meeting comes after Trump met on Friday with Russian President Vladimir Putin and has said that the onus is now on Zelenskyy to agree to concessions that he said could end the war.

"If everything works out today, we'll have a trilat," Trump said, referring to possible three-way talks among Zelenskyy, Putin and Trump. "We're going to work with Russia, we're going to work with Ukraine."

Trump also said he plans to talk to Putin after his meetings with Zelenskyy and European leaders.

Zelenskyy also expressed openness to trilateral talks.

"We are ready for trilateral as president said," Zelenskyy said at the start of his meeting with Trump. "It's a good signal about trilateral. I think this is very good."

Monday's meetings

Trump first met one-on-one with Zelenskyy. The two were then scheduled to gather with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, Finnish President Alexander Stubb and NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte.

Trump said that he and Zelenskyy would be discussing potential security guarantees for Ukraine with the European leaders.

"They want to give protection," Trump said of European allies. "They feel very strongly about it and we'll help them out with it. I think it's very important."

The European leaders were left out of Trump's summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin last Friday, and they want to safe-

guard Ukraine and the continent from any widening aggression from Moscow. Many arrived at the White House with the explicit goal of protecting Ukraine's interests — a rare show of diplomatic force.

By coming as a group, they hope to avoid debacles like Zelenskyy's February meeting in the Oval Office, where Trump chastised him for not showing enough gratitude for U.S. military aid. Trump and Zelenskyy were meeting in the Oval Office before European leaders join them in the East Room for talks.

The meetings are also a test of America's relationship with its closest allies after the European Union and United Kingdom accepted Trump's tariff hikes partly because they wanted his support on Ukraine.

"We understand that we shouldn't expect Putin to voluntarily abandon aggression and new attempts at conquest," Zelenskyy said in an X posting before arriving at the White House. "That is why pressure must work, and it must be joint pressure — from the United States and Europe, and from everyone in the world who respects the right to life and the international order."

Ahead of the meeting, however, Trump suggested that Ukraine could not regain Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, setting off an armed conflict that led to its broader 2022 invasion.

"President Zelenskyy of Ukraine can end the war with Russia almost immediately, if he wants to, or he can continue to fight," Trump wrote Sunday night on social media. "Remember how it started. No getting back Obama given Crimea (12 years ago, without a shot being fired!), and NO GOING INTO NATO BY UKRAINE. Some things never change!!!"

Zelenskyy appeared to respond with his own post late Sunday, saying, "We all share a strong desire to end this war quickly and reliably." He said that "peace must be lasting," not as it was after Russia seized Crimea and part of the Donbas in eastern Ukraine eight years ago, and "Putin simply used it as a springboard for a new attack."

Trump's sitdown in Alaska with Putin yielded the possible con-



ALEX BRANDON/AP

President Donald Trump greets Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as he arrives at the White House on Monday in Washington.



ANDRII MARIENKO/AP

Rescue workers carry a dead body from a residential building damaged by a Russian attack on Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Monday.

tours for stopping the war in Ukraine, though it was unclear whether the terms discussed would ultimately be acceptable to Zelenskyy or Putin.

Zelenskyy said in a social media post he met with Trump's special envoy for Ukraine, Keith Kellogg, on Monday ahead of his scheduled talks with Trump to discuss the battlefield situation and the shared "strong diplomatic capabilities" of the U.S., Ukraine and Europe. He also held talks with European leaders at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington.

Von der Leyen, Macron, Starmer, Merz, Meloni, Stubb and Rutte arrived at the White House ahead of Zelenskyy's arrival.

Security guarantees

On the table for discussion are possible NATO-like security guarantees that Ukraine would need for any peace with Russia to be durable. Putin opposes Ukraine joining NATO outright, yet Trump's team claims the Russian

leader is open to allies agreeing to defend Ukraine if it comes under attack.

"Clearly there are no easy solutions when talking about ending a war and building peace," Meloni told reporters. "We have to explore all possible solutions to guarantee peace, to guarantee justice, and to guarantee security for our countries."

The European leaders are aiming to keep the focus during the White House talks on finding a sustainable peace and believe forging a temporary ceasefire is not off the table, according to a European official.

The official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the leaders are also looking to keep pressure on Russia to end the fighting and want to get more concrete assurances from the U.S. about security guarantees for Ukraine as part of any deal.

Trump briefed Zelenskyy and European allies shortly after the

Putin meeting. Details from the discussions emerged in a scatter-shot way that seemed to rankle the U.S. president, who had chosen not to outline any terms when appearing afterward with Putin.

Ahead of Monday's White House meetings, Trump took to social media to say that even if Russia said, "We give up, we concede, we surrender" the news media and Democrats "would say that this was a bad and humiliating day for Donald J. Trump." He separately lashed out at the Wall Street Journal and other outlets "who truly don't have a clue, tell me everything that I am doing wrong on the Russia/Ukraine MESS."

Following the Alaska summit, Trump declared that a ceasefire was not necessary for peace talks to proceed, a sudden shift to a position favored by Putin.

European officials confirmed that Trump told them Putin is still seeking control of the entire Donbas region, even though Ukraine controls a meaningful share of it.

Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, said the U.S. and its allies could offer Ukraine a NATO-like commitment to defend the country if it came under attack as the possible security guarantee, with details to be worked out.

Monday's meeting will likely be very tough for Zelenskyy, an official close to the ongoing talks said. That official spoke on condition of anonymity to speak openly about thinking within Ukraine and between allies.

Zelenskyy needs to prevent a scenario in which he gets blamed for blocking peace talks by rejecting Putin's maximalist demand on the Donbas, the official said.

It is a demand Zelenskyy has said many times he will never accept because it is unconstitutional and could create a launching pad for future Russian attacks.

NATION



JULIA DEMAREE NIKHINSON/AP

Travelers walk by as District of Columbia National Guardsmen patrol inside the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metro Station, on Sunday, in Washington.

GOP governors plan to send National Guard units to DC

By PRAVEENA SOMASUNDARAM
AND KARINA ELWOOD
The Washington Post

Sporadic protests sprouted up across D.C. over the weekend, as GOP-led states announced they would send their own National Guard troops to augment President Donald Trump's law enforcement takeover in the nation's capital.

This month, Trump announced the mobilization of the D.C. National Guard in the city, which he portrayed as crime-ridden, though violent crime in D.C. has been declining since 2023. Trump has received praise from conservative allies and shows of support from GOP governors, while residents have pushed back on his depictions of Washington.

Here's what we know about the federal government's efforts to take over the city's law enforcement.

Total troops could nearly double in size

The number of troops in D.C. could nearly double in the coming days as National Guard members from other states begin to arrive — an escalation that began over the weekend when three Republican governors answered the Trump administration's call for additional troops.

On Saturday, the governors pledged up to 750 troops to join the 800 D.C. National Guard members already mobilized in the city.

West Virginia Gov. Patrick Morrisey said he had directed 300 to 400 troops to deploy and “support the President's initiative to restore cleanliness and safety” to the nation's capital. Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine promised an-

other 150 troops, and South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster signed off on 200 troops, adding that the request for help came from the National Guard Bureau of the Pentagon.

Morrisey and McMaster said the federal government would be funding the deployment of state troops.

National Guard in D.C. may soon carry weapons

The federal government has signaled that the troops mobilized in D.C. could soon be carrying weapons.

Such an instruction would be a reversal of initial deployment orders, which specified that Guard troops would wear body armor, but leave their weapons at the armory.

Hundreds arrested but not by the National Guard

As of Sunday, there have been more than “300 arrests in D.C. — and counting,” U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi said on X. Authorities made 68 arrests over Saturday night and seized 15 illegal firearms, Bondi added.

However, the “National Guard is not making arrests at this time,” an administration official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity under rules set by the White House.

Protests have popped up

Over the weekend, as more federal agents deployed on the streets, protests, both small and large, emerged across the city. On Friday night, small groups gathered with pots and pans, clanking them together. Bystanders booed, heckled and recorded law enforcement on a popular stretch of nightlife. On Sunday, local police said they were not monitoring any protest situations in the city.

US halts visas for people from Gaza after Loomer posts

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A day after conservative activist Laura Loomer posted videos on social media of children from Gaza arriving in the U.S. for medical treatment and questioning how they got visas, the State Department said it was halting all visitor visas for people from Gaza pending a review.

The State Department said Saturday the visas would be stopped while it looks into how “a small number of temporary medical-humanitarian visas” were issued in recent days. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Sunday told “Face the Nation” on CBS that the action came after “outreach from multiple congressional offices asking questions about it.”

Rubio said there were “just a small number” of the visas issued to children in need of medical aid but that they were accompanied by adults. The congressional offices reached out with evidence that “some of the organizations bragging about and involved in acquiring these visas have strong links to terrorist groups like Hamas,” he asserted, without providing evidence or naming those organizations.

As a result, he said, “we are going to pause this program and reevaluate how those visas are being vetted and what relationship, if any, has there been by these organizations to the process of acquiring those visas.”

Loomer on Friday posted videos on X of children from Gaza arriving earlier this month in San Francisco and Houston for medical treatment with the aid of an organization called HEAL Palestine. “Despite the US saying we are not accepting Palestinian ‘refugees’ into the United States under the Trump administration,” these people from Gaza were able to travel to the U.S., she said.

She called it a “national security threat” and asked who signed off on the visas, calling for the person to be fired. She tagged Rubio, President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance, GOP Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat.

Trump has downplayed Loomer's influence on his administration, but several officials swiftly left or were removed shortly after she publicly criticized them.

The State Department on Sunday declined to comment on how many of the visas had been granted and whether the decision to halt visas to people from Gaza had anything to do with Loomer's posts.

HEAL Palestine said in a statement Sunday that it was “distressed” by the State Department decision to halt visitor visas from Gaza. The group said it is “an American humanitarian nonprofit organization delivering urgent aid and medical care to children in Palestine.”

A post on the organization's Facebook page Thursday shows a photo of a boy from Gaza leaving Egypt and headed to St. Louis for treatment and said he is “our 15th evacuated child arriving in the U.S. in the last two weeks.”

The organization brings “severely injured children” to the U.S. on temporary visas for treatment they can't get at home, the statement said. Following treatment, the children and any family members who accompanied them return to the Middle East, the statement said.

“This is a medical treatment program, not a refugee resettlement program,” it said.

The World Health Organization has repeatedly called for more medical evacuations from Gaza, where Israel's over 22-month war against Hamas has heavily destroyed or damaged much of the territory's health system.

Florida GOP scraps ‘Deport Depot’ merch after Home Depot objects

The Washington Post

The Republican Party of Florida was pushing a new line of merchandise Friday: baseball caps, T-shirts, mugs and insulating drink sleeves with “THE DEPORT DEPOT” in blocky stencil font diagonally across a bright orange square.

Two days later, after Home Depot expressed concern about the unapproved use of its branding, the items had been scrubbed from the Florida GOP's digital storefront and posts on X about the new line had been de-

leted — but a post on Instagram featuring images of the merchandise remained. A half-hour after The Washington Post made inquiries, the Instagram post was gone as well.

“We don't allow any organization to use our branding or logo for their commercial purposes, and we did not approve this use,” Beth Marlowe, a Home Depot spokeswoman, said in an email Sunday.

Florida GOP Chairman Evan Power did not respond to requests for comment.

The short-lived deportation-themed merchandise came after Thursday's announcement by Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis of plans to turn an underused state prison into a migrant detention center that can hold up to 1,300 detainees — a facility he referred to as “Deportation Depot.” In recent months, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have carried out controversial raids at Home Depot parking lots, where undocumented day laborers have long gath-

ered seeking work.

The Baker Correctional Institution in north Florida will cost \$6 million to convert for use as a migrant detention center, officials said. The news of the state's second migrant detention facility follows what DeSantis has touted as the success of Alligator Alcatraz, a detention center near Everglades National Park that opened in early July and now holds about 1,000 detainees. That facility cost \$450 million.

The Everglades detention center

is also the subject of a line of merchandise for sale on the Florida GOP's website.

Anna V. Eskamani, a Democratic state legislator representing parts of Orlando, said she contacted Home Depot representatives Friday after seeing the Florida GOP's new line of clothing and knickknacks.

“I'm happy to see the merchandise be removed but at the end of the day it doesn't address the offensive and arrogant behavior of the anti-immigrant agenda,” Eskamani said.

NATION

Texas Dems end walkout over redistricting

By **BILL BARROW**
AND **FERNANDA FIGUEROA**
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas Democrats ended a two-week walkout Monday that stalled Republican efforts to redraw congressional districts as part of a national partisan brawl over President Donald Trump's desire to reshape U.S. House maps to his advantage.

Their return to the Texas Capitol will allow the Republican-run Legislature to proceed as California Democrats advance a counter-effort to redraw their congressional boundaries in retaliation. The tit-for-tat puts the nation's two most populous states at the center of an expanding fight over control of Congress ahead of the 2026 midterm elections.

Dozens of Texas House Democrats left the state Aug. 3 to deny their Republican-majority colleagues the attendance necessary to vote on redrawn maps intended to send five more Texas Republicans to Washington.

They declared victory after Republicans adjourned their first special session on Friday and Democrats around the country rallied in opposition to the Trump-led gerrymandering effort. They pointed specifically to California's release of proposed maps intended to increase Democrats' U.S. House advantage by five seats, ef-



AARON E. MARTINEZ/AP

Diana Castillo-Perez from San Antonio holds up a sign during the Fight the Trump Takeover rally at the Texas Capitol, Saturday in Austin, Texas.

fectively neutralizing any Republican gains in Texas.

For the first time since Trump's redistricting push accelerated into a national issue, the Texas House floor was near full capacity Monday afternoon.

Republican House Speaker

Dustin Burrows did not mention redistricting on the floor Monday but promised swift action on the Legislature's agenda.

"The majority has the right to prevail. The minority has the right to be heard," the speaker said. "We are done waiting."

Democrats were greeted by cheering supporters inside the Capitol before the House convened. The House met for a short session but did not take up any bills and was not scheduled to return until Wednesday.

"We killed the corrupt special

session, withstood unprecedented surveillance and intimidation, and rallied Democrats nationwide to join this existential fight for fair representation — reshaping the entire 2026 landscape," Texas House Minority Leader Gene Wu said in a written statement.

Wu has promised Democrats would challenge the new designs in court.

Trump has pressured other Republican-run states to consider redistricting, as well, while Democratic governors in multiple statehouses have indicated they would follow California's lead in response. Democratic California Gov. Gavin Newsom has said that his state will hold a Nov. 4 special referendum on the redrawn districts.

The president wants to shore up Republicans' narrow House majority and avoid a repeat of the 2018 midterms during his first presidency, when Democrats regained House control and used their majority to stymie his agenda and twice impeach him. On a national level, the partisan make-up of existing district lines puts Democrats within three seats of a majority.

Of the 435 total House seats, only several dozen districts are competitive. So even slight changes in a few states could affect which party wins control.

Judges weighs detainees' rights at 'Alligator Alcatraz'

Associated Press

MIAMI — A federal judge on Monday considered whether detainees at a temporary immigrant detention center in the Florida Everglades have been denied their legal rights.

In the second of two lawsuits challenging practices at the facility known as "Alligator Alcatraz," civil rights attorneys sought a preliminary injunction to ensure that detainees at the facility have confidential access to their lawyers, which they say hasn't happened. Florida officials dispute that claim.

The civil rights attorneys also wanted U.S. District Judge Rodolfo Ruiz to identify an immigration court that has jurisdiction over the detention center so that petitions can be filed for the detainees' bond or release.

The attorneys say that hearings for their cases have been routinely canceled in federal Florida immigration courts by judges who say they don't have jurisdiction over the detainees held in the Everglades.

At the start of Monday's hear-

ing, government attorneys said they would designate the immigration court at the Krome North Service Processing Center in the Miami area as having jurisdiction over the detention center in the Everglades in an effort to address some of the civil rights attorneys' constitutional concerns.

The judge told the government attorneys that he didn't expect them to change that designation without good reason.

But before delving into the core issues of the detainees' rights, Ruiz wanted to hear about whether the lawsuit was filed in the proper jurisdiction in Miami.

The state and federal government defendants have argued that even though the isolated airstrip where the facility was built is owned by Miami-Dade County, Florida's southern district is the wrong venue since the detention center is in neighboring Collier County, which is in the state's middle district.

The hearing ended without the judge making an immediate ruling. Ruiz suggested that the case against the federal defendants

might be appropriate for the southern district, but the case against the state defendants might be better in the middle district.

The hearing over legal access comes as another federal judge in Miami considers whether construction and operations at the facility should be halted indefinitely because federal environmental rules weren't followed.

U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams on Aug. 7 ordered a 14-day halt on additional construction at the site while witnesses testified at a hearing that wrapped up last week. She has said she plans to issue a ruling before the order expires later this week.

Meanwhile, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis announced last week that his administration was preparing to open a second immigration detention facility dubbed "Deportation Depot" at a state prison in north Florida.

DeSantis justified building the second detention center by saying President Donald Trump's administration needs the additional capacity to hold and deport more immigrants.

MSNBC to change name as part of corporate divorce

Associated Press

Television's MSNBC news network is changing its name to My Source News Opinion World, or MS NOW for short, as part of its corporate divorce from NBC.

The network, which appeals to liberal audiences with a stable of personalities including Rachel Maddow, Ari Melber and Nicole Wallace, has been building its own separate news division from NBC News. It will also remove NBC's peacock symbol from its logo as part of the change, which will take effect later this year.

The name change was ordered by NBC Universal, which last November spun off cable networks USA, CNBC, MSNBC, E! Entertainment, Oxygen and the Golf Channel into its own company, called Versant. None of the other networks are changing names.

MSNBC got its name upon its formation in 1996, as a partnership then between Microsoft and NBC.

Name changes always carry an inherent risk, and MSNBC President Rebecca Kutler said that for employees, it is hard to imagine the network under a different name.

"This was not a decision that



AP

The logo for My Source News Opinion World.

was made quickly or without significant debate," she said in a memo to staff.

"During this time of transition, NBC Universal decided that our brand requires a new, separate identity," she said. "This decision now allows us to set our own course and assert our independence as we continue to build."

Still, the affiliation between a news division that tries to play it safe and one that doesn't hide its liberal bent has long caused tension. President Donald Trump refers to the cable network as "MSDNC," for Democratic National Committee. Even before the corporate change, NBC News has been reducing the use of its personalities on MSNBC.

NATION

GOP aims to rescind Postal Service EV cash

By **SUSAN HAIGH**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A year after being lauded for its plan to replace thousands of aging, gas-powered mail trucks with a mostly electric fleet, the U.S. Postal Service is facing congressional attempts to strip billions in federal EV funding.

In June, the Senate parliamentarian blocked a Republican proposal in a major tax-and-spending bill to sell off the agency's new electric vehicles and infrastructure and revoke remaining federal money. But efforts to halt the fleet's shift to clean energy continue in the name of cost savings.

Donald Maston, president of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, said canceling the program now would have the op-

posite effect, squandering millions of dollars.

"I think it would be shortsighted for Congress to now suddenly decide they're going to try to go backwards and take the money away for the EVs or stop that process because that's just going to be a bunch of money on infrastructure that's been wasted," he said.

Many GOP lawmakers share President Donald Trump's criticism of the Biden-era green energy push and say the Postal Service should stick to delivering mail.

Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, said "it didn't make sense for the Postal Service to invest so heavily in an all-electric force." She said she will pursue legislation to rescind what is left of the \$3 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act allo-

cated to help cover the \$10 billion cost of new postal vehicles.

"You always evaluate the programs, see if they are working. But the rate at which the company that's providing those vehicles is able to produce them, they are so far behind schedule, they will never be able to fulfill that contract," Ernst said during a recent appearance at the Iowa State Fair, referring to Wisconsin-based Oshkosh Defense.

Rep. Michael Cloud, R-Texas, a co-sponsor of the rollback effort, has said the EV order should be canceled because the project "has delivered nothing but delays, defective trucks, and skyrocketing costs."

The Postal Service maintains that the production delay of the



SUSAN HAIGH/AP

A U.S. Postal Service's Next Generation Delivery Vehicle is displayed in Washington.

Next Generation Delivery Vehicles, or NGDVs, was "very modest" and not unexpected.

"The production quantity ramp-up was planned for and intended to be very gradual in the early months to allow time for potential modest production or supplier is-

ues to be successfully resolved," spokesperson Kim Frum said.

The independent, self-funded federal agency, which is paid for mostly by postage and product sales, is in the middle of a \$40 billion, 10-year modernization and financial stabilization plan. The EV effort had the full backing of Democratic President Joe Biden, who pledged to move toward an all-electric federal fleet of cars and trucks.

The "Deliver for America" plan calls for modernizing the ground fleet, notably the Grumman Long Life Vehicle, which dates back to 1987 and is fuel-inefficient at 9 mpg. The vehicles are well past their projected 24-year lifespan and are prone to breakdowns and even fires.

Vermont mountain park honors bonds between dogs and humans

By **AMANDA SWINHART**
Associated Press

ST. JOHNSBURY, Vt. — Anne Pace has been hearing about Dog Mountain for years, but until earlier this month, had never made a trip to the park.

"I really wanted to see this place," she said, during a visit to the grounds with her 1-year-old border collie, Tam. "I put a note up for my previous border collie. He was my best buddy."

Set on 150 acres tucked away on a hillside in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, Dog Mountain has become a destination for dog lovers looking to explore nature, take in art, or pay tribute to a pet.

The park was created 25 years ago by Vermont folk artist Stephen Huneck and his wife, Gwen, and features hiking trails, swimming ponds, an art gallery and a Dog Chapel where visitors can add to the thousands of photos and notes to pets that cover the chapel walls.

"It is absolutely breathtaking. That's a lot of love when you think about each picture that's here," said Vanessa Hurley, who was visiting with her husband and two dogs from Ohio.



A sign, left, welcomes visitors to Dog Mountain, a 150-acre dog and art park created by Vermont folk artist Stephen Huneck, in St. Johnsbury, Vt. Vanessa Hurley, right, visits the Dog Chapel — where visitors can add to the photos and notes to pets on the walls — with her dog, Feisty.



PHOTOS BY AMANDA SWINHART/AP

"Dogs and cats both, they just bring so much enjoyment to our lives," she said.

Inspired by the bond he shared with his dogs, Huneck wanted to create a space where other animal lovers could celebrate their beloved pets, gallery manager Pam McCann said.

"Dog Mountain is really a pilgrimage place and a sanctuary,"

she said.

Huneck's sculpture, prints and furniture are featured in the gallery and scattered throughout the park, including inside the chapel he built himself. With black labs and golden retrievers carved into the ends of each pew and images of his own dog, Sally, in the stained-glass windows, his love of dogs is evident in every detail.

Scott Ritchie and his wife, Julie, have been traveling the country in an RV with their three large dogs and thought Dog Mountain would be the perfect place for them to stretch their legs. They enjoyed it so much on their first visit, they decided to come back the next day.

"It's very rare you see something like this anywhere. We've

been traveling all over the U.S. for five and a half months. Just a beautiful area," he said.

McCann says the park was made for visitors like Ritchie.

"That's what it's for, people who really care and people who are very connected to everything around them," she said.

"Including the animals that they are the guardians of."

Hurricane Erin forecast to create dangerous surf along East Coast

Associated Press

MIAMI — Hurricane Erin began pelting part of the Caribbean with rain and wind Monday before it's expected to churn up dangerous surf and rip currents along the East Coast this week.

Evacuations were being ordered on a few islands along North Carolina's Outer Banks even though the storm is unlikely to make direct landfall. Authorities warned that some roads could be swamped by waves of 15 feet.

The monster storm intensified to a Category 4 with 140 mph maximum sustained winds early Monday while it started to lash the Turks and Caicos Islands and the southeast Bahamas, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Forecasters are confident that Erin will turn northeast and away from the eastern U.S., but it's still expected to produce dangerous waves and rip currents and could bring tropical force winds to the

North Carolina coast, said Dave Roberts of the National Hurricane Center.

Evacuations were ordered beginning Monday on Hatteras Island and Ocracoke Island on the Outer Banks, coming at the height of tourist season on the thin stretch of low-lying barrier islands that juts far into the Atlantic Ocean. Coastal flooding was expected to begin Tuesday and continue through Thursday.

There are concerns that several

days of heavy surf, high winds and waves could wash out parts of the main highway running along the barrier islands, the National Weather Service said.

But there were no signs of panic on Hatteras Island, said Angela Tawes, a co-owner of Conner's Supermarket.

"It's so beautiful outside. It's hard for people to feel like there's a hurricane coming when it's so gorgeous," she said.

Erin, the year's first Atlantic

hurricane, reached a dangerous Category 5 status Saturday with 160 mph winds before weakening. It is expected to remain a large, major hurricane into midweek.

Early Monday, the storm was located about 110 miles north of Grand Turk Island and about 880 miles south-southeast of Cape Hatteras, N.C.

Tropical storm warnings were in effect for the southeast Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands, the hurricane center said.

WORLD

US discuss long-term ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon

Associated Press

BEIRUT — The U.S. special envoy to Lebanon said Monday that his team would discuss the long-term cessation of hostilities with Israel, after Beirut endorsed a U.S.-backed plan for the Hezbollah militant group to disarm.

Tom Barrack, following a meeting with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun, also said Washington would seek an economic proposal for post-war reconstruction in the country, after months of shuttle diplomacy between the U.S. and Lebanon.

Barrack is also set to meet with Prime Minister Nawaf Salam and Speaker Nabih Berri, who often negotiates on behalf of Hezbollah with Washington.

“I think the Lebanese government has done their part. They’ve

taken the first step,” said Barrack, who is also the U.S. ambassador to Turkey. “Now what we need is for Israel to comply with that equal handshake.”

Lebanon’s decision last week to support a plan to disarm Hezbollah angered the Iran-backed group and its allies, who believe Israel’s military should first withdraw from the five hilltops it has occupied in southern Lebanon since the end of its 14-month war with Hezbollah last November and stop launching almost daily airstrikes in the country.

Naim Kassem, Hezbollah’s secretary-general, has vowed to fight efforts to disarm the group, sowing fears of civil unrest in the country.

Barrack warned Hezbollah that it will have “missed an opportunity” if it doesn’t back the calls for it to disarm.

Aoun and Salam both want to disarm Hezbollah and other non-state armed groups, and have demanded Israel halt its attacks and withdraw from the country.

Aoun said he wants to increase funding for Lebanon’s cash-strapped military to bolster its capacity. He also wants to raise money from international donors to help rebuild the country.

The World Bank estimates that Hezbollah and Israel’s monthslong war in late 2024 cost \$11.1 billion in damages and economic losses as large swaths of southern and eastern Lebanon were battered.

The country has also faced a crippling economic crisis since 2019.



RUDAW TV/AP

Workers Sunday dig out human remains where authorities have begun excavating a mass grave believed to contain thousands of victims of the Islamic State in Mosul, Iraq.

Iraq starts excavation of mass grave left by ISIS

Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq — Iraqi officials have begun the excavation of what is believed to be a mass grave left behind by the Islamic State extremist group during its rampage across the country a decade ago.

Local authorities are working with the judiciary, forensic investigations, Iraq’s Martyrs’ Foundation and the directorate of mass graves to carry out the excavation of the site of a sink hole in al-Khafsa, south of the northern city of Mosul, the state-run Iraqi News Agency reported Sunday.

Ahmad Qusay al-Asady, head of the Martyrs’ Foundation’s mass graves excavation department, told The Associated Press that his team began work on Aug. 9 at the request of Nineveh province’s Gov. Abdulqadir al-Dakhir.

The operation is initially limited to gathering visible human remains and surface evidence while preparing for a full exhumation that officials say will require international support.

After an initial 15 days of work, the foundation’s Mosul teams will build a database and start collecting DNA samples from families of suspected victims.

Based on unverified accounts from witnesses and families and other unofficial testimonies, authorities estimate that thousands of bodies could be buried there, he said.

At its peak, ISIS ruled an area half the size of the United Kingdom in Iraq and Syria and was notorious for its brutality.

It beheaded civilians and enslaved and raped thousands of women from the Yazidi community, one of Iraq’s oldest religious minorities.

Bolivia heads to a runoff after election ends two decades of party dominance

By ISABEL DEBRE

Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia — Bolivia’s presidential vote is headed to an unprecedented runoff after Sunday’s election ended over two decades of ruling party dominance in the Andean nation.

A centrist, Sen. Rodrigo Paz, drew more votes than the front-runners, although not enough to secure an outright victory, early results showed.

Paz, a former mayor who has

sought to soften the edges of the opposition’s push for austerity to rescue Bolivia from a looming economic collapse, will face off against former President Jorge “Tuto” Quiroga, who finished second. Bolivia holds the presidential runoff — its first since its 1982 return to democracy — on Oct. 19.

“This economic model must change,” Paz declared to crowds who cheered and chanted, “Renewal!”

Paz’s campaign had gained un-

expected traction as he teamed up with Edman Lara, a social media savvy ex-police captain with evangelical backing whose supporters see him as someone willing to stand up to corruption in the security forces.

With over 91% of the ballots counted Sunday, Paz received 32.8% of the votes cast. Quiroga secured 26.4%. Candidates needed to surpass 50%, or 40% with a 10-point margin of victory, to avoid a runoff.

STARS AND STRIPES

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market

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WORLD

World Humanoid Robot Games in China required human touch

By MAHESH KUMAR
Associated Press

BEIJING — Humanoid robots raced and punched their way through three days of a multi-sport competition at the World Humanoid Robot Games, wrapping up Sunday in Beijing.

But they also toppled, crashed and collapsed, requiring humans' help and leading to questions about how far, after all, the robots can go on their own.

The games featured more than 500 humanoid robots on 280 teams from 16 countries, including the United States, Germany and Japan, that competed in sports such as soccer, running and boxing at the 12,000-seat National Speed Skating Oval, built for the 2022 Winter Olympics.

The event comes as China has stepped up efforts to develop humanoid robots powered by artificial intelligence.

Robots were often seen close to their operators, whether they were controlled remotely, held, lifted, sorted or separated. Batteries needed replacing and limbs tuned.



Ng Han Guan/AP

A robot falls after tagging off to the last leg of its team in the 4x100m final Sunday.

Although the robots showed off some impressive moves, some tripped and human intervention was never far from the field. One had to be carried out by two people, like an injured athlete, in a display of the limitations the machines are still facing.

Their effect on the audience,

however, was not unlike that of real athletes. Cheers erupted when a robot landed a punch, scored a goal, or won a game, showing that viewers were genuinely invested in the machines' endeavors. AI-powered robots are expected to be increasingly used in industrial settings.



PHOTOS BY MAHESH KUMAR A./AP

A technician assists a robot that fell during a soccer match at the World Humanoid Robot Games in Beijing, China, on Friday.



A referee supports the head of a robot after it fell during the Free Combat event.

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WORLD

Sheep wool, human hair may boost toothpaste

By MARK JOHNSON
The Washington Post

The next major innovation in dental care just might be a new ingredient added to our toothpaste and mouthwash from an unlikely source: sheep's wool or human hair.

Both contain the fibrous protein keratin, which can repair damaged tooth enamel, according to an international study led by researchers at King's College London.

The scientists found that keratin can stop the early stages of

tooth decay, a problem that afflicts about 90% of American adults aged 20 to 64 years, according to the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, part of the National Institutes of Health.

Reporting this week in the journal *Advanced Healthcare Materials*, the researchers said that when keratin mixes with the minerals found in saliva, such as calcium and phosphate, it forms a coating that mimics the structure of natural enamel and is comparable in strength.

Tooth enamel, the protective outer layer shielding teeth, is the hardest substance in the human body, but it can be worn away by acidic foods and beverages, acid reflux, dry mouth, poor brushing and flossing, and the nighttime grinding that can occur when we sleep.

While other parts of the human body have the capacity to regenerate — fingernails, skin, bone, blood vessels and the liver — enamel cannot.

"Unfortunately, once you lose the enamel it doesn't come back.

It's gone forever," said Sherif Elsharkawy, senior author of the new paper and a senior clinical lecturer in prosthodontics at King's College London. Prosthodontics is the branch of dentistry dealing with the design, manufacture and fitting of artificial replacements for teeth and other parts of the mouth.

A 2014 paper suggested that hair keratin is important to tooth enamel. Researchers who worked on the study found that people with mutations in the keratin were at increased risk of

dental decay.

Keratin is already found in shampoos, conditioners, skin moisturizers and lotions, and food like eggs and salmon promote keratin production.

"It's extremely safe," Elsharkawy said.

While keratin has yet to be added to any commercially available toothpaste or mouthwash, that might be only two or three years away, according to Elsharkawy. He also envisions a gel that dentists could use when treating patients with damaged enamel.

Scientists uncover fossil of ancient whale with deceptive Pokémon face

By CHARLOTTE
GRAHAM-McLAY
Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Long before whales were majestic, gentle giants, some of their prehistoric ancestors were tiny, weird and feral. A chance discovery of a 25 million-year-old fossil on an Australian beach has allowed paleontologists to identify a rare, entirely new species that could unlock mysteries of whale evolution.

Researchers last week officially named *Janjucetus dullardi*, a cartoonish creature with bulging eyes the size of tennis balls, in the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*. Unlike today's whales, the juvenile specimen was small enough to fit in a single bed.

Boasting fiendish teeth and a shark-like snout, however, this oddball of the ocean was nasty, mean and built to hunt.

"It was, let's say, deceptively cute," said Erich Fitzgerald, senior curator of vertebrate paleontology at Museums Victoria Research Institute, and one of the paper's authors.

"It might have looked for all the world like some weird kind of mash-up between a whale, a seal and a Pokémon but they were very much their own thing."

Odd branch on family tree

The rare discovery of the partial skull, including ear bones and teeth, was made in 2019 on a fossil-rich stretch of coast along Australia's Victoria state. Jan Juc Beach, a cradle for some of the weirdest whales in history, is becoming a hotspot for understanding early whale evolution, Fitzgerald said.

Few family trees seem stranger than that of *Janjucetus dullardi*, only the fourth species ever identified from a group known as mammalodontids, early whales that lived only during the Oligo-

cene Epoch, about 34 to 23 million years ago. That marked the point about halfway through the known history of whales.

The tiny predators, thought to have grown to 10 feet in length, were an early branch on the line that led to today's great baleen whales, such as humpbacks, blues and minke. But the toothy ancestors with powerful jaws would have looked radically different to any modern species.

"They may have had tiny little nubbins of legs just projecting as stumps from the wall of the body," said Fitzgerald.

That mystery will remain tantalizingly unsolved unless a specimen is uncovered with more of its skeleton intact, which would be something of a miracle. Even the partial skull that allowed the initial identification this week was an astonishing discovery.

Obsession paid off

Janjucetus dullardi was named by researchers after an amateur fossil hunter who doesn't mind its looks in the slightest.

"It's literally been the greatest 24 hours of my life," said Ross Dullard, who discovered the skull while fossil hunting at Jan Juc Beach. After Wednesday's confirmation of the new species, the school principal walked like a rock star onto campus with "high fives coming left, right and center," he said.

His friends and family are probably just relieved it's over.

"That's all they've heard from me for about the last six years," he said.

Dullard was on a regular low-tide hunt at Jan Juc the day he spotted something black protruding from a cliff. Poking it dislodged a tooth.

He knew enough to recognize it was unlikely to belong to a dog or a seal.



TOM BREAKWELL, MUSEUMS VICTORIA/AP

Ruairidh Duncan examines a tooth and partial fossil skull, at left, in the palaeontology lab at Melbourne Museum in Melbourne, Australia, on Aug. 5.



RUAIRIDH DUNCAN/AP

A *Janjucetus dullardi* is depicted chasing a fish.

"I thought, geez, we've got something special here," he said. Dullard sent photos to Museums Victoria, where Fitzgerald saw them and immediately suspected a new species.

Rare but significant

Confirming the find was another matter. This was the first mam-

malodontid to be identified in Australia since 2006 and only the third on record in the country.

Fossils of sufficient quality, with enough of the right details preserved to confirm uniqueness, aren't common.

"Cetaceans represent a fairly minuscule population of all life," Fitzgerald said. Millions of years

of erosion, scavengers and ocean currents take their toll on whale skeletons too.

"It's only the chosen few, the vast minority of all whales that have ever lived and died in the oceans over millions of years, that actually get preserved as fossils," he added.

Finds such as *Janjucetus dullardi* can unlock insights into how prehistoric whales ate, moved, behaved — and evolved.

Researchers said the discoveries also helped to understand how ancient cetacean species adapted to warmer oceans, as they continue studying how today's marine life might respond to climate change.

Meanwhile, Dullard planned to host a fossil party last weekend, featuring cetacean-themed games and whale-shaped treats in jello, to celebrate his nightmare Muppet find, finally confirmed.

"That's taken my concentration for six years," he said. "I've had sleepless nights. I've dreamt about this whale."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Vandals lob poop bags at LGBTQ youth center

CA LOS ANGELES — For the past several months, volunteers and community members arriving at the Mi SELA youth center in the city of Bell have encountered a putrid smell.

The source? Bags of discarded dog feces.

The center is a partnership between the Los Angeles LGBT Center and the Latino Equity Alliance.

“There were over 10 bags. That was the second time that we’ve had to do a full sweep of the awning ... I just worry about, what if it does escalate in the future?” Sanya Lojero, Mi SELA’s programs manager, told NBC Los Angeles. “This is a youth resource center, so we have clients coming in each day and I don’t want them to feel like they’re getting harassed.”

It’s unclear who is throwing the feces — or why. But given the center serves LGBTQ+ youth, some maintain it’s deliberate, potentially hate-motivated vandalism.

LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn has pledged a \$2,500 grant to install more security cameras around the community center in hopes of capturing the perpetrators.



ALAN WARREN, THE (OWENSBORO, Ky.) MESSENGER-INQUIRER/AP

COVID-19 surges as students return to school

GA ATLANTA — COVID-19 rates in the Southwestern United States reached 12.5% — the highest in the nation — according to new data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released last week. Meanwhile, Los Angeles County recorded the highest COVID-19 levels in its wastewater since February.

The spike, thanks to the new highly contagious “Stratus” variant, comes as students across California return to the classroom, now without a CDC recommendation that they receive updated COVID-19 shots. That change in policy, pushed by Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., has been criticized by many public health experts.

The nationwide COVID-19 positivity rate hit 9% in early August, surpassing the January post-holiday surge, but still below last August’s spike to 18%. Weekly deaths, a metric that lags positivity rates, has so far remained low.

Lawyer for ex-sheriff in judge’s death wants bond

KY LEXINGTON — A lawyer for former Letcher County Sheriff Shawn “Mickey” Stines asked for a \$50,000 bond for her client during a hearing at the Letcher County Courthouse.

Stines, 44, is charged with shooting and killing former county District Judge Kevin Mullins inside Mullins’ chambers on Sept. 19, 2024.

Roaring good time

Members of the Lunar Lion Dance Team from Louisville perform during a parade at the 27th annual Owensboro Multicultural Festival at First Presbyterian Church in Owensboro, Ky., on Saturday.

The shooting and the minutes leading up to it were captured on video and released by the Kentucky State Police through an open records request.

During Friday’s hearing, Stines’ lawyers and prosecutors continued arguments about several motions previously submitted in the case.

A judge also heard arguments about Stines’ bond. The former sheriff is being held at the Leslie County Detention Center without bond, but another of his lawyers, Kerri Bartley, asked Circuit Judge Chris Cohron to set her client’s bond at \$50,000.

\$2M in jewelry stolen in less than 2 minutes

WA SEATTLE — Smash-and-grab thieves in Seattle made off with an estimated \$2 million in diamonds, luxury watches, gold and other items in a daring midday jewelry store robbery that took just about 90 seconds, police said Friday.

Video from the West Seattle store’s surveillance cameras shows four masked suspects shattering the locked glass front door with hammers and then ransacking six display cases Thursday.

One display held around \$750,000 worth in Rolex watches, police said in a statement, and another had an emerald necklace valued at \$125,000.

A masked suspect threatened

workers with bear spray and a Taser, police said, but no one was injured.

Ulta and Target to end shop-in-shop partnership

MN MINNEAPOLIS — After nearly four years of collaboration, Ulta Beauty and Minneapolis-based Target jointly announced they will end their shop-in-shop partnership when the current agreement expires.

“We’re proud of our shared success with Ulta Beauty and the experience we’ve delivered together,” said Rick Gomez, chief commercial officer at Target, in a news release. “We look forward to what’s ahead and remain committed to offering the beauty experience consumers have come to expect from Target.”

The partnership, announced in 2020, brought Ulta-branded sections to over 600 Target locations.

David Bellinger, a retail analyst for Mizuho Securities, said in a research note Thursday that Target’s “messy in-store operations” as well as retail theft and insufficient staffing likely contributed to the end of the partnership.

Great white shark seen near popular beaches

ME SCARBOROUGH — Reports of a large great white shark near some of

Maine’s most popular beaches have prompted police in one coastal town to issue a warning.

Scarborough’s marine resource officer got word of the roughly 10- to 12-foot shark, police said. The shark was spotted in the area of Crescent Beach State Park, Higgins Beach and Pine Point Beach, they said, all located within a half-hour’s drive of Portland.

Commercial clam fisherman David Lancaster was able to take drone footage of the shark swimming just beneath the surface, its gray fin poking through the gentle swells. He said seeing the big shark was “magnificent,” if a little surprising.

“It was pretty crazy to see in the local waters. There are some really amazing creatures in the sea,” said Lancaster, who lives in nearby Scarborough. “It’s in the back of your head, but you have to accept it.”

Man who killed 3 set for state’s 12th execution

FL TALLAHASSEE — A Florida man who fatally stabbed his estranged wife’s sister and parents and then set fire to their house is scheduled for execution in Florida under a death warrant signed by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis.

David Pittman, 63, is set to die Sept. 17 in the record-extending 12th execution this year. DeSantis signed the warrant Friday.

Pittman was convicted and sentenced to death in 1991, according to court records.

Pittman and his wife, Marie, were going through a divorce in May 1990, when Pittman went to the Polk County home of her parents, Clarence and Barbara Knowles, officials said. Pittman fatally stabbed the couple, as well as their younger daughter, Bonnie. He then set fire to the house and stole Bonnie Knowles’ car, which he also set on fire, investigators said.

2026 will be last event for largest powwow in US

NM ALBUQUERQUE — For decades, tens of thousands of people have descended upon Albuquerque for what is billed as North America’s largest powwow, a celebration showcasing Indigenous dancers, musicians and artisans from around the world.

Organizers announced Saturday that 2026 will be the last time the cultural event is held, saying via email and social media that it will end after 43 years without providing details on the decision.

“There comes a time,” Gathering of Nations Ltd. said in a statement.

The official poster for the 2026 event features the words “The Last Dance.”

STARS AND STRIPES

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Stars and Stripes adopts Core Values on news

BY JACQUELINE SMITH

Stars and Stripes Ombudsman

Credibility is the lifeblood of a news organization. Without credibility, where is the value? Readers must be able to trust that the news they are receiving is unbiased, truthful and as complete as possible in the moment.

But — and it probably won't surprise you to hear this — a majority of Americans lack trust in news media. Gallup's most recent poll, for example, found that trust in mass media is at its lowest point in five decades. More than two-thirds say they either do not trust it "very much" or at all. How can you be well informed if you find the news unreliable?

Stars and Stripes is addressing this situation head-on. It's not enough anymore to say to readers "trust us;" the basis for trust must be explained and earned; the reporting and editing of the news must be transparent.

Stripes is doing this through a recently adopted statement of Core Values. This is different from its Mission Statement, which explains its purpose. Core Values get to the heart of how a news organization ought to work.

"Credibility is the greatest asset of any news medium, and impartiality is its greatest source of credibility," the statement begins. "Impartiality means reporting and editing the news honestly, fairly, and objectively without personal opinion or bias. Journalism's core mission is truth-telling, which requires accurately reporting facts and context."

Can journalists truly be impartial? When I was a reporter at various newspapers in the Northeast, every once in a while someone I was interviewing would say accusingly that it's impossible to be objective. That's actually an interesting debate. My response was that reporters are trained to put aside their personal views and pursue the facts.

I was encouraged to see objectivity addressed this way in Stars' Core Values: "A journalist's role is not to determine what they

believe to be the truth and reveal only that to their readers. They must report all verifiable facts as completely and impartially as possible, so that readers can, based on their own knowledge and experience, determine what they believe to be true." This is a crucial distinction: The news does not aim to tell readers what to think. More on that in a moment.

On objectivity, I particularly like this perspective in the Core Values: "A news organization must not just cover the news but uncover it. It must follow the story wherever it leads, without allowing preconceived ideas to filter the search for facts or to replace the discipline of verification." I wish I had these words for a response back in my reporting days.

Telling readers what to think — or not — can be confusing because on the Opinion page, also called the Editorial page, of most newspapers there are editorials, columns, guest essays and Letters to the Editor espousing many particular points of view. Some newspapers endorse political candidates, a practice that has drawn fresh debate in the industry. But opinion and news are entirely separate, and most newspapers put a wall between the two, similar to the wall between news and advertising. One does not influence the other. I know this firsthand as I was an opinion editor for a chain of daily newspapers for many years.

Stripes takes this wall higher. It does not publish staff-written editorials. "When a news organization delivers both news and opinions, its impartiality and credibility can be questioned," the Core Values state. "To minimize this, a clear distinction must be made between the two. Stars and Stripes maintains a strict separation between news and opinion. We do not write opinion pieces. Instead, we publish a balanced selection of external viewpoints." I read the Opinion section every day of publication and can verify the balance.

I believe that Stars' position on opinion — unlike most mainstream media — is crucial because of its targeted audience. Stripes is

dedicated to providing information to the military community, information that is impartial, unfiltered, factual and fair.

The Core Values statement has been in development for months and involved virtually all staff in Central headquarters in D.C., Europe and the Pacific. Stripes Publisher Max Lederer Jr., who initiated the movement, called the statement a defining moment for the newsroom.

"My goal for Stars and Stripes is to be viewed as a credible source, and we achieve this by impartial truth-telling in all that we publish," Lederer said in announcing this month adoption of the Core Values. "It is important that the military community understands what Stripes stands for and our perspective in executing our mission."

The Core Values align with a national initiative of the Center for Integrity in News Reporting of "restoring trust through impartial, objective, and fair reporting," said Executive Director Rufus Friday. He also is chair of the Publisher's Advisory Board for Stripes, which is composed of news industry leaders from around the country.

"Your leadership in defining and embracing these principles sends an important message — not only to the military community you serve, but to the broader journalism world — that credibility is earned through adhering to truth and impartiality," Friday said.

The Core Values must be prominent on Stripes' sites as a pledge to readers.

"These principles are not mere slogans," the Core Values statement reads. "They are commitments that guide every aspect of our work." With continued diligence and transparency, Stripes can assure readers it is a credible — and necessary — source of impartial information.

Jacqueline Smith is the ombudsman for Stars and Stripes, a position mandated by Congress. Contact her at ombudsman@stripes.com

'Made in America' is alive, well and misunderstood

BY SHELDON H. JACOBSON

Chicago Tribune

The president supports purchasing goods that are "made in America." To encourage this, President Donald Trump has imposed tariffs on imports from literally every country that the U.S. does business with, with 10% to 15% as the floor baseline. His hope is that tariffs would push more companies to move their manufacturing and production operations stateside, which he believes would reduce the \$1.2 trillion trade deficit in goods (in 2024).

Yet the aspirational goal of buying goods made in America is misguided and largely an unreachable myth.

Many well-known American companies rely on importing their consumer goods. Apple imports the majority of its iPhones, with China accounting for 80% of its manufacturing capacity. With 155 million iPhone users in the U.S., and iPhones holding over 57% of the smartphone market, Americans' love affair with iPhones is here to stay, independent of where they are assembled.

Nike manufactures nearly all of its athletic shoes and sportswear abroad, with Vietnam, China and Indonesia as their primary factory locations. It is difficult to attend a college football game without seeing the Nike swoosh somewhere on the field, given that the company sponsors the majority of top-ranked college

football teams. None of these teams are prepared to boycott Nike because it manufactures its products overseas.

Wrangler, the company known for its jeans, makes most of its clothing items overseas. For those intent on buying items made in America, they do make a few lines domestically (the 27406 and 1947 collections). Another popular jean manufacturer, Levi Strauss, also manufactures the majority of its products overseas.

The reason that such iconic all-American companies have moved their production capacity to China, Vietnam, Bangladesh, India and Mexico, among others, is cost. Labor costs in these countries are significantly lower than in the U.S. Given that American consumers are highly price sensitive, they demand lower prices. Since consumer spending is 70% of the nation's gross domestic product, which now rests at around \$30 trillion, anywhere costs can be reduced to keep prices competitive is an opportunity that companies have exploited, and they will continue to do so.

Yet all the companies listed manufacture nondurable goods, which have short shelf lives. Indeed, measuring "made in America" only at the most basic or lowest level of consumption is misleading.

In a free-market economy, new ideas for companies that are nurtured and grown in America are what should define "made in America." Indeed, it is the American entre-

preneurial spirit that defines what is "made in America," not the actual operations and facilities that produce the products.

Focusing on where companies are launched, and how they succeed is what makes them American. New business applications have been surging, with 5 million such applications filed in 2023, providing some hope that "made in America" companies continue to be a priority. And nowhere is such entrepreneurship being fostered and grown more than at American universities. Almost one-third of college students aspire to launch their own business. Where students study is also important, as they often launch their new business in the same state. This makes universities the ideal incubator for new businesses.

All such economic value is why efforts to remake higher education are misguided, destructive and will ultimately hurt not only universities, but everyone.

"Made in America" is more than just about goods produced and services delivered. It is about companies launched, new innovations uncovered and inspired entrepreneurship. That is where the focus on "made in America" should be. Facilitating such an environment is what can "Make America Great Again."

Sheldon H. Jacobson is a professor in the Grainger College of Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. A data scientist, he uses his expertise in risk-based analytics to address problems in public policy.

Bizarro

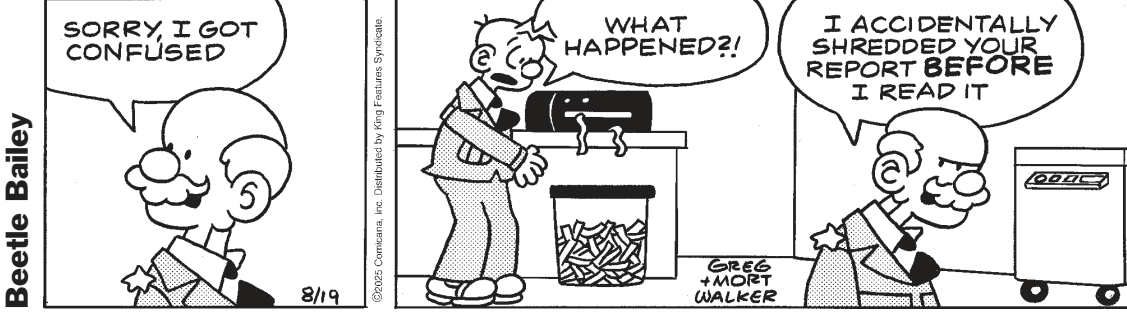
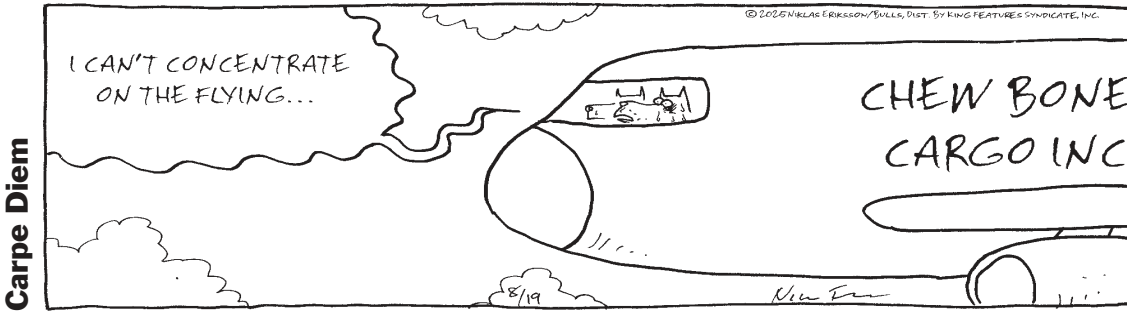
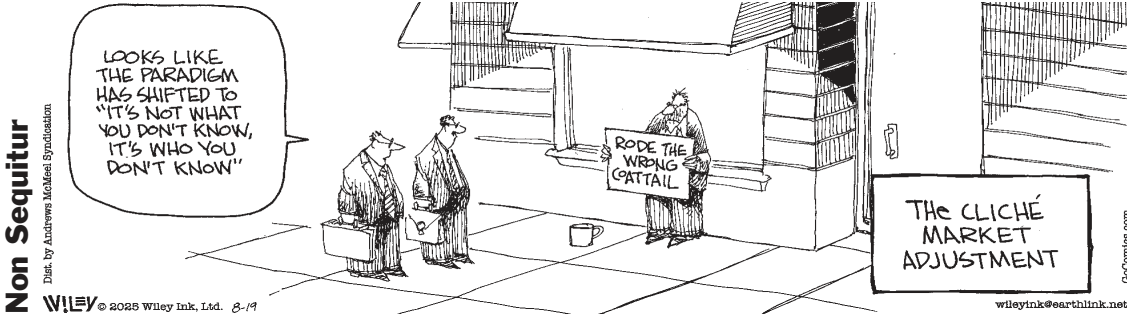
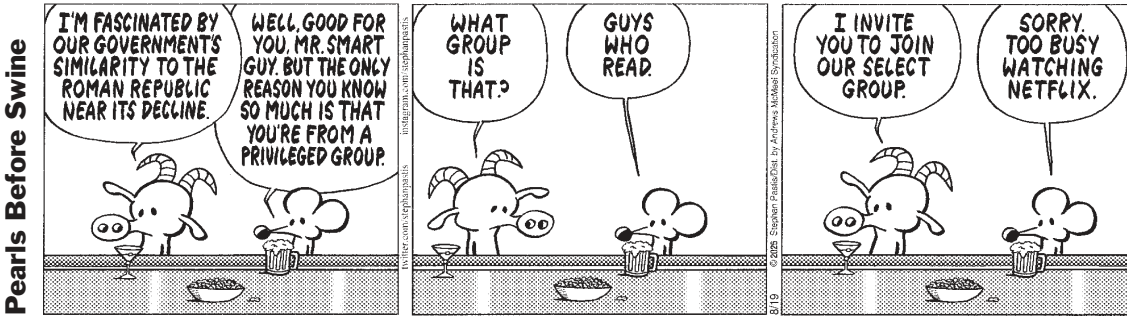
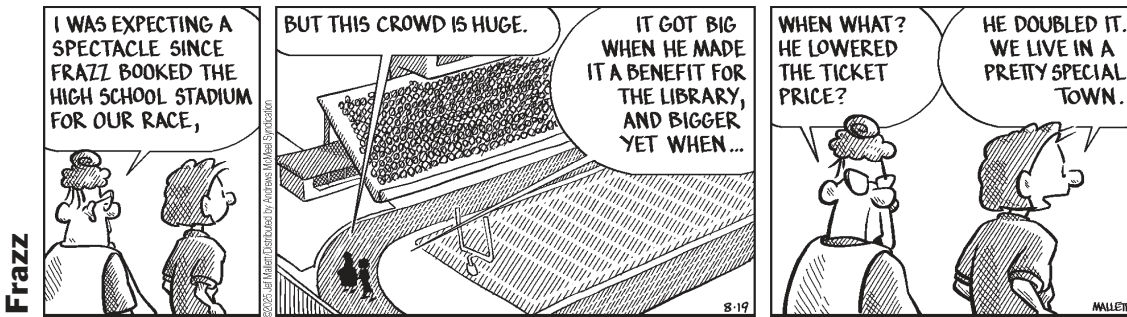


Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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



ACROSS

- 1 Dowels
- 5 America's uncle
- 8 Amorphous mass
- 12 Noncommittal answer
- 13 Altar vow
- 14 Classic Kinks song
- 15 Lip plumper
- 17 Thor's father
- 18 Moving vehicle
- 19 Crew activity
- 21 Slugger Roger
- 24 251, to Cicero
- 25 Bailiwick
- 26 Did a sorting job
- 30 Genetic letters
- 31 — mistake (blew it)
- 32 Lyricist Gershwin
- 33 Plots (with)
- 35 Disorder
- 36 Salt Lake City squad
- 37 Circumference
- 38 Pale yellow
- 41 Goal
- 42 Humdinger
- 43 Dialogue
- 48 Addict
- 49 Hosp. sections
- 50 "Absolutely!"
- 51 Online craft shop
- 52 "Hamilton" actress Phillipa
- 53 First-rate

DOWN

- 1 Photo, for short
- 2 Comic Philips
- 3 Lass
- 4 Poet Plath
- 5 Billboard
- 6 Citric beverage
- 7 Single-lens eyewear
- 8 Singer Estefan
- 9 California city
- 10 Lena of "Chocolat"
- 11 Backfire sound
- 16 Remote batteries, often
- 20 Penne — vodka
- 21 Artist Chagall
- 22 Florence's river
- 23 Authentic

- 24 Encryptions
- 26 Rhythmic patterns
- 27 Level
- 28 Formerly, once
- 29 Sprint
- 31 TV remote button
- 34 Kind of hotel
- 35 Brunch cocktail
- 37 Violinist Shaham
- 38 Chimney part
- 39 Craving
- 40 Pub orders
- 41 Too
- 44 Acapulco gold
- 45 Status —
- 46 Coffee vessel
- 47 "— -haw!" (cowboy cry)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

8-19

CRYPTOQUIP

HN WCKDUCBQ FDOD ODIRRQ
 GHELDB CNN FVHRD ECCLHSM
 DMMW HS VCG FIGDO, GVDQ'B
 UD UCHRHS KIB.

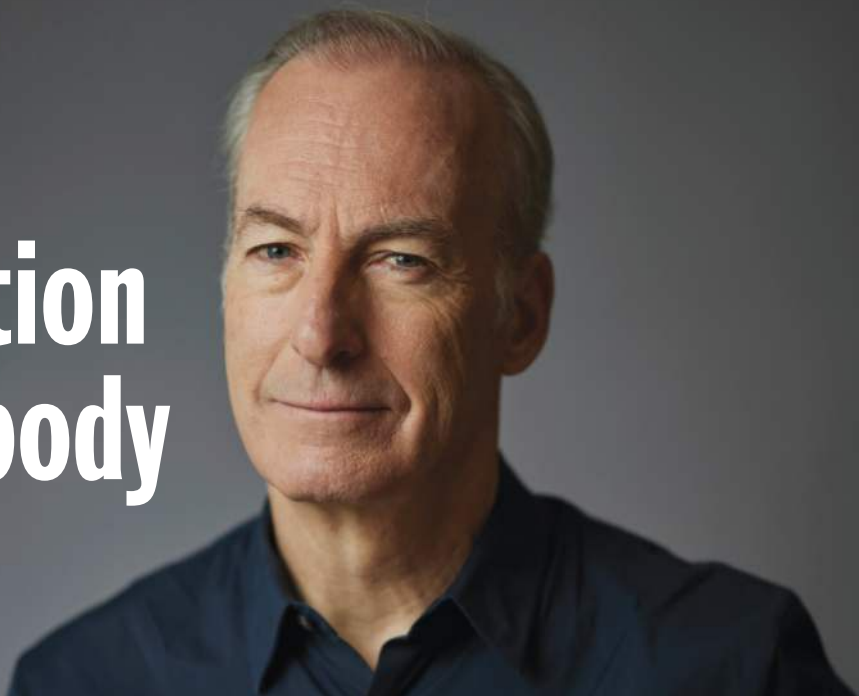
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CRYING, WHINY KITTEN WHO TAKES A DAY OFF IN A COMEDY FILM OF THE EIGHTIES: FERRIS MEWLER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals F

FACES

Q&A

An action somebody



MATT LICARI, INVISION/AP

Bob Odenkirk poses for a portrait to promote his new film, "Nobody 2," on Aug. 14 in New York.

Sequel 'Nobody 2' establishes Bob Odenkirk's butt-kicking bona fides

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

Bob Odenkirk ducks into a New York coffee shop wearing sunglasses and a Chicago Cubs cap.

Some degree of subterfuge might have been necessary for Odenkirk years ago. Surely fans of "Mr. Show" or "The Larry Sanders Show" might have recognized him. But with time, Odenkirk has traveled from the fringes of pop culture to the mainstream. He's well-known now, but for what is a moving target.

At 62, Odenkirk is not only a comic icon, he's a six-time Emmy-nominated actor, for "Better Call Saul," a Tony-nominated Broadway star, for "Glen-garry Glen Ross," and, most surprisingly, an action star.

He's not even a newbie, either. With "Nobody 2," the sequel to the 2021 pandemic hit original, Odenkirk's butt-kicking bona fides are more or less established. In the sequel, which opened in theaters over the weekend, he returns as Hutch Mansell, the suburban dad with latent powers of destruction. This time, he and his family go on vacation to Wisconsin Dells, where they run into trouble.

"My goal is Jackie Chan's 'Police Story,'" Odenkirk says. "It exists to be funny. The disconnect is the lack of irony. Hutch has to mean it."

Odenkirk's unlikely but sincere turn into Keanu Reeves territory has, in a way, only illuminated the rage that bubbled throughout his comedy. Chatting casually but intensely, Odenkirk explained how all of these iterations of him make sense.

Associated Press: Your friends in comedy, have they been funny about you as an action hero?

Odenkirk: The whole time I was training I was thinking: They're not going to make this movie, and I'm getting free exercise training. The second thing I was thinking: If they make this movie, David Cross, Conan O'Brien, Adam Sandler, David Spade, these people are going to see me do this thing and go, "Really?" It's just so fundamentally discordant. I could have asked for more comedy in the first one. And I didn't want that. I wanted to either make a real action movie — which would blow my friends' minds — or don't do it at all. If you're just going to ridicule the form, don't do it. Or just do "Naked Gun," which is super fun, too. I thought the funnier thing — what I did — was to do it. That's a joke on a cosmic scale. I'm literally pranking the universe. I am, right? That's the big joke. Now, what do I do with it? That's the question.

With the "Nobody" movies and your recent Broadway experience, you've set a high bar for

surprising people with what you're capable of.

I thought about the character of Saul. He never quits. He gets pushed around. He's clever. He's in a spot and he has to think of a way out. That's an action character. While it's true that it feels like, "Oh, boy, you went so far away." I didn't really go that far away. It's one step. It's a big step. Everything else is in Saul. I did think that for people who know my comedy, this is going to be a hard sell. But that's not that many people. That's a cult group.

And it might not be that hard of a sell to your comedy fans, either. The lie detector "Mr. Show" sketch, in which you calmly confess to outlandish things, has a similar what's-under-the-surface quality like the "Nobody" movies.

(Laughs) Yeah, yes.

Maybe the most relevant sketch, though, is the one where you and David Cross play tough guys who bump into each other in a bar and then remained locked in mutual animosity through their lives, even through marriage. "Nobody 2" kicks off with a similar encounter.

It's a tap on the shoulder that sets this whole thing off. He agrees to leave. Then this little tap happens. Then he leaves. He's outside. He can keep walking, which is what you would do. You'd get home and tell your wife, "That guy tapped her on the back of the head." It would just sit with you forever. The whole thing could have been avoided if it wasn't for who Hutch is, which is a person who allows himself to go crazy.

Allowing yourself to go crazy isn't a radically different impulse in comedy. Did you always feel like rage or anger was fueling some of the funniest things you did?

For sure. I remember sitting with David Cross in the morning. We would start our time at "Mr. Show" trying to generate ideas, sitting around with the paper. Oftentimes, it was: "This really pisses me off," or "Look at this stupid thing." So, yeah, frustration, anger, those are the very raw materials of comedy.

You're just funneling that rage into a different place.

Life conjures up this rage in you, but there is no place that deserves it. In the first film, the first place he goes to exact revenge, he realizes all these people have nothing; they don't deserve it. In the second film, he goes after this guy and he's like, "I'm under her thumb." It's really not something you're supposed to do in an action movie, and I love that. You don't just get to find a bad guy around the corner. You've got to go looking.

Actor Stamp, General Zod to Reeve's 'Superman,' dies

From wire reports

Terence Stamp, the British actor who often played the role of a complex villain, including that of General Zod in the early "Superman" films, has died. He was 87.

His death on Sunday was disclosed in a death notice published online, prompting a wave of tributes from an array of fans and those close to him within the industry, including the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, or BAFTA.



Stamp

The London-born Stamp started his film career with 1962's seafaring "Billy Budd," for which he earned Oscar and BAFTA award nominations.

His six decades in the business were peppered with highlights, including his touching portrayal of the transsexual Bernadette in 1994's "The Adventure of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert," the second of his two BAFTA nominations.

But it will be his portrayal of the bearded Zod in 1978's "Superman" and its sequel "Superman II" two years later that most people associate with Stamp. As the Kryptonian archenemy to Christopher Reeve's Man of Steel, Stamp introduced a darker, charming and vulnerable — more human — element to the franchise, one that's been replicated in countless superhero movies ever since.

His career took a bit of a hiatus

from the late 1960s after he missed out on the role of James Bond to replace Sean Connery, that included a yearslong stint in India and which saw him embrace a more holistic approach to his self.

It was the unexpected role of General Zod that brought him back to the limelight. He played John Tunstall in 1988's "Young Guns," the Galactic Republic leader in 1999's "Star Wars" prequel "The Phantom Menace," appeared in the comedies "Yes Man" and "Get Smart" in 2008 and delivered voice performances in the video games "Halo 3" and "The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion."

Other news

■ **Greg Iles**, the Mississippi author of the "Natchez Burning" trilogy and other works, died Aug. 15 after a decadeslong battle with the blood cancer multiple myeloma, his literary agent Dan Conaway posted Saturday on Facebook. He was 65. Initially diagnosed with the incurable condition in 1996, he kept his illness private until completing his final novel, "Southern Man," published in 2024.

■ **Tristan Rogers**, the Australian actor behind the magnetic Robert Scorpio on "General Hospital," died Aug. 15 after a battle with lung cancer, according to his manager. He was 79.

■ **Dan Ziskie**, the veteran TV actor best known for his work on the Netflix political drama series "House of Cards" and HBO's "Treme," died July 21 in New York of arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease, according to his obituary. He was 80.

'Weapons' maintains the top spot in its second weekend

Associated Press

"Weapons" scared its way to the top of the box office in its debut and managed to stay there during its second weekend, beating out "Freakier Friday" and newcomer "Nobody 2."

Zach Cregger's horror film earned \$25 million in 3,450 North American theaters, a 43% drop from its first weekend. The highly anticipated film benefited from strong audience reviews and social media trends to attract large crowds.

"Freakier Friday," which lost the battle for first place to "Weapons" during its double premiere, maintained its second spot, bringing in \$14.5 million domestically. The films' staying power comes during a slower box-office weekend, said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for the data firm Comscore.

Both films prevailed against "Nobody 2," the R-rated action se-

quel. The Bob Odenkirk-led film earned \$9.25 million across 3,260 North American theaters in its debut weekend.

"Nobody 2" follows the pandemic success of the first in the series, "Nobody," which was released in 2021. In the sequel, Hutch Mansell, the assassin-turned-nice-guy played by Odenkirk, returns to the big screen, this time taking a much-needed family vacation that goes awry. The calm weekend turns anything but as Mansell uncovers a corrupt town.

"The Fantastic Four: First Steps" took the fourth spot during its fourth weekend in theaters, bringing in \$8.8 million domestically. The film stumbled at the box office after its initially strong \$118 million debut.

Another sequel, "The Bad Guys 2," took fifth place with \$7.5 million during its third weekend in theaters.

SCOREBOARD/GOLF

DEALS

Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL Major League Baseball American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Selected the contract of C/1B Samuel Basallo from Norfolk (IL). Reinstated OF Colton Cowser from the 7-day concussion IL. Optioned OF Daniel Johnson and 1B/OF Ryan Noda to Norfolk. Transferred RHP Zach Eflin to the 60-day IL. Reinstated C Maverick Handley from the 10-day IL.

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Recalled LHP Tim Herrin from Columbus (IL). Optioned LHP Joey Cantillo to Columbus.

DETROIT TIGERS — Optioned LHP Brant Hurter to Toledo (IL). Recalled RHP Brennan Hanifree from Toledo.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Recalled RHP José Fermin from Salt Lake (PCL). Designated RHP Connor Brogdon for assignment.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Selected the contract of LHP Genesis Cabrera from St. Paul (IL). Optioned RHP Travis Adams to St. Paul. Transferred OF Alan Roden to the 60-day IL.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Sent RHP Jonathan Loaisiga to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL) on a rehab assignment.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Recalled 3B Miles Mastrobuoni from Tacoma (PCL).

TEXAS RANGERS — Recalled INF/OF Cody Freeman and RHP Caleb Boushley from Round Rock (PCL). Placed RHP Jon Gray on the 15-day IL. Placed INF/OF Sam Haggerty on the 10-day IL. Sent RHP Josh Sborz to Round Rock on a rehab assignment.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Selected the contract of RHP Nabil Crismatt from Reno (IL). Optioned RHP Casey Kelly to Reno.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Agreed to terms with RHP Carlos Carrasco on a minor league contract.

CINCINNATI REDS — Recalled RHP Connor Phillips from Louisville (IL). Optioned LHP Joe La Sorsa to Louisville. Recalled OF Will Benoit from Louisville. Designated OF Jake Fraley for assignment.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Reinstated RHP Antonio Senzatela from the 15-day IL. Recalled LHP Luis Peralta from Albuquerque (PCL). Optioned RHP Bradley Blalock and LHP Ryan Rolison to Albuquerque.

MIAMI MARLINS — Recalled OF Joey Wiemer from Jacksonville (IL). Placed OF Kyle Stowers on the 10-day IL.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Reinstated CF Blake Perkins from the bereavement list.

NEW YORK METS — Recalled 2B Luisangel Acuna from Syracuse (IL).

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Reinstated RHP Aaron Nola from the 60-day IL. Reinstated 3B Alec Bohm from the 10-day IL. Optioned INF/OF Otto Kemp to Lehigh Valley. Released OF Cal Stevenson. Reinstated RHP Daniel Robert from the 15-day IL and optioned him to Lehigh Valley.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Placed CF Victor Scott II on the 10-day IL. Optioned RHP Roddey Munoz to Memphis (IL). Selected the contract of LF Nathan Church from Memphis.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Claimed RHP Julian Fernandez off waivers from the Los Angeles Dodgers and optioned him to Rochester (IL). Optioned INF Jose Tena to Rochester.

BASKETBALL

Women's National Basketball Association

INDIANA FEVER — Released G Odyssey Sims, then signed her to a seven-day contract.

LOS ANGELES SPARKS — Released F Alissa Pili, then signed her to a seven-day contract.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed WR Isaiah Bond to a contract.

DENVER BRONCOS — Signed FB Adam Prentice.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Designated LB Uchenna Nwosu to return from the PUP list.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Waived DT Philip Blied.

TENNIS

Cincinnati Open

Sunday At Lindner Family Tennis Center

Purse: \$9,193,540

Surface: Hardcourt outdoor

Seedings in parentheses

Women's Singles Semifinals

Iga Swiatek (3), Poland, def. Elena Rybakina (9), Kazakhstan, 7-5, 6-3.
Jasmine Paolini (7), Italy, def. Veronika Kudermetova, Russia, 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-3.

Men's Doubles Championship

Rajeev Ram, United States, and Nikola Mektic, Croatia, def. Lorenzo Sonego and Lorenzo Musetti, Italy, 4-6, 6-3, 10-5.

Women's Doubles Championship

Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada, and Erin Routliffe (2), New Zealand, def. Alexandra Panova, Russia, and Hanyu Guo, China, 6-4, 6-3.

PRO SOCCER

MLS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Cincinnati	16	7	4	52	42	34
Philadelphia	15	6	6	51	44	26
Nashville	14	8	5	47	44	31
Orlando City	13	6	8	47	53	35
Inter Miami CF	13	5	6	45	53	39
Columbus	12	5	9	45	42	37
Charlotte FC	14	11	2	44	45	39
NYC FC	12	8	5	41	36	30
Chicago	11	9	6	39	50	44
New York	11	10	6	39	42	37
New England	7	12	7	28	33	37
Toronto FC	5	13	8	23	27	34
Atlanta	4	12	10	22	31	49
CF Montréal	4	15	8	20	25	48
D.C. United	4	15	8	20	23	52

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego FC	16	7	4	52	52	33
Minn. United	13	6	8	47	44	30
Vancouver	13	6	7	46	44	29
Seattle	11	7	8	41	43	36
LA FC	11	6	7	40	43	30
Portland	10	9	7	37	35	37
Colorado	10	11	6	36	36	41
Austin FC	9	8	8	35	24	29
San Jose	8	11	8	32	50	47
Real Salt Lake	9	13	4	31	27	33
FC Dallas	7	11	8	29	38	46
Houston	7	11	8	29	33	42
Sporting KC	6	14	6	24	37	50
St Louis City	5	15	6	21	29	44
LA Galaxy	3	16	7	16	29	55

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

Saturday's games

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

Sunday's games

New York City FC 2, Nashville 1
San Diego FC 2, San Jose 1
Houston 1, Vancouver 1, tie

Saturday, August 23

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

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	13	2	1	40	32	10
San Diego	8	3	5	29	28	18
Orlando	8	4	4	28	22	12
Washington	8	4	4	28	25	22
Portland	7	4	5	26	25	17
Seattle	7	5	3	24	21	17
Louisville	6	6	4	22	22	27
Gotham FC	5	6	5	20	20	16
North Carolina	5	6	5	20	20	23
Houston	5	8	3	18	19	26
Bay FC	4	7	5	17	18	22
Angel City	4	7	5	17	21	27
Chicago	1	9	5	8	12	29
Utah Royals FC	1	11	4	7	12	31

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

Friday's games

Louisville 2, Washington 2, tie
Angel City 0, Utah Royals FC 0, tie

Saturday's games

Orlando 0, Kansas City 0, tie
Portland 1, North Carolina 1, tie
San Diego 2, Bay FC 1

Sunday's game

Houston 2, Gotham FC 1

Monday's game

Chicago at Seattle

Thursday, August 21

Orlando at Angel City

Friday, August 22

North Carolina at Chicago

Saturday, August 23

Washington at Bay FC
Utah Royals FC at Gotham FC
Kansas City at Portland

Sunday, August 24

Seattle at Houston
Louisville at San Diego

GOLF

BMW Championship

Sunday
At Owings Mills, Md.
Purse: \$20 million
Yardage: 7,601; Par: 70
Final Round

Scottie Scheffler, \$3,600,000	66-65-67-67—265-15
R. Macintyre, \$2,160,000	62-64-68-73—267-13
M. McNealy, \$1,360,000	70-64-69-66—269-11
Sam Burns, \$910,000	68-67-67-68—270-10
Tommy Fleetwood, \$910,000	65-69-69-67—270-10
Harry Hall, \$750,000	68-67-67-70—272 -8
Ludvig Aberg, \$645,000	68-64-68-73—273 -7
Rickie Fowler, \$645,000	67-70-67-69—273 -7
Viktor Hovland, \$645,000	67-68-69-69—273 -7
Michael Kim, \$560,000	68-66-70-70—274 -6
Cameron Young, \$520,000	74-66-65-70—275 -5
Harris English, \$441,000	70-68-67-72—277 -3
Ben Griffin, \$441,000	67-72-69-69—277 -3
Rory McIlroy, \$441,000	70-66-71-70—277 -3

LIV Golf Indianapolis

Sunday
At Westfield, Ind.
Purse: \$20M
Yardage: 7,143; Par: 71
Final Round
x-won on 1st playoff hole

x-S. Muñoz, \$4,000,000	59-67-65—191-22
Jon Rahm, \$2,250,000	67-64-60—191-22
Dustin Johnson, \$1,500,000	62-64-67—193-20
Carlos Ortiz, \$775,000	70-63-63—196-17
Branden Grace, \$775,000	67-64-65—196-17
David Puig, \$775,000	67-63-66—196-17
Joaquín Niemann, \$775,000	64-66-66—196-17
Bubba Watson, \$457,500	66-65-66—197-16
Adrian Meronk, \$457,500	67-63-67—197-16
Thomas Pieters, \$457,500	64-66-67—197-16
Charles Howell III, \$370,000	69-63-66—198-15
Patrick Reed, \$370,000	64-66-68—198-15
Abraham Ancer, \$340,000	65-70-64—199-14
B. DeChambeau, \$301,667	67-68-65—200-13
Graeme McDowell, \$301,667	68-66-66—200-13
Cameron Smith, \$301,667	64-69-67—200-13
Henrik Stenson, \$301,667	66-64-70—200-13

Standard Portland Classic

Sunday
At Columbia Edgewater Country Club
Purse: \$2 million
Yardage: 6,497; Par: 72
Final Round

Akie Iwai, \$300,000	67-67-64-66—264-24
Gurleen Kaur, \$188,651	65-68-70-65—268-20
Linn Grant, \$121,360	66-71-65-67—269-19
Chisato Iwai, \$121,360	69-70-66-64—269-19
Grace Kim, \$85,211	68-65-67-70—270-18
Aditi Ashok, \$69,718	69-70-65-67—271-17
Lauren Coughlin, \$51,815	68-71-66-67—272-16
Sung Hyun Park, \$51,815	65-73-69-65—272-16
Kiara Romero, \$51,815	67-69-72-64—272-16
Hae-Ran Ryu, \$0	66-72-67-67—272-16
Gina Kim, \$40,281	68-69-67-69—273-15
Cassie Porter, \$40,281	70-70-66-67—273-15
P. Anannarukarn, \$33,946	67-67-72-68—274-14
Peiyun Chien, \$33,946	67-69-71-67—274-14
Robyn Choi, \$33,946	72-70-67-65—274-14

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

Eastern Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	22	12	.647	—
New York	21	13	.618	1
Indiana	19	16	.543	3½
Washington	16	18	.471	6
Chicago	8	25	.242	13½
Connecticut	6	27	.182	15½

Western Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Minnesota	28	5	.848	—
Phoenix	20	13	.606	8
Las Vegas	21	14	.600	8
Golden State	18	16	.529	10½
Seattle	17	18	.486	12
Los Angeles	16	18	.471	12½
Dallas	9	26	.257	20

x-clinched playoff spot

Sunday's games

Indiana 99, Connecticut 93, OT
Washington 95, Los Angeles 86
Las Vegas 106, Dallas 87
Phoenix 85, Seattle 82
Atlanta 79, Golden State 63

Monday's games

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's games

Minnesota at New York
Connecticut at Washington
Seattle at Chicago
Atlanta at Las Vegas
Phoenix at Golden State

Wednesday's game

Dallas at Los Angeles



STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH/AP

Scottie Scheffler waves while standing with trophies after winning the BMW Championship on Sunday in Owings Mills, Md.

Scheffler rallies for BMW title, 5th win of year

By DOUG FERGUSON

Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — The numbers Scottie Scheffler is compiling have been drawing comparisons with Tiger Woods. The world's No. 1 player had a Tiger-like moment with the trophy on the line and a club in his hand Sunday in the BMW Championship.

His 82-foot chip on the 17th — the hardest hole in the final round at Caves Valley — landed about 60 feet short and rolled the rest of the way, picking up speed, losing speed dropping on the final turn. The birdie all but wrapped up another win, his fifth PGA Tour title this year.

It was reminiscent of Woods delivering magic to overshadow his sublime skill, his chip-in from behind the 16th green at the Memorial, his chip-in for eagle in the World Cup in Japan.

Scheffler had already erased a four-shot deficit against hard-luck Robert MacIntyre in five holes. He was clinging to a one-shot lead on the 17th, a daunting par 3 with a back right pin and water right.

Scheffler was in the left rough, the safe spot, facing a shot that a dozen players had chipped over the green.

"I knew it was just going to be really fast, and do my best to get it down there and give myself a good look for par," he said. "When it came out, it came out how we wanted to and then it started breaking and it started looking better and better."

"And yeah, it was definitely nice to see that one go in."

Scheffler closed with a 3-under 67 for a two-shot victory and became the first player since Woods in 2006 and 2007 to win at least five times on the PGA Tour in consecutive years.

MacIntyre didn't make a birdie until the 16th hole but stayed in the game after losing his big lead, mostly when Scheffler began missing short putts.

MacIntyre pulled within one shot of the lead going to the 17th when Scheffler worked his magic and had to settle for another runner-up finish to a memorable shot, just like he did at Oakmont when J.J. Spaun holed a 65-foot birdie putt to clinch the U.S. Open.

MacIntyre was in the scoring room when he watched Spaun and applauded it. He was alongside Scheffler at the BMW Championship, staring in disbelief but angry at his poor play off the tee that cost him the big lead early.

"When he's pitched that in on 17 and then he's hit the perfect tee shot on 18, it's pretty much game over just then. You're playing for second place at that point," MacIntyre said.

"He

US OPEN/MLB

Field set for mixed doubles

By BRIAN MAHONEY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jannik Sinner has a new partner for the U.S. Open mixed doubles tournament, where Emma Raducanu and Carlos Alcaraz will face the No. 1-seeded team in the first round.



Alcaraz



Raducanu

The remainder of the 16-team field was completed Sunday and the draw was conducted ahead of the two-day event that begins Tuesday and pays \$1 million to the winning team.

The top-ranked Sinner will now play with 10-time women's doubles major champion Katerina Siniakova. He had been scheduled to team with Emma Navarro, before she withdrew to play in the women's tournament in Monterrey, Mexico, next week.

The other teams added to the event Sunday are two-time U.S. Open women's champion Naomi Osaka and Gael Monfils, Karolina Muchova and Andrey Rublev, and Caty McNally and Lorenzo Musetti.

Musetti had been scheduled to play with fellow Italian Jasmine Paolini, but she played Iga Swiatek in the Cincinnati final Monday and withdrew. Swiatek remains in the field with partner Casper Ruud.

Sinner and the second-ranked Alcaraz face off in the men's final and will have a quick turnaround to their doubles openers in New York.

Alcaraz and Raducanu, both past U.S. Open singles champions, face the team of Jessica Pegula and Jack Draper, who drew the No. 1 seed based on the lowest combined singles rankings.

Sinner and Siniakova, who were given one of the eight wild cards, will open against the team of Alexander Zverev and Belinda Bencic.

The remaining first-round matchups: Olga Danilovic and Novak Djokovic vs. Mirra Andrejeva and Daniil Medvedev; No. 3 Swiatek and Ruud vs. Madison Keys and Frances Tiafoe; Osaka and Monfils vs. McNally and Musetti; Taylor Townsend and Ben Shelton vs. No. 4 Amanda Anisimova and Holger Rune; Venus Williams and Reilly Opelka vs. Muchova and Rublev; and No. 2 Elena Rybakina and Taylor Fritz vs. Sara Errani and Andrea Pavanetti.

The first and second rounds will be played Tuesday beginning at 11 a.m. The semifinals and final are Wednesday night.



GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

New York Mets outfielder Juan Soto (22) is introduced before the Little League Classic against the Seattle Mariners in Williamsport, Pa., on Sunday.

Mets, Mariners stars give Little Leaguers big weekend

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — Carlos Mendoza was thrilled to learn the Little League World Series had a team this summer that represented his Venezuelan hometown. The New York Mets manager struck up a conversation with some kids from Barquisimeto on his trip to the stadium where the traditional youth tournament is held — only to find the ballplayers a bit distracted by the big leaguers around them.

"I'm talking to one kid and Juan Soto walks by," Mendoza said Sunday with a laugh. "Francisco Lindor. It was hard to maintain that conversation."

Already hard to miss as one of the most recognizable players in baseball, Soto was set to have kids marveling at his cleats. His spikes were ripped straight from a comic book.

"SOTO SMASH!" and "SOTO BLAST!" along with superheroes such as Spider-Man and Iron Man were painted onto his cleats with the caption "The Incredible Juan No. 22" to complete the comic theme.

Mark Vientos took care of the heavy hitting for New York.

He hit a three-run shot to lead the Mets past the Seattle Mariners 7-3 on Sunday night in the annual

Major League Baseball Little League Classic at Historic Bowman Field.

The field is just a 6-mile trip from the complex where the Little League World Series is underway with kids full of big league dreams, many of whom attended Sunday's game after they mingled with today's stars and — perhaps like Seattle manager Dan Wilson did — could find their way from one of youth baseball's biggest summer stages to the major leagues.

Wilson was just 12 years old in 1981 when his team from the Chicago suburb of Barrington advanced to South Williamsport and played in the Little League World Series. He pitched in the World Series opener and helped his team advance to the United States championship game. His team lost to one representing Florida.

"We were down 11-4, we came storming back with two outs," Wilson said. "The tying run got thrown out at the plate. A heartbreaking loss. There were a lot of tears. That meant the end of the tournament. We did come back and play a consolation game. We took third."

Wilson's team was feted with a parade when they returned home.

"So much fun, so much joy," Wilson said. "You just don't expect that to happen when you start this

experience. When you start going to tournaments, playing tournaments and start winning, pretty soon you find yourself in Williamsport."

Wilson took the mound again Sunday, only this time to throw the first pitch ahead of the Panama and Mexico game.

Mets and Mariners players were kids again for most of a full day that included everything from cardboard sledding at Lamade Stadium to pin trading to wiffle ball games.

New York pitcher Sean Manaea pulled a plastic baggie full of pins out of his locker that he obtained from Little Leaguers that he mostly got for Soto pins.

Manaea didn't pitch in the pick-up game against the wide-eyed Little Leaguers.

"I was playing second-and-a-half base," he quipped.

"I did get a hit," he added.

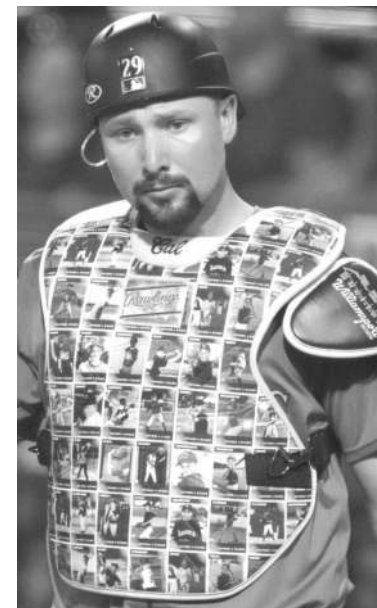
Off an 11-year-old pitcher?

"I almost hit a home run," he said.

Leave that to the real sluggers in the lineup.

Seattle catcher Cal Raleigh leads baseball with 47 home runs and Soto has 30. Mets star first baseman Pete Alonso has 28 homers.

Soto had a WWE championship belt displayed over his locker. A few Mets and Mariners had over-



GENE J. PUSKAR / AP

Seattle Mariners catcher Cal Raleigh wore a protector with Little League photos of his teammates for Player's Weekend.

sized heads or cardboard cutouts of themselves from their Little League days at their locker.

Raleigh, nicknamed "Big Dumper" breezed through the clubhouse in a "Little Dumper" T-shirt gifted by some of the Little Leaguers and he also signed a toilet seat for his No. 1 fan. Raleigh's chest protector featured a baseball card design of Seattle players and coaches from when they were kids.

Both teams handed out hats and other gifts to the Little Leaguers that all but exclusively attended Sunday's game.

"Something as simple as a hat for those kids, those coaches, it means so much," Mendoza said.

MLB

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	73	52	.584	—
Boston	68	57	.544	5
New York	67	57	.540	5½
Tampa Bay	61	64	.488	12
Baltimore	57	67	.460	15½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	73	53	.579	—
Cleveland	63	60	.512	8½
Kansas City	63	61	.508	9
Minnesota	58	66	.468	14
Chicago	44	80	.355	28
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	69	55	.556	—
Seattle	68	57	.544	1½
Texas	62	63	.496	7½
Los Angeles	60	64	.484	9
Athletics	56	70	.444	14
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	71	53	.573	—
New York	66	58	.532	5
Miami	59	65	.476	12
Atlanta	56	68	.452	15
Washington	50	74	.403	21
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	78	45	.634	—
Chicago	70	53	.569	8
Cincinnati	65	60	.520	14
St. Louis	61	64	.488	18
Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	71	53	.573	—
San Diego	69	55	.556	2
San Francisco	60	64	.484	11
Arizona	60	65	.480	11½
Colorado	35	89	.282	36

Sunday's games

Miami 5, Boston 3
 Minnesota 8, Detroit 1
 Texas 10, Toronto 4
 Atlanta 5, Cleveland 4
 Kansas City 6, Chicago White Sox 2
 Baltimore 12, Houston 0
 N.Y. Yankees 8, St. Louis 4
 San Francisco 7, Tampa Bay 1
 L.A. Angels 11, Athletics 5, 10 innings
 N.Y. Mets 7, Seattle 3
 Philadelphia 11, Washington 9
 Cincinnati 3, Milwaukee 2, 10 innings
 Chicago Cubs 4, Pittsburgh 3
 Colorado 6, Arizona 5
 L.A. Dodgers 5, San Diego 4

Monday's games

Houston at Detroit
 Toronto at Pittsburgh
 Seattle at Philadelphia
 Baltimore at Boston
 Chicago White Sox at Atlanta
 Texas at Kansas City
 Cincinnati at L.A. Angels
 Cleveland at Arizona
 Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs, 2
 St. Louis at Miami
 L.A. Dodgers at Colorado
 San Francisco at San Diego

Tuesday's games

Houston (Brown 10-5) at Detroit (Skubal 11-3)
 Toronto (Scherzer 3-2) at Pittsburgh (Keller 5-11)
 Seattle (Miller 2-5) at Philadelphia (Sanchez 11-4)
 Baltimore (Sugano 10-5) at Boston (Buehler 7-7)
 Chicago White Sox (Smith 3-7) at Atlanta (Elder 5-9)
 N.Y. Yankees (Rodón 12-7) at Tampa Bay (Baz 8-9)
 Athletics (Lopez 6-6) at Minnesota (Ryan 12-5)
 Texas (Kelly 9-7) at Kansas City (Lugo 8-6)
 Cincinnati (Greene 5-3) at L.A. Angels (Hendricks 6-8)
 Cleveland (Bibee 9-9) at Arizona (Rodriguez 5-7)
 St. Louis (McGreevy 4-2) at Miami (Cabrera 6-6)
 N.Y. Mets (Peterson 7-5) at Washington (Irvin 8-7)
 Milwaukee (Woodruff 4-0) at Chicago Cubs (Boyd 11-6)
 L.A. Dodgers (Sheehan 3-2) at Colorado (Gomber 0-6)
 San Francisco (Teng 1-2) at San Diego (Pivetta 12-4)

Wednesday's games

Toronto at Pittsburgh
 Seattle at Philadelphia
 Houston at Detroit
 Cleveland at Arizona
 Chicago White Sox at Atlanta
 N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay
 Athletics at Minnesota
 Texas at Kansas City
 Cincinnati at L.A. Angels
 St. Louis at Miami
 N.Y. Mets at Washington
 Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs
 L.A. Dodgers at Colorado
 San Francisco at San Diego

ROUNDUP

Reds end Brewers' 14-game streak

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Austin Hays' single with the bases loaded in the 10th inning gave the Cincinnati Reds a 3-2 victory over Milwaukee on Sunday, ending the Brewers' franchise-record winning streak at 14 games.

Milwaukee had barely pulled out the previous two games in Cincinnati for its longest streak ever within one season and the longest in the majors since the St. Louis Cardinals won 17 straight from Sept. 11 to Sept. 28, 2021.

This time, Spencer Steer's sacrifice bunt in the 10th advanced designated runner TJ Friedl to third. After intentional walks to Elly De La Cruz and Will Benson loaded the bases, Hays laced a single to down the third-base line for his second career walk-off hit.

Milwaukee, which overcame a seven-run deficit on Friday and rallied to win in 14 innings Saturday, nearly came back for another win.

William Contreras hit his 13th home run of the season, a two-run shot off Reds closer Emilio Pagan, to put Milwaukee ahead 2-1 in the ninth. But the Reds tied it when Benson reached on a fielding error by shortstop Joey Ortiz and later scored on Jose Trevino's single.

The first-place Brewers fell to 53-17 in their last 70 games.

Twins 8, Tigers 1: Brooks Lee's first career grand slam capped a six-run third inning and host Minnesota beat Detroit to avoid a four-game series sweep.

Byron Buxton had a homer among his three hits and Royce Lewis also went deep for Minnesota, which won for the second time in seven games.

Lee's slam off former Twins pitcher Chris Paddock to the seats in right field made it 7-1 and highlighted a third inning that began with Buxton's 25th home run.

Phillies 11, Nationals 9: Alec Bohm hit a three-run home run in his return from the injured list, Nick Castellanos also went deep and visiting Philadelphia defeated Washington to earn a four-game series split.

Right-hander Aaron Nola also returned from the injured list to give up six runs in 2½ innings for the Phillies in his first big league appearance since May 14.

Jhoan Duran, pitching for the first time since taking a line drive off his ankle Friday, got the last two outs for his 21st save and fifth with the Phillies.

Marlins 5, Red Sox 3: Dane Myers and Jakob Marsee homered in visiting Miami's three-run ninth inning and the Marlins beat Boston to end a three-game losing streak.



GRACE BRADLEY/AP

The Reds' Austin Hays celebrates his winning single in the 10th inning against the Milwaukee Brewers on Sunday in Cincinnati.

Myers hit the second pitch from Greg Weissert (4-4) into Boston's bullpen to tie it, and Marsee sent a pitch from Steven Matz into the seats in right.

Boston's Wilyer Abreu had a two-run homer that popped out of the glove of right fielder Myers when he crashed into the fence.

Rangers 10, Blue Jays 4: Marcus Semien homered and scored twice in his return to the lineup and Nathan Eovaldi worked seven innings and won his seventh straight decision as visiting Texas beat Toronto to avoid a three-game sweep.

Wyatt Langford and Evan Carter each hit two-run homers, and Corey Seager added a solo shot as Texas snapped a four-game skid.

Braves 5, Guardians 4: Jurickson Profar hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the sixth inning, and visiting Atlanta won its season-best fifth straight game, rallying past Cleveland to complete a three-game sweep.

With one out in the sixth, Profar pulled a 3-2 slider from Nic Enright (2-1) over the wall in right field to put the Braves ahead. Atlanta trailed 4-1 after four innings.

Bo Naylor had four hits and Daniel Schneemann had a two-run triple for the Guardians, who had worked their way back into

playoff contention with 11 wins in 14 games before getting swept by the Braves.

Cubs 4, Pirates 3: Dansby Swanson hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning, and host Chicago beat Pittsburgh in the rubber game of the weekend series.

Chicago tied it at 3 on Carson Kelly's bloop single in the bottom half, driving in Seiya Suzuki.

Royals 6, White Sox 2: Jonathan India and Adam Frazier hit two-run homers, rallying Kansas City to a home victory over Chicago for a series sweep.

Run-scoring singles by Maikel Garcia and Salvador Perez gave the Royals a 4-2 lead in the eighth before Frazier's fifth homer of the season made it 6-2.

Mets 7, Mariners 3: Mark Vientos hit a three-run homer to the delight of hundreds of cheering 12-year-olds and sent New York to a home win over Seattle.

The game went downhill early for the Mariners. Vientos hit a sacrifice fly off Mariners starter George Kirby (8-6) in a three-run second inning.

Vientos hit his eighth homer of the year in the fifth to make it 6-1. Francisco Lindor added an RBI double later in the inning.

Orioles 12, Astros 0: Jordan Westburg hit a three-run homer among four hits with a career-best five RBIs and Dean Kremer pitched seven sharp innings to give Baltimore a road win over Houston.

Yankees 8, Cardinals 4: Cody Bellinger drove in three runs, Paul Goldschmidt had three hits against his former team and visiting New York beat St. Louis for a series sweep.

New York tied it at 4 in the seventh when Trent Grishman drew a leadoff walk and scored on Bellinger's sacrifice fly.

Camilo Doval led off the sixth with a homer to center to put St. Louis up 4-3.

The Yankees grabbed a 3-0 lead in the fourth inning on run-scoring singles by Jasson Dominguez, Ryan McMahon and Caballero. St. Louis scored two unearned runs in the fourth on a two-out double to right by Saggese.

Rockies 6, Diamondbacks 5: Ryan Ritter and Mickey Moniak hit two-run singles in the seventh inning and host Colorado held on to beat Arizona.

With runners on second and third in the ninth, Juan Mejia made a leaping catch of Ketel Marte's popup and held onto the ball despite colliding with first baseman Warming Bernabel to end the game.

Giants 7, Rays 1: Dominic Smith hit a three-run single and Drew Gilbert and Tyler Fitzgerald added solo homers as host San Francisco beat Tampa Bay.

Smith's bases-clearing double scored Rafael Devers, Heliot Ramos and Willy Adames in the sixth inning and put the Giants ahead to stay.

The Rays' only run came on an infield single by Yandy Diaz that scored catcher Hunter Feduccia in the eighth innng.

Dodgers 5, Padres 4: Mookie Betts hit a tiebreaking solo home run leading off the eighth inning after host Los Angeles blew a four-run lead and the Dodgers beat San Diego to increase their NL West lead to two games.

After walking and flying out twice, Betts went deep to left off reliever Robert Suarez (4-5) for his second homer in his last nine games, giving the Dodgers a 5-4 lead.

Freddie Freeman hit a two-strike, three-run homer and Andy Pages added a solo shot off Padres starter Yu Darvish in the first, staking starter Tyler Glasnow to a 4-0 lead.

Angels 11, Athletics 5: Jo Adell hit a three-run homer in the first inning and kicked off a six-run 10th with an RBI single as visiting Los Angeles beat the Athletics to avoid a three-game sweep.

NFL

Bears QB Williams shines in rout of Bills

BY GENE CHAMBERLAIN

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Caleb Williams' rocky training camp now seems to be on the upswing.

Williams took advantage of his first preseason playing time, connecting with Olamide Zaccheaus for a 36-yard touchdown on the opening drive as the Chicago Bears cruised to 38-0 preseason victory over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday night.

"I think it sets the tone for how we expect ourselves to go out there and play, and go out there and perform," Williams said. "It was extremely important."

After sitting out a 24-24 tie with Miami last week, Williams came out firing against Buffalo (0-2) in his first chance to operate coach Ben Johnson's offense during a game.

"I thought really the three days of practice we had this week, and the game, were the most he's stacked up good days in a row right now," Johnson said. "The challenge is to keep it headed in that direction."

The first pick in the 2024 draft completed throws of 18 yards to rookie first-round pick Colston Loveland and 29 yards to tight end Cole Kmet on a game-opening 92-yard march that concluded when Zaccheaus snagged a throw in the middle of the field on third-and-6, hurdled a tackler and went the distance.

Williams has been spotty throughout training camp but he was sharp from the start in this game. He hit on six of his first seven throws, then left after the second possession. He finished 6 of 10 for 102 yards.

"I think had a couple of those (poor) practices throughout camp," Williams said. "I felt like I took two steps forward, small things that I felt like I got over.



KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/AP

Bears quarterback Caleb Williams looks to pass against the Buffalo Bills during the first half of a preseason game Sunday in Chicago. In his first preseason playing time, Williams hit on six of his first seven throws.

Then I took a step back, probably. It's just being able to keep that mindset, the growth mindset, keep growing, keep getting after it."

Tyson Bagent came on to lead three second-quarter touchdown drives as Chicago (1-0-1) took a 28-0 halftime lead.

Bagent finished a 61-yard drive by rifling a 10-yard strike in the corner of the end zone to Tyler Scott. Before halftime, newly acquired Bears running back Brittain Brown finished an 86-yard drive with a 1-yard TD plunge, and Ian Wheeler's 1-yard TD run completed an 84-yard drive.

Bills coach Sean McDermott held reigning MVP Josh Allen and

all of his other starters out of the game. Buffalo's backups struggled throughout the first half on both sides of the ball.

"The quarterback cannot go in the first drive of the game unaffected and he was in a rhythm right away and now you're dealing with it," McDermott said. "The quarterback ratings at the end of the game says it all."

Three Chicago passers had a 112.0 passer rating, including 130.0 by Williams. The Bills' Mitchell Trubisky, Mike White and Shane Buechele collectively were at 55.7.

"I was looking forward to seeing some guys with the opportunity tonight step up, and I didn't sense

that as much as I hoped," McDermott said.

After Wheeler's TD plunge, the Bears had outgained Buffalo 343 yards to 22 and owned an 18-1 advantage in first downs.

Bagent played until midway through the third quarter and went 13-for-22 for 197 yards, while Wheeler rushed 19 times for 80 yards and Brown 16 times for 73 yards.

Trubisky, the former Chicago quarterback, relieved Bills starter Mike White and completed 7 of 13 passes for 56 yards. White went 4-for-11 for 54 yards.

Waiting it out

Allen hasn't played in either of

Scoreboard

Preseason

Friday's games

Tennessee 23, Atlanta 20
Seattle 33, Kansas City 16

Saturday's games

Cleveland 22, Philadelphia 13
Green Bay 23, Indianapolis 19
Houston 20, Carolina 3
Miami 24, Detroit 17
New England 20, Minnesota 12
San Francisco 22, Las Vegas 19
Baltimore 31, Dallas 13
L.A. Rams 23, L.A. Chargers 22
N.Y. Giants 31, N.Y. Jets 12
Tampa Bay 17, Pittsburgh 14
Denver 27, Arizona 7

Sunday's games

Jacksonville 17, New Orleans 17
Chicago 38, Buffalo 0

Monday's game

Cincinnati at Washington

Thursday, Aug. 21

Pittsburgh at Carolina
New England at N.Y. Giants

Friday, Aug. 22

Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets
Atlanta at Dallas
Minnesota at Tennessee
Chicago at Kansas City

Saturday, Aug. 23

Baltimore at Washington
Denver at New Orleans
Houston at Detroit
Indianapolis at Cincinnati
L.A. Rams at Cleveland
Seattle at Green Bay
Jacksonville at Miami
Buffalo at Tampa Bay
L.A. Chargers at San Francisco
Las Vegas at Arizona



ADRIAN KRAUS/AP

New York Giants quarterback Jaxson Dart throws against the Buffalo Bills in Orchard Park, New York, on Aug. 9.

Dart: Giants thinking long-term with their rookie QB

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keep developing Jaxson," Daboll said. "We have a plan. ... We just have to keep working with him and understand there's going to be a lot of downs. I know there's some ups right now, but there's going to be a lot of downs and we just got to keep growing and communicating, just keep getting better."

Daboll, who is going into his fourth season coaching the Giants after getting the gig in part because of his work in Buffalo to develop Josh Allen on the path to becoming league MVP, has insisted there's a roadmap being followed. He is not exactly forthright about what it looks like.

In the second exhibition game, it included not just one snap but an entire drive for Dart with the first-

team offense. Why? "Because that was part of the plan," Daboll deadpanned.

Whatever the plan is, and whenever Dart gets his first NFL start, the 22-year-old Mississippi product seems to be on board.

"They've done it with so many other quarterbacks. I trust them in the process," Dart said. "I have great guys around me, great coaches who have won and done it at the highest level, so I just look forward to learning each and every day."

Wilson echoed the other side, saying he's willing to keep teaching Dart what he has stockpiled from playing more than a decade in the league, including winning the Super Bowl at what is now their home stadium in the Meadowlands.

"I'm never shy about giving information and talking about it," Wilson, now 36, said after his own impressive preseason game that included an 80-yard pass play to undrafted free agent Beaux Collins. "I think (Dart has) done a tremendous job. He definitely has worked at it every day. He works at it every day, and he asks the right questions. That's what I enjoy about him."

Daboll appears to enjoy working with Dart, clearly along with general manager Joe Schoen and college scouts seeing enough that they liked to give up assets to use the 25th pick on the 6-foot-2 righty signal-caller. His stance continues to be that the Giants are trying to "help Jaxson be the best quarterback he can be," without many de-

tails on what that entails.

Part of it is tempering expectations. Barring injury, Wilson will lead New York's offense onto the field for the season opener Sept. 7 at Washington and keep that role for some time. The Giants are trying to exercise patience with Dart and play the long game.

"We spent a lot of time with him, have a lot of confidence in the young man," Daboll said. "He's done a good job for us since he's been here in every area you could do—off the field, on the field, leadership, moxie, intelligence—but it's early. We've played a couple preseason games against probably some vanilla looks, but he's making strides every day and that's all you can ask of any other young player."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Texas linebackers Anthony Hill Jr., left, and Colin Simmons, right, are on the AP preseason All-American team. They were among three Longhorns named to the first team along with defensive back Michael Taaffe.

Texas, Penn St. each place 3 on All-America first team

BY ERIC OLSON
Associated Press

Texas and Penn State, the top two teams in The Associated Press preseason Top 25, each had three players selected for the preseason AP All-America team announced Monday.

The No. 1 Longhorns had one player from each level of their defense on the first team: edge rusher Colin Simmons, linebacker Anthony Hill Jr. and safety Michael Taaffe. The No. 2 Nittany Lions' picks were running back Nicholas Singleton, offensive lineman Olaivavega Ioane and defensive lineman Zane Durant.

No. 3 Ohio State, No. 4 Clemson, No. 6 Notre Dame, No. 8 Alabama and Pittsburgh each had two players on the first team.

The Southeastern Conference had 12 players on the 27-man first team determined by media members on the AP Top 25 voting panel. The Big Ten had seven players, the ACC four and the Big 12 two.

The Tigers' Cade Klubnik was the overwhelming preseason choice for first-team quarterback after throwing for 3,639 yards with 39 touchdowns and just six interceptions.

Ohio State safety Caleb Downs and Florida center Jake Slaughter are returning first-team AP All-Americans.

Downs, whose late interception against Texas helped wrap up a College Football Playoff semifinal win for defending champion Ohio State, starred as a freshman at Alabama two years ago and established himself as the nation's top safety in his first season with the Buckeyes.

Slaughter, a leading candidate for the Rimington Trophy as the nation's top center, played 800 snaps in his breakout season for the Gators.

He allowed just one sack and was among the highest-rated run and pass blockers in the country, according to Pro Football Focus.

First team offense

Quarterback — Cade Klubnik, fourth year, Clemson.

Running backs — Jeremiyah Love, third year, Notre Dame; Nicholas Singleton, fourth year, Penn State.

Tackles — Spencer Fano, fourth year, Utah; Kady Proctor, third year, Alabama.

Guards — Olaivavega Ioane, fourth year, Penn State; Ar'maj Reed-Adams, sixth year, Texas A&M.

Center — Jake Slaughter, fifth year, Florida.

Tight end — Eli Stowers, fifth year, Vanderbilt.

Wide receivers — Jeremiah Smith, second year, Ohio State; Ryan Williams, second year, Alabama; Jordyn Tyson, fourth year, Arizona State.

All-purpose player — Desmond Reid, fourth year, Pittsburgh.

Kicker — Dominic Zvada, fourth year, Michigan.

First team defense

Edge — Dylan Stewart, second year, South Carolina; Colin Simmons, second year, Texas.

Tackles — Peter Woods, third year, Clemson; Zane Durant, fourth year, Penn State.

Linebackers — Anthony Hill Jr., third year, Texas; Whit Weeks, fifth year, LSU; Kyle Louis, fourth year, Pittsburgh.

Cornerbacks — Leonard Moore, second year, Notre Dame; Jermod McCoy, third year, Tennessee.

Safeties — Caleb Downs, third year, Ohio State; Dillon Thieneman, third year, Oregon.

Defensive back — Michael

Taaffe, fifth year, Texas.

Punter — Brett Thorson, fourth year, Georgia.

Second team offense

Quarterback — Garrett Nussmeier, fifth year, LSU.

Running backs — Makhi Hughes, fourth year, Oregon; Isaac Brown, second year, Louisville.

Tackles — Francis Mauigoa, third year, Miami; Blake Miller, fourth year, Clemson.

Guards — Cayden Green, third year, Missouri; Keylan Rutledge, fourth year, Georgia Tech.

Center — Parker Brailsford, fourth year, Alabama.

Tight end — Max Klare, fourth year, Ohio State.

Wide receivers — Antonio Williams, fourth year, Clemson; Elijah Sarratt, fourth year, Indiana; Cam Coleman, second year, Auburn.

All-purpose player — Kaytron Allen, fourth year, Penn State.

Kicker — Peyton Woodring, third year, Georgia.

Second team defense

Edge — T.J. Parker, third year, Clemson; Matayo Uiagalelei, third year, Oregon.

Tackles — Tim Keenan III, fifth year, Alabama; Christen Miller, fourth year, Georgia.

Linebackers — Taurean York, third year, Texas A&M; Harold Perkins Jr., fourth year, LSU; Aiden Fisher, fourth year, Indiana.

Cornerbacks — Chandler Rivers, fourth year, Duke; D'Angelo Ponds, third year, Indiana.

Safeties — Koi Perich, second year, Minnesota; KJ Bolden, second year, Georgia.

Defensive back — Jalon Kilgore, third year, South Carolina.

Punter — Ryan Eckley, fourth year, Michigan State.

Lance among leading players outside FBS

BY STEVE MEGARGEE
Associated Press

Bryce Lance could have cited plenty of reasons had he chosen to leave North Dakota State for a Bowl Subdivision program for his senior season.

Lance decided he had more a compelling case to stick around.

After helping the Bison win a national title while catching 17 touchdown passes to lead all Championship Subdivision players, Lance believed he still had more to offer at the FCS level. He leads a list of players to watch from outside the FBS programs.

"Honestly, the thing that kept me here was my teammates," said Lance, the younger brother of Los Angeles Chargers quarterback and former North Dakota State star Trey Lance. "I always say you've got your whole life to make money. There's no amount of money that would make me not want to finish my senior year with my brothers. That was the big thing — my teammates."

Lance redshirted in 2021 and totaled one catch from 2022-23 before breaking out in a big way last year. The 6-foot-3 wideout caught 75 passes for 1,071 yards. His 17 touchdown receptions tied a Missouri Valley Conference record, and seven of them came in four playoff games.

Lance caught six passes for 125 yards and three touchdowns in a 28-21 semifinal victory over South Dakota State. He followed that up by compiling nine receptions for 107 yards and a touchdown as North Dakota State beat Montana State 35-32 in the final, giving the Bison their 10th title in 14 years.

The chance to be part of a second straight championship helped bring Lance back to North Dakota State.

"Last year I got finally an opportunity to get on the field, and I had a blast," Lance said. "Doing it again would be priceless."

W. Carolina QB Taron Dickens: Dickens only started four games as a redshirt freshman last season

after taking over for the injured Cole Gonzales, but his spectacular performance during that stretch makes it enticing to wonder what's next. He finished the season having completed 73.8% of his passes for 1,428 yards with 12 touchdowns and three interceptions. He threw for over 400 yards in two of his four starts — a 38-34 victory over Chattanooga and a 47-42 triumph at Samford.

Southern DE Ckelby Givens: Givens had an FCS-leading 27½ tackles for loss last season to go along with 12 sacks and three forced fumbles. He tied for sixth place in voting for the Buck Buchanan Award given to the top FCS defensive player. He had 21 tackles for loss, seven sacks and four forced fumbles in 2023.

William & Mary CB Jalen Jones: This 6-foot defensive back had 22 passes defended, 1.8 passes defended per game and 20 pass breakups last year to lead the FCS in all three categories. Jones was an Associated Press All-America first-team selection.

Rhode Island LB A.J. Pena: Pena had 82 overall tackles, 22½ tackles for loss and 12½ sacks last season to earn AP All-America first-team honors. He finished 13th in the voting for the Buck Buchanan Award. He has totaled 44½ tackles for loss and 27 sacks over his three-year career.

Monmouth QB Derek Robertson: Robertson led FCS players in total yards passing (3,937) and yards passing per game (328.1) last season. He finished sixth in the voting for the Walter Payton Award, given annually to the top FCS offensive player. Robertson completed 65% of his attempts and threw 31 touchdown passes with only six interceptions. He had thrown for 2,897 yards and 25 touchdowns with Maine in 2023.

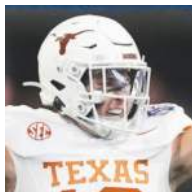
Incarnate Word WR Jalen Walthall: Walthall caught 85 passes for 1,290 yards and 14 touchdowns last season as an AP All-America first-team selection. He ranked third among all FCS players in yards receiving.



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

North Dakota State wide receiver Bryce Lance returned after helping the Bison to the FCS national championship last season.

SPORTS



Preseason picks

Texas, Penn St. lead way on opening All-America team » **College Football, Page 23**



NFL

PAMELA SMITH/AP

New York Giants quarterback Jaxson Dart is sacked by New York Jets defensive end Kingsley Jonathan during the second quarter Saturday in East Rutherford, N.J.



NOAH K. MURRAY/AP

Giants starting quarterback Russell Wilson looks to throw during the first half of Saturday's game against the Jets.

Developing Dart

First-round rookie has impressed, but Giants sticking with Wilson at QB

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
Associated Press

One play into the New York Giants' fourth possession of their second preseason game, Brian Daboll called in Jaxson Dart without warning. "Serious?" Dart asked, before making a throw that turned into a 30-yard gain and

jogging back to the sideline, with Russell Wilson returning. It was all about putting the rookie quarterback in a situation he could face sooner or later in the NFL.

"You don't know what's going to happen," Daboll said. "Just be ready to go when your number's called."

Dart passed that test and has made a strong first impression as a pro since the Giants traded back into the first round to draft

him as their potential QB of the future. Completing 13 consecutive passes and 14 of 16 total Saturday night against the Jets should give the organization and its fans plenty of optimism about what is to come, but it has not changed the plan for Wilson to start and Dart to wait in the wings.

"Russ is our starter, and we're going to

SEE DART ON PAGE 22

Reds end Brewers' 14-game winning streak » MLB, Page 21

