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STARS AND STRIPES

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Army seeks more dining options to fuel soldiers

By **ROSE L. THAYER**
Stars and Stripes

FORT HOOD, Texas — Army leaders know dining facilities on bases must do more to attract young soldiers and have released a menu of ways to offer meals with a side of convenience that soldiers are craving.

The order released by Forces Command in August calls on commanders to examine the entire ecosystem of food on bases and try new strategies offered while also easing the burden placed on Army cooks.

“This strategy goes beyond food — it’s about fueling the force, building morale, and reinforcing the Army’s promise to care for its people. By aligning feeding operations with soldier needs and operational demands, FORSCOM is setting a new standard for modern, resilient, and soldier-focused food service delivery,” according to a FORSCOM summary of the order.

Many of the recommendations in the order stem from changes that have found success at Fort Hood, which used a combination of predictable dining schedules and meals, and quick, conveniently located services to increase diners. Officials then consolidated resources so the added work didn’t overburden cooks.

“Our goal is to create consistent, accessible and appealing dining options that meet the needs of every soldier, whether on the go or if they have time for a sit-down meal,” said Sgt. Maj. Kresassidy McKinney, III Corps chief culinary manager at the central Texas Army base. “By expanding these choices, we’re not just improving



ARIANA CUBILLOS/AP

A member of the presidential guard shows weapons to people who signed up to join the civil militias during a national enlistment campaign called by the government of President Nicolas Maduro, at the military museum in Caracas, Venezuela, on Aug. 23.

Surge in the Southern Command



U.S. Navy

The Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg transits the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in January.

US sends 8 warships south on anti-cartel mission, unsettling Venezuelan government

By **TARA COPP,**
SAMANTHA SCHMIDT
AND **ANA VANESSA HERRERO**
The Washington Post

The U.S. Navy is surging eight warships to the Caribbean and Pacific waters near several Central and South American countries, a significant buildup for a region that has rarely seen such a large presence of U.S. military vessels and a move that has escalated tensions with nearby Venezuela.

The ships are part of an “enhanced counter narcotics oper-

ation” to carry out drug interdiction missions in Latin America, a defense official told The Washington Post, speaking on the condition of anonymity to provide details that had not yet been made public. The move comes weeks after Trump administration officials said they are evaluating plans for using military force against drug cartels in what would be a major escalation of U.S. involvement in Latin America.

SEE FUEL ON PAGE 7

SEE SURGE ON PAGE 7

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Spirit Airlines files for bankruptcy again, vows to keep flying

Associated Press

Budget carrier Spirit Airlines said Friday that it has filed for fresh bankruptcy protection months after emerging from a Chapter 11 reorganization.

The ultra low-cost airline said that it plans to keep flying as usual during the restructuring process, meaning passengers will continue to be able to book trips and use their tickets, credits and loyalty points.

Employees and contractors will also continue to get paid, the com-

pany said.

CEO Dave Davis said the airline's previous Chapter 11 petition focused on reducing debt and raising capital, and since exiting that process in March, "it has become clear that there is much more work to be done and many more tools are available to best position Spirit for the future."

Flight attendants, meanwhile, were warned by union leaders to "prepare for all possible scenarios."

Spirit, known for its bright yellow

low planes and no-frills service, has had a rough ride since the COVID-19 pandemic, struggling to rebound from the dip in sales amid rising operation costs and its mounting debt.

By the time of its first Chapter 11 filing in November, Spirit had lost more than \$2.5 billion since the start of 2020.

The airline now carries \$2.4 billion in long-term debt, most due in 2030, and reported a negative free cash flow of \$1 billion at the end of the second quarter.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates			
Euro costs (Sept. 1)	0.84	Switzerland (Franc)	0.8003
British pound (Sept. 1)	\$1.31	Thailand (Baht)	32.26
Japanese yen (Sept. 1)	143.00	Turkey (NewLira)	41.098
South Korean won (Sept. 1)	1351.00		
Commercial rates		(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3732	INTEREST RATES	
Britain (Pound)	1.3499	Prime rate	7.50
Canada (Dollar)	1.3746	Interest Rates Discount rate	4.50
China (Yuan)	7.1304	Federal funds market rate	4.38
Denmark (Krone)	6.3872	3-month bill	4.15
Egypt (Pound)	48.3927	30-year bond	4.93
Euro	0.8557		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7977		
Hungary (Forint)	339.22		
Israel (Shekel)	3.3433		
Japan (Yen)	147.049		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3050		
Norway (Krone)	10.056		
Philippines (Peso)	56.344		
Poland (Zloty)	3.6446		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7481		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2836		
South Korea (Won)	1387.87		

WEATHER OUTLOOK



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MILITARY

2 civilians indicted for role in 2021 fuel spill

By **AUDREY MCAVOY**
Associated Press

HONOLULU — A grand jury has indicted two civilian workers on charges they caused the Navy to provide the Hawaii Department of Health with false information about jet fuel that spilled from a Pearl Harbor storage facility before it later seeped into drinking water and sickened 6,000 people over Thanksgiving in 2021.

The indictments are the first to result from the fuel spill that an-

gered Hawaii residents, lawmakers and military service members and their families. The military decided to close the aging World War II-era fuel tanks after the spill.

A Navy investigation in 2022 found shoddy management and human error caused the leak at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. The Defense Department's inspector general last year found Navy officials lacked sufficient understanding of the risks of

maintaining massive fuel storage tanks on top of a Pearl Harbor drinking water well. The Navy issued written reprimands to three retired military officers for their roles in the fuel spill.

The indictment returned Thursday alleges John Floyd and Nelson Wu provided the Navy with inaccurate information about a May 2021 spill that occurred six months before the fuel got in the drinking water. The indictment says they caused the Navy to mis-

lead the Hawaii Department of Health about how much fuel leaked from one of the tanks and reassured officers that their information was accurate.

This caused the Navy to tell the department in the months after May that 1,618 gallons leaked instead of 20,000 gallons and failed to report that it was unable to find 18,000 gallons, prosecutors say. The indictment alleges Floyd and Wu redacted data from records provided. Floyd and Wu were

each indicted on one count of conspiracy and one count of making false statements.

Floyd was the Fuels Department deputy director at Red Hill while Wu was the Fuels Department supervisory engineer.

The federal public defender's office, which is representing Floyd, didn't immediately return a phone call seeking comment. Wu's attorney, Alen Kaneshiro, said he didn't have a comment at this time.



ERICA WEBSTER/U.S. Air Force

An Air Force security forces member aims a DroneDefender during an exercise at East Range Training Area, Hawaii, in February.

Counter-drone task force told to find fast solutions

By **LARA KORTE**
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. military is stepping up the urgency in figuring out how it will counter the rapidly growing threat from small drones, which have become a centerpiece of modern warfare.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth last week directed the Army secretary to establish Joint Interagency Task Force 401, focused on delivering counter-drone technology to soldiers on the battlefield.

Although the U.S. has kept pace with adversaries when it comes to conventional warfare technology, dealing with small unmanned aircraft requires a new approach that prioritizes "speed over process," Hegseth wrote in his order.

It dissolves an office established under former President Joe Biden to handle the issue and replaces it with a group that will have greater authority, according to a Pentagon statement Thursday.

"There's no doubt that the threats we face today from hostile drones grow by the day," Hegseth said in a Thursday video announcing the task force.

Counter-drone technology has become crucial to President Donald Trump's defense strategy, with mass production of the aircraft by Iran and Russia allowing them to wreak havoc in Ukraine

and attack American interests in the Middle East.

In addition, U.S. military bases in England and Germany have reported unauthorized drone flyovers.

The U.S. relies on a mix of sanctions, interdictions and emerging defense technologies to blunt the problem, but analysts say the military must move faster to stay ahead of the threat.

At the same time, Hegseth is pushing the Pentagon to ramp up its own supply of the aircraft.

In July, speaking over the buzz of a small drone and Metallica's "Enter Sandman," he touted new policies meant to boost American drone manufacturing.

He also posted a video on X with the message "Unleashing U.S. Military Drone Dominance."

Part of the push involves moving one-way attack drones into the same purchasing category as grenades and bullets, instead of classifying them as helicopters and planes.

The creation of Task Force 401 is meant to go hand in hand with those production strategies.

"We're moving fast — cutting through bureaucracy, consolidating resources, and empowering this task force with the utmost authority to outpace our adversaries," Hegseth said.

Air Force will provide military funeral honors for Ashli Babbitt

By **COREY DICKSTEIN**
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force will provide Ashli Babbitt's family with military funeral honors, reversing a 2021 decision to deny such honors for the veteran who was fatally shot by a police officer during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, officials said.

Matthew Lohmeier, the undersecretary of the Air Force, wrote of the service's decision in an Aug. 15 letter to Babbitt's family that was shared Wednesday by Judicial Watch, a conservative activist group.

"I understand that the family's initial request was denied by Air Force leadership in a letter dated Feb. 9, 2021," Lohmeier wrote in the letter to Ashli Babbitt's husband, Aaron Babbitt. "However, after reviewing the circumstances of Ashli's death, and considering the information that has come forward since then, I am persuaded that the previous determination was incorrect."

Lohmeier offered in his letter to meet at the Pentagon with the family members.

An Air Force spokesperson confirmed the contents of the letter on Thursday but declined further comment. Air Force Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, who has since retired, initially denied the family's request for military funeral honors, writing they "would bring discredit upon the Air Force."

Babbitt, 35, was an ardent supporter of President Donald Trump who traveled from San Diego to attend the rallies and protests on Jan. 6, 2021, challenging former President Joe Biden's win over Trump in the 2020 presidential election. She was a veteran of the Air Force and Air National Guard who had served in Iraq and Afghanistan as a security forces airman.

She was fatally shot by a Capitol Police officer while attempting to climb through a broken window of a door leading into the House Speaker's lobby that had



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

Micki Witthoefft, center, mother of Ashli Babbitt, joins protesters outside of the Supreme Court in Washington on Jan. 6, 2023.

been barricaded to protect evacuating Congress members from the mob of Trump's supporters seeking to stop the lawmakers from certifying Biden's victory. Babbitt was the only person shot and killed during the attack.

The police officer was cleared by the Justice Department later in 2021 of wrongdoing in the shooting after investigators determined he fired a single shot at Babbitt believing "it was necessary to do so in self-defense or in defense of the members of Congress and others evacuating the House chamber," according to an April 2021 DOJ probe.

But Judicial Watch officials challenged the DOJ's findings and filed a wrongful death lawsuit for Babbitt's family this year, charging Babbitt "was ambushed and defenseless" and should have not been shot. The Justice Department in May settled with the Babbitt family, granting them a nearly \$5 million settlement in the case. That came after Trump on his first day back in the White House granted pardons to nearly

all the individuals charged with crimes for their actions during the Jan. 6 attack.

Military funeral honors are meant to honor those who served with a free honor guard detail of at least two service members, including at least one from the veteran's service branch, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. At minimum, the ceremony is to include the playing of taps, and the folding and presentation of an American flag to the deceased veteran's next of kin.

"Ashli Babbitt's family is grateful to President Trump, [Defense] Secretary [Pete] Hegseth and Undersecretary Lohmeier for reversing the Biden Defense Department's cruel decision to deny Ashli funeral honors as a distinguished veteran of the Air Force," Tom Fitton, Judicial Watch's president, said in a prepared statement. "... Judicial Watch is proud to have done its part in bringing her family a measure of justice and accountability for Ashli's outrageous killing."

PACIFIC

USS George Washington returns to Japan

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS George Washington steamed into Tokyo Bay on Saturday morning, signaling the halfway point of the aircraft carrier's annual Indo-Pacific patrol.

The carrier returned to the home of the U.S. 7th Fleet in the bay nearly three months after its June 10 departure, which kicked off its first deployment since it was relocated to Yokosuka back in November.

The George Washington pulled quietly into its usual spot, Berth 12, where the British aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales had been moored for about three weeks.

The British carrier left for Tokyo on Thursday.

Since its June departure, the George Washington has been engaged in operations throughout the Pacific, carrying out flight operations in the Philippine Sea, making port calls in Manila and Guam and participating in the bi-annual Talisman Sabre exercise in Australia.

It also took part in a multicar-



ALEX WILSON/Stars and Stripes

The aircraft carrier USS George Washington arrives at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, Saturday.

rier drills alongside the amphibious assault ship USS America, the Prince of Wales and the Japanese flattop JS Kaga.

In July, the George Washington lost an aviation boatswain's mate in a presumed overboard incident that occurred off of the northern coast of Australia.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jose Antonio Rivera Lynch IV, 19, of Florida, was last seen aboard the carrier on July 28.

Two days later, the Navy called off a 45-hour search-and-rescue operation that covered about 2,200 square miles and announced that Lynch was presumed lost at sea.

Aircraft carriers homeported at Yokosuka usually conduct annual deployments that last about six months.

The George Washington's predecessor, the USS Ronald Reagan, would typically return to Yokosuka for several weeks around a patrol's halfway point for crew rest and ship maintenance.

A 7th Fleet spokesperson did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment Saturday.

Army to deploy Typhon missile system to Japan for joint training

By BRIAN McELHINEY
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Army will deploy its mid-range missile system, Typhon, to Japan for the first time during a Marine Corps-led exercise in September, the service announced Friday.

The 3rd Multi-Domain Task Force will position the land-based, ground-launched system at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, about 25 miles southeast of Hiroshima, for the annual Resolute Dragon exercise, U.S. Army Pacific spokesman Col. Isaac Taylor said in an emailed statement Friday.

The joint training is scheduled for Sept. 11-25 across Japan, including Okinawa.

"Typhon provides a complementary capability to existing U.S. and Japanese systems and underscores our commitment to innovation, modernization and the U.S.-Japan Alliance," Taylor said.

"This exercise highlights the importance of interoperability and our shared dedication to peace, security and a free and open Indo-Pacific," he added.

Interoperability is a term that the military uses to describe allied forces' ability to make use of each other's training methods and equipment.

The Army first fired Typhon in the Western Pacific on July 15, striking an at-sea target from Bradshaw Training Area in Australia during Talisman Sabre drills.

The system includes launchers, missiles and a battery operations center and can fire both SM-6 and Tomahawk missiles.

Resolute Dragon will focus on "controlling and defending key maritime terrain," III Marine Expeditionary Force spokesman 2nd Lt. James Selcke said by email Thursday.

The Marine Corps' Force Design strategy calls for smaller units to defend maritime chokepoints in the Pacific.

The exercise comes amid growing Chinese military activity near Taiwan and around islands claimed by Japan in the East China Sea.

In June, China carried out Pacific drills involving both of its aircraft carriers — the Shandong and Liaoning — for the first time.

About 1,900 U.S. and 12,300 Japanese personnel will participate in Resolute Dragon, according to a Ground Staff information sheet.

U.S. forces involved in the exercise will include Marines from III Marine Expeditionary Force, the 12th Marine Littoral Regiment, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 3rd Marine

Logistics Group and Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

There will also be airmen from the 18th Wing at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, sailors from 7th Fleet and soldiers from the task force and other Army units, the document said.

Other planned U.S. deployments include MV-22 Ospreys, High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, and the Marines' semi-submersible Autonomous Low-Profile Vessel drone supply aircraft, according to the information sheet.

Japanese media have reported possible first-time deployments of HIMARS to Yonaguni, an island about 70 miles from Taiwan, and the Navy/Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System, or NMESIS, to Ishigaki, about 150 miles from Taiwan. U.S. and Japanese officials have declined to confirm or deny the reports.

NMESIS, a ground-based anti-ship system using the Naval Strike Missile, was first deployed in April by the 3rd Littoral Regiment during the Balikatan exercise in the Philippines.

Units based on Okinawa are scheduled to begin fielding the system between April and June 2026, Marine Corps Systems Command spokeswoman Deidra Knight said in an Aug. 6 email.

Japan's defense budget puts focus on systems

By HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Japan's Ministry of Defense on Friday unveiled a record-high defense spending request of \$60.1 billion for fiscal 2026, citing what it called severe and continuing security threats from China and North Korea.

The proposal, which would mark Japan's 14th consecutive annual increase in defense spending, is about \$1 billion higher than the current fiscal year's \$59.1 billion budget.

The funding request is part of a five-year defense buildup plan, which aims to raise defense spending to 2% of the country's gross domestic product by fiscal 2027, with total expenditures projected at \$292.6 billion over the life of the plan.

The budget emphasizes standoff defense, unmanned systems and cross-domain operations to counter increasingly diverse, complex and advanced threats, according to the Defense Ministry document.

About \$874.8 million is currently earmarked for unmanned aircraft and unmanned surface and underwater vessels as part of the ministry's Synchronized, Hybrid, Integrated and Enhanced Littoral Defense program, or SHIELD, which is set to launch by the end of

fiscal 2027.

"In recent years, the nature of combat has changed dramatically with the introduction of unmanned assets and advance in technological innovation in other countries," the budget request stated.

The submitted request added that Japan must establish "an asymmetric and multi-layered defense system" incorporating both manned and unmanned platforms.

The ministry also seeks about \$7 billion for standoff defense capabilities, including \$207.3 million to begin mass production of hypersonic weapons, which travel at speeds above Mach 5 and are difficult to intercept.

Another \$5.2 billion is set aside for improving Self-Defense Force personnel benefits, facilities and living conditions amid declining recruitment and recent misconduct scandals.

Starting next fiscal year, the Japan Air Self-Defense Force will change its name to the Japan Air and Space Self-Defense Force, a year earlier than was originally scheduled, according to the budget document.

It will also expand its Space Operations Group into a Space Operations Command to oversee all space missions.

PACIFIC

Huey helicopters make a farewell flight over Tokyo

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

AKASAKA PRESS CENTER, Tokyo — Two UH-1N Huey helicopters soared past gleaming glass skyscrapers Friday as the storied aircraft paid a farewell visit to the city's Roppongi district.

The 459th Airlift Squadron is retiring its Hueys, which have flown out of Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo for decades.

The trip to Roppongi was part of the Hueys' finiflight, a military tradition for pilots, particularly in the Air Force, when they retire or depart a unit.

The helicopters carried 16 airmen who waved to onlookers and posed for photos after landing at the press center around 11 a.m. Dozens of Defense Department employees and service members gathered at the heliport to mark the occasion.

The 374th Airlift Wing denied a request to interview the pilots after touchdown, saying a media event is being planned at Yokota to mark the Huey's retirement. The wing didn't respond to a phone call and follow up email Friday asking about potential replacements.

At Akasaka, the crew members toured the press center and had lunch before the aircraft departed around 2 p.m., waved off by a



MARC CASTANEDA/Stars and Stripes

Crew members wave from a UH-1N Huey helicopter.

crowd of around 70 U.S. and Japanese employees.

For years, the Hueys ferried VIPs and U.S. military personnel to the heliport behind Stars and Stripes' Pacific headquarters. The small central Tokyo base, which includes the Hardy Barracks lodging facility, sits between Aoyama Cemetery and the Roppongi Hills shopping district and is near the U.S. Embassy and Japan's Ministry of Defense.

U.S. Forces Japan recently placed a contingent inside the press center to strengthen coordination between its Yokota headquarters and Japanese defense officials.

The first Hueys at Yokota — UH-1P models — arrived in 1971 and were later replaced by the



MARC CASTANEDA/Stars and Stripes

A pair of UH-1N Huey helicopters make a farewell visit Friday to the Akasaka Press Center in Tokyo.

twin-engine UH-1N variant, according to the base website. Developed by Bell Helicopter in the 1950s, the UH-1 series became iconic during the Vietnam War and earned a reputation for versatility, from troop transport to combat air support.

The Air Force plans to replace the UH-1N with Boeing's MH-139A Grey Wolf, based on the commercial AW139. The new helicopter flies 50% faster, travels 50% farther and carries 5,000 more pounds than the Huey, with a cabin 30% larger, according to the service.

However, the Air Force cut its planned Grey Wolf purchase from 74 to 42 aircraft last year, according to budget documents cited in a March 2024 report by defense publisher Janes.



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Akasaka Press Center employees see off a pair of UH-1N Huey helicopters making a farewell trip to the small U.S. base.

Alaska's 11th Airborne soldiers fire Stingers in Indonesia

By **WYATT OLSON**
Stars and Stripes

Soldiers with the 11th Airborne Division fired a pair of FIM-92 Stinger missiles Tuesday during the Super Garuda Shield exercise in Indonesia, a first for the Alaska-based division.

The missiles were launched near the town of Baturaja on the island of Sumatra, the Army said in a Tuesday news release that described the inaugural live-fire event as a "milestone" for the division.

The Stinger is a portable, shoulder-fired weapon that uses infrared sensors to lock onto targets. It is used to destroy low-flying aircraft, such as helicopters and drones.

"Not only is this a first for the whole 11th ABD, but it is also the first time that we are utilizing this capability in Indonesia," Capt. Kaden Cox, the air defense officer in charge of the live fire, said in the release.

Roughly 100 service members from the United States, Indonesia, Australia and Canada were involved in the firing.

The division has for the past three years been building a Stinger gunnery program to train and certify soldiers in the weapon, Maj. Jo Nederhoed, a division spokesper-



SEU CHAN/U.S. Army

U.S. Army Pfc. Jackson Muse, 11th Airborne Division, fires an FIM-92 Stinger for the first time Tuesday during the Super Garuda Shield exercise in Baturaja, Indonesia.

son, told Stars and Stripes by email Thursday.

This event was an opportunity for the di-

vision's noncommissioned officers to evaluate that initial training in a realistic environment, the news release states.

"This was my first time shooting one of these things," Pfc. Jackson Muse, an infantryman and main firer for the exercise, said in the release. "We got up early to rehearse, orient the gear, and just took time to get into the right head space."

The Stinger has been in use for decades and proven invaluable to ground forces. Ukraine has made extensive use of U.S. and German-supplied Stingers against Russian aircraft since being invaded in 2022. The U.S. supplied Stinger missiles to Afghan mujahedeen fighters as they fended a 10-year incursion by the Soviet Union in the 1980s.

This year's Super Garuda Shield, which kicked off last Monday and runs through Friday, is the largest ever.

It has more than 6,500 participants from 13 nations, including India, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, the United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands.

Among the planned drills are rapid infiltration missions with the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, urban-warfare tactics and medical operations under simulated battlefield conditions.

MILITARY

Navy, DODEA to launch mental health pilot

7 schools overseas will begin offering counseling program this year under a 3-year trial

By **BRIAN McELHINEY**
Stars and Stripes

Seven schools on U.S. Navy installations in Japan, Europe and Guam will begin offering clinical mental health counseling this school year under a three-year trial program.

Licensed clinical counselors from Fleet and Family Support Centers will provide nonmedical counseling services two to three days a week at each school, according to an Aug. 25 news release by Department of Defense Education Activity.

"This partnership reflects our shared commitment to building resilient, well-supported students who are prepared to succeed academically and thrive in a dynamic

world," DODEA director Beth Narvaez said in the release. "By embedding licensed counselors into our schools, we are strengthening our Multi-Tiered System of Supports, reinforcing community connections, and investing in the wellness of military-connected families."

The pilot program will be reviewed twice a year, with annual reports issued to guide future decisions, DODEA-Europe spokeswoman Jessica Tackaberry said by email Wednesday. If successful, the model could be expanded to Army, Marine Corps and Air Force schools.

The initiative is part of DODEA's Blueprint for Continuous Improvement, announced Aug. 4. The plan sets goals for student, school, talent

and organizational development through 2030 and identifies "implementation of interventions and extensions based on student need" as a measure of success.

It helps "identify and provide the right level of support for each student, whether they need enrichment, targeted help, or intensive intervention," DODEA-Pacific spokeswoman Miranda Ferguson said in early August.

DODEA and Navy Installations Command signed a memorandum of understanding for the pilot on Aug. 14, Tackaberry said. The command is still finalizing implementation plans, spokeswoman Destiny Sibert said by email Thursday from Washington, D.C.

"Once in place, counselors will

be available to provide individual and group counseling, prevention education, and referrals to higher levels of care when needed," she wrote. "This initiative reflects another important milestone in the Navy's ongoing commitment to strengthening quality of service for Sailors and their families."

One counselor will be assigned to each participating school, except Naples Middle-High at Naval Support Activity Naples in Italy, which will receive two, Tackaberry said.

Other schools in the pilot include E.J. King High at Sasebo Naval Base and Nile C. Kinnick High at Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan; Guam High and McCool Middle on Guam; Rota Middle High at Naval Station Rota, Spain; and Sigonella

Middle High at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily.

The Navy counselors will not replace DODEA-employed school counselors or psychologists, Tackaberry said. Instead, they will provide additional nonmedical counseling focused on resiliency, wellness and prevention.

Individual counseling will be conducted privately and confidentially, while group counseling will involve small groups of students, she said. Students may refer themselves or be referred by parents or school staff.

Counselors will also collaborate with school teams to promote mental health awareness and address student needs, according to the release.

National Guard airman pins on coveted Army combat decoration

By **BRADLEY LATHAM**
Stars and Stripes

An Iowa National Guard airman who served a stint as an infantry soldier is now sporting a combat award that his former service introduced just a few months ago.

Senior Master Sgt. Greg Cleghorn, the top enlisted leader for the 132nd Security Forces Squadron in Des Moines, Iowa, was awarded the Master Combat Infantryman Badge on Aug. 18, according to a Guard statement. The badge is a new award authorized in March.

"It's still an individual award at this point, but I'm proud to wear it and to represent the Iowa Guard," Cleghorn said in the Aug. 22 statement. "When I go someplace, it will be unique and draw attention to the state of Iowa while I am wearing Iowa Guard patches."

The Army doesn't track badge awardees from other services, Human Resources Command spokesman Bill Costello said Wednesday. A total of 5,104 MCIBs have been awarded, he added.

Though it's unclear how rare Cleghorn's achievement is, the award requirements alone put the former soldier in exclusive company among airmen across the reserve and active components.

The decoration is for infantry and Special Forces soldiers who previously earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Expert Infantryman Badge, both of which can be earned only during Army service.

Soldiers who earn those two awards automatically qualify for the Master Combat Infantryman Badge without the need for additional training.



PHOTOS BY JOHN JOHNSON/U.S. Air National Guard

Senior Master Sgt. Greg Cleghorn, the senior enlisted leader of the Iowa Air National Guard's 132nd Security Forces Squadron, receives the Army's Master Combat Infantryman Badge on Aug. 18, during the unit's annual training at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.



The Army's Master Combat Infantryman Badge adorns Cleghorn's uniform.

Cleghorn earned the latter in 2000 while with the 4th Infantry Regiment in Hohenfels, Germany.

He later joined the Iowa Army National Guard's 194th Long Range Surveillance Detachment in 2004 and earned the Combat Infantryman Badge during a deployment to Iraq, the statement said.

The Iowa Air National Guard statement did not say when Cleghorn made the switch from soldier to airman.

The Air Force Personnel Center, the organization that manages members' administrative and service records, doesn't track the number of airmen who may have earned a Combat Infantryman Badge before joining the Air Force, a unit spokesman told Stars and Stripes on Thursday.

In addition to the Master Combat Infantryman Badge, in March the Army also authorized master badges for medical personnel and non-infantry soldiers.

The Master Combat Medical Badge has 416 recipients, while the Master Combat Action Badge has been given to 723 people, according to Army Human Resources Command data.

Cunningham, naval aviator and corrupt appropriator, dies

By **NIELS LESNIEWSKI**
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — Former Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, an ace naval aviator who resigned from Congress in disgrace after pleading guilty to corruption charges, died Wednesday at age 83.

The San Diego Union Tribune reported that Cunningham died at a hospital in Little Rock, Ark., following an illness.

Cunningham, a California Republican, joined the Navy at age 25 and during the Vietnam War became the first "ace," an honor given to combat pilots who shoot down five enemy planes.

First elected to Congress in 1990, Cunningham served eight terms until he resigned on Dec. 1, 2005, after he pleaded guilty to corruption charges. He held seats on the Appropriations and Intelligence committees at the time of his departure.

In pleading guilty, Cunningham admitted to accepting at least \$2.4 million in bribes. That included about \$1 million in cash as well as rugs, antiques, furniture, yacht club fees, boat repairs, moving costs and vacation expenses, in exchange for using his appropriations role to obtain earmarks on behalf of defense contractors.

The evidence against Cunningham included a "bribe menu" that outlined the dollar values of bribes requested in exchange for steering federal funds. His actions were among

those that led Congress to temporarily ban earmarking.

He spent more than seven years in prison. President Donald Trump pardoned Cunningham in 2021, on the last full day of his first term in the White House.

Cunningham's public corruption overshadowed a decorated military career. He narrowly avoided capture after his F-4 fighter was shot down over North Vietnam, and he returned home with several medals for valor, including the Navy Cross.

He then trained pilots at Miramar Naval Air Station north of San Diego.

After he left the military for business, his background caught the eye of another Vietnam veteran from California, Republican Rep. Duncan Hunter, who urged him to run for the House.

Cunningham moved to the San Diego suburb of Chula Vista to challenge Democratic Rep. Jim Bates in 1990, where he eked out a narrow victory.

After redistricting in 1992, he ran in a solidly Republican district and was reelected by comfortable margins. Redistricting for 2002 did not hurt him either. His new district continued to have a healthy Republican majority.

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Cunningham

MILITARY

Fuel: Order asks commanders to exempt cooks from other duties

FROM PAGE 1

the quality of life — we're empowering our ... culinary specialists to showcase their skills in a more flexible, innovative environment that reflect the modern Army dining experience."

Fort Hood soldiers can use meal entitlements in traditional dining facilities, they can visit a food truck, a grab-and-go kiosk or they can preorder and pick up several days' worth of meals at once. The base focused these options in places where soldiers can easily get to them on their own or using the post's shuttle bus.

III Corps, the largest command at Fort Hood, calls its soldiers "Phantom Warriors" and many of the new dining facilities carry the theme of that name.

Cooks have a centralized facility, the Phantom Hub, where pre-made meals are cooked and packaged and rations are prepared and sent to soldiers training in field. It's a place for cooks to train and provides them with a computer lab.

Brig. Gen. Sean Davis, deputy chief of staff for logistics with FORSCOM, brought the ideas with him to the command's headquarters at Fort Bragg, N.C., after seeing them find success in his previous assignment at Fort Hood. FORSCOM's dining optimization order doesn't directly name Fort Hood but recommends other FORSCOM units consider many of the base's improvements, said



ROSE L. THAYER/Stars and Stripes

Pvt. Darrell McKenzie cuts chicken tenders for hot meals available in warmers at the Phantom Fresh grab-and-go dining facility at Fort Hood, Texas, on Aug. 14.

Allen Fritzching, interim division chief for the supply, maintenance and contracting division at FORSCOM.

"All of it is designed for a commander to assess his organization, determine where there's gaps that exist, and then through this optimization process try to minimize those gaps and improve access for soldiers to nutritious meals," he said.

For the past several years, the Army has sought ways to bring soldiers back into service-run dining facilities after declining numbers. Officials have grappled with changing dining preferences of soldiers as well as a reduction in cooks the Army enlists into the force.

The order is just one front to

combat the issue. In August, Army Materiel Command tested a pilot program to allow soldiers to spend their meal entitlement money on specific meals at on-post restaurants. No decision has been made on how and when the pilot program could return.

The service is also reviewing policy changes needed to allow soldiers to use that money in the commissary. Most barracks have a small kitchen, and this would allow soldiers to buy their own ingredients and cook at home.

The recognition of Fort Hood's dining program comes two years after it hit a low point. Soldiers complained limited hours and long distances between barracks and open facilities prohibited them from accessing food.

Roughly 6,000 soldiers have meal entitlements at Fort Hood, and 204,000 meals were served in July across all forms of dining facilities with all types of payment, McKinney said. In early 2024, before the shuttle and increased grab-and-go options, only about 100,000 soldiers with meal entitlements were using dining facilities in a month.

In traditional facilities where soldiers grab a tray and pick a meal line, TVs hang on the walls where soldiers dine with flowers on each table and décor that McKinney said she hopes makes soldiers feel like they've left work and can relax.

Specialized lines for burritos, pasta, pizza and stir-fry bowls allow cooks to take ownership and perfect the meals that they cook, she said. Right now, it takes about 30 soldiers to run the facility, but she is working toward staggered shifts to better manage people's schedules.

Part of FORSCOM's order asked commanders to exempt cooks from non-feeding duties and consolidate the workforce together to maximize their impact.

With the Phantom Fresh grab-and-go kiosk, McKinney focused on predictability in options and speed of service. It opens at 7:30 a.m. and doesn't close between meals. Instead, the small space shifts from a breakfast yogurt parfait bar to a self-serve salad bar and a made-to-order sandwich

line at lunch. Throughout the day, premade hot meals and premade sandwiches and salads, as well as fresh fruit, snacks and bottled drinks are available until closing at 3 p.m.

"It's something to get used to," said Sgt. Alexis Sobczak, the non-commissioned officer in charge of Phantom Fresh.

She transitioned a little more than a year ago from a traditional facility and said it took some time to get used to the work of overseeing the small deli-like operation. It started with about 25 customers per meal each day. Now it's up to about 275 each meal.

"There's more to it, but also not," Sobczak said. "In the dining facility, I only worried about one line. Here, I worry about restocking fridges."

For those soldiers who still can't or don't want to use these options, they can preorder about three days' worth of meals at a time and pick them up twice a week. The program started in July 2024 and now serves about 300 soldiers twice a week, McKinney said.

All this work during the past year has been done within the existing facilities instead of asking the Army for an influx of cash or resources, said Chontrelle Sturdivant, Fort Hood's installation food program manager.

"We repurpose what we already have," she said. "We refreshed, changed the setting and added variety."

Surge: US continues to coordinate deportation flights weekly with Venezuela

FROM PAGE 1

In total, three destroyers, two landing dock ships, an amphibious assault ship, a cruiser and a littoral combat ship are either in the region or on their way. The destroyers are each carrying detachments of U.S. Coast Guard and law enforcement officials aboard who would carry out detentions or arrests in drug interdictions.

The news of a potential buildup of warships in the region has raised suspicions that the U.S. might take military actions against Venezuela, a U.S. adversary whose president, Nicolás Maduro, is accused by the Trump administration of running a drug cartel. The United States last month raised the bounty for Maduro's capture for the second time this year — doubling it from \$25 million to \$50 million. Maduro and his officials have announced the mobilization of 15,000 troops to the Colombian border to "ensure peace in the area" and called on Venezuelans to enlist in militias to "fight the empire."

The Navy would not say exactly where the ships will be operating, except that they are patrolling the

Caribbean and awaiting more specific orders. The destroyers are "not right off the coast of Venezuela," the official said. A White House spokesperson did not respond to questions about the increased U.S. presence in the region.

Two of the destroyers, the USS Gravelly and the USS Jason Dunham, were most recently in the Eastern Caribbean, the official said. The destroyer USS Sampson was in the Pacific off the coast of Panama as of Tuesday.

Last month the amphibious assault ship Iwo Jima, with more than 2,500 Marines on board, departed Norfolk, Va., for the Caribbean, accompanied by two transport ships that assist in troop landing operations. Those vessels were slightly delayed by high seas due to Hurricane Erin. The littoral combat ship USS Minneapolis-St. Paul was in the Caribbean, and the cruiser USS Lake Erie was in the Pacific Ocean, off the coast of Mexico.

Together, the ships provide a wide array of options for the administration. The Iwo Jima carries helicopters; the destroyers and cruisers have advanced sen-

sor and surveillance capabilities, as well as cruise missiles capable of striking targets on land.

It is rare to see this many assets sent to support U.S. Southern Command, which is sometimes called the "forgotten AOR," because it has struggled amid security demands in the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific to keep a regular presence of U.S. troops or ships patrolling Central and South America. In previous years, a normal presence would have been made up of Coast Guard vessels or an occasional littoral combat ship and regular missions by the Navy hospital ships USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort.

While it is not clear exactly what type of military action could be taken against drug cartels in the region, discussions have ranged from using Navy destroyers to launch missiles at cartel leaders or infrastructure to partnering more closely with Mexican authorities to target the criminal organizations, The Post reported last month. The U.S. Navy has also sent warships to conduct additional patrols in coastal waters near Mexico.

For some in the Venezuelan op-

position, the movement of warships appears to signal a Trump administration effort to apply pressure against the Maduro government. In July, the Treasury Department accused Maduro of leading the Venezuelan *Cártel de los Soles* and designated the group a terrorist organization. Ecuador and Argentina, both Trump-friendly governments, also joined in designating the *Cártel de los Soles* a terrorist organization.

Asked by reporters about the possibility of sending troops to Venezuela, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Trump "is prepared to use every element of American power to stop drugs from flooding into our country and to bring those responsible to justice."

Despite the rhetoric, the Trump administration last month reissued a Biden-era license to U.S. energy giant Chevron to resume oil operations in Venezuela, home to the largest oil reserves in the world. Two tankers chartered by Chevron reached U.S. waters last week carrying Venezuelan crude, the country's critical export and main source of income.

Even with warships heading to

the Caribbean, the Trump administration continues to coordinate deportation flights weekly with Venezuelan officials, which requires direct contact with senior officials in Caracas, according to a U.S. official with knowledge of the flights, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

For months, the Maduro government has been accepting an average of two deportation flights each week.

"Behind the scenes," the official said, "it's business as usual."

Nearly 8,000 Venezuelans have been deported from the U.S. since February, when deportation flights restarted after a year-long pause, according to ICE Flight Monitor, which tracks and analyzes U.S. enforcement flights.

Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau said last month that the Trump administration was "very much against regime change in terms of the U.S. basically being the driver."

In Venezuela, Maduro has called upon civilians and reservists to mobilize in militias, and has claimed that he will deploy more than 4 million militia members to prepare to defend the country.

NATION

Appeals court ruling a setback for tariffs

BY JACOB BOGAGE
AND EMILY DAVIES
The Washington Post

President Donald Trump has used the threat of tariffs as a bargaining chip with foreign leaders, counted on their revenue to raise trillions of dollars and even wielded them as part of an effort to head off international conflicts.

That could all be over for now.

A federal appeals court late Friday held that Trump does not have the authority to use emergency economic powers to impose taxes on imports, finding that power lies squarely with Congress or within existing frameworks to investigate trade imbalances.

The ruling is a major setback for the White House and it threatens to stall much of Trump's second-term agenda. Trump has described tariffs as "the most beautiful word in the dictionary" and asserted that imposing the duties — which are most often paid by U.S. consumers or businesses, not foreign producers or nations as he often suggests — will "Make America Rich, Strong, and Powerful Again."

The tariffs, he has said, would offset the cost of his "One Big Beautiful Bill," the massive tax and immigration package that congressional bookkeepers say will add \$4.1 trillion to the national debt over the next decade. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, which Trump and Republicans attacked for its estimation of the cost of the new law, later projected that the president's tariffs would nearly pay for the whole measure through new revenue and lower interest payments on the national debt.

Attorney General Pam Bondi said the Justice Department will appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court, and the federal circuit allowed the tariffs to remain in effect



JABIN BOTSFORD/The Washington Post

President Donald Trump speaks before signing executive orders on tariffs during an event in the Rose Garden at the White House on April 2.

until the case is heard.

White House spokesman Kush Desai said Trump had acted lawfully, and "we look forward to ultimate victory on this matter."

But success for the president is far from assured. And in the interim, the appellate ruling may effectively neuter Trump's ability to leverage access to the U.S. market to bring friends and foes alike to heel.

"It's a big setback, but it's far from a complete foreclosing of tariffs," said Scott Lincicome, vice president of general economics and trade at the libertarian Cato Institute, who has criticized the import taxes, "because the reality is there's all these other laws that Trump can use to effectively reverse-engineer a global tariff regime."

Trump used the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977 to impose tariffs on goods

from dozens of nations — from the U.S.'s largest trading partners to uninhabited Antarctic islands. That law allows the president leeway to respond to national economic emergencies. The appeals court did not take up the question of whether trade deficits really are an authentic national emergency or the policy rationale for issuing the tariffs, but rather found that the law did not grant the president the power to unilaterally impose permanent new taxes.

"The statute bestows significant authority on the President to undertake a number of actions in response to a declared national emergency, but none of these actions explicitly include the power to impose tariffs, duties, or the like, or the power to tax," the court's 7 to 4 majority wrote.

Trump responded by calling the court "highly partisan" on social

media. Eight of the judges on the panel were appointed by Democratic presidents, and three by Republicans.

The court ruling won't affect tariffs on specific industries — steel, aluminum, copper, autos — that Trump imposed under a different law, but it would block many of the sweeping country-by-country import taxes he set up.

The White House tactic — which relied on an untested interpretation of an old law — reflects the legal approach that has come to define Trump's second term. During his first stint in the Oval Office, the president often tested legal limits but was held back by advisers and lawyers who saw checking his impulses as part of their role. This time, he is surrounded by deputies who execute and accelerate his instincts and have shown willingness to drudge up arcane laws to that

end.

"This time around, the philosophy has been 'let's have a more expansive interpretation of our statutory authority and let the courts decide,'" said Avik Roy, co-founder and chairman for Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, a conservative think tank.

The White House could find a number of ways to get around the ruling even without a victory at the Supreme Court.

Trump could simply amend his executive orders instituting the tariffs to better hew to the appellate court's ruling, said Todd Tucker, director of industrial policy and trade at the left-leaning Roosevelt Institute. Or he could declare a narrower national emergency that justified specific temporary tariffs; the court took pains to avoid ruling on the president's foreign policy powers.

Congress has delegated authority to the president to institute tariffs under separate laws, which is why the industry-specific or "sectoral" tariffs he imposed remain in place. But those require trade investigations and public comment periods and can take months to implement.

Marc Short, who served as the chief of staff to Vice President Mike Pence during Trump's first term, said the president is underterred by legal losses and will find other avenues if the Supreme Court rules against him.

"It does require the administration to do more work to justify their tariffs," he said, "but if people think this is ultimate victory over his tariffs, I think that is mistaken."

The economy has shown signs of teetering under the weight of the new taxes, with sagging jobs numbers and rising prices in certain key sectors.

President blocks \$4.9B in foreign aid OK'd by Congress

BY JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has told House Speaker Mike Johnson that he won't be spending \$4.9 billion in congressionally approved foreign aid, effectively cutting the budget without going through the legislative branch.

Trump, who sent a letter to Johnson, R-La., on Thursday, is using what's known as a pocket rescission — when a president submits a request to Congress to not spend approved funds toward the end of the fiscal year, so Congress cannot act on the request in a 45-day time frame and the money goes unspent as a result. It's the first time in nearly 50 years a president has used one. The fiscal year draws to a close at the end of September.

The letter was posted Friday

morning on the X account of the White House Office of Management and Budget. It said the funding would be cut from the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID, an early target of Trump's efforts to cut foreign aid.

If the White House standardizes this move, the president could effectively bypass Congress on key spending choices and potentially throw into disarray efforts in the House and the Senate to keep the government funded when the next fiscal year starts in October.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio posted on X that USAID is essentially being shuttered and congratulated White House budget director Russ Vought for managing the process.

The 1974 Impoundment Control Act gives the president the author-

ity to propose canceling funds approved by Congress. Congress can within 45 days vote on pulling back the funds or sustaining them, but by proposing the rescission so close to Sept. 30 the White House argues that the money won't be spent and the funding lapses.

What was essentially the last pocket rescission occurred in 1977 by Democratic then-President Jimmy Carter, and the Trump administration argues it's a legally permissible tool despite some murkiness as Carter had initially proposed the clawback well ahead of the 45-day deadline.

The move by the Trump administration drew immediate backlash in parts of the Senate over its legality.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said in a statement that the Constitution "makes clear that Congress has the responsibility for the power of the

purse" and any effort to claw back funds "without congressional approval is a clear violation of the law."

"Instead of this attempt to undermine the law, the appropriate way is to identify ways to reduce excessive spending through the bipartisan, annual appropriations process," Collins said. Congress approves rescissions regularly as part of this process.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York warned that Trump's use of the pocket veto could undermine the normal funding process and risk "a painful and entirely unnecessary shutdown." After all, any budget agreements reached in the Senate could lack authority if the Trump White House has the power to withhold spending as it sees fit.

Schumer said in a statement that

Republican leaders have yet to meet with Democrats on a path to fund the government after the fiscal year ends on Sept. 30 just as Trump tries an "unlawful gambit to circumvent the Congress all together."

The funds in the pocket rescission package include \$3.2 billion in development assistance grants, \$520 million for the United Nations, \$838 million for international peacekeeping operations and \$322 million to encourage democratic values in other countries.

The Trump administration has made deep reductions to foreign aid one of its hallmark policies, despite the relatively meager savings relative to the deficit and possible damage to America's reputation abroad as foreign populations lose access to food supplies and development programs.

NATION

Critics deride use of federal agents for policing

By **BYRON TAU**
AND **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's a scene that has played out on the streets of Washington and Los Angeles since President Donald Trump declared a crime emergency in the nation's capital and ramped up deportations nationwide: Federal agents, some in masks, grabbing someone off the street, bundling the person into a car and driving away, ignoring questions from bystanders.

In an executive order signed last month, Trump said the District of Columbia government's "failure to maintain public order and safety has had a dire impact on the Federal Government's ability to operate" and that it was his duty as president to use federal agents to restore order. He has threatened to expand those operations — law enforcement duties traditionally reserved for local police — to other cities.

Urban leaders, police officials and civil rights advocates say federal agents are not the best equipped for this type of policing. They also are concerned the strategy will erode the delicate relationship that local police have with the communities they serve.

Federal agents have not historically played much of a role in everyday policing. The job of federal marshal was created in 1789, but the agency's numbers are small and largely focused on carrying out the work of federal courts. Other U.S. investigative agencies have mostly focused on major interstate crimes and national security matters.

Federal agents "are usually doing major investigations. They're not navigating day-to-day contact with the public the way that police do," said Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum.



MARK SCHIEFELBEIN/AP

Federal agents talk to a driver at a checkpoint operated by the Metropolitan Police Department and federal agencies, including officers from Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Homeland Security Investigations, on Georgia Avenue in the northern part of Washington, D.C., Saturday.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has more traditionally done nationwide work tracking down immigrants who are in the United States illegally but has ramped up operations since Trump took office in January.

After protests over the deaths of Black men at the hands of police in recent years, many cities made policy changes to enhance accountability and transparency.

Most large police departments, for example, require officers to wear cameras on patrol. Many agencies release the footage upon request or under their state public records law. Federal agencies have not embraced such change,

despite some steps to keep pace with their local counterparts.

In 2022, Democratic President Joe Biden issued an executive order requiring federal law enforcement agencies to adopt body-camera policies for officers who are on patrol, making arrests and or conducting searches. Trump rescinded that directive, and agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Border Patrol have ended their usage.

Body-worn cameras "have been good for everybody," said Lauren Bonds, executive director of the National Police Accountability Project. Bonds said such policies protect officers from meritless ci-

tizen complaints and make it easier for the public to get justice if they have been wronged. "Across the board, I would say it's an equally beneficial tool for police and for the public," she said.

Washington's mayor, Democrat Muriel Bowser, has questioned why so many of the federal officers flooding the city's streets are covering their faces.

"Why do they need masks?" Bowser asked. "They are federal officials. They're paid by the taxpayers. They should be doing their jobs in a way that's lawful and constitutional."

Civil rights advocates have complained that such tactics

erode trust between communities and law enforcement and make holding individual officers to account for abuses more difficult. Administration officials say masks are needed to protect federal agents.

Most local arrest reports are a matter of public record. Some local agencies even disclose such information to citizens in email groups or on social media websites.

Getting access to basic arrest details from the federal government has proved far harder. Administration officials have been releasing daily arrest totals and some of the charges that people are facing, but information on which agency made which arrests and who is facing what charges has been difficult to find.

Those seeking details about federal arrests are frequently directed to file a request under the Freedom of Information Act. Most agencies have large backlogs of such requests.

Civic leaders said they fear the federal crackdown could erode uneven progress police have made in building trust with the communities they serve.

"We are getting some violent people off the streets — but in the long run, at what cost?" Jaron Hickman, a senior police commander in Washington, said at a public forum Tuesday.

Norm Nixon, 62, an associate minister at Union Temple Baptist Church in Washington's historically Black Anacostia neighborhood, said federal operations were changing the way residents felt about the city's police force.

"Now, with these federal guys coming in, people just see them all as law enforcement," Nixon said. "Some of the young people I talk to feel like the local police officers are traitors now, that they are really against us and out to get us."

Trump cutting Voice of America jobs despite legal challenges

By **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The agency that oversees Voice of America and other government-funded international broadcasters is eliminating jobs for more than 500 employees, a Trump administration official said.

The move could ratchet up a monthslong legal challenge over the news outlets' fate.

Kari Lake, acting CEO of the U.S. Agency for Global Media, announced the latest round of job cuts late Friday, one day after a federal judge blocked her from removing Michael Abramowitz as VOA director.

U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth had ruled separately that

the Republican administration had failed to show how it was complying with his orders to restore VOA's operations.

His order Monday gave the administration "one final opportunity, short of a contempt trial" to demonstrate its compliance.

He also ordered Lake to sit for a deposition by lawyers for agency employees by Sept. 15.

On Thursday, Lamberth said Abramowitz could not be removed without the approval of the majority of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board.

Firing Abramowitz would be "plainly contrary to law," according to the order from Lamberth, who was nominated to the bench by Republican President Ronald

Reagan.

Lake posted a statement on social media that said her agency had initiated a reduction in force, or RIF, eliminating 532 jobs for full-time government employees. She said the agency "will continue to fulfill its statutory mission after this RIF— and will likely improve its ability to function."

"I look forward to taking additional steps in the coming months to improve the functioning of a very broken agency and make sure America's voice is heard abroad where it matters most," she wrote.

A group of agency employees who sued to block VOA's elimination said Lake's move would give their colleagues 30 days until their pay and benefits end.

"We find Lake's continued attacks on our agency abhorrent," they said in a statement. "We are looking forward to her deposition to hear whether her plan to dismantle VOA was done with the rigorous review process that Congress requires. So far we have not seen any evidence of that."

In June, layoff notices were sent to more than 600 agency employees. Abramowitz was placed on administrative leave along with almost the entire VOA staff. He was told he would be fired effective Aug. 31.

The administration said in a court filing Thursday that it planned to send RIF notices to 486 employees of VOA and 46 other agency employees but intended to

retain 158 agency employees and 108 VOA employees.

The filing said that the global media agency had 137 "active employees" and 62 other employees on administrative leave while VOA had 86 active employees and 512 others administrative leave.

The agency also houses Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, Middle East Broadcasting Networks and Radio Marti, which beams Spanish-language news into Cuba.

The networks, which together reach an estimated 427 million people, date to the Cold War and are part of a network of government-funded organizations trying to extend U.S. influence and combat authoritarianism.

NATION

Cards comfort girl wounded in church shooting

BY DAVE COLLINS
Associated Press

Lying in an intensive care unit hospital bed, 11-year-old Genevieve Bisek is comforted by the many handmade cards she has received from fellow classmates after Wednesday's shooting at a Minneapolis church.

Some are decorated with beads, some with sparkling stars. All of them are taped to the walls of her room at the Hennepin County Medical Center, where she has been recovering. Her condition has been upgraded from critical to satisfactory.

"All of these handmade cards are just absolutely adorable and heartfelt," Genevieve's aunt, Wanda Stipek, told The Associated Press on Saturday. "This is coming from other kids who also have their own trauma and yet are still reaching out and showing their love for her. She has these cards taped up on the walls in her room so that she can see this and be surrounded by that love."

Genevieve was one of the 20 people who were shot during the attack at the Church of Annunciation, as hundreds of students from the nearby Annunciation Catholic School and others gathered for a Mass. The shooter fired 116 rifle rounds through the church's stained-glass windows, leaving two students dead and 18 people wounded, nearly all of them children. The shooter, 23-year-old Robin Westman, died by suicide.

Genevieve, a sixth grader at the Catholic school who loves animals and playing outside, was conscious after the shooting, Stipek said. After authorities cleared the church from danger, she was gathered

with other children to assess their injuries and was brought to the hospital in an ambulance with another wounded student, she said.

Medical staff sedated Genevieve until Thursday.

"Genevieve is a very sensitive and compassionate little girl," Stipek said. "When she did wake up from her sedation after the event, the first thing that she wanted to talk about, she asked about the other children."

Stipek said Genevieve told her mother, "I can't say that I wish this wouldn't have happened to me because I don't want it to have happened to anyone else either."

Stipek said Genevieve has not been told yet who died. She said one of the students killed, Fletcher Merkel, 8, was a neighbor and friend of the family.

At a Mass held Saturday night in the Annunciation school's auditorium, the Rev. Dennis Zehren spoke of hope for better days.

"We welcome the light of a new day here at Annunciation," he said. "And it reminds us when death and darkness has done its worst, that's when God says 'Now see what I will do.' And that's kind of a strange mystery that in the most intense darkness the light somehow seems to shine even more brightly."

Pope Leo XIV on Sunday called for an end to the "pandemic of arms, large and small," as he prayed publicly for the shooting victims.

History's first U.S. pope spoke in English as he denounced the attack and the "logic of weapons" fueling wars around the world, during his Sunday noon blessing overlooking St. Peter's Square.

DHS secretary says more ICE resources heading to Chicago

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem on Sunday said that the Trump administration will soon expand immigration operations in Chicago, confirming plans for a stepped up presence of federal agents in the nation's third-largest city as President Donald Trump continues to lash out at Illinois' Democratic leadership.

Noem's comments come after the DHS last week requested limited logistical support from offi-

cial at the Naval Station Great Lakes.

"We've already had ongoing operations with ICE in Chicago... but we do intend to add more resources to those operations," Noem said on CBS News' "Face the Nation."

Noem declined to provide further details.

Trump lashed out against Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, a Democrat, in a social media posting Saturday, warning him that he must straighten out Chicago's crime problems quickly "or we're coming."



ANACONDA DEER LODGE COUNTY JUSTICE COURT/AP

Michael Paul Brown, who is accused of killing four people in a bar, during a virtual court appearance Aug. 11, in Montana.

Montana man suspected in bar shooting faces murder charges

BY MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — A man suspected of killing four people at a Montana bar and evading capture for a week while hundreds of law enforcement officers searched for him in the nearby mountains faces four counts of murder, according to court records.

Defendant Michael Paul Brown lived next door to The Owl Bar in Anaconda, Mont., where a bartender and three patrons were shot and killed Aug. 1.

Authorities have not commented on a potential motive for the 45-year-old former soldier. His niece has said Brown long struggled with mental illness.

The charges Brown faces were posted on a court website Satur-

day after the case previously had been under seal by a state judge. Charging documents were not immediately available.

Following the shooting, authorities said Brown stole a truck and then ditched it a few miles outside of town, close to where he was eventually apprehended.

He hid in nearby forests, moving locations while helicopters and drones circled overhead and officers and dogs searched on the ground, officials said. But he was eventually flushed into a sparsely populated area near a state highway by the pressure of so many officers searching for him, according to officials.

Brown was captured on Aug. 8 inside an unoccupied structure near a state highway.

Investigators also are examining whether he had any contact with individuals or property owners who might have helped him while he was on the run.

State Department of Justice spokesperson Chase Scheuer said Friday that the probe is ongoing.

Brown is scheduled to make an initial district court appearance on Sept. 3. He is being held on \$2 million bail and represented by attorney Walter Hennessey, who did not immediately respond to messages on Friday or Saturday.

A conviction for murder, known in Montana as deliberate homicide, is punishable by death in the state. Executions have been on hold since 2015 under a court ruling regarding a drug used in lethal injections.

Swimmers face fecal contamination at beaches along US coastline

BY PATRICK WHITTLE
AND MINGSON LAU
Associated Press

OGUNQUIT, Maine — Thousands of Americans will head to beaches for one last summer splash this Labor Day weekend, but taking a dip might be out of the question: Many of the beaches will caution against swimming because of unsafe levels of fecal contamination.

Beaches from Crystal River, Fla., to Ogunquit, Maine, have been under advisories warning about water quality this week because of elevated levels of bacteria associated with fecal waste. The advisories typically discourage beachgoers from going in the

water because the bacteria can cause gastrointestinal illness, rashes and nausea.

It's a longstanding and widespread problem. Nearly two-thirds of beaches tested nationwide in 2024 experienced at least one day in which indicators of fecal contamination reached potentially unsafe levels, conservation group Environment America said in a report issued this summer.

The report also said more than 450 beaches were potentially unsafe for swimming on at least 25% of the days tested.

A key reason is outdated water and sewer systems that allows contamination from sewage to reach the places where people



MINGSON LAU/AP

People relax at Rehoboth Beach, Del., on Wednesday.

swim, said John Rumpler, clean water director and senior attorney with Environment America.

NATION

Trump invests in US rare earth minerals

By **JOSH FUNK**
AND **DIDI TANG**
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — U.S. production of crucial components in electric vehicles, smartphones and fighter jets is set to expand rapidly in the coming years, as the Trump administration intensifies efforts to build up the critical mineral industry in the United States to work to break the chokehold that China has on the global supply chain.

The federal government is pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into American companies, has made an agreement with one firm to set a minimum price for some U.S.-produced critical minerals and has launched an investigation into foreign-made supplies.

“This is the Manhattan Project moment for rare earths,” said Joshua Ballard, CEO of USA Rare Earth, which plans next year to start making the rare-earth magnets that appear in many products.

The White House has made it a priority to revive the domestic critical minerals industry, which is proving urgent after Beijing leveraged its near-monopoly on the products to force the U.S. to the table during a trade war.

President Donald Trump said last week that China “intelligently went and they sort of took a mo-



NioCorp/AP

Geologists examine core samples taken from under southeast Nebraska near Elk Creek where NioCorp hopes to build a rare earths mine one day.

nopoly of the world’s magnets,” but he expressed confidence in securing supplies because the U.S. has “much bigger and better cards.”

Industry insiders, analysts and lawmakers have warned for years that America’s dependence on China for critical minerals — a list of 50 minerals that includes 17

sought-after rare-earth elements — is a national vulnerability.

The hard-to-pronounce elements are needed in smartphones, wind turbines and robots as well as missiles, submarines and fighter jets.

“Our national and economic security are now acutely threatened by our reliance upon hostile for-

eign powers’ mineral production,” an executive order from Trump declared in March.

It was not until Beijing rolled out export restrictions on several rare earths in April — leading to a temporary halt of Ford’s electric vehicle production — that “the problem that for over a decade seemed far away hit close to

home,” said Gracelin Baskaran, director of the Critical Minerals Security Program at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The Pentagon is investing \$400 million in rare-earth producer MP Materials. It gave the U.S. company a \$150 million loan this month, has promised to ensure every magnet made at its massive new plant is bought and set a minimum price for its neodymium and praseodymium products for a decade.

Over four decades, Smith said he’s seen how the U.S. ceded the industry to China, which came to dominate the supply chain by brushing aside environmental concerns, investing in mines worldwide, developing advanced processing technology and setting low prices to squeeze out competition.

Ballard, whose USA Rare Earth plans to start making about 600 tons of magnets in Oklahoma next year, said the government can provide incentives to stop American buyers from falling back on cheap Chinese products once they are widely available again.

This year’s big tax and spending cut bill includes \$2 billion for the Pentagon to boost the U.S. stockpile of critical minerals and \$5 billion more through 2029 to invest in those supply chains.

Missouri next to answer Trump call for redrawn maps

By **DAVID A. LIEB**
AND **ANDREW DEMILLO**
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Republican Gov. Mike Kehoe said Friday that he is calling Missouri lawmakers into a special session to redraw the state’s U.S. House districts as part of a growing national battle between Republicans and Democrats seeking an edge in next year’s elections.

Kehoe made the announcement just hours after Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law a new congressional



Kehoe

voting map designed to help Republicans gain five more seats in the 2026 midterm elections. It marked a win for President Donald Trump, who has been urging Republican-led states to reshape districts to give the party a better shot at retaining control of the House.

Missouri is the third state to pursue an unusual mid-decade redistricting for partisan advantage.

Republican-led Texas took up the task first but was quickly countered by Democratic-led California, where Gov. Gavin Newsom is asking voters to approve a map aimed at giving his party five more seats.

Kehoe scheduled Missouri’s special session to begin Sept. 3. He released a proposed new map that targets Democratic Rep. Emanuel Cleaver’s Kansas City-area district by stretching it eastward into rural Republican-leaning areas.

His agenda also includes another Republican priority — a proposed constitutional amendment that would make it harder to approve citizen-initiated ballot measures, such as abortion-rights and marijuana legalization amendments adopted in recent years.

Missouri is represented in the U.S. House by six Republicans and two Democrats — Cleaver and Rep. Wesley Bell in St. Louis.

Missouri Democrats have little ability to prevent Republican lawmakers from enacting a new map. Unlike in Texas, where Democrats left the state for two weeks to delay a vote, Missouri Democrats’

absence would not prevent a quorum. And although Democrats could filibuster in the Senate, Republicans could use procedural maneuvers to shut that down, as they did earlier this year to pass a proposed constitutional amendment restricting abortion.

Republicans won a 220-215 House majority over Democrats in 2024, an outcome that aligned almost perfectly with the share of the vote won by the two parties in districts across the U.S., according to a recent Associated Press analysis. Although the overall outcome was close to neutral, the AP’s analysis shows that Democrats and Republicans each benefited from advantages in particular states stemming from the way districts were drawn.

Democrats would need to net three seats in next year’s election to take control of the chamber. The incumbent president’s party tends to lose seats in the midterm elections, as was the case for Trump in 2018, when Democrats won control of the House and subsequently launched investigations of Trump.

Court rules against ending some migrant protections

By **JANIE HAR**
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court on Friday ruled against President Donald Trump’s plans to end temporary protections for 600,000 Venezuelans who have permission to live and work in the U.S., meaning that migrants whose protections have expired or are about to expire might be allowed to stay.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously upheld a lower court ruling that maintained temporary protected status designations for Venezuelans while they challenge actions by Trump’s administration in court.

The 9th Circuit judges found that plaintiffs were likely to succeed on their claim that Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem had no authority to vacate or set aside a prior extension of temporary protected status because the governing statute written by Congress does not permit it. Then-President Joe Biden’s Democratic administration had extended temporary protected status, commonly known as TPS, for people from Venezuela.

“In enacting the TPS statute, Congress designed a system of temporary status that was predictable, dependable, and insulated from electoral politics,” U.S. Circuit Judge Kim Wardlaw, who was nominated by President Bill Clinton, wrote for the panel in a decision joined by two other judges also nominated by Democratic presidents.

But it is unclear what effect Friday’s ruling will have on the estimated 350,000 Venezuelans in the group of 600,000 whose protections expired in April. Their lawyers say some have already been fired from jobs, detained, separated from their U.S. citizen children and even deported.

Protections for the remaining 250,000 Venezuelans are set to expire Sept. 10.

U.S. District Judge Edward Chen of San Francisco found in March that plaintiffs were likely to prevail on their claim that the administration had overstepped its authority in terminating the protections. Chen postponed the terminations, but the Supreme Court reversed him without explanation, which is common in emergency appeals.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Crew arrested for \$10M in Home Depot thefts

CA VENTURA COUNTY — Southern California authorities say they uncovered a criminal ring that stole \$10 million in merchandise from Home Depot over several years, including 600 thefts this year alone, which the company calls the largest organized retail theft in its history.

Prosecutors say the thieves nabbed high-end electrical merchandise such as circuit breakers and outlets, which the group's leader resold through his electronics business in the San Fernando Valley, the Los Angeles Times reported. The Ventura County district attorney's office recently announced the filing of a 48-count criminal complaint against nine people that allegedly targeted 71 Home Depot locations across multiple counties, the newspaper reported.

The operation's alleged leader, 59-year-old David Ahl, faces up to 32 years in prison if convicted as charged, prosecutors say.

Gun used in Emmett Till's lynching now on display

MS JACKSON — The gun used in the lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till is now on display for the public to see, 70 years after the killing.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History unveiled the .45-caliber pistol and its holster during a news conference Thursday, which was the 70th anniversary of Till's murder.

The gun belonged to John William "J.W." Milam who, alongside Roy Bryant, abducted Till from his great-uncle's home on Aug. 28, 1955. The white men tortured and killed Till after the Black teenager was accused of whistling at a white woman in a rural Mississippi grocery store.

Till's body was later found in the Tallahatchie River. Bryant and Milam were charged with Till's murder, but they were acquitted by an all-white-male jury.

Cities decide to fight ban on rainbow crosswalks

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — Fort Lauderdale city leaders decided Wednesday to fight the state of Florida's order to remove rainbow-colored street art, potentially risking millions of dollars in funding.

At the end of a special meeting that lasted more than three hours and included comment from more than 40 speakers, the Fort Lauderdale City Commission voted unanimously to file an administrative appeal against an order to cover four street art installations in the city, including a large rainbow-colored LGBTQ+ pride flag.

"Tonight, we must stand our ground," Mayor Dean Trantalis said. "We cannot allow ourselves to be bullied into submission and to allow others to dictate what we



KRISTOPHER RADDER, BRATTLEBORO (Vt.) REFORMER/AP

Doing the dirty work

Sofi Natvig, a farm hand at Walker Farm in Dummerston, Vt., picks up sweet potatoes that were recently dug out of the ground to place them into a bin on Tuesday.

should do in our own communities."

Commissioners also voted 4-1 to instruct the city attorney's office to pursue other possible legal remedies and to engage outside counsel to assist with possible future legal action.

The Department of Transportation under Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has ordered communities to remove the crosswalk art and other street art by early September and threatened to withhold state transportation funding for noncompliance. Many of the painted crosswalks celebrate historically marginalized groups such as the LGBTQ+ and Black communities.

Judges rule restrictions on guns unconstitutional

TN NASHVILLE — A panel of Tennessee judges has ruled against two state restrictions on carrying guns, including in public recreational areas such as playgrounds and parks.

The case has been another test of the limits of a 2022 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that has allowed gun rights advocates to take aim at more Second Amendment restrictions nationwide.

The Tennessee laws that were deemed unconstitutional include one that generally outlaws carrying a gun in a park or similar area, except for someone with a permit to carry a handgun; and a second for the somewhat ambiguous of-

fense of the "intent to go armed," which includes broad exceptions and legal defenses. Both are misdemeanors.

But the impact of the ruling has not been completely clear, as officials decipher how broadly the laws apply and whether the judicial panel can stop enforcement.

News organization moves to end its print edition

GA ATLANTA — The Atlanta Journal-Constitution will stop providing a print edition at the end of the year and go completely digital, marking a dramatic change for a storied newspaper that was founded just a few years after the end of the Civil War.

The decision will make Atlanta the largest U.S. metro area without a printed daily newspaper, although some smaller metro Atlanta newspapers continue printing.

Publisher Andrew Morse made the announcement Thursday, saying the news organization will continue to report news using online, audio and video products.

Cremated human remains are discovered in desert

NV SEARCHLIGHT — Officials are investigating the discovery of cremated human remains in the Nevada desert, a federal agency said Wednesday after a CBS affiliate in Las Vegas reported as many as 70 piles of ashes were found.

The Bureau of Land Management confirmed in an email to The Associated Press that the remains were found on public lands outside of Searchlight, about 50 miles south of Las Vegas.

The Las Vegas TV station 8 News Now reported that as many as 70 piles of ashes were found on BLM land along a dirt road. The CBS affiliate obtained photos showing small gray piles clustered together with cacti and rugged hills in the background.

The BLM said it was investigating the discovery along with the Las Vegas Metro Police Department. The police department referred all inquiries to the BLM, which declined to provide more information including estimates on how many piles were found.

Protester shot in face awarded more than \$2M

CA LOS ANGELES — A jury has awarded at least \$2.2 million to a protester who was shot in the face with a less-lethal munition by a Los Angeles sheriff's deputy during a demonstration against police brutality in 2020.

In the verdict, the jury found LA County liable for the injuries sustained by the man, Cellin Gluck, and determined that he suffered \$3.5 million in damages. They also awarded his daughter, who was there with him that day, an additional \$300,000 for emotional distress.

LA County lawyers said in a

statement that because the jury found that Gluck and other protesters at the scene were partly at fault for what happened, the court would reduce the awards by 35%, which comes out to about \$2.27 million for Gluck and \$195,000 for his daughter.

780,000 pressure washers are under recall

NY NEW YORK — About 780,000 pressure washers sold at retailers like Home Depot are being recalled across the U.S. and Canada, due to a projectile hazard that has resulted in fractures and other injuries among some consumers.

According to a Thursday recall notice published by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, power tool and equipment company TTI is recalling certain models of its Ryobi-branded electric pressure washers because the products' capacitor can overheat and burst, "causing parts to be forcefully ejected."

That poses serious impact risks to users or bystanders. To date, the CPSC notes, TTI has received 135 reports of capacitors overheating in the U.S. — including 41 reports of explosions that resulted in 32 injuries and/or fractures to consumers' fingers, hands, face and eyes. A corresponding notice from Health Canada noted that no additional incidents were reported in Canada.

From The Associated Press

WORLD

Houthis raid UN offices days after Israeli strike

By SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

CAIRO — The Iran-backed Houthis on Sunday raided offices of the United Nations' food and children's agencies in Yemen's capital, detaining at least one U.N. employee, officials said, as the rebels tighten security across Sanaa following the Israeli killing of their prime minister and several Cabinet members.

Abeer Etefa, a spokesperson for the World Food Program, told The Associated Press that security forces raided the agencies' offices in the Houthi-controlled capital Sunday morning.

Also raided were UNICEF offices, according to a U.N. official and a Houthi official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to brief the media.

Ammar Ammar, a spokesperson for UNICEF, said there was "an ongoing situation" related to their offices in Sanaa, without providing further details.

The U.N. official said contacts with several other WFP and UNICEF staffers were lost and that they were likely also detained.

The raids were the latest in a long-running Houthi crackdown against the United Nations and



OSAMAH ABDULRAHMAN/AP

The raid occurred following the death of Ahmed al-Rahawi, above, prime minister of the Houthi-controlled government, who was killed in Thursday's Israeli strikes on the capital, in Sanaa, Yemen.

other international organizations working in rebel-held areas in

Yemen.

They have detained dozens of

U.N. staffers, as well as people associated with aid groups, civil society and the now-closed U.S. Embassy in Sanaa. The U.N. suspended its operations in the Houthi stronghold of Saada in northern Yemen after the rebels detained eight U.N. staffers in January.

Sunday's raids came on the heels of the killing of the Houthi prime minister and several of his Cabinet in an Israeli strike on Thursday, in a blow to the Iran-backed rebels who have launched attacks on Israel and ships in the Red Sea in relation to the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

Israel kills Hamas spokesperson as cabinet looks to expand Gaza offensive

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — The Israeli military announced Sunday that it killed a longtime spokesperson for Hamas' armed wing, as the country's security cabinet met to discuss the expanding offensive in some of Gaza's most populated areas.

There were no plans to discuss negotiations for a ceasefire at the meeting, according to an official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak with the media.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz identified the spokesperson as Abu Obeida, the nom de guerre for the official who represented Hamas' Qassam Brigades. He was killed over the weekend. Hamas has not commented on the claim.

Obeida's last statement was issued Friday as Israel began the initial stages of the new offensive and declared Gaza City a combat zone. His statement said the militants would do their best to protect living hostages but warned that they would be in areas of fighting. He said the remains of dead hostages would "disappear forever."

Israel's military said the spokesperson, whom it identified as Hudahaifa Kahlout, had been behind the release of videos showing hostages as well as footage of the Hamas-led attack that sparked the war.

Israel has killed many of Hamas' military and political leaders as it attempts to dismantle the group and prevent an attack like

the one on Oct. 7, 2023, when militants abducted 251 people and killed around 1,200, mostly civilians, in southern Israel.

At least 43 Palestinians were killed since Saturday, most of them in Gaza City, according to local hospitals. Shifa Hospital, the territory's largest, said 29 bodies were brought to its morgue, including 10 people killed while seeking aid and others struck across the city.

The corridor has become increasingly perilous. Civilians have been killed as United Nations humanitarian convoys are overwhelmed by looters and desperate crowds, or shot on their way to sites run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, an Israeli-backed U.S. contractor.

Palestinian president scrambles to reinstate visa before UN meetings

Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — The Palestinian president's office on Saturday urged the U.S. government to reverse its unusual decision to revoke his visa, weeks before he was meant to appear at the U.N.'s main annual meeting and an international conference about creating a Palestinian state.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio rescinded the visas of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and 80 other officials ahead of next month's annual high-level meeting of the U.N. General Assembly, the State Department disclosed Friday, citing national security interests. Abbas has ad-

ressed the General Assembly for many years, and generally leads the Palestinian delegation.

"We call upon the American administration to reverse its decision. This decision will only increase tension and escalation," Palestinian presidential spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeineh told The Associated Press in Ramallah on Saturday.

He urged countries to put pressure on the Trump administration to reverse the decision, notably those nations that organized a high-level conference on Sept. 22 about reviving efforts for a two-state solution in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

STARS AND STRIPES

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market




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944

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Collector learning to let go

Recent wildfires convince del Toro it's time to auction some movie memorabilia

By ITZEL LUNA
Associated Press

Many fled when wildfires devastated Los Angeles this year, but Guillermo del Toro rushed back in, determined to save his lifelong collection of horror memorabilia.

It's the same loyalty that finds him making another tough decision to protect the items he loves like family: letting some of them go.

Del Toro partnered with Heritage Auctions for a three-part auction to sell a fraction of a collection that is bursting at the seams. Online bidding for the first part on Sept. 26 started last week and includes more than a hundred items, with more headed to the auction block next year.

"This one hurts. The next one, I'm going to be bleeding," del Toro, 60, said of the auction series. "If you love somebody, you have estate planning, you know, and this is me estate planning for a family that has been with me since I was a kid."

Del Toro is one of the industry's most respected filmmakers, whose fascination with monsters and visual style will shape generations to come. But at his core, the Mexican-born horror buff is a collector. The Oscar-winner has long doubled as the sole caretaker of the "Bleak House" — which stretches across two and a half Santa Monica, Calif., homes nearly overflowing



JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP

Guillermo del Toro is shown Aug. 12 at his "Bleak House" in Santa Monica, Calif. His movie memorabilia collection consists of thousands of ghoulish creatures, iconic comic drawings and paintings, books and movie props.

with thousands of ghoulish creatures, iconic comic drawings and paintings, books and movie props.

The houses function not just as museums, but as libraries and workspaces where his imagination bounces off the oxblood-painted walls.

"I love what I have because I live with it. I actually am a little nuts, because I say hi to some of the life-size figures when I turn on the light," del Toro told The Associated Press, sitting in the dining room of one of the houses, now a sanctuary for "Haunted Mansion" memorabilia. "This is curated. This is not a casual collection."

The auction includes behind-the-scene drawings and one-of-a-kind props from del Toro's own classics, as well as iconic works like Bernie Wrightson's illustrations for "Frankenstein" and Mike Mignola's pinup artwork for "Hellraiser."

In January, del Toro had only a couple hours, his car and a few helping hands to save key pieces from the fires.

The houses were spared, but fear consumed him. If a fire or earthquake swallowed them, he thought, "What came out of it? You collected insurance? And what happened to that little segment of Richard Corben's life, or Jack Kirby's craft, or Bernie Wrightson's life?"

An auction, del Toro said, ensures the items will land in the hands of another collector who will protect the items as he has. These are not just props or trinkets, he said, but "historical artifacts. They're pieces of audiovisual history for humanity." And his life's mission has been to protect as much of this history as he can.

The auction will give the filmmaker some relief from the collection's arduous maintenance. The houses must stay at a certain

temperature, without direct sunlight — all of which is monitored solely by del Toro, who often spends most of his day there.

He selects the picture frame for every drawing, dusts all the artifacts and arranges every bookshelf mostly himself, having learned his lesson from the handful of times he allowed outside help. One time, del Toro said, he found someone "cleaning an oil painting with Windex, and I almost had a heart attack."

Auction items include concept sketches and props from del Toro's 1992 debut film, "Cronos," all the way to his more recent works, like 2021's "Nightmare Alley."

The starting bids vary, from a couple thousand dollars up to hundreds of thousands. One of Wrightson's drawings for a 1983 illustrated version of Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" is the highest-priced item, starting at \$200,000.

Clooney film 'Jay Kelly,' about A-list actor, premieres in Venice

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

In "Jay Kelly," George Clooney plays a very George Clooney-esque movie star on a self-reflective journey through Europe. The film, which premiered Aug. 28 at the Venice Film Festival, explores heady questions about finding oneself while also poking fun at the business of being a major celebrity and all the people on their payroll around them.

Hours before the premiere, Clooney was absent from the news conference with his castmates due to a "bad sinus infection," the moderator explained. Yet he rallied for the red carpet, bedecked in a classic tuxedo with his wife, Amal, by his side, looking the part of A-list movie star.

His co-star Laura Dern earlier praised his "amazing, raw, true performance" in the film, which is in competition for the festival's top awards.

The meta-qualities of "Jay Kelly" led to some self-reflection from the large ensemble cast, including Adam Sandler, who plays Jay's manager; Dern, who takes on the role of publicist; and Billy Crudup, as the most talented guy in his acting class who didn't make it big.

"I've always appreciated my manager, my agent, my publicist," Sandler said. "I know how hard they work and



SCOTT A GARFITT, INVISION/AP

Adam Sandler, left, and George Clooney pose Aug. 28 at the premiere for their upcoming movie "Jay Kelly" during the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy.

how difficult it is to hear my ups and downs in life and back me up no matter what. ... I could get loud at times."

"Jay Kelly" was directed by Noah Baumbach, who co-wrote the script with actor Emily Mortimer. Baumbach had always wanted to work with Clooney and when he and Mortimer hit on the idea for this film, his was the name that

came to mind.

"We started to just say, 'this will be George,'" Baumbach said. "We all, watching it, have a history with George just like the people in the movie have a history with Jay."

Sandler said it was a gift to be working with Baumbach again, after they collaborated on the 2017 film "The Meyerowitz Stories."

"I could not be more proud," Sandler said. "You lock in, you're invested, your heart gets broken, you get relief, you get moments of tension. He knows how to do everything and then he finds places to make you laugh."

Baumbach said he wanted Sandler's character Ron to reflect the balance of career, friendships and family that he admires in Sandler.

"Adam really does have such grace and such loyalty and generosity and heart," Baumbach said. "He really has found a way to successfully sort of navigate this whole thing and do it so beautifully."

"Jay Kelly" is a Netflix-produced film. After taking a year off from the festival, the streaming giant is back with three major films playing in competition, including Guillermo del Toro's "Frankenstein" and Kathryn Bigelow's political thriller "A House of Dynamite"

STARS AND STRIPES

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Why is Trump much more powerful this time?

By JASON WILLOCK
The Washington Post

There are at least two measures of a president's power. The first is how many prerogatives he claims. The second is how much resistance he faces.

In his first term, Donald Trump was a weak president — maybe even historically weak. When he made even modest assertions of power, the blowback from other institutions was intense. One example: The president clearly has the power to fire the director of the FBI. Yet when Trump did so in 2017, it prompted a special-counsel investigation that threatened for nearly two years to consume his administration. He wanted to fire the special counsel but couldn't because the blowback would have been even greater.

At the start of his second term, Trump is a historically strong president. Indeed, there's a good argument he has amassed "more power than any of his peacetime predecessors," as Walter Russell Mead put it in *The Wall Street Journal*. Forget firing senior law enforcement officials, who wouldn't dare cross Trump anyway. Last week, he became the first president in the Federal Reserve's 112-year history to fire a member of its board of governors, in an attempt to control monetary policy. The issue will be litigated, but had Trump pulled something similar in his first term, the political and bureaucratic counterreaction would have been an order of magnitude greater.

Or take Trump's use of the military in the United States. In the summer of 2020, Trump wanted to override governors and send troops to U.S. cities amid some of the most destructive rioting in U.S. history. He had a reasonable argument, as local authorities were not adequately controlling violence and vandalism. But Trump was held back by subordinates. When a senator wrote in support of the idea in *The New York Times*, the paper responded by toppling its editorial leadership — an illustration of the political climate.

Fast-forward to 2025. Trump deployed the National Guard in Los Angeles amid civil un-

rest milder than 2020's. He has sent the Guard into D.C. over generalized concern about crime (and to pick up litter). The Pentagon is reportedly preparing a specialized Guard unit to help with civil unrest, and Trump has floated sending troops to Chicago and San Francisco without generating much attention. This all in a time of relative civil peace.

On two dimensions — the scope of powers asserted and the strength of opposition to them — Trump's first and second presidencies could hardly be more different. Which raises the question: Why? The 2024 election was close, and ordinarily presidents are, if anything, weaker in their second terms. But Trump is not an ordinary political figure. Here are four partial explanations.

First, the Democrats. Even though the party has plenty of political representation — a large minority in the House of Representatives, the governorships of large states — it's grasping for a *raison d'être* that can mobilize people. It invested in delegitimizing Trump's first election by pointing to Russian interference and Hillary Clinton's popular-vote plurality. Those rationales are no longer available, and they make it harder to contest Trump's claims to be a tribune of the people. Democrats spent years saying "democracy" is the highest good; what could be more democratic than the undiluted will of the popularly elected president?

Second, the Republicans. Trump has wrought a genuine revolution within his party. His four years out of power might even have been an advantage in that regard. About two-thirds of the current GOP House caucus was elected in 2016 or later. Senators most likely to exercise independent judgment have retired. Trump and his movement have been highly successful at finding loyal, battle-hardened individuals to staff the executive branch at all levels. Even if the Democrats were in top shape, this revolutionized GOP would give Trump significantly more power than he had in 2017.

Third, the interregnum. The barrage of prosecutions of Trump while he was out of

power probably made his second presidency more willful and vindictive. Arguments for forbearance in the White House and Justice Department presumably have more trouble gaining traction when MAGA's pit bulls point out that Democrats tried to convict Trump of crimes that could have put him in prison for life. Democrats who still defend the prosecutions ought to acknowledge the natural result of them. The failure of the prosecutions probably also contributes to Democratic political demoralization: They used the strongest possible tools against Trump and it didn't work.

Fourth, the Supreme Court. For most of Trump's first term, Republican appointees made up a 5-4 majority on the Supreme Court. That changed only in late 2020 with the appointment of Amy Coney Barrett, shifting the majority to 6-3. The single vote makes a big difference because Chief Justice John Roberts can no longer decide by himself which side will win the 5-4 split in politically charged cases. The court has been a brake on Trump's most abusive immigration gambits but has done little else to interfere with his accumulation of power. That might well change as his actions are litigated and appealed, but the change in the Supreme Court's composition in Trump's first term probably at least delayed confrontation in his second.

Many Americans voted for a Trump restoration in the hope of a return to the successful policies of his first presidency. Seven months in, they are getting some of those, but they are also getting a presidency that is swelling dramatically in scope and reach. The executive branch was expanding at Congress' expense well before Trump, but the 47th presidency is unlocking the office's full powers and then some. Warnings about the end of democracy won't stop this accumulation, because for the party voted into power, nothing seems more democratic than working its will.

Jason Willock is a Washington Post columnist focusing on law, politics and foreign policy.

The tragedy of a mass shooting at a children's Mass

By JENNIFER BROOKS
The Minnesota Star Tribune

It was a mass shooting at a children's Mass.

Wednesday was the first all-school Mass for the first week of classes at Annunciation Catholic School. Maybe the little ones prayed for the school year and the adventure ahead. Third grade. Fifth grade. The best year yet.

Maybe they prayed for us. The grown-ups who could have built them a world that protects its children from people with too many guns and a manifesto. We could have tried after Rocori, after Red Lake, after Sandy Hook, after Parkland, after Uvalde.

Instead, we let a shooter walk up to the church and fire round after round into the crowded pews. Two children were shot dead and 17 others, ranging in age from a 6-year-old to parishioners in their 80s, were wounded.

Don't offer us thoughts and prayers, a furious Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey told the news crews outside the crime scene tape Wednesday. These kids were literally praying.

As the sun set on a terrible day, a shattered

community gathered to grieve. Again. It was the third lethal shooting in Minneapolis in 24 hours. It was a summer that began in the Twin Cities with a political assassination and ended like this — in a city still scarred by the murder of George Floyd and everything that came after.

Thousands of mourners crowded into and overflowed the gymnasium of Holy Angels Academy in Richfield, the largest space the archdiocese could find on short notice. Standing before them, the archbishop searched for "the words to express inexpressible grief."

Crowded into the auditorium were a governor, a senator, Annunciation's pastor and principal. There were people wearing yarmulkes and hijabs and clutching rosaries as they bowed their heads and prayed: Our children were suddenly and violently taken from us. Come swiftly to our aid.

"We have a God who embraces us in our pain," Archbishop Bernard Hebda told the mourners. "He loves us. He loves all of those children who were in that church this morning. He loves their families. He loves the shooter."

On the third day of the first week of school,

bullets tore through a church and its children. Love may be the only thing that can get us through this day and that deed.

We'll remember the teachers and older students who put their own bodies between the children and the bullets. The mother who tore off her shoes and sprinted barefoot down the street to the school. The first responders who rushed 17 wounded children and adults to hospitals in time.

"You are so brave," Annunciation Principal Matt DeBoer told children who shouldn't have had to be this brave. "And I am so sorry that this happened to us today."

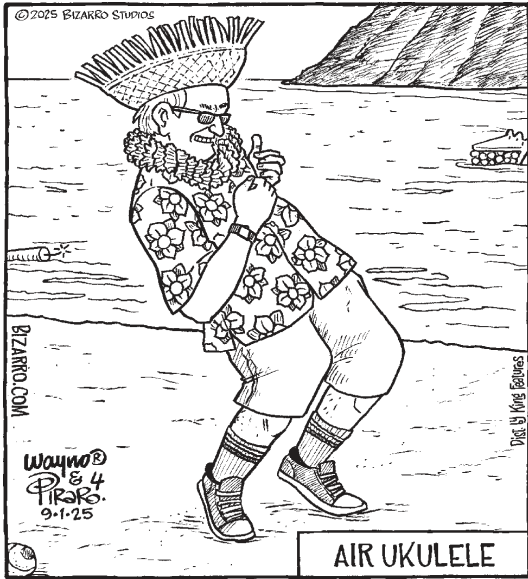
The community's response to so much cruelty was kindness. Neighbors wrapped the trees around Annunciation in fluttering ribbons. Strangers stood vigil in Lynnhurst Park with candles in their hands and tears on their cheeks.

Restaurants donated mountains of food to feed thousands of mourners. Friends will be organizing meal trains for traumatized families for weeks to come.

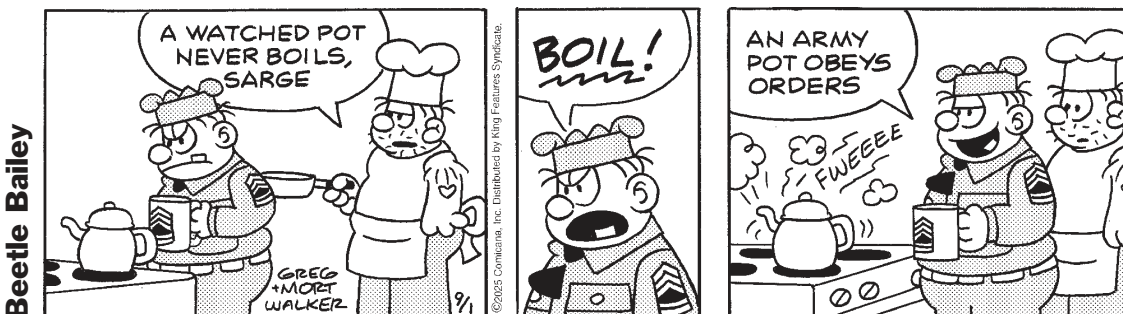
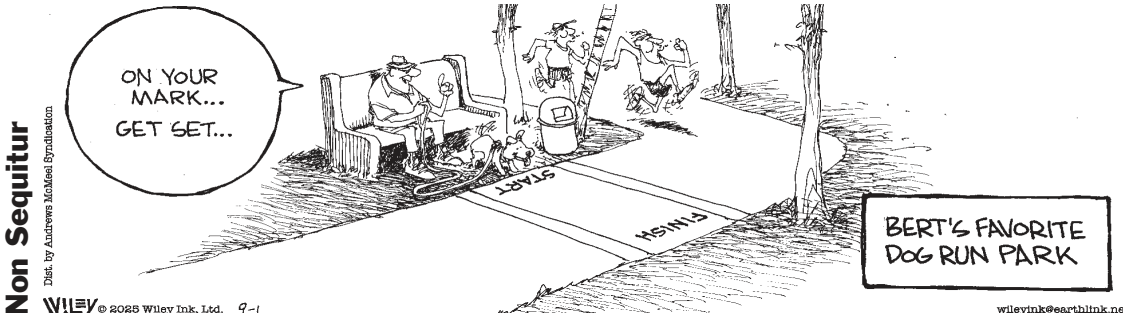
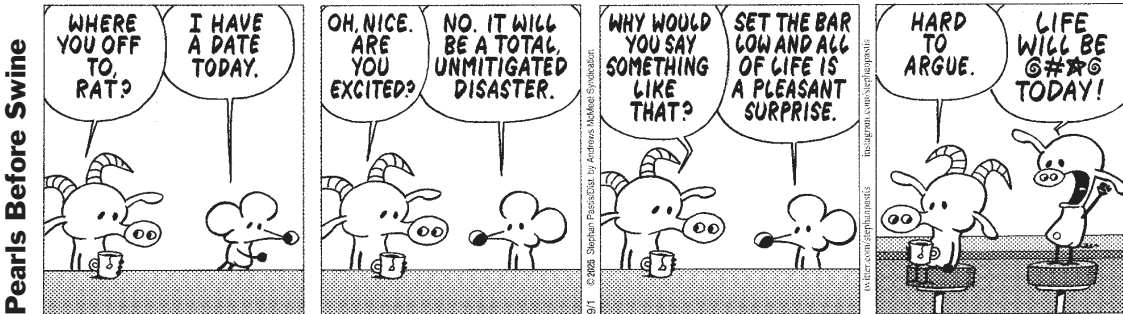
You were all so brave. You were all so kind. I am so sorry this happened to us. Again.

Jennifer Brooks is a Minnesota Star Tribune columnist.

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

ACROSS

- 1 Roman god of love
- 5 — Zedong
- 8 Slightly
- 12 Docile
- 13 Biblical boat
- 14 Taunt
- 15 Norwegian saint
- 16 Has a portion (of)
- 18 Prime-time hr.
- 20 Strong points
- 21 500 sheets
- 23 Night school subj.
- 24 Cooks first, as a pie crust
- 28 Tiny bit
- 31 Squeak stopper
- 32 Uganda neighbor
- 34 Scoundrel
- 35 Fed. agents
- 37 Liquor-soaked desserts
- 39 Police officer
- 41 Raced
- 42 Loosens
- 45 Least normal
- 49 Abandons
- 51 Hawaiian party
- 52 Andy's boy
- 53 Jr.'s son
- 54 Sportscaster Andrews

- 55 Brief moments
- 56 Genetic stuff
- 57 Fizzy drink

- 22 Bistro handouts
- 24 Cauldron
- 25 Brink
- 26 Type of guitar
- 27 Formal discussions
- 29 Menlo Park monogram
- 30 Billboards
- 33 Scored 100 on
- 36 Loud sounds
- 38 Confuses
- 40 Pot pie morsel
- 42 Sci-fi vehicles
- 43 "Uh-uh"
- 44 Lose traction
- 46 Continental currency
- 47 Stated
- 48 Casserole base
- 50 Aachen article

DOWN

- 1 Loads
- 2 Niger's neighbor
- 3 Muscat's land
- 4 Echo
- 5 Cartographer
- 6 Coach Parseghian
- 7 Gumbo need
- 8 Andre of tennis
- 9 Schwinn protector
- 10 "A likely story!"
- 11 Hardy heroine
- 17 Poet's initials
- 19 High point

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

9-1

CRYPTOQUIP

KTXMUV GEGTUHS ZWCME XHNM
 DSHLQKWIM JKEIM QKSHQPMSI
 IUEJUV CMZMUEG GIVQKWQ
 GEJMSI: NWLCQSHDP.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A PIECE OF FOLIAGE IS TEMPORARILY MISSING FROM ITS TREE, MIGHT THAT BE A LEAF OF ABSENCE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals P

SCOREBOARD/HIGH SCHOOL

PRO SOCCER

MLS

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego FC	16	7	5	53	52	33
Minn. United	14	6	9	51	48	32
Vancouver	14	6	7	49	47	31
Seattle	12	7	8	44	48	38
LAFC	11	6	8	41	44	31
Portland	10	9	9	39	36	38
Austin FC	10	9	8	38	29	33
Colorado	10	13	6	36	38	48
San Jose	9	12	8	35	53	51
Houston	8	12	8	32	37	46
Real Salt Lake	9	14	4	31	28	36
FC Dallas	7	11	9	30	39	47
Sporting KC	7	15	6	27	43	57
St Louis City	5	17	6	21	33	50
LA Galaxy	4	16	7	19	32	55

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	17	6	6	57	49	26
Cincinnati	16	9	4	52	42	36
Charlotte FC	16	11	2	50	48	40
Nashville	15	9	5	50	49	33
Orlando City	13	7	8	47	54	40
Inter Miami CF	13	5	7	46	54	40
Columbus	12	6	10	46	43	39
NYC FC	13	9	5	44	38	32
New York	11	11	7	40	42	38
Chicago	11	10	6	39	50	48
New England	8	13	7	31	36	40
Atlanta	5	12	11	26	32	49
Toronto FC	5	13	10	25	28	35
CF Montréal	5	15	9	24	29	51
D.C. United	5	15	9	24	26	54

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

Saturday's games

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

Sunday's games

San Diego FC at Los Angeles FC

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	15	2	1	46	36	10
Washington	9	4	4	31	28	24
San Diego	8	4	6	30	28	19
Orlando	8	6	4	28	22	15
Seattle	7	5	6	27	25	21
Portland	7	6	5	26	26	21
Louisville	7	6	5	26	24	28
Gotham FC	6	6	6	24	22	16
North Carolina	5	7	6	21	23	28
Angel City	5	7	5	20	22	27
Houston	5	8	5	20	21	28
Bay FC	4	8	5	17	20	25
Utah Royals FC	2	11	5	11	14	32
Chicago	1	9	7	10	18	35

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

Friday's games

Houston 1, Louisville 1, tie
Gotham FC 2, Orlando 0
San Diego 0, Seattle 0, tie
Utah Royals FC 2, Portland 1

Saturday's game

Kansas City 2, North Carolina 0

Sunday's game

Chicago at Washington

Monday's game

Bay FC at Angel City

GOLF

FM Championship

Saturday
At Norton, Mass.
Purse: \$4.1 million
Yardage: 6,533; Par: 72
Third Round

Miranda Wang	66-67-65-198 -18
Sei Young Kim	65-65-71-201 -15
Rose Zhang	70-64-67-201 -15
Andrea Lee	67-69-66-202 -14
Jeeno Thitikul	69-68-65-202 -14
Celine Borge	70-66-67-203 -13
Ayaka Furue	70-67-66-203 -13
Kum Kang Park	71-68-64-203 -13
Madelene Sagstrom	69-66-70-205 -11

DEALS

Saturday's transactions

BASEBALL Major League Baseball American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Released RHP Matt Bowman after clearing unconditional release waivers. Reinstated RHP Cody Poteet from the 60-day IL and outrighted him to Norfolk (IL).

BOSTON RED SOX — Reinstated 1B Nathaniel Lowe from the paternity list. Optioned 1B Nick Sogard to Worcester (IL).

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Spencer Turnbull on a minor league contract.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Recalled LHP Easton Lucas from Buffalo (IL). Optioned LHP Justin Bruhl to Buffalo.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Sent OF Tristin English outright to Reno (PCL).

ATLANTA BRAVES — Activated LHP Chris Sale. Optioned RHP Nathan Wiles to Gwinnett (IL).

MIAMI MARLINS — Sent LHP Ryan Weathers to Jacksonville (IL) on a rehab assignment. Placed RHP Tyler Zuber on the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP George Soriano from Jacksonville.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Reinstated CF Jackson Chourio from the 10-day IL. Designated 3B Oliver Dunn for assignment. Reinstated LHP Robert Gasser from the 60-day IL. Optioned LF Brandon Lockridge to Nashville (IL).

NEW YORK METS — Designated LHP Jose Castillo for assignment. Recalled RHP Chris Devenski from Syracuse (IL).

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Placed OF Ronny Simon on the 10-day IL. Recalled SS Cam Devanney from Indianapolis (IL). Released LHP Tim Mayza.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Placed LHP MacKenzie Gore on the 15-day IL, retroactive to Aug. 27. Recalled RHP Mason Thompson from Rochester (IL).

BASKETBALL

Women's National Basketball Association

INDIANA FEVER — Released G Aerial Powers. Signed G Aerial Powers to a 7-day contract (2nd contract).

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

HOUSTON DYNAMO FC — Loaned F Toyosi Olusanya to English side Southend Rangers F.C. through Jan. 6, 2026.

NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION — F Leonardo Campana has been called up by the Ecuador Men's National Team for a pair of FIFA World Cup Qualifying matches

National Women's Soccer League

NORTH CAROLINA COURAGE — Acquired F Payton Linnehan from Portland in exchange for \$48,000 in 2025 intra-league transfer funds and signed her to a two-year contract with a 2028 mutual option.

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

Eastern Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	25	14	.641	—
New York	24	16	.600	1½
Indiana	21	18	.538	4
Washington	16	24	.400	9½
Connecticut	10	29	.256	15
Chicago	9	30	.231	16

Western Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Minnesota	31	8	.795	—
x-Las Vegas	26	14	.650	5½
Phoenix	25	14	.641	6
Seattle	22	19	.537	10
Golden State	20	18	.526	10½
Los Angeles	17	20	.459	13
Dallas	9	31	.225	22½

x-clinched playoff spot

Thursday's games

New York 89, Washington 63
Seattle 93, Minnesota 79
Phoenix 83, Chicago 79

Friday's games

Atlanta 100, Dallas 78
Indiana 76, Los Angeles 75

Saturday's games

Minnesota 94, Connecticut 70
Golden State 99, Washington 62
Seattle 79, Chicago 69
Phoenix 80, New York 63

Sunday's games

Washington at Los Angeles
Indiana at Golden State

Monday's games

Atlanta at Connecticut
Dallas at Minnesota
Los Angeles at Seattle

TENNIS

US Open

Saturday
At New York
Purse: \$31,620,000
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Seedings in parentheses
Third Round
Men's Singles

Lorenzo Musetti (10), Italy, def. Flavio Cobolli (24), Italy, 6-3, 6-2, 2-0, ret.

Jaume Munar, Spain, def. Zizou Bergs, Belgium, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4

Leandro Riedi, Switzerland, def. Kamil Majchrzak, Poland, 5-3, ret.

Jannik Sinner (1), Italy, def. Denis Shapovalov (27), Canada, 5-7, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3

Andrey Rublev (15), Russia, def. Coleman Wong, Hong Kong, China, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3

Alex de Minaur (8), Australia, def. Daniel Altmaier, Germany, 6-7 (7), 6-3, 6-4, 2-0, ret.

Felix Auger-Aliassime (25), Canada, def. Alexander Zverev (3), Germany, 4-6, 7-6 (7), 6-4, 6-4

Alexander Bublik (23), Kazakhstan, def. Tommy Paul (14), United States, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-1

Women's Singles

Coco Gauff (3), United States, def. Magdalena Frech (28), Poland, 6-3, 6-1

Karolina Muchova (11), Czechia, def. Linda Noskova (21), Czechia, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-2

Naomi Osaka (23), Japan, def. Daria Kasatkina (15), Russia, 6-0, 4-6, 6-3

Marta Kostyuk (27), Ukraine, def. Diane Parry, France, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2

Ekaterina Alexandrova (13), Russia, def. Laura Siegemund, Germany, 6-0, 6-1

Amanda Anisimova (8), United States, def. Jaqueline Cristian, Romania, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2

Iga Swiatek (2), Poland, def. Anna Kalinskaya (29), Russia, 7-6 (2), 6-4

Beatriz Haddad Maia (18), Brazil, def. Maria Sakkari, Greece, 6-1, 6-2

AUTO RACING

Pacific Office Automation 147

NASCAR-Xfinity

Saturday
At Portland, Ore.
Lap length: 1.97 mile
Start position in parentheses

- (1) Connor Zilisch, Chevrolet, 78 laps, 61 points
- (4) William Sawalich, Toyota, 78, 48
- (7) Nicholas Sanchez, Chevrolet, 78, 34
- (15) Christian Eckes, Chevrolet, 78, 35
- (3) Austin Hill, Chevrolet, 78, 50
- (9) Carson Kvipil, Chevrolet, 78, 41
- (17) Jeb Burton, Chevrolet, 78, 30
- (14) Austin Green, Chevrolet, 78, 29
- (23) Blaine Perkins, Chevrolet, 78, 28
- (10) Jesse Love, Chevrolet, 78, 31
- (26) Daniel Dye, Chevrolet, 78, 26
- (18) Harrison Burton, Ford, 78, 25
- (28) Brennan Poole, Chevrolet, 78, 24
- (13) Taylor Gray, Toyota, 78, 23
- (5) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 78, 38
- (5) Sam Mayer, Ford, 78, 34
- (25) Jeremy Clements, Chevrolet, 78, 20

- (11) Brandon Jones, Toyota, 78, 25
- (19) Joey Hand, Ford, 78, 18
- (6) Alon Day, Toyota, 78, 17
- (30) Ryan Ellis, Chevrolet, 78, 16
- (8) Sammy Smith, Chevrolet, 78, 16
- (33) Josh Williams, Chevrolet, 78, 14
- (20) Ryan Sieg, Ford, 78, 13
- (31) Garrett Smithley, Chevrolet, 78, 12

- (34) Kyle Sieg, Chevrolet, 78, 11
- (16) Sheldon Creed, Ford, 78, 11
- (36) Thomas Annunziata, Chevrolet, 78, 9
- (35) Takuma Kago, Toyota, 75, 8
- (29) Parker Retzlaff, Chevrolet, electrical, 74, 7
- (12) Jack Perkins, Toyota, suspension, 71, 12
- (22) Dean Thompson, Toyota, 71, 5
- (21) Anthony Alfredo, Chevrolet, transmission, 63, 4
- (24) Matt DiBenedetto, Chevrolet, suspension, 56, 3
- (27) Will Brown, Chevrolet, suspension, 49, 2
- (37) Alex Labbe, Chevrolet, fuel-pump, 49, 1
- (32) Vicente Salas, Chevrolet, 43, 1

Race statistics

Average speed of race winner: 74.025 mph.

Time of race: 2 hours, 18 minutes, 15 seconds

Margin of victory: 1.572 seconds

Caution flags: 4 for 14 laps

Lead changes: 2 among 2 drivers

Lap leaders: C.Zilisch 0-67; A.Hill 68-75; C.Zilisch 76-78

Leaders summary (driver, times led, laps led): C.Zilisch, 2 times for 70 laps; A.Hill, 1 time for 8 laps

Wins: C.Zilisch, 8; J.Allgaier, 3; A.Hill, 3; S.Mayer, 1; J.Love, 1; B.Jones, 1; S.Smith, 1; N.Sanchez, 1; A.Almirola, 1

Top 16 in points: 1. C.Zilisch, 924; 2. J.Allgaier, 904; 3. S.Mayer, 874; 4. J.Love, 804; 5. A.Hill, 766; 6. C.Kvapil, 728; 7. B.Jones, 709; 8. S.Smith, 664; 9. S.Creed, 662; 10. T.Gray, 657; 11. H.Burton, 628; 12. N.Sanchez, 603; 13. J.Burton, 597; 14. R.Sieg, 560; 15. C.Eckes, 558; 16. D.Thompson, 536.

AP SPORTLIGHT

Sept. 1

1984 — Willie Totten of Mississippi Valley State passes for a Division I-AA record 536 yards and nine touchdowns in a 86-0 rout of Kentucky State. Jerry Rice catches 17 passes for 294 yards and five touchdowns and breaks his own Division I-AA record for receiving yards.

1998 — The St. Louis Cardinals' Mark

McGwire breaks Hack Wilson's 68-year-old National League record for home runs in a season, hitting his 56th and 57th.

2007 — Appalachian State beats No. 5 Michigan 34-32. Julian Rauch's 24-yard field goal with 26 seconds left puts the Mountaineers ahead and Corey Lynch blocks a field goal in the final seconds to seal one of college football's biggest upsets.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Humphreys' Joshua Canion led all ballcarriers with 153 yards on 16 carries in a loss to Kubasaki on Saturday.

Kubasaki holds on to top Humphreys in defensive battle

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Josiah Good watched film much of Friday, paying particular attention to Joshua Canion, the hard-running senior running back for Humphreys.

All that film study paid dividends when the Kubasaki senior linebacker made a game-saving tackle on Canion, halting what would have become an 85-yard touchdown run had Canion remained free.

The play helped the Dragons open defense of their 2024 Far East Division I championship with a 13-7 victory over the Blackhawks on Saturday.

"I was on the other side (of the field), saw him pop into the open and I knew I had to get him," Good said of chasing down Canion on a play that began at Humphreys' 15-yard line with 2 minutes, 20 seconds left in the game.

Canion burst around right end and eluded several tacklers, but Good had enough in the tank to keep him out of the end zone. "I just wrapped him around his ankles," Good said.

"He's a tank and he's a motor," Kubasaki coach Tony Alvarado said of Canion, who led all players with 153 yards on 16 carries. "Humphreys always brings their A game. They came to play tonight."

The tackle preserved the six-point win for the Dragons. The Blackhawks led 7-6 at halftime, but Kubasaki went ahead to stay on senior Ryan Hater's 5-yard off-tackle touchdown run with 6:57 left in the third period. He also booted the extra point.

"I saw one on the left, I saw one on the right, they kind of tried to arm-tackle me," Hater said. "I just

went vertical, like coach tells us to, and it worked."

Humphreys got on the board first, when Canion took a handle off-tackle to the right, then cut against the grain to the left and rambled 31 yards for a score with 10:12 left in the first half. The touchdown was set up on a fumble recovery by Dallas Hunter at the Blackhawks' 48.

Kubasaki answered just before half when junior Maurice Brown bulled through the line on a quarterback sneak from Humphreys' 5-yard line with 35 seconds left in the second quarter. The extra-point try failed.

It was a defensive struggle; the teams combined for just 34

US OPEN

Former champs Gauff, Osaka to meet again

By HOWARD FENDRICH

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Coco Gauff and Naomi Osaka set up a high-profile showdown between two past title winners in the U.S. Open's fourth round with victories Saturday.

"Everyone will be watching," Venus Williams said. "That's what tennis needs."

Their meeting Monday, with a quarterfinal berth at stake, is a rematch from 2019, when Gauff was a 15-year-old making her main-draw debut at Flushing Meadows and Osaka was the reigning champion.

Osaka won that one in straight sets, then consoled a teary Gauff on the sideline and encouraged her to speak to an Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd that was pulling for the young American.

"I kind of see her as a little sister," Osaka said Saturday, "so it's kind of cool to be playing her here again."

She advanced to her first fourth-round match at any major since the 2021 Australian Open by eliminating No. 15 seed Daria Kasatkina 6-0, 4-6, 6-3 at Louis Armstrong Stadium, after Gauff made it that far at the U.S. Open for the fourth consecutive year with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over No. 28 Magdalena Frech at Ashe.

"It's been a really long journey," Osaka said during her on-court interview, "but I'm glad to be here now."

Osaka, who was born in Japan and moved with her family to the United States as a kid, joked to the Armstrong fans: "Can somebody come to the match and cheer for me? It's kind of tough playing an American here, but I hope you guys adopted me, as well."

So much has happened to both



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH, LEFT, AND HEATEHR KALIFA/AP

Coco Gauff, of the United States, and Naomi Osaka, of Japan, celebrate their respective wins during the third round of the U.S. Open on Saturday in New York. Both are excited to see how the other has grown since their last match six years ago.

Osaka and Gauff since that headline-worthy encounter six years ago in New York.

The No. 3-seeded Gauff, 21, is now a two-time Grand Slam champ, including at the U.S. Open in 2023, and a real star.

No. 23 Osaka, 27, owns four major titles — including at the U.S. Open in 2018 and 2020 — and has

been ranked No. 1. She was among the athletes at the forefront of conversations about mental health, opening up at the 2021 French Open about dealing with anxiety and depression, then taking a series of breaks from the tour.

"Naomi and I, we aren't super close or anything, but we're definitely friendly with each other,"

Gauff said. "I support her from afar in all the things that she's done—on and off the court."

Gauff has won three of their four head-to-head matches since that unforgettable night in Ashe.

"I remember it was a tough moment for me, because it was a hyped-up match. ... I guess I put way too much pressure on myself,

thinking I maybe had a chance in that moment to actually do something, which I definitely did, but I think it was just I felt more expectation than I should than maybe belief," Gauff said.

"It would be a cool, kind of, *deja vu* type of situation," Gauff said Saturday, "but hopefully it will be a different result."

Sinner drops set, gives reminder he's only human after win

By HOWARD FENDRICH

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jannik Sinner got broken for the first time in Week 1 of the U.S. Open. Dropped the opening set, even. Fell way behind in the third set, too.

"I'm not a machine, you know," he said with the hint of a smile Saturday. "I also struggle, sometimes."

Sure, Jannik, maybe so.

Still, Sinner is the No. 1-ranked player in men's tennis and has won the past three Grand Slam tournaments played on hard courts, so no one was surprised when he set aside some lapses and emerged to beat No. 27 Denis Shapovalov 5-7, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 Saturday to take his title defense at Flushing Meadows to the fourth round.

"That I have pressure and tension is normal. I've had that for a year, and you need to handle it," the Italian said. "Either you han-



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

Jannik Sinner, of Italy, celebrates after a shot during the third round of the U.S. Open on Saturday in New York.

dle it — or you don't. ... It's better to have to deal with that than not."

On Monday, Sinner will face No. 23 Alexander Bublik of Ka-

zakhstan for a place in the quarterfinals. Bublik beat No. 14 Tommy Paul of the United States 7-6 (5), 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-1 in a

3½-hour match that ended at 1:16 a.m. Sunday.

Sinner's latest triumph stretched his hard-court unbeaten run at majors to 24 matches, covering championships at the U.S. Open in 2024 and the Australian Open in 2024 and 2025. He also won the trophy at Wimbledon on grass courts in July.

But Sinner's set streak in New York ended; he had claimed 14 in a row since dropping one in a victory against 2021 champion Daniil Medvedev in the quarterfinals a year ago.

Sinner explained that his serve did not feel quite right Saturday, and that Shapovalov was reading it well.

"I was able to put pressure on Jannik today," Shapovalov said, "so who says that another player can't do the same?"

Sinner double-faulted to close the opening set, which earlier featured a remarkable 30-stroke

point in which both men hit drop shots.

Sinner took that point by sprinting back to the baseline and twisting his body to deliver a lob winner that floated just out of Shapovalov's reach.

After rebounding to even the match at a set apiece, Sinner found himself trailing 3-0, love-30 in the third after Shapovalov grabbed 14 of 17 points.

"Key moment," Sinner would say later.

From there, he took nine games in a row to seize control.

"We were going toe to toe. It was a very close match. A lot of games were very close," said Shapovalov, a left-hander from Canada who was a Wimbledon semifinalist in 2021.

"He's No. 1 for a reason. He dealt with it really well. He fights extremely well. He did a tremendous job to turn it around down 3-0 in the third there."

MLB

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	78	58	.574	—
New York	76	60	.559	2
Boston	75	62	.547	3½
Tampa Bay	66	69	.489	11½
Baltimore	61	75	.449	17
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	79	58	.577	—
Kansas City	70	66	.515	8½
Cleveland	68	66	.507	9½
Minnesota	61	74	.452	17
Chicago	48	88	.353	30½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	75	61	.551	—
Seattle	72	64	.529	3
Texas	70	67	.511	5½
Los Angeles	63	72	.467	11½
Athletics	63	74	.460	12½

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	79	57	.581	—
New York	73	63	.537	6
Miami	64	72	.471	15
Atlanta	61	75	.449	18
Washington	53	82	.393	25½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	85	52	.620	—
Chicago	78	58	.574	6½
Cincinnati	68	68	.500	16½
St. Louis	68	69	.496	17
Pittsburgh	61	76	.445	24
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	77	59	.566	—
San Diego	76	60	.559	1
Arizona	68	69	.496	9½
San Francisco	67	69	.493	10
Colorado	38	98	.279	39

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

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

Monday's games
 Miami (Gusto 7-7) at Washington (TBD)
 N.Y. Mets (Manaea 1-2) at Detroit (Moran 9-10)
 Toronto (Bassitt 11-7) at Cincinnati (Greene 5-4)
 Cleveland (Messick 1-0) at Boston (Bello 10-6)
 Chicago White Sox (Civale 3-9) at Minnesota (TBD)
 L.A. Angels (Kikuchi 6-9) at Houston (TBD)
 Athletics (Morales 2-0) at St. Louis (Gray 12-7)
 Atlanta (Strider 5-12) at Chicago Cubs (Rea 10-6)
 Philadelphia (Walker 4-7) at Milwaukee (Misorowski 4-2)
 San Francisco (Whisenhunt 2-1) at Colorado (Dollander 2-11)
 Baltimore (Bradish 0-1) at San Diego (Cease 6-11)
 Seattle (Castillo 8-7) at Tampa Bay (Baz 8-11)
 Texas (Corbin 7-9) at Arizona (Nelson 7-3)

Calendar
Aug. 31 — Last day to be in organization to be postseason eligible
Sept. 1 — Active rosters expand to 28 players
Sept. 28 — Regular season ends

ROUNDUP

Turner lifts Phillies to walk off Braves

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Trea Turner hit a two-run single with two outs in the 10th inning to lift the Philadelphia Phillies to a 3-2 win over Atlanta on Saturday night, spoiling the return of reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Chris Sale to the Braves' starting rotation.

Nacho Alvarez Jr. put Atlanta ahead 2-1 with an RBI single in the 10th against Matt Strahm (2-3), who only gave up that hit.

Philadelphia loaded the bases against Hunter Stratton (0-1). Dylan Dodd came on and struck out Brandon Marsh and had Turner in an 0-2 hole before the Phillies shortstop lined a 94-mph fastball into right field, scoring Alec Bohm and Nick Castellanos.

With the Mets' 11-9 loss to the Marlins, Philadelphia extended its lead in the NL East to six games.

Sale and Phillies starter Christopher Sánchez both had strong outings, each giving up one run in six and seven innings, respectively.

Brewers 4, Blue Jays 1: Jackson Chourio and Christian Yelich hit back-to-back homers in the ninth inning, and visiting Milwaukee beat Toronto.

The Brewers (85-52) own the best record in the majors, while the Blue Jays (78-58) have the second-best mark in the AL.

Back in the lineup after missing 28 games because of a strained right hamstring, Chourio broke a 1-1 tie with his 18th homer, a drive to right off Toronto closer Jeff Hoffman. Yelich hit a drive to left on Hoffman's next pitch for his 27th homer.

Marlins 11, Mets 8: Connor Norby had three RBIs in the final three innings and visiting Miami beat New York after squandering a six-run lead.

Juan Soto homered twice for the Mets, who fell behind 8-2 in the third as All-Star lefty David Peterson gave up a career-high eight runs in two-plus innings.

Mark Vientos hit a three-run homer and Soto launched a solo shot before his two-run drive tied it 8-all in the sixth. New York, however, was unable to complete the comeback.

Padres 12, Twins 3: Elías Díaz homered twice and visiting San Diego beat Minnesota.

Ramón Laureano also homered for the Padres, who scored 11 runs against Twins relievers.

Reliever Adrian Morejon (11-4) pitched a scoreless sixth inning to pick up the win for San Diego, which closed its gap behind the first-place Dodgers in the NL West to one game and remained two games behind the Cubs for the top NL wild-card spot.



CHRIS SZAGOLA/AP

Phillies shortstop Trea Turner, center, celebrates hitting a two-run single with his teammates during the 10th inning to beat the Atlanta Braves on Saturday in Philadelphia.

Yankees 5, White Sox 3 (11): Aaron Judge hit his 42nd home run, Cody Bellinger delivered a tiebreaking single in a three-run 11th inning and visiting New York extended its season-high win streak to seven games by beating Chicago.

Bellinger gave the Yankees a 3-2 lead with one out in the 11th when he blooped a single to left field against Tyler Alexander (4-13) after Judge was intentionally walked. Jazz Chisholm Jr. followed with an RBI double. After Bellinger got thrown out by first baseman Lenyn Sosa trying to score on Austin Wells' grounder, Anthony Volpe doubled in another run to make it 5-2.

Wells also homered for New York, which moved within two games of first-place Toronto in the AL East for the first time since the All-Star break. The Yankees have won nine straight road games for the first time since early in the 1998 season.

Guardians 4, Mariners 3: Kyle Manzardo had a two-run homer in the sixth inning, Gavin Williams (9-5) struck out eight over seven innings and host Cleveland beat Seattle.

The Guardians have won the first two games in the series to pull within three games of the Mariners, who hold the third and final AL wild-card position. Seattle has lost seven straight on the road and is 5-11 overall since Aug. 13.

Julio Rodríguez hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning against Hunter Gaddis to trim Cleveland's lead to 4-3, but Cade Smith entered and retired the four batters he faced for his ninth save.

Cardinals 4, Reds 2: Willson Contreras and Pedro Pagés homered to help visiting St. Louis beat Cincinnati.

The Reds (68-68) have lost five straight and eight of nine, leaving them five games behind the New York Mets for the final National League wild card.

Angels 4, Astros 1: Oswald Peraza hit a two-run single in the ninth inning to help visiting Los Angeles snap a three-game losing skid by beating Houston.

Peraza entered the game as a defensive replacement in the seventh inning and hit a bases-loaded fly ball to deep right field that eluded the outstretched glove of Cam Smith. It was the fourth straight hit off Astros closer Bryan Abreu (3-4), who had not allowed a run in his previous 12 appearances.

Royals 3, Tigers 1: Bobby Witt Jr. hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning to lift host Kansas City over Detroit.

After pinch-hitter Tyler Tolbert drew a seven-pitch walk from Tyler Holton (5-4), Witt connected for his 20th home run, a 427-foot shot to dead center. Witt, who singled earlier, extended his hitting streak to 18 games.

Rays 4, Nationals 1: Josh Lowe homered twice and drove in all four of visiting Tampa Bay's runs, Ryan Pepiot pitched five scoreless innings and the Rays beat Washington.

The game was delayed briefly twice, once in the third inning when what appeared to be a young fan behind first base ran to the Nationals dugout, and then in the seventh when a fan ran out from the

left field seats and stood next to Tampa Bay shortstop Carson Williams.

Pirates 10, Red Sox 3: Oneil Cruz homered, Bryan Reynolds drove in two runs and visiting Pittsburgh beat Boston.

Tommy Pham and Nick Gonzales also drove in two runs apiece as the Pirates won for the eighth time in 10 games. Johan Oviedo (2-0) pitched five innings of two-run ball.

Orioles 11, Giants 1: Trevor Rogers pitched seven splendid innings, Samuel Basallo hit his first major league home run and visiting Baltimore routed San Francisco to stop its five-game skid.

Jeremiah Jackson homered and had four RBIs for the Orioles, who ended the Giants' six-game winning streak. Ryan Mountcastle also went deep.

Rangers 9, Athletics 3: Josh Jung had three hits, including a pair of RBI doubles, and Merrill Kelly pitched into the seventh inning as surging Texas defeated the host Athletics for its fourth consecutive victory.

Wyatt Langford and Dylan Moore homered for the Rangers (70-67), who have won seven of eight to pull within 2½ games of Seattle for the final AL wild card.

Cubs 4, Rockies 3: Kyle Tucker had two hits and an RBI, Javier Assad won his first game in almost a year and visiting Chicago beat Colorado.

Diamondbacks 6, Dodgers 1: Corbin Carroll homered to break a scoreless tie in the seventh inning and Eduardo Rodríguez (6-8) threw six shutout innings as Arizona beat Los Angeles.

NFL/AUTO RACING

Ex-Cowboys DE thrilled to play for Packers

By **STEVE MEGARGEE**
Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Micah Parsons said he just went through the hardest four months of his life, as he feared his contract stalemate with the Dallas Cowboys would stretch into the start of the season.

Now that the matter finally has been settled with a trade to Green Bay, the superstar defensive end wants to create a legacy befitting one of the NFL's storied franchises.

One day after the Packers made him the highest-paid non-quarterback in league history, Parsons arrived at Green Bay on Friday, saw the exhibits saluting the franchise's Hall of Famers and imagined his own future.

"I looked on that wall and I saw Brett Favre, I saw Reggie (White), I saw all those legends, and I was like 'I've got to be there,'" Parsons said.

The Packers sent two first-round picks and three-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle Kenny Clark to Dallas. They're giving Parsons a four-year, \$188 million contract with \$136 million guaranteed.

Parsons gives Green Bay arguably its best pass rusher since White. Parsons invited comparisons by including clips of White in a video he posted on X after the trade was announced.

"I just looked at him like somebody who won," said Parsons, who marveled at the "outrageous" statistics White compiled. "I think I can do that, too. I think I can do anything I put my mind to."

With the Cowboys, Parsons had



MORRY GASH/AP

Packers defensive end Micah Parsons speaks at his introductory news conference Friday in Green Bay, Wis. Parsons discussed how he wants to add to the unique history of the Packers and their fans.

No. 11, which wide receiver Jayden Reed wears for the Packers. Parsons said he plans to wear No. 1, becoming the first Green Bay player to do so since Curly Lambeau from 1925-26.

Although the Packers have reached the playoffs with the NFL's youngest roster each of the last two years, they lacked star power and a consistent pass rush. Parsons provides both.

The 26-year-old has 52½ career sacks, including at least 12 in each of his four seasons.

"I just know from having to game plan against him, that is something that keeps you up at night when you're going against a player of his caliber," Green Bay coach Matt LaFleur said.

Parsons was available only because negotiations with Dallas had broken down.

"I would say these last four months have probably been the

hardest four months of my life," Parsons said.

Joining the Packers is a full-circle moment for Parsons, who played running back for a team called the Harrisburg (Pennsylvania) Packers as a kid.

Green Bay offensive tackle Rasheed Walker, a former Penn State teammate, offered positive reports about playing for this franchise.

The timing of this move is similar to the Oakland Raiders' trade of edge rusher Khalil Mack to Chicago just before the 2018 season. The Packers had also sought Mack at the time, and general manager Brian Gutekunst believed afterward they might have entered that pursuit a little too late.

"I don't think it would've changed the outcome of that back then, but I felt like if you're going to be on something like this,

you're going to have to be in early," Gutekunst said.

Gutekunst made sure Green Bay was in it from the start this time, though he was skeptical Parsons would truly become available.

"The chances of these things happenings are pretty slim," Gutekunst said. "I think that was my mindset the whole time, was keep the conversations going because of the uniqueness of the player."

Gutekunst said a framework for this deal was in place well before Wednesday. Even then, he didn't have his hopes up.

"There's a ton of times when you go through these conversations and you have frameworks and structures of how you're going to do this and it just doesn't come to fruition," he said.

This time, the deal got done.

Parsons' acquisition and his big contract bring the Packers some

potential short-term and long-term consequences.

Losing Clark and allowing defensive tackle T.J. Slaton to sign with the Cincinnati Bengals in free agency leaves Green Bay short on depth at that position. The money devoted to Parsons and quarterback Jordan Love, who signed a four-year, \$220 million extension last year, could eventually cause salary cap complications.

"There's no doubt when you acquire a player like this, who's going to take up that much of the cap, that you're going to have to make some choices," Gutekunst said. "You always do."

The price the Packers paid for Parsons makes him that much more intent on proving his worth.

"I'd be a fool to not think there isn't expectations or there isn't pressure in the position that I'm stepping into," Parsons said. "But then again, that's a blessing in itself. That means that they believed in me that much."

Schedule

Thursday, Sept. 4

Dallas at Philadelphia

Friday, Sept. 5

Kansas City vs. LA Chargers at Sao Paulo, Brazil

Sunday, Sept. 7

Las Vegas at New England

Pittsburgh at NY Jets

Miami at Indianapolis

Arizona at New Orleans

NY Giants at Washington

Carolina at Jacksonville

Cincinnati at Cleveland

Tampa Bay at Atlanta

Tennessee at Denver

San Francisco at Seattle

Detroit at Green Bay

Houston at LA Rams

Baltimore at Buffalo

Monday, Sept. 8

Minnesota at Chicago

Piastrri wins Dutch GP after Norris breaks down in F1 title race

By **JAMES ELLINGWORTH**
Associated Press

ZANDVOORT, Netherlands — Lando Norris' chances of beating Oscar Piastrri to victory in the Dutch Grand Prix went up in smoke. His title chances are at risk, too.

Piastrri won the Dutch Grand Prix on Sunday after teammate Norris' McLaren broke down in what could prove a turning point in the title race.

Norris was chasing Piastrri late in the race when the British driver reported a "funny" smell in his cockpit.

"I don't know if I'm on fire or not," Norris said. Smoke poured from the back of the car and he had to stop.

Norris ended the race standing behind a barrier at the side of the track with race marshals and his broken-down car.

Norris' race engineer had tried to console him by telling him how

good his pace had been.

"Doesn't matter," Norris responded. It was the second time this season he's failed to finish after colliding with Piastrri at the Canadian Grand Prix in June.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen passed the stricken Norris to cheers from the crowd for second place at his home Grand Prix, while Isack Hadjar of Racing Bulls took his first-ever podium finish in third.

Piastrri's lead over second-placed Norris increased from nine points to 34 with nine races remaining.

The Australian's win required him to manage three safety car restarts, holding off Norris twice and then keeping Verstappen behind him after Norris' breakdown.

"Obviously it was incredibly unfortunate for Lando at the end," Piastrri said. "But it felt like I was in control of that (race) and used the pace that I needed to."

Verstappen had received a hug



PATRICK POST/AP

McLaren driver Oscar Piastrri, of Australia, shows off his trophy after winning the F1 Dutch Grand Prix at the Zandvoort racetrack in Zandvoort, Netherlands, on Sunday.

from King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands before the race and his second place was popular with the orange-clad Dutch fans. It was Red Bull's first podium finish in a Grand Prix, rather than a sprint race, under new team principal Laurent Mekies following the firing of Christian Horner.

Hadjar was lifted off the ground

and slapped on the back by a crowd of jubilant team members as they celebrated Racing Bulls' first podium result in four years.

"That was always the target since I was a kid, so this is the first step," Hadjar said. "My first podium and hopefully much more."

Both Ferraris ended up in the barriers in the same spot. Lewis

Hamilton hit the wall during a rain shower in another disappointing race for Ferrari.

Teammate Charles Leclerc's race ended when he was hit by Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli and spun into the same barrier. Like Norris, Leclerc ended up watching the race trackside, in his case from atop a sand dune.

George Russell was fourth for Mercedes following an earlier coming together with Leclerc that was to be investigated after the race.

Alex Albon was fifth for Williams and Oliver Bearman a career-best sixth for Haas after benefiting from the chaos ahead and two time penalties for Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli. Lance Stroll took seventh for Aston Martin ahead of teammate Fernando Alonso.

Yuki Tsunoda was ninth for the embattled Red Bull driver's first points since May, with Esteban Ocon 10th in the other Haas.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Scoreboard

ROUNDUP

Saturday's scores

EAST

Boston College 66, Fordham 10
Davenport 21, Gannon 12
Emory & Henry 45, Glenville St. 17
Frostburg St. 41, Shepherd 27
Lehigh 21, Richmond 14
Maryland 39, FAU 7
Navy 52, VMI 7
Penn St. 46, Nevada 11
Pittsburgh 61, Duquesne 9
Post 51, WV Wesleyan 14
Sacred Heart 12, Stonehill 7
St. Anselm 34, Pace 10
Temple 42, Umass 10
Tusculum 49, Bluefield State 23
Uconn 59, CCSU 13
West Virginia 45, Robert Morris 3

SOUTH

Albany St. (Ga.) 51, Shaw 7
Anderson SC Trojans 34, Shorter 7
Austin Peay 34, Middle Tennessee 14
Benedict 10, Fayetteville St. 0
Carson-Newman 41, W. Virginia St. 10
Catawba 45, Ferrum 13
Chowan 28, Elizabeth City St. 14
Concord 37, Virginia-Wise 29
ETSU 45, Murray St. 17
Florida 55, LIU Brooklyn 0
Florida St. 31, Alabama 17
Furman 23, William & Mary 21
Gardner-Webb 52, W. Carolina 45
Georgetown 51, Davidson 14
Georgia 45, Marshall 7
Grambling St. 55, Langston 7
Howard 10, Florida A&M 9
Jackson St. 28, Hampton 14
James Madison 45, Weber St. 10
Johnson C. Smith 45, Morehouse 9
Kentucky 24, Toledo 16
LSU 17, Clemson 10
Liberty 28, Maine 7
Louisiana Tech 24, SE Louisiana 0
Louisville 51, E. Kentucky 17
McNeese St. 54, Louisiana College 9
Memphis 45, Chattanooga 10
Mississippi 63, Georgia St. 7
Mississippi St. 34, Southern Miss. 17
Morehead St. 38, Allen 31
N. Dakota St. 38, The Citadel 0
New Hampshire 27, NC Central 10
Presbyterian 15, Mercer 10
Rice 14, Louisiana-Lafayette 12
SC State 16, Wofford 15
South Alabama 38, Morgan St. 21
Southern U. 34, MVSU 29
Tennessee 45, Syracuse 26
Tennessee St. 24, NC A&T 21
Tennessee Tech 65, Cumberland Phoenix 0
Troy 38, Nicholls 20
Tulane 23, Northwestern 3
Valdosta St. 31, Clark Atlanta 28
Vanderbilt 45, Charleston Southern 3
Virginia 48, Coastal Carolina 7
W. Kentucky 55, North Alabama 6
Webber International Warriors 31, Stetson 21
West Alabama 27, Fort Valley St. 17
Wingate 30, UNC-Pembroke 21

MIDWEST

Augustana (SD) 30, Missouri Western 26
Grand Valley St. 45, Lincoln (Pa.) 9
Indiana 27, Old Dominion 14
Iowa 34, Albany (NY) 7
Iowa St. 55, South Dakota 7
Kansas St. 38, North Dakota 35
Kent St. 21, Merrimack 17
Kentucky St. 34, Central St. (Ohio) 24
Lincoln (Mo.) 55, Lincoln (CA) Oaklanders 6
Michigan 34, New Mexico 17
Missouri S&T 51, Central Methodist Eagles 10
Missouri Southern 33, Midwestern St. 19
N. Illinois 19, Holy Cross 17
N. Iowa 38, Butler 14
Ohio St. 14, Texas 7
Purdue 31, Ball St. 0
S. Dakota St. 20, Sacramento St. 3
S. Illinois 49, Thomas More 3
Valparaiso 67, Va. Lynchburg 10
Washburn 20, Truman St. 17

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas 52, Alabama A&M 7
Arkansas St. 42, SE Missouri 24
Incarnate Word 31, E. Washington 21
North Texas 51, Lamar 0
Oklahoma 35, Illinois St. 3
Prairie View 22, Texas Southern 21
SMU 42, East Texas A&M 13
Texas A&M 42, UTSA 24
Texas State 52, E. Michigan 27
Texas Tech 67, Ark.-Pine Bluff 7
Texas-Permian Basin 34, Cent. Oklahoma 14
Tulsa 35, Abilene Christian 7
UT Rio Grande Valley 66, Sul Ross St. 0

FAR WEST

Air Force 49, Bucknell 13
Arizona 40, Hawaii 6
Arizona St. 38, N. Arizona 19
BYU 69, Portland St. 0
Cal Poly 41, San Diego 17
California 34, Oregon St. 15
Fresno St. 42, Georgia Southern 14
N. Colorado 17, Chadron St. 3
New Mexico St. 19, Bryant 3
Oregon 59, Montana St. 13
S. Utah 46, Idaho St. 24
Southern Cal 73, Missouri St. 13
UC Davis 31, Utah Tech 24
Utah 43, UCLA 10
Utah St. 28, UTEP 16
W. New Mexico 35, Adams St. 21
Washington 38, Colorado St. 21
Washington St. 13, Idaho 10
William Jewell 34, Fort Lewis 14

Underwood, Haynes lead Wolverines

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Bryce Underwood started dreaming of playing for Michigan about a decade ago, attending games at the Big House as a kid.

On a big stage under the bright lights, he lived up to the hype that followed him to campus as the nation's top-ranked recruit.

Underwood threw a touchdown pass and displayed his arm strength and touch while avoiding costly mistakes in his first college game with all eyes on him as the 14th-ranked Wolverines beat New Mexico 34-17 on Saturday night.

"Surreal feeling," he said after becoming the fourth freshman to start at quarterback in program history.

Underwood wasn't the only one in maize and blue to have an impressive debut.

Justice Haynes, a transfer from Alabama, ran for a career-high 159 yards and three touchdowns.

"I couldn't do this without the offensive line, the tight ends, the receivers," said Haynes, who had one 100-yard game with the Crimson Tide.

Michigan built an early cushion after Haynes scored on 56- and 5-yard touchdown runs in the first quarter. He had a 59-yard run that set up his 1-yard score to give the Wolverines a 17-point lead early in the fourth.

Underwood was 21-for-31 for 251 yards with a 17-yard touchdown pass to Marlin Klein late in the first half to restore a two-touchdown lead.

"I couldn't do that as a freshman," coach Sherrone Moore said. "That was impressive."

No. 2 Penn State 46, Nevada 11: Nicholas Singleton ran for two touchdowns, and the host Nittany Lions forced three turnovers to pull away from the Wolf Pack in the opener for both teams.

Singleton capped Penn State's opening possession with a 1-yard run then scored on another short plunge early in the third quarter. Kayton Allen cut around the defense for a 13-yard score in the second.

Nevada had already self-destructed by then.

Nittany Lions cornerback AJ Harris recovered Ky Woods' fumble to spoil the Wolf Pack's opening drive. Their next possession ended with an interception.

Ryan Barker kicked four field goals for Penn State, which led 27-3 at halftime after Kyron Hudson hauled in a 31-yard touchdown pass from Drew Allar with 23 seconds left in the second quarter.

The Nittany Lions' Kyron Hudson caught six passes for 89 yards and a touchdown, and Trebor Peña added seven for 74.



RYAN SUN/AP

Michigan quarterback Bryce Underwood, right, watches his first collegiate touchdown to Marlin Klein during the first half Saturday against New Mexico in Ann Arbor, Mich. The Wolverines won 34-17.

Top 25 fared

No. 1 Texas (0-1) lost to No. 3 Ohio St. 14-7. Next: vs. San Jose St., Saturday.
No. 2 Penn St. (1-0) beat Nevada 46-11. Next: vs. FIU, Saturday.
No. 3 Ohio St. (1-0) beat No. 1 Texas 14-7. Next: vs. Grambling St., Saturday.
No. 4 Clemson (0-1) lost to No. 9 LSU 17-10. Next: vs. Troy, Saturday.
No. 5 Georgia (1-0) beat Marshall 45-7. Next: vs. Austin Peay, Saturday.
No. 6 Notre Dame (0-0) did not play. Next: at No. 10 Miami, Sunday.
No. 7 Oregon (1-0) beat Montana St. 59-13. Next: vs. Oklahoma St., Saturday.
No. 8 Alabama (0-1) lost to Florida St. 31-17. Next: vs. Louisiana-Monroe, Saturday.
No. 9 LSU (1-0) beat No. 4 Clemson 17-10. Next: vs. Louisiana Tech, Saturday.
No. 10 Miami (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 6 Notre Dame, Sunday.
No. 11 Arizona St. (0-0) beat N. Arizona 38-19. Next: at Mississippi St., Saturday.
No. 12 Illinois (1-0) beat W. Illinois 52-3, Friday. Next: at Duke, Saturday.
No. 13 South Carolina (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Virginia Tech, Sunday.
No. 14 Michigan (1-0) beat New Mexico 34-17. Next: at No. 18 Oklahoma, Saturday.
No. 15 Florida (1-0) beat LIU Brooklyn 55-0. Next: vs. South Florida, Saturday.
No. 16 SMU (1-0) beat East Texas A&M 42-13. Next: vs. Baylor, Saturday.
No. 17 Kansas St. (1-1) beat North Dakota 38-35. Next: vs. Army, Saturday.
No. 18 Oklahoma (1-0) beat Illinois St. 35-3. Next: vs. No. 14 Michigan, Saturday.
No. 19 Texas A&M (1-0) beat UTSA 42-24. Next: vs. Utah St., Saturday.
No. 20 Indiana (1-0) beat Old Dominion 27-14. Next: vs. Kennesaw St., Saturday.
No. 21 Mississippi (1-0) beat Georgia St. 63-7. Next: at Kentucky, Saturday.
No. 22 Iowa St. (2-0) beat South Dakota 55-7. Next: vs. Iowa, Saturday.
No. 23 Texas Tech (1-0) beat Ark.-Pine Bluff 67-7. Next: vs. Kent St., Saturday.
No. 24 Tennessee (1-0) beat Syracuse 45-26. Next: vs. ETSU, Saturday.
No. 25 Boise St. (0-1) lost to South Florida 34-7, Thursday. Next: vs. E. Washington, Friday.

No. 17 Kansas State 38, North Dakota 35: Avery Johnson threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Joe Jackson with 42 seconds left and the host Wildcats escaped an upset bid from the FCS opponent Fighting Hawks.

Kansas State avoided becoming the first ranked team to lose two games in August in the history of the poll, and also dodged its first 0-2 start since coaching great Bill Snyder's first season in 1989. The Wildcats opened last week with a

24-21 loss to Iowa State in Dublin.

"If we're going to play like this every week, we're not going to be the team that we want to be," Johnson said.

North Dakota missed a chance to become the seventh FCS (formerly I-AA) team to knock off a school in the AP Top 25.

K-State blew a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter, with the Fighting Hawks taking a 35-31 lead on Sawyer Seidl's 20-yard run with 4:19 left.

Johnson then drove the Wildcats 81 yards on 10 plays for the winning score.

"He was calm and made play after play after play," Kansas State coach Chris Klieman said. "Even when we had a drop, he came back, made a play, and then we ultimately get a score."

Johnson was 28-for-43 for 318 yards and three touchdowns.

Navy 52, VMI 7: Backup quarterback Braxton Woodson ran for 180 yards, including 74- and 68-yard touchdowns, to highlight the host Midshipmen's season-opening rout.

Woodson subbed for starter Blake Horvath, who completed 6 of 7 passes for 66 yards before sitting down. Horvath threw an 18-yard touchdown pass to Eli Heidenreich. It was Heidenreich's 11th career touchdown reception at Navy, moving him two behind academy record-holders Rob Taylor (1965-67) and Phil McConey (1975-78).

Woodson completed 3 of 7 passes for 26 yards, but it was his two long touchdown runs in the second half that were the highlights of the day.

The Midshipmen led 28-0 at

halftime and added a field goal midway through the third quarter to lead 31-0.

Navy had 464 yards rushing and 556 yards of total offense. On defense, the Midshipmen allowed only 212 total yards and nine first downs.

Air Force 49, Bucknell 13: Josh Johnson threw for two touchdowns, one to Cade Harris, and Harris ran for two and the host Falcons rolled to their 19th straight season-opening victory.

Johnson was 4-for-7 passing for 112 yards with a 40-yard connection with Quinn Smith and a 62-yarder with Harris. Last year Johnson threw one touchdown pass in his six appearances and none of the four Air Force quarterbacks had a multiple touchdown game.

Harris finished with 66 yards on eight carries and 83 yards on three receptions. Dylan Carson and Maguire Martin also had rushing touchdowns. Corey Johnson returned a fumble 34 yards for a score.

Utah 43, UCLA 10: Devon Dampier led the visiting Utes' attack in the air and on the ground in a rout over touted transfer Nico Iamaleava and the Bruins.

Iamaleava led Tennessee to the College Football Playoff last season and then abruptly left to head closer to home and play for UCLA (0-1). He was 11-for-22 for 136 yards with one TD and one interception.

"We know we can be better than that," Iamaleava said. "It all came down to execution and we didn't do that at a high level."

Dampier was 21-for-25 for 206 yards and two touchdowns.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



PHELAN M. EBENHACK/AP

Florida State quarterback Tommy Castellanos gets to the end zone ahead of Alabama linebacker Deontae Lawson for a 9-yard touchdown run during the first half on Saturday in Tallahassee, Fla.

Castellanos sparks attack; Seminoles stun No. 8 Tide

By **BOB FERRANTE**
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — New quarterback Tommy Castellanos led a punishing rushing attack for Florida State with 78 yards and a touchdown as the Seminoles stunned No. 8 Alabama 31-17 on Saturday, ending the Crimson Tide's streak of 23 straight wins in season openers.

Coming off a 2-10 season, Florida State handed a crushing setback to Alabama, which was viewed as a College Football Playoff contender under second-year coach Kalen DeBoer.

Students and fans swarmed the field at Doak Campbell Stadium to celebrate the upset by the Seminoles, who were 13½-point underdogs according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

"It's one of the reasons why I came here, for moments like these, for days like these," Castellanos said.

"We got a long season ahead. Just take it one week at a time, keep grinding."

Under new offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn — who spent eight seasons as Auburn's head coach — Florida State was physical from the start, finishing with 230 rushing yards and averaging

4.7 yards per carry. The Seminoles averaged just 89.9 yards during their disastrous 2024 season.

DeBoer fell to 6-4 against unranked teams at Alabama; Saban went 124-4 in such games.

"I choose to believe we got a good football team," DeBoer said. "But we can't play on our heels. We're not going to be what we think we can be, what we want to be, if that's the case."

Alabama couldn't solve Florida State's defense, finishing with 87 rushing yards on 29 carries.

Castellanos, a Boston College transfer, had 16 carries while no one else had more than seven rushing attempts for the Seminoles. He also completed 9 of 14 passes for 152 yards as Florida State defeated its first ranked opponent since knocking off No. 19 Louisville in the 2023 Atlantic Coast Conference championship game.

"We wanted to be the aggressor," Florida State coach Mike Norvell said. "And we were. Our players, they rose to the challenge."

Micahi Danzy, Caziah Holmes and Gavin Sawchuk also had rushing touchdowns for Florida State.

Ty Simpson completed 23 of 43

passes for 254 yards and two touchdowns in his Alabama debut. Gernie Bernard led Alabama with eight catches for 146 yards.

Poll implications

Alabama will undoubtedly tumble in the rankings. Florida State received votes in the preseason poll and could move into the AP Top 25.

Fourth-down stops

Florida State held Alabama to just 6 of 17 on third-down conversions. The Seminoles also made three stops on fourth down, the final one coming with 5:39 to go.

The takeaway

Alabama: The Crimson Tide scored on an opening drive that went 8 minutes, 50 seconds, but struggled to sustain drives the rest of the afternoon.

Florida State: The Seminoles bounced back on a big stage as Norvell began his sixth season by picking up a fifth win over a Southeastern Conference team.

Up next

Alabama hosts Louisiana-Monroe next Saturday.

Florida State hosts East Texas A&M next Saturday.

Nussmeier, defense lift LSU past Clemson

By **STEVE REED**
Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — Garrett Nussmeier threw a go-ahead 8-yard touchdown pass to Trey'Dez Green in the fourth quarter, and No. 9 LSU rallied past fourth-ranked Clemson 17-10 on Saturday night for its first season-opening win since 2019, when Joe Burrow led the Tigers to an undefeated season and a national championship.

Nussmeier, who eclipsed 4,000 yards passing in his first year as a starter in 2024 after biding his time behind Jayden Daniels, got better as game went on, throwing for 134 of his 230 yards in the second half while leading two touchdown drives.

Caden Durham rushed for 74 yards and a touchdown for LSU, which held the ball for all but nine minutes of the second half.

LSU, retooled with a highly touted class of transfers, showed the mental and physical toughness that coach Brian Kelly was seeking after trailing 10-3 at the half. LSU's stifling defense, due in part to their improved personnel which allowed Kelly to play more man-to-man defense, limited first-team preseason Associated Press All-America quarterback Cade Klubnik to 19-of-38 passing for 230 yards and an interception.

He was sacked only twice, but pressured relentlessly.

"I think getting him out of the pocket and primarily got him out of rhythm," Kelly said. "I thought we did that very, very well and we took his running game away. Any quarterback that doesn't have a running game, it becomes predictable and we had some predictable down the distances because they couldn't run the football."

Clemson had just 31 yards on 20 carries.

"We didn't play anywhere near where we are capable of playing on offense," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said.

Clemson's defense gave Klubnik two chances late to tie the game after

coming up with big stops.

The first drive ended in a three-and-out, but Klubnik got Clemson to the LSU 15 on the final drive before being flushed from the pocket and being forced to throw a pass up for grabs with a defender in his face on fourth-and-4. It fell incomplete, setting off an LSU celebration.

"I'm glad that the game got put on our shoulders and we were able to get it done," LSU linebacker Whit Weeks said.

It didn't help Clemson that they lost star wide receiver Antonio Williams, a second-team preseason AP All-American, to an injury early in the first quarter. He did not return and Swinney offered no timetable for his return.

It was expected to be a high-scoring matchup featuring a pair of Heisman Trophy hopefuls at QB and two of the nation's top offenses from a year ago. But defenses set the tone early, with the only first-half touchdown coming on a 1-yard plunge by Clemson's Adam Randall on a fourth-down gamble by coach Dabo Swinney. Clemson's defense forced two fumbles by LSU wide receivers in the first half, including Ronan Hanafin's strip of Chris Hilton Jr. at the Clemson 13 in the closing seconds, preserving a 10-3 half-time lead.

"I look up at the scoreboard and they say like that Dabo was like 115-11 when he's leading at the half," Kelly said. "I'm like, well, it's going to be 12, but we got to go do something about it. We had to stop making those mistakes — and we did."

The momentum changed in LSU's favor early in the third quarter after Clemson's Nolan Hauser, the hero of last year's Atlantic Coast Conference championship win, missed a 48-yard field goal.

Nussmeier began carving up Clemson's defense on the ensuing drive with completions of 36 and 14 yards to Aaron Anderson. LSU missed a field goal, but came back to score on its next possession when Nussmeier found Green in the right corner of the end zone.



JACOB KUPFERMAN/AP

LSU quarterback Garrett Nussmeier led two touchdown drives in the second half against Clemson on Saturday in Clemson, S.C.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Corso marks last 'GameDay' after 38 years

By JOE REEDY
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Just as it was the first time, Lee Corso's final headgear pick was Brutus Buckeye.

Corso selected the third-ranked Buckeyes to beat the top-ranked Longhorns on his final appearance on ESPN's "College GameDay" on Saturday.

"This is one of the easiest picks I've ever made. Texas is loaded. Texas is number one. They have a Manning at quarterback. Poor Ohio State. They ain't got a chance. Give me my first love!" Corso said before putting on Brutus' head for the 46th time.

It ended up being prophetic as the Buckeyes defeated the Longhorns 14-7.

Corso made the prediction on the 50-yard line at Ohio Stadium in front of 107,524 fans 16 minutes before kickoff, quite a change from the first time in 1996 when it was done in the parking lot outside the Horseshoe.

The Ohio State band — which spelled out Corso during its pregame routine — was on the field and behind Corso as he made his pick.

It was GameDay's 26th appearance in Columbus. It was outside the Horseshoe on Oct. 5, 1996, where Corso's popular headgear prediction segment began.

Corso donned Brutus Buckeye's head before Ohio State faced Penn State, and the rest is history.

The Buckeyes went 32-14 when Corso picked them



JOSEPH REEDY/AP

From left, Chris Fowler, Lee Corso and Kirk Herbstreit work on the set of ESPN's "College GameDay" before the game between Ohio State and Texas on Saturday in Columbus, Ohio.

Coach Ryan Day gave Corso an Ohio State helmet with a buckeye leaf on it for each time he chose the Buckeyes. Day also gave Corso an additional sticker to put on in case he picked them again.

A local restaurant also made an 85-pound cake of Brutus' head.

"To everyone who has been a part of the journey, thank you," Corso said during the opening segment of Saturday's show.

Corso, who turned 90 on Aug. 7, has been a part of "GameDay"

since its start in 1987 and has made pregame shows entertaining under a simple philosophy: "Football is just the vehicle. It's entertainment, sweetheart."

The three-hour show was a celebration of Corso more than a finale. Besides looking back at Corso's career, the show analyzed Saturday's key games and included an interview with Bill Belichick, who makes his debut with North Carolina on Monday night against TCU.

"It's a celebratory thing, but you

also get wistful," said Chris Fowler, who was the host of "GameDay" from 1990 through 2014 and did a segment with Herbstreit and Corso during the second hour of the show. "I wanted him to look around and take in this scene and not take it for granted and enjoy what's going to happen in the next couple of hours because he largely created this. Without him, I don't think 'GameDay' ever gets on the road and gets off the ground and becomes this. I hope he can appreciate that."

Tone: Manning struggles in first game of much-hyped season as starting QB

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needed to. A couple times when it wasn't there, he didn't force it," Day said. "We talked about it this week. In Week 1, we can't beat ourselves. We wanted to make them beat us."

Sayin's best pass of the day came with 13:08 remaining in the game, when Tate beat Texas cornerback Jaylon Guilbeau for Ohio State's longest completion of the day. Tate juggled the ball before pulling it down in the end zone to put the Buckeyes up by two touchdowns.

"Before the drive, they kind of let me know, 'Hey, this might be coming.' But we had done a great job in practice that week of repeating that play," Sayin said. "Carnell ran a great route and made a great catch and the offensive line protected me well up front."

The defense under first-year coordinator Matt Patricia made Manning a non-factor for three quarters. He completed 17 of 30

passes for 170 yards, a touchdown and an interception, but most of those yards came in the fourth quarter.

"I thought they tried to do everything we asked them to do. They were in some tough spots. It's a really good Texas team," Patricia said of his unit. "Arch is a great quarterback. I'm proud of our guys for stepping up to that challenge and all the way across the board, from the front end to the back end. I think those guys just did a tremendous job with the adjustments."

The Longhorns' downfall was going 1 of 5 on fourth down, including being stopped twice inside the Ohio State 10. Manning was stuffed at the 1-yard line on fourth-and-goal by Caden Curry and Lorenzo Styles Jr. on a QB sneak in the third quarter.

The other red-zone stop came midway through the fourth quarter when the Buckeyes' Davison Igbinosun broke up a pass intend-

ed for Parker Livingstone.

"Granted the receivers are really good, but they've got an excellent secondary, and they've got a good scheme, and they've got a very smart secondary so they made Arch work," Texas coach Steve Sarkisian said.

CJ Donaldson Jr. opened the scoring midway through the second quarter on a 1-yard run up the middle to cap a 13-play, 87-yard drive that took eight minutes off the clock. Ohio State benefited from a pair of penalties, including a face mask call on Colin Simmons that wiped out an incomplete pass on third-and-4.

The Longhorns finally got points with 3:28 remaining in the fourth quarter when Manning connected with Livingstone on a 32-yard touchdown.

The Texas defense forced a three-and-out, giving the Longhorns a chance to tie.

Texas took over on the 15, but Jack Endries was stopped by Ca-



SARA DIGGINS, AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN/AP

Texas quarterback Arch Manning walks past Ohio State fans flashing "Horns Down" as he heads to the locker room after a loss.

leb Downs 1 yard short of a first down at the Buckeyes 47 to end hopes of a comeback.

"Ultimately, not good enough. Obviously you don't want to start off the season 0-1," Manning said. "They're a good team. I thought we beat ourselves a lot, and that starts with me. I've got to play better for us to win."

The Longhorns had their 11-

Corso wore a tuxedo for his final show. He got to St. John Arena two hours before the show started at 9 a.m. and relaxed with family and the "GameDay" crew, making his way on set 20 minutes before it began. He took 5 minutes to relax near the back of the stage and chatted with stage manager Mike Ruhlman before joining Kirk Herbstreit, Rece Davis, Desmond Howard, Pat McAfee and Nick Saban at the desk for the show's first segment.

Corso has worn 69 different schools' mascot headgear and has dressed up as Notre Dame's Fighting Irish leprechaun, the Stanford tree, and historic figures James Madison and Benjamin Franklin. Brutus remains Corso's first love, wearing it 45 times.

Corso has a near 67% winning rate on his headgear predictions (287-144), which is much better than his 73-85-6 mark in 15 years as a coach at Louisville, Indiana and Northern Illinois.

After "GameDay" wrapped up, Corso watched most of the game from the press box.

Besides ESPN, Fox Sports showed Corso's pick. Fox's Tom Rinaldi and Chris "The Bear" Fallica — who worked for ESPN and were part of "GameDay" — gave their tributes to Corso during the "Big Noon Kickoff" pregame show.

"People don't really understand, if it doesn't take off maybe there is no 'Inside the NBA' or 'Big Noon Kickoff,'" Fallica said after visiting the ESPN set.

game winning streak in true road games snapped. The run included five victories against ranked opponents. Meanwhile, the Buckeyes put themselves in a good position to take over the top spot in the next AP poll.

Texas' next game is its home opener against San Jose State on Sept. 6, while Ohio State hosts Grambling State the same day.

SPORTS



Reunion

Gauff, Osaka to meet again at US Open after 6 years » Page 18



COLLEGE FOOTBALL



PHOTOS BY JAY LAPRETE/AP

Ohio State receiver Brandon Inniss, left, and quarterback Julian Sayin celebrate their 14-7 victory over Texas on Saturday in Columbus, Ohio.

Buckeyes set tone

Sayin, defense help propel Ohio State past Texas

By JOE REEDY
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State coach Ryan Day and his players spent the preseason saying the opener against top-ranked Texas wouldn't be about defending last year's national championship, but about establishing the identity of this year's team.

Julian Sayin and the defense took a big first step toward accomplishing that.

In his first collegiate start, Sayin gave the Buckeyes a two-score advantage early in the fourth quarter with a 40-yard touchdown pass

to Carnell Tate. Add in the defense containing the much-hyped Arch Manning, along with two pivotal stops in the red zone and it resulted in third-ranked Ohio State defeating the Longhorns 14-7.

It was the fourth time the No. 1 team in the AP preseason poll has met the previous season's national champion in the opener. The defending champ has won the last three.

"When you start a season, you want to set the tone," Day said. "There's a lot of guys who are stepping into roles for the first time ever. And for these guys to step in and really have great

energy about them, I thought they were poised. I thought the moment was not too big for them."

Sayin completed 13 of 20 passes for 126 yards as the Buckeyes improved to 4-3 all-time against a visiting top-ranked team. Day admitted the game plan was a bit conservative, but with a first-time starter he wanted to put his signal caller in the best possible position.

"I thought he handled himself well. He took care of the ball and made some throws when he

SEE TONE ON PAGE 23



Ohio State head coach Ryan Day gets ready to lead his team on to the field for their game vs. Texas.

Turner, Phils walk off Braves in 10th inning » MLB, Page 19



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