FACES
Show-stealing Josh O'Connor is in 4 films this fall
Page 15



MILITARY
Commander overseeing US attacks on suspected drug boats to step down
Page 4



MLB PLAYOFFS
Dodgers domination in October is due to more than money
Page 24

Army accelerates development of new main battle tank, M1E3 » Page 3

STARS AND STRIPES®
stripes.com

Volume 84 Edition 132 ©SS 2025 MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025
平成12年4月5日　第三種郵便物認可　日刊（土日除く）
発行所　星条旗新聞社　〒106-0032　東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号　定価￥50
50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Tomahawks for Ukraine on hold after Putin call

BY ROBYN DIXON
The Washington Post

Russian President Vladimir Putin put his relationship with President Donald Trump back on track with a phone call just ahead of Trump's crucial Friday meeting with Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, that was meant to include discussions of providing Ukraine with powerful new long range weapons.



Putin

Up until the Thursday phone call, Trump had seemed ready to boost Ukraine's arsenal and negotiating position with Tomahawk cruise missiles. But in its wake and after the subsequent meeting with Zelenskyy, Trump played down all talk of the missiles and instead focused on yet another summit with Putin.

It was the latest swing in Trump's back and forth positions on the Russia-Ukraine war that often change following contact with Putin, who has shown a great deal of skill in persuading the U.S. president to his view of the conflict.

So far, Russia has succeeded in deterring Trump from imposing further sanctions — or sending more powerful weapons to Ukraine — by continually dangling hopes of a peace deal, while it ramps up attacks.

"Hopefully we'll be able to get the war over with without thinking about Tomahawks. I think we're fairly close to that," Trump said to journalists as he began his meeting with Zelenskyy. "We don't want to be giving away things that we need to protect our country."

SEE PUTIN ON PAGE 13



ALLISON ROBBERT/AP

Crowds gather to listen to Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., during a No Kings protest, Saturday, in Washington.

King-sized demonstrations

Cities across the nation see thousands protest Trump agenda

BY MIKE PESOLI, MATT BROWN AND GARY FIELDS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Large crowds of protesters marched and rallied in cities across the U.S. Saturday for " No Kings " demonstrations decrying what participants see as the government's swift drift into authoritarianism under President Donald Trump.

People carrying signs with slogans such as "Nothing is more patriotic than protesting" or "Resist Fascism" packed into New York City's Times Square and rallied by the thousands in parks in Boston, Atlanta and Chicago. Demonstrators marched through Washington and downtown Los Angeles and picketed outside capitols in several Republican-led states, a courthouse in Billings, Mont., and at hundreds of smaller public spaces.

Trump's Republican Party disparaged the demonstrations as "Hate America" rallies, but in many places the events looked more like a street party. There were marching bands, huge banners with the U.S. Constitution's "We The People" preamble that people could sign and demonstrators wearing inflatable costumes, particularly frogs, which have emerged as a sign of resistance in Portland, Ore.

It was the third mass mobilization since Trump's return to the White House and came against the backdrop of a government shutdown that not only has closed federal programs and services but is testing the core balance of power, as an aggressive executive confronts Congress and the courts in ways that protest organizers warn are a slide toward authoritarianism.

SEE KING ON PAGE 9

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Meta adds parental controls for AI/teen interactions

Associated Press

Meta is adding parental controls for kids' interactions with artificial intelligence chatbots — including the ability to turn off one-on-one chats with AI characters altogether — beginning early next year.

But parents won't be able to turn off Meta's AI assistant, which Meta says will "will remain available to offer helpful information and educational opportunities, with default, age-appropriate protections in place to help keep teens safe."

Parents who don't want to turn off all chats with all AI characters will also be able to block specific chatbots. And Meta said Friday that parents will be able to get "insights" about what their kids are chatting about with AI characters — although they won't get access to the full chats.

The changes come as the social media giant faces ongoing criticism over harms to children from its platforms. AI chatbots are also drawing scrutiny over their interactions with children that lawsuits claim have driven some to suicide.

Even so, more than 70% of teens have used AI companions and half use them regularly, according to a recent study from Common Sense Media, a nonprofit that studies and advocates for using screens and digital media sensibly.

On Tuesday, Meta announced that teen accounts on Instagram will be restricted to seeing PG-13 content by default and won't be able to change their settings without a parent's permission.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro costs (Oct. 20)	0.84
British pound (Oct. 20)	$1.31
Japanese yen (Oct. 20)	147.00
South Korean won (Oct. 20)	1383.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3738
Britain (Pound)	1.3426
Canada (Dollar)	1.402
China (Yuan)	7.1264
Denmark (Krone)	6.4083
Egypt (Pound)	47.4906
Euro	0.8575
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7717
Hungary (Forint)	333.86
Israel (Shekel)	3.3088
Japan (Yen)	150.61
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3053
Norway (Krone)	10.0588
Philippines (Peso)	58.111
Poland (Zloty)	3.6372
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7460
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2948
South Korea (Won)	1420.64
Switzerland (Franc)	0.7934
Thailand (Baht)	32.71
Turkey (NewLira)	41.8851

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

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	7.25
Interest Rates Discount rate	4.25
Federal funds market rate	4.12
3-month bill	3.93
30-year bond	4.61

WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE



TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



This weather is compiled from weather.com reports.

TODAY IN STRIPES

American Roundup 14
Classified 13
Comics 17
Crossword 17
Faces 15
Opinion 16
Sports 18-24

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE	ADVERTISING CustomerService@stripes.com	+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111 DSN: 314.583.9111
MIDDLE EAST	ADVERTISING CustomerService@stripes.com	+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111 DSN: 314.583.9111
PACIFIC	ADVERTISING PacificAdvertising@stripes.com	+81 (42) 552.2511 DSN: 315.227.7310

Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.
Also available on mobile apps for Android and iOS.

STARS AND STRIPES®

Mobile • Online • Print

MILITARY

Army accelerates development of new tank

By Gary Warner
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Army is fast-tracking a new main battle tank, the M1E3, designed to be lighter, faster and more survivable — reflecting lessons from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

General Dynamics Land Systems received a $150 million contract in July for initial development of the tank at its Sterling Heights, Mich., facility. An Army Science Board report this year projected the M1E3 would take seven years and $2.9 billion to develop.

Four prototypes are expected by next year to be deployed with as yet undetermined Army units for testing.

The Army has set a 2030 target date for deployment, but General Dynamics officials said Wednesday that an early prototype is expected by year's end, with full production potentially starting by 2027 or 2028.

The M1E3 replaces the canceled M1A2 SEPv4 as the Army's planned future main battle tank, succeeding the M1 Abrams, which has been the Army's main battle tank since it replaced the M60 Patton about half a century ago.



Brian Sutherland/U.S. Army

An M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tanks displays the American flag during exercises in Bulgaria in September. The Army is speeding up the development of its new battle tank, the M1E3, designed to be lighter, faster and more survivable.

The new tank would counter Russia's T-90 and China's Type T-99 tanks.

Maj. Gen. Glenn Dean, head of Army ground combat systems, said the Ukraine war revealed critical flaws in traditional tank design, emphasizing the need for better crew protection over simply adding more armor.

The Army said it had studied intelligence from the war in Ukraine, which showed main battle tanks are vulnerable to attacks from above by drones striking at crew turret hatches and engine compartments.

The M1A2 SEPv4's 73-ton frame couldn't be upgraded without heavier armor that would compromise mobility and logistics and shorten combat range because of extra fuel consumption.

The M1E3 will feature a three-person crew and an automated turret and loading system, and it will retain the Abrams' 120mm smooth-bore gun. The Iron Fist active protection system developed by Israel will detect and intercept incoming threats, using jamming and counter-projectiles to deflect or cause the munitions to explode before striking the M1-E3.

Powered by a hybrid diesel-electric engine, the M1E3 will have a greater range and speed than the Abrams, which is powered by a gas-turbine engine.

The M1E3 will weigh about 60 tons — about 7 tons lighter than the M1A2 Abrams and 13 tons lighter than the proposed M1A2 SEPv4, allowing for better traction, mobility and a reduced electromagnetic signature on the battlefield.

A Remote Weapons Station, designed to engage drones, will allow crew members to fire .50-caliber secondary weapons becoming exposed.

The Army has said it could also arm the new tanks with its own drones, such as the AeroVironment Switchblade, designed for tactical precision strikes and reconnaissance.

The new tank's systems would also be able to network communications and countermeasures with other tanks and troops to coordinate assaults and buttress defensive positioning. Modular systems will allow for quick repairs and upgrades in the field.

Development of the Abrams tank began in 1971 and deliveries to the Army began in 1980. The original M1A1 variant led the armor pincer attacks into Iraqi-occupied Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm in 1991. The updated M1A2 entered service in the mid-1990s.

Abrams variants are used by allies including Australia, Poland, Egypt, and Taiwan. In 2023, the U.S. sent 31 Abrams tanks to Ukraine.

Other allied tanks include Germany's Leopard 2, Britain's Challenger 2, France's LeClerc, South Korea's K2 Black Panther and Israel's Merkava Mk. 4.

Work begins on $230M border project at military range

By Rose L. Thayer
Stars and Stripes

Construction began Wednesday on a $230 million defense contract to replace 15 miles of fencing along a training range in Arizona near the Mexico border with a new, taller barrier and an access road for federal border agents to patrol the area.

The Pentagon funded the project by pulling military construction dollars from Army, Navy and Air Force projects across the globe.

The project protects the Barry M. Goldwater Range in San Luis, Ariz., which is used by the military services as an aviation training location, including support for operations of the F-35, F-16, A-10 and F/A-18, Jordan Gillis, assistant secretary of the Army for installations, energy and environment, said during a call with reporters Thursday.

"This is a project that represents both a national security investment and a safeguard to military readiness," Gillis said. "When incursions occur and illegal border crossers get into that area, the ranges must close. That delays the training exercises, it diverts our time and our resources and ultimately impacts readiness."

The Marine Corps assumed jurisdiction this year of some of the roughly 1.7 million-acre range from the Bureau of Land Management as part of the Trump Administration's effort to transfer land along the southwest border into military-owned property. This allowed service members to begin patrols in the area for people who have crossed into the U.S. without authorization and circumvent a federal law that prohibits the military from conducting law enforcement activities outside of military property.

Army officials did not have an estimate of how frequently the range has been forced to close because people had entered it.

"I can tell you that because they do happen, whenever we are about to embark on range operations there, we have to spend a lot of time and effort and manpower doing a sweep to be sure that the range is clear," Gillis said. "Whether it's one or two or a dozen a year, we've got this safety mechanism in place that hopefully we can scale back on ... once the barrier is complete."

Bozeman, Mont.-based company BFBC LLC was awarded the contract to build the barrier Aug. 15 and should finish the work by August 2026. It has received defense contracts in the past for barrier work along the border.

The funds were awarded through Section 2803, an emergency funding law that allows the military services to shift up to $50 million in military construction dollars to an emergency project. Roughly $174 million was obligated for the contract from fiscal year 2021 projects from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Defense Department, according to the Pentagon. The contract would reach the full amount of $230 million only if all options within it were maximized.



Defense Department

Construction has begun on a defense contract to replace 15 miles of fencing along a training range in Arizona at the Mexico border with a new, taller barrier and an access road for federal border agents to patrol the area.

The Army moved funds from "uncommitted planning and design dollars," Gillis said.

Defense Comptroller documents sent to Congress in May to approve the movement of funding stated that the Navy pulled funds from projects in Guam, California and Japan. The Air Force moved money from projects in Luxembourg, Germany, Mississippi and other unspecified locations, according to the documents.

Defense Department funds came from elementary school projects at Fort Knox, Ky., and Stuttgart, Germany, and other unspecified projects.

The range now has 12-foot mesh fencing, much of which has holes cut into it and is climbable, said Brig. Gen. John P. Lloyd, South Pacific Division commander for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who joined Gillis on the media call.

The new barrier will be 30-foot tall steel bollard border barrier with anti-climbing plates attached at the top, he said. It will also have vehicle access gates to allow federal agents with Customs and Border Protection to patrol the area. Construction also includes a new road with a secondary barrier.

Each panel is 8 feet by 32 feet and weighs about 9,000 pounds when filled with grout. A panel has eight steel bollards that are 6-by-6-inch squares with about 4 inches between them.

Crews can install about 40 panels a day, Lloyd said. In January, a second crew will join the effort, doubling to 80 panels a day. This should wrap up in April while work on the road and drainage features continues through August.

Under President Donald Trump's first term in office, the military made similar movements of funding to construct border barriers. Since 2016, the Army Corps of Engineers has built about 450 miles of permanent border wall, Lloyd said.

MILITARY

SOUTHCOM head will retire early

Admiral overseeing US attacks on suspected drug boats to step down

BY MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Adm. Alvin Holsey, the head of U.S. Southern Command, will retire by the end of the year.

The announcement comes less than a year into Holsey's tenure and as U.S. operations in the Caribbean Sea grow.



Holsey

"We extend our deepest gratitude to Admiral Alvin Holsey for his more than 37 years of distinguished service to our nation," Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Thursday in a post on X.

Hegseth's post did not provide further information regarding the decision. Holsey is one of two Black four-star officers leading a combatant command.

In a post on the command's Facebook page, Holsey said, "It's been an honor to serve our nation, the American people and support and defend our Constitution for over 37 years."

"The SOUTHCOM team has made lasting contributions to the defense of our nation and will continue to do so," he said. "I am confident that you will forge ahead, focused on your mission that strengthens our nation and ensures its longevity as a beacon of freedom around the globe."

Military forces have conducted at least five known strikes in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility against suspected drug boats. The strikes, which began last month, have killed 27 people. The strikes came after a build-up of maritime forces in the region, including eight surface warships and more than 5,000 sailors and Marines.

President Donald Trump disclosed Wednesday he had authorized the Central Intelligence Agency to conduct covert operations inside Venezuela, adding to speculation in Caracas that the United States is attempting to topple President Nicolas Maduro.

Holsey previously served as the military deputy commander of SOUTHCOM and was promoted to the rank of admiral shortly before taking command.

Holsey is a native of Fort Valley, Ga., and was commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program at Morehouse College in 1988.

Hegseth has fired a number of senior military officials since taking office in January. Some of the firings include Air Force Gen. Charles "CQ" Brown, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Adm. Lisa Franchetti, the chief of naval operations; and the judge advocates general for the Army, Navy and Air Force.



ALEX WILSON/Stars and Stripes

Tugboats assist the aircraft carrier USS George Washington as it returns to Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Saturday.

Carrier's homecoming fuels speculation over Trump trip

BY ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The aircraft carrier USS George Washington returned unexpectedly to its homeport Saturday morning, less than three weeks after resuming its annual patrol and just ahead of President Donald Trump's confirmed visit to Japan.

The ship sailed through Tokyo Bay and moored at its usual berth with little fanfare. The only public notice came through the Navy's standard communication to the city of Yokosuka.

In rare fashion, the carrier arrived with at least a portion of its air wing still aboard — Carrier Air Wing 5 typically departs the ship for Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni during port calls in Yokosuka.

The George Washington was last in port on Sept. 30 after wrapping a month-long mid-deployment break.

U.S. 7th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Matthew Comer acknowledged a request for comment Saturday on whether the carrier's sudden return is tied to Trump's visit, but did not immediately provide a response.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent confirmed on Oct. 15 during CNBC's Invest in America Forum that Trump will attend the Association of Southeast Asia Nations, or ASEAN, summit in Malaysia, make a presidential visit to Japan, and then travel to South Korea for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, summit.

U.S. and Japanese officials are expected to visit Yokosuka and tour the George Washington, the Japan Times reported Oct. 11, citing unnamed government sources.

Trump is expected to be accompanied by Japan's new prime minister — a post still vacant amid political turmoil — and address sailors aboard the carrier to underscore the U.S.-Japan alliance, the report said.

Kyodo News, also citing unnamed government sources, reported Thursday that Trump's three-day visit to Japan is set to begin Oct. 27.

While Bessent did not provide exact dates, Reuters reported Tuesday that the president is expected to be in Kuala Lumpur on Oct. 26, citing Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan. The Chosun Daily in South Korea reported Friday that Trump is expected to arrive in Seoul on Oct. 29 and remain until Oct. 30 and may meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Trump last visited Yokosuka in May 2019 when he hosted a Memorial Day rally aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp and spoke to about 1,000 service members. He also toured the Japanese helicopter carrier JS Kaga alongside then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

US to send survivors of strike to South America

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The two survivors of an American military strike on a suspected drug-carrying vessel in the Caribbean will be sent to Ecuador and Colombia, their home countries, President Donald Trump said Saturday.

The military rescued the pair after striking a submersible vessel Thursday, in what was at least the sixth such attack since early September.

"It was my great honor to destroy a very large DRUG-CARRYING SUBMARINE that was navigating towards the United States on a well known narcotrafficking transit route," Trump said in a social media post. "U.S. Intelligence confirmed this vessel was loaded up with mostly Fentanyl, and other illegal narcotics."

After Trump's announcement, the Pentagon posted on X a brief black-and-white video of the strike. In the clip, a vessel can be seen moving through the waves, its front portion submerged inches below the water's surface. Then, several explosions are seen.

The Republican president said two people onboard were killed — one more than was previously reported — and the two who survived are being sent to their home countries "for detention and prosecution."

Colombian President Gustavo Petro confirmed Saturday on X that the Colombian man who was detained aboard what he called a "narco submarine" was home.

Marine killed, another hurt in helo crash

BY GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

One pilot was killed in a late Thursday crash of an AH-1Z Viper attack helicopter in Southern California, the Marine Corps said Friday. A second crew member was injured.

The helicopter from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, experienced an "aviation mishap" during routine operations near Imperial Gables, Calif., the Marines said in a statement. The "Gunfighters" are based at MCAS Camp Pendleton.

The two aviators were transported to separate hospitals, where one was confirmed dead and the other was in stable condition.

The 3rd MAW headquarters said in a statement that the helicopter was not involved in recent U.S. military activity along the U.S.-Mexico border.

"The AH-1Z was only conducting a training flight in support of the Marine Corps Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course," the wing said.

The Marines website describes the course as "a premier training program conducted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1) at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona."

Live fire exercises for the course are sometimes held at the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range in California, just northwest of Yuma. The 495,000-acre range is managed by MCAS Yuma.

MILITARY

Army expands opportunities for lieutenants

BY ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

The Army will expand a program that allows some lieutenants to apply for transfer into different career fields, including functional areas that were previously unavailable until after serving in command as a captain.

The expansion next month builds on a change made two years ago to the Volunteer Transfer Incentive Program which allowed lieutenants to transfer from overstrength fields, such as armor and infantry, into branches in need of more young officers, such as finance, air defense and signal, Maj. Gen. Hope Rampy, commander of Army Human Resources Command, said Wednesday during the Association of the U.S. Army's annual conference in Washington.


Rampy

Previously, a new officer would have to stay in a career field for seven or eight years before having an opportunity to switch to something new.

Functional areas are those that officers typically can't commission straight into and include space operations, acquisitions and simulation operations.

"What we understand, the generational difference is, 'I don't want to sign up to do ... the same thing for the rest of my life,' " Rampy said. "So we want to show that there's an opportunity to serve a career in the Army but not do the same thing for the rest of your life."

This will be the third year that the Army has expanded opportunities for lieutenants. In the first year, 137 lieutenants chose to switch jobs, Rampy said. More than 200 participated in the second year.

Each year had limitations on the types of jobs and the number of participants.

The idea stemmed from a very small dip in the number of officers staying through the rank of major, she said. Traditionally, about 45% of officers stay in the service that long, which allows the Army to fill nearly all of its major requirements.

"I'm not saying there's an issue, but I'm saying there's an indicator. The data is indicating that you're not on a historical trend, so why wait for a problem? Why not get ahead of it?" Rampy said.

Part of the command's strategy is to make sure young officers know that if they are struggling with their current job, they don't have to leave the Army to try something new, said Col. Tom Malejko, chief talent analytics officer at Army Human Resources Command.

Organizations across the Army are developing assessments to determine which officers have the right skills and make them aware of the opportunities available.

"We're trying to help them look through data to make a more informed decision as to what career best fits them," he said.

Army: Adversaries target US soldiers online 'every day'

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. soldiers in 2025 are more likely to face the enemy online than on the battlefield, as American troops are targeted daily by foreign intelligence officers seeking details on weaponry and tactics, top Army officials warned.

Adversary intelligence officials target American soldiers on popular internet platforms such as LinkedIn, Indeed and Reddit, hoping to find people who will share military secrets that could be beneficial in a future conflict, Army intelligence officials said last week at the Association of the U.S. Army conference in Washington.

The primary illicit actors represent America's top foes, such as China, Russia, Iran and North Korea, who have increasingly been found working together to seek the latest American secrets, said Lt. Gen. Tony Hale, the Army's intelligence director.

"The adversary is collecting on us every day, no matter where we are," Hale said. "They're trying to connect virtually with service members, with family members, with Department of War and Department of Army [civilian] employees and with contractors to gain that advantage that they believe will help them win the next fight."

To counter the increasing enemy online activity, the Army has reorganized its counterintelligence community in recent years, standing up Army Counterintelligence Command in 2021 to oversee its 3,000 civilian and uniformed agents, the general said. Those agents have conducted more than 600 national security investigations — including more than 200 currently open cases — since 2021, leading to the arrests of 25 soldiers and former soldiers suspected of espionage.

"The adversary is collecting on us every day, no matter where we are."

Lt. Gen. Tony Hale
Army intelligence director

And the workload is getting larger every year, Hale said.

That led Congress last year to grant the Army's civilian counterintelligence agents new authorities meant to bolster their ability to disrupt foreign intelligence operations aimed at soldiers and Army civilians, Hale said. Those new authorities grant civilian agents the power to conduct searches, execute warrants and make arrests outside of Army posts, where most troops and service civilians live, the general said. He expects his civilian counterintelligence agents to begin using those new off-base authorities by the end of 2025.

Scott Grobatt, the Army counterintelligence special agent in charge for the northeastern region, said soldiers can become entangled with adversary intelligence officials both intentionally and unwittingly. Some are motivated by money provided in exchange for secrets, and others may be tricked into taking fake secondary jobs writing articles that could reveal useful information to foes, he said.



ERIC KAYNE/Stars and Stripes

Army officials warned that adversary intelligence officers were likely present last week at the AUSA conference in Washington, where two massive trade room floors sported the latest weapons technology from top American and allied firms.

Leaders from the squad up through battalion-size units must be plugged in with their troops to identify when something seems amiss, including potential enemy spying activities, said Grobatt, who served as an infantryman before entering the Army intelligence community.

"There's one thing I know after 36 years in the Army, that is problems are identified and solved through the leadership chain," he said. "Squad leaders and team leaders, when you're in the barracks and you hear someone talking about, 'I just got a job to write a white paper about that new piece of technology sitting in the motor pool.' … Intervene, have a conversation, call the [local] counterintelligence agent so we can talk to them."

Army Counterintelligence Command has uncovered several recent cases of soldiers willingly engaging in espionage. A Fort Bliss, Texas-based soldier, Spc. Taylor Lee, was charged in August with the attempted transmission of national defense information to a foreign adversary and attempted export of controlled technical data without a license.

Lee, 22, had sought to provide Russia with sensitive information about the M1A2 Abrams main battle tank, according to the Justice Department.

Last year, Army Sgt. Korbein Schultz, an intelligence analyst from Fort Campbell, Ky., pleaded guilty to six counts of transmitting classified information to a foreign government.

Officials charged Schultz provided a Chinese agent protected information about his unit, about several weapons systems and aircraft, and on U.S. military lessons learned about the Ukraine-Russia war with applications "to Taiwan's defense," in exchange for about $42,000. The 25-year-old received a seven-year prison sentence in April.

Hale and Grobatt warned that adversary intelligence officers were likely even present this week at the AUSA conference, where two massive trade room floors sported the latest weapons technology from top American and allied firms. Army Counterintelligence Command flooded the conference with "dozens of agents," Grobatt said.

"They are here to copy, steal, mimic, reverse-engineer our next generation-lethality that will save our soldiers' lives and win our wars," the special agent said.

Hale said those efforts showed why Army Counterintelligence Command is among the busiest units in the service.

"These guys are the only ones that are engaged with the enemy every freaking day," the general said. "It can be a scary story when you talk about counterintelligence and what the adversaries' capabilities are, but … I would put this team up against any of our adversaries, and we'll get after it."

PACIFIC

Mayor rejects US request to expand joint patrols

By Brian McElhiney and Keishi Koja
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The mayor of Okinawa prefecture's capital city has rejected U.S. military plans to expand joint police patrols into his municipality.

Naha Mayor Satoru Chinen told Marine Corps Installations Pacific commander Maj. Gen. Brian Wolford during an Oct. 10 meeting at city hall that he is not considering patrols between U.S. military police and Japanese authorities, a city spokesman said by phone Friday.

The U.S. military first requested expanding the patrols into Naha during the Okinawa Community Partnership Forum on May 9. Wolford said during an Aug. 18 media roundtable that the Marine Corps was working to bring the initiative to the city.

Installations command spokeswoman 1st Lt. Kelsey Enlow declined to comment on the Oct. 10 meeting via email Friday, citing the ongoing U.S. government shutdown.

Wolford explained to Chinen how the joint patrols have operated since April in Okinawa city, the Naha city spokesman said.

Chinen replied that Naha's "situation is different from Okinawa city" because of its distance from U.S. bases and lack of a comparable nightlife district to Gate 2 Street.

However, he did not rule out allowing solo patrols by U.S. military police, the spokesman said.

"Chinen responded that he would like to consider this while exchanging opinions in the future," the spokesman said. Some Japanese government officials are required to speak to the press on condition of anonymity.

Solo patrols were carried out nightly in Okinawa city between Oct. 10 and Oct. 13, Army Maj. D. Hunter Nix, a spokesman for U.S. Forces Japan, said by email Thursday. Military police arrested 10 service members during those patrols for violating USFJ's liberty order, which has barred off-base drinking between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. since October 2024.

He declined to provide further details on the arrests Friday.

During an Aug. 16 joint patrol, three Marines were arrested and six others detained, according to the Marine Corps. Two service members were arrested during the first solo patrol on Sept. 13, and four more were arrested during the most recent joint patrol on Sept. 27, according to USFJ.

Nix declined to comment on potential charges or future patrol schedules, citing operational security concerns.

"We are constantly examining our patrols and where they can be most effective," he said.

A spokesman for Okinawa city said by phone Friday that joint patrols there will continue monthly.



BRIAN MCELHINEY/Stars and Stripes

U.S. military police detain a service member during a joint patrol of Gate 2 Street in Okinawa city, Okinawa, Sept. 27, 2025.

The joint patrols began April 18 in response to a series of sexual assault allegations involving U.S. service members.

Senior Airman Brennon Washington was convicted last year of kidnapping and sexually assaulting a minor in December 2023. Marine Lance Cpl. Jamel Clayton was convicted in June of strangling and attempting to sexually assault a woman in May 2024. Both convictions are under appeal.

Marine Pfc. Austin Weddington, charged with sexually assaulting a Japanese woman and injuring another on Camp Foster in March, is scheduled to go on trial Nov. 18 in Naha District Court, according to court records. Another case remains pending.

13 tons of ordnance from WWII detonated

By Brian McElhiney and Keishi Koja
Stars and Stripes

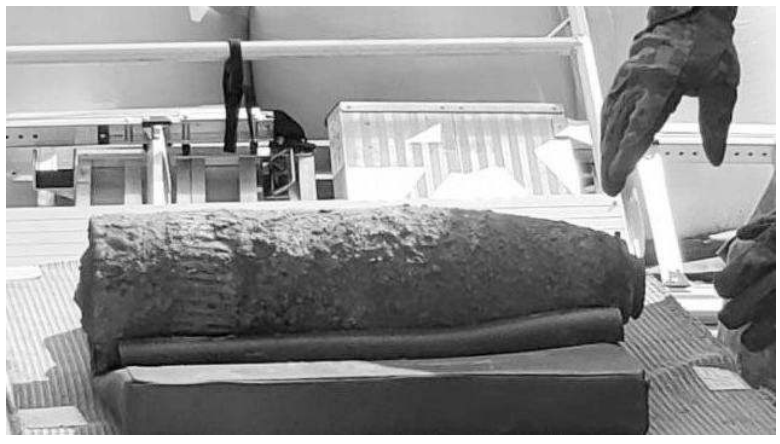
Japan's military disposed of nearly 13 tons of unexploded ordnance on Okinawa between April 2024 and March — a little more than half the amount handled the previous fiscal year, according to government records.

The Unexploded Ordnance Countermeasures Council held its first meeting of fiscal 2025 on Wednesday, according to documents posted to the Okinawa General Bureau's website.

During fiscal 2024, the Japan Self-Defense Force disposed of 33,527 pieces of ordnance, weighing 12.9 tons, found throughout the prefecture in 432 cases. Japan's fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31.

Of those, the Ground Self-Defense Force handled 33,003 pieces in 427 cases, while the Maritime Self-Defense Force took care of 524 pieces in five cases, according to the documents.

Unexploded ordnance from the 1945 Battle of Okinawa continues to turn up across the island prefecture, including at former battlefields and construction sites. Nearly 22 tons of World War II-era ordnance was disposed of between April 2023 and March 2024, according to the general bureau.



Tomigusuku City, Okinawa

The Japan Ground Self-Defense Force defused this U.S.-made 5-inch shell after removing it from a construction site in Tomigusuku city, Okinawa, on Oct. 14.

When discovered, ordnance is typically defused, removed and stored for detonation at a later date.

On Thursday, 18 pieces of ordnance believed to date to WWII were detonated on land at Kubasu Beach on Miyakojima, an island about 190 miles southwest of Okinawa, said a spokeswoman with Miyakojima city's Disaster Prevention and Crisis Management Division.

Seven members of the Ground Self-Defense Force's 101st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit carried out the controlled detonation over 2 ½ hours beginning at 5:39 a.m. Traffic was restricted within a quarter-mile radius, but no homes were evacuated, the spokeswoman said by phone Friday.

The ordnance included two British-made 60-pound rocket bombs; seven U.S.-made 5-inch rockets; one Japanese imperial army 47 mm artillery shell; one U.S. made 20 mm artillery shell; and seven fuses, she said.

On Sept. 27 and 28, 10 members of the same unit detonated another 24 U.S.-made 5-inch rocket bombs and 50 fuses on land in the Miyara district of Ishigaki city, a spokesman with that city's Disaster Prevention and Crisis Management Division said by phone Friday.

The operations began at 9:10 p.m. each night and lasted about 2 ½ hours.

Traffic was restricted roughly 980 feet, but no evacuations were ordered, he said.

S. Korean, US firms to develop advanced short-takeoff drones

By Alex Wilson and Yoojin Lee
Stars and Stripes

South Korea's Hanwha Aerospace is partnering with U.S. manufacturer General Atomics to develop a multi-mission, short-takeoff-and-landing drone the companies call a "game changer," Hanwha said in a Wednesday news release.

The project will produce the Gray Eagle Short Takeoff and Landing unmanned aerial aircraft system, or STOL, a new variant of General Atomics' Gray Eagle, itself an upgraded version of the widely used MQ-1 Predator.

The new drone will offer "unprecedented runway independence, able to launch from warships to dirt fields and everywhere in between" and can be configured for electronic warfare, over-the-horizon targeting, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, according to General Atomics' website.

The joint venture is part of a broader plan to "deliver next-generation, runway-independent UAV solutions," according to Hanwha's news release. The companies plan to invest about $528 million into drone development.

Hanwha and General Atomics signed the agreement Oct. 14 during the Association of the United States Army's annual meeting and exhibition in Washington, D.C. The companies will design and build a demonstrator aircraft, with a first flight planned in 2027 and initial deliveries in 2028, Hanwha said.

Hanwha will supply engines, fuel systems and avionics, while General Atomics will handle final systems integration. Hanwha also plans to establish a production facility in South Korea for manufacturing and final assembly of the Gray Eagle.

General Atomics expects global demand for the drone to reach $10.5 billion over the next decade.

"[General Atomics] and Hanwha are committed to investing in this project and building development and production capabilities in South Korea," David Alexander, president of General Atomics, said in the release. "We'll be leveraging the expertise of both companies to quickly bring the Gray Eagle STOL to global customers."

Spokespeople for Hanwha and General Atomics did not immediately respond to email requests for comment Friday in South Korea.

MILITARY

Reshaping engine repair training

Yokota airman's 3D printing project part of competition

By Juan King
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Tech. Sgt. Tylar Cravens believes he has an idea that could change the way the Air Force trains aircraft maintainers, and he'll soon pitch it to top leaders at the Pentagon.

Cravens, a C-130J Super Hercules engine mechanic with the 373rd Training Squadron, Detachment 15, is one of six airmen selected worldwide to compete in the Air Force Spark Tank finals on Oct. 22.

His project, Star Forge, uses advanced 3D printing to create full-scale composite training engine models, allowing maintainers to practice on realistic equipment without taking aircraft out of service.

"I am trying to prove to the Air Force that we have this advanced manufacturing capability," he said during at Yokota, home of U.S. Forces Japan, 5th Air Force and the 374th Airlift Wing in western Tokyo. "It's something that could potentially revolutionize the way we do hands-on training."

Star Forge aims to fill a critical gap in maintenance instruction. Aircraft maintainers often rely on operational equipment, which can limit training opportunities and drive up costs. Cravens' 3D-printed replicas of engine parts, which cost only $12 to produce, would give maintainers a safer, lower-cost way to build their skills before working on real aircraft.

"I thought, 'Why are we using the same parts and the same equipment that we are going to rely on for tomorrow's mission?' " he said.

Cravens, a 3D printing hobbyist, developed the idea three years ago through YokoWerx, the base's innovation cell. Using his own 3D printer, he produced replica parts to demonstrate the concept. His team — made up of airmen in Japan, the United States and Europe — helped refine it into a full training system.



TYLAR CRAVENS

Tech. Sgt. Tylar Cravens' Star Forge project uses advanced 3D printing to create full-scale training engine models, allowing maintainers to practice on realistic equipment without taking aircraft out of service.

"It's something that could potentially revolutionize the way we do hands-on training."

Tech. Sgt. Tylar Cravens

Cravens has become YokoWerx's "expert as far as additive advanced manufacturing goes," the innovation cell's project manager, Tech. Sgt. Michael Feagin, recently told Stars and Stripes.

Spark Tank, modeled after the TV show "Shark Tank," gives airmen a chance to pitch solutions to operational challenges. Ideas are submitted through the Airmen Powered by Innovation portal, with finalists advancing to a live pitch event before senior Air Force leaders.



JUAN KING/Stars and Stripes

Tech. Sgt. Tylar Cravens, a C-130J Super Hercules engine mechanic with the 373rd Training Squadron, Detachment 15, is one of six airmen selected to compete in the Air Force Spark Tank finals.

The winner of the competition, which Cravens said may be postponed due to the ongoing government shutdown, receives a trophy, support for their ideas from Air Force leadership and global exposure.

"Yokota runs on innovative, empowered, problem-solving Airmen who take intent and turn it into action," 374th Airlift Wing commander Col. Richard McElhaney said Thursday in an email to Stars and Stripes. "I wish Team Yokota the best of luck and look forward to the competition results and continued wins from our Futures Office."

Cravens said his motivation comes from wanting to leave a lasting impact on the maintainer community.

"I have poured out my heart and soul to this project," he said. "We want to leave our airmen fit to fight and leave them with the best training possible."

Officials: Marine's dad deported because of charges

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The father of a Marine who was arrested by immigration authorities when visiting his pregnant daughter at Camp Pendleton has a criminal record that includes charges of domestic violence and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, the Department of Homeland Security said Thursday.

Esteban Rios was deported to Mexico in 1999, removed from the United States again in 2005 and ordered deported by an immigration judge in 2020 after entering the country illegally a third time, the department said.

The statement was the first detailed account that Homeland Security provided since the Marine, Steve Rios, said last week that his father was detained after visiting the Southern California military base, released with ankle monitors and detained again when reporting days later to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office, as ordered.

Homeland Security initially did not provide details when asked several times for information on any criminal record Esteban Rios had, saying only that "criminal illegal aliens are not welcome in the U.S."

Steve Rios of Oceanside told San Diego station KNSD that his parents inspired him to enlist in the Marines. He said they came to the U.S. from Mexico more than 30 years ago and have washed cars and cleaned houses for his whole life.

"It was just making them proud, right? I've seen all the struggles they've gone through," Steve Rios told the station. "The least I could do, right, and serve this country and try to, you know, put some time in."

Steve Rios said he and his parents were picking up his younger sister and her husband, who is also a Marine, at Pendleton on Sept. 28, as they have done that every weekend for the past few months while she is expecting her first child. After stopping at the gate, ICE officials arrived to detain both parents, later releasing them with ankle monitors. He said his father was deported Oct. 10.

The Rios family told the station the parents had no criminal record, had pending green card applications sponsored by Steve and authorization to work.

Dutch join USAF drone program

By Phillip Walter Wellman
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. Air Force initiative to develop advanced drones that can operate alongside manned fighter jets is adding the Netherlands to the mix, a move the Dutch defense ministry said will strengthen trans-Atlantic cooperation.

The NATO ally signed a letter of intent Thursday to participate in the Collaborative Combat Aircraft program, according to a ministry statement the same day.

The initiative aims to develop drones equipped with sensors or weapons to augment operations involving crewed aircraft, extending their reach and combat capabilities, the ministry said.

The Netherlands is one of several NATO partners that operate the F-35 Lightning II, a U.S.-made supersonic stealth fighter with which the drones developed under the Collaborative Combat Aircraft program could integrate, according to the statement.

A prototype the Air Force is developing through the program took flight less than two years after its launch, signaling a major shift in acquisition of new weapons systems, the service said in a statement in late August.

"CCA will help us rethink the battlespace, extend reach, flexibility and lethality in combat operations, and optimize warfighter performance through human-machine teaming," Air Force Chief of Staff David Allvin said at the time.

Air Force Secretary Troy Meink called the rapid turnaround time an example of "what's possible when innovative acquisition meets motivated industry."

The Dutch statement alluded to a potential role in the longer term for universities, research centers and companies in the Netherlands to assist the U.S. in research and development for the program.

The agreement comes amid heightened security concerns in Europe resulting from the Russia-Ukraine war and a string of drone and fighter jet incursions into NATO airspace.

The Netherlands also signed an agreement with American defense company General Atomics to develop surveillance drones.



A YFQ-42A prototype drone in the Air Force's Collaborative Combat Aircraft program takes off during flight testing at a California test location.

MILITARY

GOP reservists, vets urge Dems to end shutdown

27 lawmakers say refusal to pass bill puts families, veterans at risk

BY SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Nearly 30 Republican veterans and reservists serving in the House are calling on Senate Democrats to accept a short-term spending bill to end the government shutdown, citing concerns over troop pay and military readiness.

The 27 lawmakers, who are all either reservists and Guardsmen or former service members, told Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., that Democrats' refusal to vote for the measure was putting military families and veterans at risk.

"Our troops nearly missed paychecks until President Trump took unilateral action to ensure they got paid. Training is still halted. Readiness is collapsing," said Rep. August Pfluger, R-Texas, who led the appeal to Schumer from the conservative Republican Study Committee.

In a letter, members of the group with ties to the military blamed Democrats for a shutdown that has furloughed nearly half of the Pentagon's civilian workforce, limited some Department of Veterans Affairs operations and disrupted drill weekends for members of the reserves and the National Guard.

Schumer and other Democrats have in turn blamed Republicans for crafting a stop-gap spending measure without their input and said they will not vote for it until Republicans agree to an extension of expiring health care subsidies.

Congress remained in a stalemate on Thursday, with the House out of session for a fourth week and the Senate holding a tenth failed vote on a House-passed measure to reopen the government. Senate Democrats on Thursday also blocked the advancement of an annual defense spending bill in protest of the impasse.

The Pentagon on Wednesday was able to cut paychecks for 1.3 million active-duty troops and tens of thousands of National Guard members and reservists on active-duty orders after tapping into $6.5 billion in unused research and development funds.

But the move was a "temporary fix," Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson acknowledged this week, and whether there will be enough money to pay troops on the next pay date of Oct. 31 is unclear.

Lawmakers from both parties have expressed support for passing standalone legislation that would pay troops for the duration of the shutdown, but Republican leaders have resisted bringing the measure to a vote, saying it was incumbent on Senate Democrats to reopen the government.

More than a dozen advocacy groups for military personnel and veterans joined forces on Tuesday to urge Congress to pass the standalone Pay Our Troops Act, describing the shutdown as a "kitchen-table crisis for military families" who live paycheck to paycheck.

Republican veterans and reservists told Schumer it was "unconscionable to wield their paychecks as a political weapon."

"Every military service member and veteran deserves better," they wrote.



U.S. Central Command

Muhammad Pahlawan — captain of this dhow captured by Navy SEALs in 2024 — was sentenced Thursday, to 20 years in prison on a spate of weapons smuggling charges.

Captain of arms-carrying boat in fatal SEAL raid sentenced

BY ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

A Pakistani man will spend four decades in prison for his role in an arms smuggling scheme that turned deadly when two Navy SEALs drowned during a nighttime raid on the boat he was captaining.

Muhammad Pahlawan received a 40-year sentence Thursday from a federal judge in Virginia on various charges related to transportation of Iranian weapons to Houthi militants in Yemen, according to court records.

In January 2024, U.S. Navy forces intercepted the dhow off the coast of Somalia. While trying to board, Chief Petty Officer Christopher Chambers lost his grip and fell into the sea. Petty Officer 1st Class Nathan Gage Ingram jumped into the water to save him but the two were weighed down by equipment and drowned.

Pahlawan was given a 20-year sentence for providing material support or resources to a weapons of mass destruction program of a foreign terrorist power. He also was sentenced to another 20 years on each of three other charges and received 15 years for conspiracy to provide material support or resources to terrorists, court records show.

Those four charges will run concurrently, meaning Pahlawan will serve no more than 40 years total, according to sentencing documents.

The Justice Department did not immediately respond to a request for a statement.

During the raid, Pahlawan instructed his crew not to stop the vessel and to burn it down.

He also told them to lie about the ship's cargo to the boarding team and falsely identify him as a mechanic, according to court records.

The interdiction team subsequently discovered ballistic missile and anti-ship cruise missile parts and a warhead, weapons used by Houthi militants in targeting commercial and military ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden since November 2023.

Pahlawan worked with two Iranian brothers to smuggle materials from Iran to the Houthis, the Justice Department previously said.

The operation included smuggling voyages from about August 2023 to January 2024, during which cargo was transported from Iran to the coast of Somalia and transferred to another vessel.

Pahlawan was sent coordinates by the brothers for the ship-to-ship transfers "and received multiple payments from them for his role in the smuggling operation," prosecutors said.

He was convicted of six federal charges in June. The sentencing report included notes from a telephone conversation with Pahlawan's wife, who characterized him as a family man focused on providing for her and the couple's child.

Ingram in May was posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for his "bravery and selflessness," and both he and Chambers received posthumous promotions.

An investigation released in October 2024 concluded that the deaths of Ingram and Chambers were preventable.

It cited deficiencies in training, policies, tactics and procedures as well as conflicting guidance on when and how to use emergency flotation devices and extra buoyancy material that could have kept them alive, The Associated Press reported at the time.

Air Force Academy board withdraws motions to honor Kirk

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

A board of an organization of U.S. Air Force Academy graduates ended up not voting Friday on whether to bestow slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk with an honorary degree and honorary membership in the academy's alumni association after both motions were withdrawn.

The measures, introduced by a board member, were removed from the board's meeting agenda, the Association of Graduates said in a statement late Friday, based on feedback from people affiliated with the academy on the idea of recognizing Kirk.

Since Wednesday, "several hundred Air Force Academy graduates, parents and family members" contacted the association to "share their perspectives" on the two motions, the statement said.

The board, which serves as the association's governing body, "took the thoughtful feedback received into account," the statement continued, and withdrew the motions concerning Kirk.

"We are grateful to all who have taken the time to reach out by phone and email, and to those who attended" the meeting to share their views."

Retired Lt. Gen. Rod Bishop, a 1974 academy graduate who was elected to the board of directors earlier this year, had proposed the motions to honor Kirk, according to the meeting agenda.

Kirk was fatally shot while speaking at Utah Valley University on Sept. 10.

"Faith, family, so much love for our country and the vision of our Founding Fathers — Charlie had it all," Bishop said in an online post.

Kirk had attended his first Board of Visitors meeting in August, after President Donald Trump appointed him to the group, which advises the academy on curriculum, facilities, academics and other issues.

But some graduates said the move was politically motivated, and argued that Kirk had not done enough for the academy to be included in a group for which only 47 have been chosen for membership since 1981.

NATION

King: GOP leader calls protests 'Hate America rally'

FROM PAGE 1

In Washington, Iraq War Marine veteran Shawn Howard said he had never participated in a protest before but was motivated to show up because of what he sees as the Trump administration's "disregard for the law."

He said immigration detentions without due process and deployments of troops in U.S. cities are "un-American" and alarming signs of eroding democracy.

"I fought for freedom and against this kind of extremism abroad," said Howard, who added that he also worked at the CIA for 20 years on counter-extremism operations. "And now I see a moment in America where we have extremists everywhere who are, in my opinion, pushing us to some kind of civil conflict."

Trump, meanwhile, was spending the weekend at his Mar-a-Lago home in Florida.

"They say they're referring to me as a king. I'm not a king," Trump said in a Fox News interview that aired early Friday, before he departed for a $1 million-per-plate MAGA Inc. fundraiser at his club.

A Trump campaign social media account mocked the protests by posting a computer-generated video of the president clothed like a monarch, wearing a crown and waving from a balcony.

In San Francisco hundreds of people spelled out "No King!" and other phrases with their bodies on Ocean Beach.

Hayley Wingard, who was dressed as the Statue of Liberty, said she too had never been to a protest before. Only recently she began to view Trump as a "dictator."

"I was actually OK with everything until I found that the military invasion in Los Angeles and Chicago and Portland — Portland bothered me the most, because I'm from Portland, and I don't want the military in my cities. That's scary," Wingard said.

Tens of thousands of people gathered in Portland for a peaceful demonstration downtown. Later in the day, tensions grew as a few hundred protesters and counterprotesters showed up at a U.S. Immigration and Customs enforcement building, with federal agents at times firing tear gas to disperse the crowd and city police threatening to make arrests if demonstrators blocked streets.



JENNY KANE/AP

People march across the Morrison Bridge during a "No Kings" protest in Portland, Ore., on Saturday.



MATTHEW MUELLER/AP

Demonstrators hold up signs during a "No Kings" protest at Turner Park in Omaha, Neb., on Saturday.

The building has been the site of mostly small nightly protests since June — the reason the Trump administration has cited for trying to deploy National Guard troops in Portland, which a federal judge has at least temporarily blocked.

About 3,500 people gathered in Salt Lake City outside the Utah State Capitol to share messages of hope and healing after a protester was fatally shot during the city's first "No Kings" march in June.

And more than 1,500 people gathered in Birmingham, Ala., evoking the city's history of protests and the critical role it played in the Civil Rights Movement two generations ago.

"Big rallies like this give confidence to people who have been sitting on the sidelines but are ready to speak up," Democratic U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy said.

While protests earlier this year — against Elon Musk's cuts and Trump's military parade — drew crowds, organizers say this one is uniting the opposition. Top Democrats such as Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders are joining what organizers view as an antidote to Trump's actions, from the administration's clampdown on free speech to its military-style immigration raids.

More than 2,600 rallies were planned Saturday, organizers said. The national march against Trump and Musk this spring had 1,300 registered locations, while the first "No Kings" day in June registered 2,100.

"We're here because we love America," Sanders said, addressing the crowd from a stage in Washington. He said the American experiment is "in danger" under Trump but insisted, "We the people will rule."

Republicans sought to portray protesters as far outside the mainstream and a prime reason for the government shutdown, now in its 18th day.

From the White House to Capitol Hill, GOP leaders called them "communists" and "Marxists." They said Democratic leaders including Schumer are beholden to the far-left flank and willing to keep the government shut to appease those liberal forces.

"I encourage you to watch — we call it the Hate America rally — that will happen Saturday," said House Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana.

"Let's see who shows up for that," Johnson said, listing groups including "antifa types," people who "hate capitalism" and "Marxists in full display."

Democrats have refused to vote on legislation that would reopen the government as they demand funding for health care.

Republicans say they are willing to discuss the issue later, only after the government reopens.

The situation is a potential turnaround from just six months ago, when Democrats and their allies were divided and despondent. Schumer in particular was berated by his party for allowing an earlier government funding bill to sail through the Senate without using it to challenge Trump.

"What we are seeing from the Democrats is some spine," said Ezra Levin, a co-founder of Indivisible, a key organizing group. "The worst thing the Democrats could do right now is surrender."

Trump commutes fraud sentence of ex-Rep. George Santos

Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Donald Trump said Friday he had commuted the sentence of former U.S. Rep. George Santos, who is serving more than seven years in federal prison after pleading guilty to fraud and identity theft charges.

The New York Republican was sentenced in April after admitting last year to deceiving donors and stealing the identities of 11 people to make donations to his campaign.

He reported to the Federal Correctional Institution in Fairton, in southern New Jersey, on July 25 and is being housed in a minimum security prison with fewer than 50 other inmates.



Santos

"George Santos was somewhat of a 'rogue,' but there are many rogues throughout our Country that aren't forced to serve seven years in prison," Trump posted on his social media platform. He said he had "just signed a Commutation, releasing George Santos from prison, IMMEDIATELY."

After becoming the first openly gay Republican elected to Congress in 2022, Santos served less than a year after it was revealed that he had fabricated much of his life story.

Santos was charged in 2023 with stealing from donors and his campaign, fraudulently collecting unemployment benefits and lying to Congress about his wealth.

Within months, he was expelled from the U.S. House of Representatives — with 105 Republicans joining with Democrats to make Santos just the sixth member in the chamber's history to be ousted by colleagues..

Santos pleaded guilty as he was set to stand trial.

Santos' clemency appears to clear not just his prison term but also any "further fines, restitution, probation, supervised release, or other conditions," according to a copy of Trump's order.

As part of his guilty plea, Santos had agreed to pay restitution of $373,750 and forfeiture of $205,003.

In explaining his reason for granting Santos clemency, Trump said the lies Santos told about himself were no worse than misleading statements U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal — a Democrat and frequent critic of the administration — had made about his military record.

NATION

New FEMA rules put disaster response at risk

Associated Press

State crisis managers say severe cuts to federal security grants, restrictions on money intended for preparedness and funding delays tied to litigation are posing a growing risk to their ability to respond to emergencies.

It's all causing confusion, frustration and concern. The federal government shutdown isn't helping.

"Every day we remain in this grant purgatory reduces the time available to responsibly and effectively spend these critical funds," said Kiele Amundson, communications director at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

The uncertainty has led some emergency management agencies to hold off on filling vacant positions and make rushed decisions on important training and purchases.

Experts say the developments complicate state-led emergency efforts, undermining the Republican administration's stated goals of shifting more responsibility to states and local governments for disaster response.

In an emailed statement, the Department of Homeland Security said the new requirements were necessary because of "recent population shifts" and that changes to security grants were made "to be responsive to new and urgent threats facing our nation."

Several DHS and FEMA grants help states, tribes and territories prepare for climate disasters and deter a variety of threats. The money pays for salaries, training and equipment such as vehicles, communications equipment and software.

State emergency managers say that money has become increasingly important because the range of threats they must prepare for is expanding, including pandemics and cyberattacks.

FEMA, a part of DHS, divided a $320 million Emergency Management Performance Grant among states on Sept. 29. But the next day, it told states the money was on hold until they submitted new population counts.

The directive demanded that they omit people "removed from the State pursuant to the immigration laws of the United States" and to explain their methodology.

Experts said delays caused by the request could most affect local governments and agencies that receive grant money passed down by states because their budgets and staffs are smaller.

At the same time, FEMA also reduced the time frame that recipients have to spend the money, from three years to one. That could prevent agencies from taking on longer-term projects.

Bryan Koon, president and CEO of the consulting firm IEM and a former Florida emergency management chief, said state governments and local agencies need time to adjust their budgets to any kind of changes.

"An interruption in those services could place American lives in jeopardy," he said.

In another move that has caused uncertainty, FEMA in September drastically cut some states' allocations from another source of funding.

The $1 billion Homeland Security Grant Program is supposed to be based on assessed risks, and states pass most of the money to police and fire departments.

The National Emergency Management Association said the grants are meant to be distributed based on risk and that it "remains unclear what risk methodology was used" to determine the new funding allocation.



JOSEPH MOON/AP

Sgt. Mary Miller, a helicopter crew chief, passes a bottle of water to a child while evacuating displaced people from Kwigillingok, Alaska, during recovery operations on Thursday.

Alaska storm damage will force many from homes for 18 months

BY MARK THIESSEN AND GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Damage to remote Alaska villages hammered by flooding last weekend is so extreme that many of the more than 2,000 people displaced won't be able to return to their homes for at least 18 months, Gov. Mike Dunleavy said in a request to the White House for a major disaster declaration.

In one of the hardest hit villages, Kipnuk, an initial assessment showed that 121 homes — 90% of the total — have been destroyed, Dunleavy wrote. In Kwigillingok slightly more than one-third of the residences are uninhabitable.

The remnants of Typhoon Halong struck the area with the ferocity of a Category 2 hurricane, Dunleavy said, sending a surge of high surf into the low-lying region. One person was killed, two remain missing and rescue crews plucked dozens of people from their homes as they floated away.

Officials have been scrambling to airlift people from the inundated Alaska Native villages. More than 2,000 people across the region have taken shelter — in schools in their villages, in larger communities in southwest Alaska — or have been evacuated by military planes to Anchorage, the state's largest city.

Anchorage leaders said Friday they expect as many as 1,600 evacuees to arrive. So far about 575 have been airlifted to the city by the Alaska National Guard and have been staying at a sports arena or a convention center.

Officials are working on figuring out how to move people out of shelters and into short-term accommodations, such as hotels, and then longer-term housing.

"Due to the time, space, distance, geography and weather in the affected areas, it is likely that many survivors will be unable to return to their communities this winter," Dunleavy said. "Agencies are prioritizing rapid repairs ... but it is likely that some damaged communities will not be viable to support winter occupancy in America's harshest climate in the U.S. Arctic."

The federal government already has been assisting with search and rescue, damage assessments, environmental response and evacuation support. A major disaster declaration by President Donald Trump could provide federal assistance programs for individuals and public infrastructure, including money for emergency and permanent work.

The three members of Alaska's congressional delegation sent a letter to Trump, urging approval.

The storm surge pummeled a sparsely populated region off the state's main road system where communities are reachable only by air or water this time of year. The villages typically have just a few hundred residents, who hunt and fish for much of their food, and relocating to the state's major cities will bring a vastly different lifestyle.

"Our neighbors in western Alaska have experienced tremendous loss, devastation and grief," Mayor Suzanne LaFrance said at a meeting of the Anchorage Assembly. "We will do everything we can here in Anchorage to welcome our neighbors and help them through these difficult times."

White House joins Bluesky, immediately trolls opponents

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House on Friday joined Bluesky, the social media platform of choice of many in the left-leaning online world.

In its inaugural post, the White House account offered a sizzle reel of the administration's memes, trolls and messages from President Donald Trump's nine months since returning to office.

The post appeared aimed at tweaking liberals who aren't fans of the Republican president.

The first post included mentions of the administration's executive order renaming the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America, a doctored image of Democratic House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries adorned in a sombrero with a faux mustache and stream of photos and video from other big moments from throughout the beginning of Trump's second term in office.

"What's up, Bluesky?" the White House said in a message accompanying the video. "We thought you might've missed some of our greatest hits, so we put this together for you. Can't wait to spend more quality time together!"

Disgruntled X users began flocking to Bluesky after billionaire Elon Musk took over Twitter (now known as X) in 2022, and the platform reported a surge in new users late last year.

It remains small compared to more established online spaces such as X, but it has emerged as an alternative for those looking for a different mood and an alternative to other platforms.

The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Homeland Security also launched Bluesky accounts Friday.

Vice President JD Vance joined Bluesky back in June.

Trump's social media platform of choice is Truth Social.

Trump is the biggest shareholder in Trump Media & Technology Group, the company that owns Truth Social.

NATION



MICHAEL NAGLE/Bloomberg

Travelers at Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, N.J., on Oct. 6.

Government stalemate puts focus back on cracks in aviation system

BY RIO YAMAT
Associated Press

A startling message came over the radio from an air traffic control tower near Los Angeles less than a week into the federal government shutdown: "The tower is closed due to staffing."

Without enough air traffic controllers to guide planes into and out of Hollywood Burbank Airport, the tower went dark for almost six hours on Oct. 6, leaving pilots to coordinate their movements among themselves. Flight delays averaged two-and-a-half hours in one of the first visible signs that the shutdown was already taking a toll on the nation's aviation system.

Since the shutdown began Oct. 1, the Federal Aviation Administration has reported controller shortages in cities across the U.S., from airports in Boston and Philadelphia, to control centers in Atlanta and Houston. Flight delays have spread to airports in Nashville, Dallas, Newark and more.

And already there has been an increase in unscheduled absences among security screeners at some airports. The union representing Transportation Security Administration employees says the absences haven't yet caused major disruptions, but it warned longer lines at security checkpoints could soon become a reality after workers received their final paychecks over the weekend.

Experts and union leaders say the disruptions are a stark reminder that the aviation system is already stretched too thin by chronic understaffing and outdated technology. They warn the cracks in the system could rapidly deepen the longer the shutdown drags on and critical aviation workers are without their regular paychecks.

"It's like having a drought the year after you had a drought," Greg Raiff, CEO of Elevate Aviation Group, told The Associated Press.

Problems for years

These concerns aren't new. In 2019, the aviation system buckled under the weight of a 35-day government shutdown — the longest in U.S. history — during President Donald Trump's first term.

Around the three-week mark, air traffic controllers, many of them working up to 60 hours a week, sued the government over their missed paychecks. One terminal at the Miami International Airport was forced to close because security screeners were calling out sick in large numbers. Some even quit altogether.

"Here we are so many years later, and the problems have not been addressed," said aviation attorney Ricardo Martinez-Cid, a Florida Bar-certified expert on aviation law who regularly represents crash victims. "Now we're in a worse position when we had been put on notice. We had the opportunity to address it."

Since then, the country has faced repeated warnings. In January, a mid-air crash over the Potomac River involving a commercial jet and a military helicopter killed 67 people. A series of equipment failures and radar outages this year also highlighted the need for upgrades.

Controller shortage

Before the latest shutdown, both the FAA and TSA were already dealing with staffing shortages. That includes a shortage of about 3,000 air traffic controllers.

Nick Daniels, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, has said staffing levels have reached a "critical" point, the lowest in decades.

The shortage is so severe that even a few air traffic controllers missing work can disrupt operations at already understaffed facilities.

"And on top of that," he said, "they're working with unreliable equipment."

The shutdown began just as the FAA was starting to make some progress on addressing the shortage of controllers and modernizing the outdated equipment they rely on that keeps disrupting flights when it malfunctions.

Now, the shutdown is delaying those long-needed efforts. And union leaders say the staffing shortages may be worse by the time the government reopens.

Gaps in staffing

Johnny Jones, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Government Employees chapter representing TSA workers, expressed concern that the shutdown could drive even more security screeners to leave the agency, especially given the uncertainty that the workers already have faced this year. That includes the Trump administration's attempts to revoke their collective bargaining rights.

Daniels, meanwhile, warned it could stoke fear among newer controllers and trainees who might reconsider the career entirely to avoid working in future shutdowns.

Food aid safe but still at risk amid shutdown

BY GEOFF MULVIHILL AND MORGAN LEE
Associated Press

A federal program that provides food assistance to 40 million low-income people could be at risk in November if the government shutdown isn't resolved by then.

And in at least some places, new applications for the program are not being approved.

But there's still a lot of uncertainty about the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, known as SNAP or food stamps, a vestige of a previous incarnation of food aid.

Here's a look at where things stand.

SNAP is a major piece of the nation's social safety net, touching nearly 1 in 8 people in the country each month. They receive benefits on prepaid cards that they can use for groceries.

The other big pieces of the safety net — Social Security and Medicaid — are expected to continue paying benefits during the shutdown.

But because of the way it's funded, SNAP is vulnerable.

In the accounting year that ended on Sept. 30, 2024, SNAP cost just over $100 billion, including the half of state administrative costs covered by federal taxpayers. It provided an average of $187 a month to 41.7 million people.

When the government shut down on Oct. 1 amid a congressional budget impasse, a few things were clear about SNAP.

One was that benefits would continue through October.

The other was that it was unclear after that.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees the program, sent letters on Oct. 10 to the state agencies that administer it telling them not to send certain files to the contractors that would clear the way for the EBT cards to be loaded at the start of November.

Different states send that information at different points in the month.

Carolyn Vega, the associate director of policy analysis at Share Our Strength, an anti-poverty advocacy group, said that pausing sending the information now doesn't mean that cards can't be loaded next month, with or without resumption of government operations.

But it's not good news, either. "The question marks are trending in a bad direction for November," she said.

A budget agreement that ends the shutdown would also restore SNAP funding.

Short of that, Vega said, it's possible state or federal governments could free up money to bridge the gap. She said that in a 2015 shutdown, similar warnings were released and then reversed.

But because of the amount of money involved, she noted, that's a challenge. General SNAP costs far more, for instance, than the Special Supplemental Nutritional Program for Women, Infants and Children that helps 6 million low-income mothers, young children and expectant parents to purchase nutritional staples. President Donald Trump's administration has shored up that program — for now — with $300 million.

Doing the same for the bigger program could cost about $8 billion a month.



ALLISON DINNER/AP

A California's SNAP benefits shopper pushes a cart through a supermarket in Bellflower, Calif.

NATION

Obesity drops slightly first time in a decade

BY JONEL ALECCIA
Associated Press

For the first time in more than a decade, the number of states with rates of obesity of 35% or more has dropped, an encouraging sign that America's epidemic of excess weight might be improving.

But cuts to federal staff and programs that address chronic disease could endanger that progress, according to a new report released Thursday.

Nineteen states had obesity rates of 35% or higher in 2024, down from 23 states the year before, according to an analysis of the latest data collected by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The data from the CDC was analyzed independently by the nonprofit group Trust for America's Health.

The group's analysis follows a CDC report last year that found that the overall rate of obesity in the U.S. is high but holding steady, affecting about 40% of the population.

While the decline is positive, "it's too soon to call it a trend," said Dr. J. Nadine Gracia, president and chief executive for TFAH.

And with recent federal funding cuts, staff layoffs and eliminated programs, "this potential progress is also at risk," Gracia said.

A U.S. Health and Human Services Department spokesman said in an email responding to questions from the Associated Press that the administration is "encouraged by the new data showing progress in the fight against obesity."

"We are restructuring public health programs to eliminate waste, reduce bureaucracy, and redirect resources toward real prevention," said spokesman Andrew Nixon.

The latest report analyzed data from the CDC's 2024 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, which uses annual telephone surveys to collect data on health behaviors and chronic conditions in U.S. states and territories.

The report showed that 19 states had obesity rates among adults of 35% or higher, 22 states had rates between 30% and 35% and nine states had obesity rates of below 30%.

The rates varied from a low of 25% in Colorado to a high of more than 40% in West Virginia.

Between 2023 and 2024, no state had statistically significant increases or decreases in their obesity rates, after 18 states saw significant increases in the previous five years, the report found.

Before 2013, no state had an adult obesity prevalence at or above 35%.

By 2019, a dozen states had rates that high — and the number continued to climb.

In adults, obesity is defined as having a body mass index of 30 or higher.

Body mass index is a calculation based on height and weight.

Obesity is a chronic disease that is linked to a whole host of serious health problems including diabetes, stroke, cancer and heart disease.

It's not clear exactly what may be driving the apparent improvements in obesity throughout some states.

Wider use of drugs such as Wegovy and Zepbound — which target appetite and slow digestion — could be starting to show up in reported data, said Aviva Musicus, a science director for the Center for Science in the Public Interest, an advocacy group.

Increased support for nutrition assistance programs during the COVID-19 pandemic might also be a factor, she suggested.

Scientists hope underwater cables can help save orcas

BY ANNIKA HAMMERSCHLAG
Associated Press

SAN JUAN ISLAND, Wash. — As dawn broke over San Juan Island, a team of scientists stood on the deck of a barge and unspooled over a mile of fiber-optic cable into the frigid waters of the Salish Sea. Working by headlamp, they fed the line from the rocky shore down to the seafloor — home to the region's orcas.

The bet is that the same hair-thin strands that carry internet signals can be transformed into a continuous underwater microphone to capture the clicks, calls and whistles of passing whales — information that could reveal how they respond to ship traffic, food scarcity and climate change. If the experiment works, the thousands of miles of fiber-optic cables that already crisscross the ocean floor could be turned into a vast listening network that could inform conservation efforts worldwide.

The technology, called Distributed Acoustic Sensing, or DAS, was developed to monitor pipelines and detect infrastructure problems.

Now University of Washington scientists are adapting it to listen to the ocean.

Unlike traditional hydrophones that listen from a single spot, DAS turns the entire cable into a sensor, allowing it to pinpoint the exact location of an animal and determine the direction it's heading.

"We can imagine that we have thousands of hydrophones along the cable recording data continuously," said Shima Abadi, professor at the University of Washington Bothell School of STEM and the University of Washington School of Oceanography. "We can know where the animals are and learn about their migration patterns much better than hydrophones."



An orca swims past a whale watching boat in the San Juan Islands.



PHOTOS BY ANNIKA HAMMERSCHLAG/AP

Researchers from the University of Washington deploy a 1.3-mile fiber-optic cable to test whether internet cables can detect endangered orca vocalizations near San Juan Island, Wash.

The researchers have already proven the technology works with large baleen whales. In a test off the Oregon coast, they recorded the low-frequency rumblings of fin whales and blue whales using existing telecommunications cables.

But orcas present a bigger challenge: Their clicks and calls operate at high frequencies at which the technology hasn't yet been tested.

The stakes are high. The Southern Resident orcas that frequent the Salish Sea are endangered, with a population hovering around 75. The whales face a triple threat: underwater noise pollution, toxic contaminants and food scarcity.

"We have an endangered killer whale trying to eat an endangered salmon species," said Scott Veirs, president of Beam Reach Marine Science and Sustainability, an organization that develops open-source acoustic systems for whale conservation.

The Chinook salmon that orcas depend on have declined dramatically. Since the Pacific Salmon Commission began tracking numbers in 1984, populations have dropped 60% due to habitat loss, overfishing, dams and climate change.

Orcas use echolocation — rapid clicks that bounce off objects — to find salmon in murky water. Ship noise can mask those clicks, making it difficult for them to hunt.

If DAS works as hoped, it could give conservationists real-time information to protect the whales. For instance, if the system detects orcas heading south toward Seattle and calculates their travel speed, scientists could alert Washington State Ferries to postpone noisy activities or to slow down until the whales pass.

The technology would also answer basic questions about orca behavior that have eluded scientists, such as determining whether their communication changes when they're in different behavioral states and how they hunt together. It could even enable researchers to identify which sound is coming from a particular whale — a kind of voice recognition for orcas.

The implications extend far beyond the Salish Sea. With some 870,000 miles of fiber-optic cables already installed underwater globally, the infrastructure for ocean monitoring largely exists. It just needs to be tapped.

"One of the most important challenges for managing wildlife, conserving biodiversity and combating climate change is that there's just a lack of data overall," said Yuta Masuda, director of science at Allen Family Philanthropies, which helped fund the project.

The timing is critical. The High Seas Treaty enters into force in January, which will allow for new marine protected areas in international waters.

But scientists still don't understand how human activities affect most ocean species or where protections are most needed. A dataset as vast as the one the global web of submarine cables could provide might help determine which areas should be prioritized for protection.

"We think this has a lot of promise to fill in those key data gaps," Masuda said.

WORLD

Israel halts aid to Gaza amid fighting

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The fragile ceasefire in Gaza faced its first major test Sunday as an Israeli security official said the transfer of aid into the territory was halted "until further notice" after a Hamas ceasefire violation, and Israeli forces launched a wave of strikes.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity pending a formal announcement on the halt in aid, a little over a week since the start of the U.S.-proposed ceasefire aimed at ending two years of war.

Israel's military earlier Sunday said its troops came under fire from Hamas militants in southern Gaza, and later said two soldiers were killed there.

Israel's military said then it struck dozens of what it called Hamas targets. Health officials said at least 29 Palestinians were killed across Gaza, including children.

A senior Egyptian official involved in the ceasefire negotiations said "round-the-clock" contacts were underway to deescalate the situation. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to reporters.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu directed the military to take "strong action" against any ceasefire violations but didn't threaten to return to war.

Israel's military said militants had fired at troops in areas of Rafah city that are Israeli-controlled according to agreed-upon ceasefire lines.



ABDEL KAREEM HANA/AP

Members of the Hamas militant group search underground for the bodies of Israeli hostages amid destroyed buildings in Khan Younis, in Gaza on Sunday.

Hamas, which continued to accuse Israel of multiple ceasefire violations, said communication with its remaining units in Rafah had been cut off for months and "we are not responsible for any incidents occurring in those areas."

An Israeli airstrike on a makeshift coffeehouse in Zawaida town in central Gaza killed at least six Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, part of the Hamas-run government.

Another strike killed at least two people near the Al-Ahly soccer club in the Nuseirat refugee camp, the ministry said. The strike hit a tent and wounded eight others, said Al-Awda Hospital, which received the casualties.

Putin: Leaders plan to meet in Hungary

FROM PAGE 1

Instead of new support for Ukraine or sanctions on Russia, Trump announced a new summit with Putin — a bonus for the Russian leader — "to see if we can bring this 'inglorious' War, between Russia and Ukraine, to an end."

There was no talk of Russia curtailing its ongoing bombardment of Ukraine's energy infrastructure ahead of winter.

In a similar fashion, after the Trump-Putin summit in Alaska in August, Trump abandoned pressure on Russia to agree to a ceasefire, and Moscow intensified its attacks even as Putin ignored U.S. urgings to meet Zelenskyy.

But Trump did this time urge Russia and Ukraine to stop fighting at their current positions to settle the war — a proposal that Zelenskyy said he accepted as a starting point for further talks. It is unclear whether Putin is ready to accept.

Trump shrugged off concerns Friday that Putin was again trying to buy more time.

He was concerned about it, "but you know, I've been played all my life by the best of them, and I came out really well," he said, adding it was "all right" if it took a little time. "But I think that I'm pretty good at this stuff."

He blamed the continuing fighting not on Putin's refusal to offer concessions but on "bad blood" between the Russian and Ukrainian leaders, apparently blaming both sides for the "hatred of each other."

"They have tremendous bad blood. It really is what is holding up I think a settlement," he said Friday.

It remains unclear what proposals Putin may have made to convince Trump that he could achieve a peace breakthrough by meeting the Russian leader in Budapest. Trump offered no clues when he took media questions with Zelenskyy in the White House on Friday, simply stating his belief that "I think President Putin wants to end the war," a mantra he has repeated for months as Putin dragged his feet.

On Friday, Putin told Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who will host the summit in approximately two weeks, that U.S. and Russian representatives will now "discuss the algorithm for further action in the context of finding ways to peacefully resolve the Ukrainian crisis" — a formula that did not appear to convey hopes for a rapid solution.

The Kremlin's wording also did not suggest a significant new shift in Russia's position, echoing a stance that Moscow has repeatedly adopted that the situation is highly complex and cannot be quickly resolved, even as it rules out a ceasefire so that fighting can continue.

"Zelensky's tour summed up in one sentence: Putin outmaneuvered everyone again," wrote Kremlin pool journalist Dmitry Smirnov on Telegram. His comment was reposted by Kirill Dmitriev, the head of Russia's sovereign wealth fund, who has been one of the main points of contact with the Trump administration.

Putin's "new scenario" to resolve the war was "a face-to-face meeting in Budapest, without the small fry getting in the way," said the post, once more underscoring Putin's strategy of deflecting calls for a meeting with Zelenskyy, and his view that conflicts and spheres of influence should be sorted out by world leaders, without the input of smaller states.

European leaders and Ukraine have warned that Putin does not appear to be serious about a just peace deal and have called for tougher U.S. pressure on Putin and more military support for Ukraine, to increase the costs of the war and convince Putin to halt attacks.

But since Trump's reelection, Putin has used a toolbox of tactics to bend Trump to his will, employing moments of drama, delaying tactics, bluster, false narratives, boasts that Russia is winning the war, and above all flattery.

In Thursday's call, Putin also told Trump that the Tomahawks would damage U.S.-Russian relations, dash any chance of a peace deal and make little difference on the battlefield, according to Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov — points that Trump appeared to take to heart.

Afterward, in addition to expressing skepticism on the cruise missiles, Trump once more suggested it was not a good time for tougher sanctions, even as Trump ally Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., push forward with a bill to strengthen U.S. sanctions against Russia and buyers of its energy.

"I'm not against anything. I'm just saying, it may not be perfect timing, but it could happen in a week or two. But it's at my option," Trump told reporters after speaking to Putin.

STARS AND STRIPES
SERVICE DIRECTORY
The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market

Transportation 944

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking *(U.S. & Europe)*
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance *(Germany only)*

For Further Information Please Contact

	GERMANY	UNITED KINGDOM	U.S.A
Phone:	+49-(0)6134-2592730	+44-(0)1638-515714	+1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701
Toll-free:	0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)		+1-800-264-8167 (US only)
E-Mail:	info@transglobal-logistics.de	enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk	info@tgal.us
WEB:	www.transglobal-logistics.de	www.carshipuk.co.uk	www.tgal.us

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations

TransGlobal LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH



Are you in the picture?



Reading **Stars and Stripes** gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES
However you read us, wherever you need us.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Sales of affordable state-branded insulin sets

CA LOS ANGELES — Gov. Gavin Newsom said Thursday that California will begin selling affordable insulin under its own label on Jan. 1, nearly three years after he first announced a partnership to sell state-branded generic drugs at lower prices.

But California won't be the only state making lower-cost insulin available. The nonprofit Civica said it will also distribute its economical diabetes medication to pharmacies nationwide. California began partnering with Civica in 2023 for its "CalRx" brand of insulin and put $50 million toward its development, the company said.

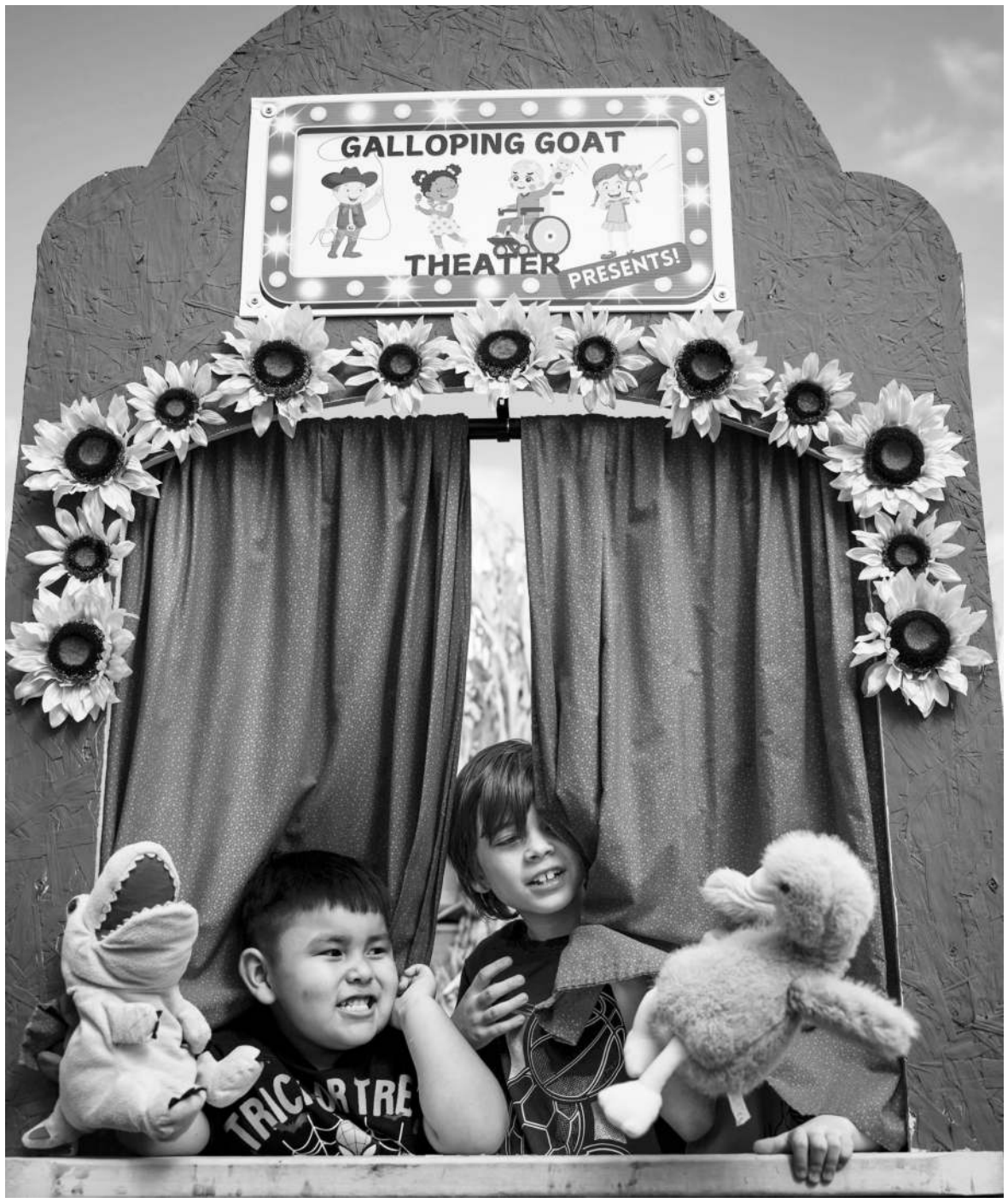
Starting in the new year, insulin pens will be available at a recommended price of $11 per pen, or a maximum of $55 for a five-pack, Civica said.

9 arrested in connection with mass shooting

MS LELAND — Nine people have now been arrested in connection with a mass shooting in the Mississippi Delta town of Leland that left six people dead, an FBI special agent said Thursday.

Robert Eikhoff, special agent in charge of the FBI's Jackson Field Office, appeared at briefing but gave no additional details of the new arrests or charges those people face. Authorities had earlier said five people were in custody.

Several suspects have been charged with capital murder in the Oct. 10 shooting that left more than a dozen people injured in addition to the six killed.



CHANCEY BUSH, THE ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL/AP

Puppets and pumpkins

Korbyn Baca, 4, left, Vincent Hardy, 8, center, and Winston Hardy, 6, play with puppets at the Galloping Goat Theater at the Galloping Goat Pumpkin Patch in Rio Rancho, N.M.

Father accused of murder running for sheriff

AR LITTLE ROCK— An Arkansas father accused of killing his daughter's alleged abuser is running for sheriff while awaiting his murder trial, saying he has seen the failures of law enforcement in his rural county.

Aaron Spencer, an Army veteran and farmer, announced his candidacy this month in Lonoke County a year after authorities said he shot and killed a man who had been out on bond after being charged with numerous sexual offenses against his underage daughter.

Spencer has pleaded not guilty and is out on bond while awaiting a trial set for early next year. His attorneys do not deny that their client shot and killed Michael Fosler, 67, but maintain he acted within the law to protect his child from a predator.

The primary election in Arkansas is next March, with the general election in November 2026. He is not yet officially on the ballot since candidate filings begin next month.

"Many of you know my story," Spencer said in a video announcing his candidacy. "I'm the father who acted to protect his daughter when the system failed. And through my own fight for justice, I have seen firsthand the failures in law enforcement and in our circuit court, and I refuse to stand by while others face these same failures."

He said he will run as a Republican to replace Lonoke County's Republican Sheriff John Staley, whose department arrested Spencer in October 2024. Staley, a three-term incumbent, did not return a message seeking comment.

NYC sues over grant cuts linked to trans policies

NY NEW YORK — New York City schools sued federal education officials Thursday over a decision to discontinue $47 million in promised grants because of the schools' guidelines supporting transgender students.

City officials said the federal agency led by Education Secretary Linda McMahon cut funding without the required notice or hearing after deciding that policies letting transgender students play sports and use bathrooms matching their gender identity violate Title IX, which forbids discrimination based on sex in education.

The Education Department, in a September letter, set a deadline for New York City Public Schools to change the policies or lose current and future funding for 19 specialty magnet schools.

The existing policies mean "male students who identify as female or transgender are given unqualified access to female intimate spaces," Craig Trainor, the acting assistant secretary for civil rights, said in a letter.

Gun-owning teen sues officials for truck search

NH CONCORD — A New Hampshire teenager sued his former high school principal and others Thursday, alleging they illegally searched his truck based solely on his status as a gun owner.

Jack Harrington, 18, graduated from Hillsboro-Deering High School in June, about two months after he said he was harassed and interrogated by school officials who subsequently found nothing when they searched his truck in the school parking lot. His lawsuit against the superintendent, principal, vice principal and school resource officer was filed in U.S. District Court by the Second Amendment Foundation.

According to the suit, Harrington told another student that he had been pulled over by police while driving off campus and had informed the officer that his handgun was lawfully stored in the glove box. Weeks later, on April 24, school officials asked him about that conversation, confirmed he owned a gun and began to "badger" him about searching his truck. State law prohibits students from bringing firearms onto school property.

Courts have found that school officials can conduct such searches if they have a reasonable suspicion that a crime has been committed, but Harrington's attorneys argue that knowledge of gun ownership alone falls far short of that standard.

Shooting suspects face terrorism-related charges

TX DALLAS — Two people arrested in a July shooting outside an immigration detention center in Texas are facing new charges that follow President Donald Trump's order last month to designate a decentralized movement known as antifa as a domestic terrorist organization.

Autumn Hill and Zachary Evetts were indicted Wednesday by a federal grand jury in Fort Worth on charges that include providing material support to terrorists and attempting to murder officers and employees of the U.S. government. Federal prosecutors accuse them of being members of an antifa cell that planned the shooting.

Hill and Evetts were already among 11 people facing attempted murder charges related to the July 4 shooting outside the Prairieland Detention Center in Alvarado, southwest of Dallas, that injured a police officer.

In a post on X on Thursday about the new charges, Attorney General Pam Bondi called antifa "a left-wing terrorist organization," and said, "they will be prosecuted as such."

Short for "anti-fascists," antifa is not a single organization but rather an umbrella term for far-left-leaning militant groups that confront or resist neo-Nazis and white supremacists at demonstrations.

US rejects bid to lease coal from public lands

UT SALT LAKE CITY — U.S. officials rejected a mining company's bid for more than 6 million tons of coal beneath a national forest in Utah, marking the third proposed coal sale from public lands in the West to fall through this month, the Interior Department disclosed Thursday.

The failed sales mark a setback in Republican President Donald Trump's push to revive a coal mining industry that's been in decline for almost two decades. Emissions from burning coal are a leading driver of climate change that's raising sea levels and making weather more extreme.

The Interior Department rejected the sole bid it received for two tracts of federal coal on the Manti-La Sal National Forest because it did not meet the requirements of the Mineral Leasing Act, agency spokesperson Alyse Sharpe said. The leasing act requires companies to pay fair market value for coal mined on public lands. Sharpe declined to say how much was bid.

From The Associated Press

FACES

Stealing the show

‘Challengers’ star Josh O’Connor in 4 films this fall, including ‘The Mastermind’ and ‘Knives Out’ sequel

BY JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

The first thing Kelly Reichardt saw Josh O’Connor in was his 2017 breakthrough film, “God’s Own Country,” in which he played the sheep farmer Johnny Saxby.

“The next thing I knew of him was ‘The Crown,’ but I didn’t really realize it was the same actor. Then I got hip to that,” Reichardt says. “I thought he had a kind of timeless face.”

This fall, that face is everywhere. O’Connor stars in four films, including the New England romance “The History of Sound,” with Paul Mescal; “Rebuilding,” in which he plays a Colorado rancher whose home is taken by wildfires; Rian Johnson’s whodunit “Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery”; and Reichardt’s “The Mastermind,” a 1970-set heist movie.

It’s a convergence of wide-ranging movies that showcase O’Connor’s rangy talent and innate, scruffy soulfulness. If “La Chimera” or “Challengers” didn’t already convince you, this season should be a veritable onslaught of O’Connor’s loose leading-man magnetism. Even among the star-studded ensemble of “Wake Up Deadman,” he’s the standout.

But “The Mastermind,” now in stateside theaters, may be the purest distillation of O’Connor’s singular screen presence. Reichardt, the filmmaker of “First Cow” and “Showing Up,” is a writer-director who gives her actors room to breathe. In “The Mastermind,” O’Connor plays a suburban father named James Blaine Mooney, J.B. for short. In a haphazard act of delusional self-confidence, he steals several paintings from his local, lightly guarded museum, in Framingham, Mass.

It’s Reichardt’s version of a heist movie, but one carried out with a granular rigor that the 35-year-old O’Connor — a longtime fan of the director — was drawn to. One of the lengthiest scenes in “The Mastermind” isn’t the heist, but J.B. struggling to hide the stolen paintings in a tree house.

“If you’re seen Kelly’s movies, you know that Kelly is not overly concerned with cutting,” O’Connor says in an interview alongside Reichardt. “Our eyes are used to someone going up a ladder and putting a painting away; cut to the final painting and he’s a bit out of breath. But if we’re not going to cinema to be observational, I don’t know what the point is.”

An observational perspective has long been standard practice in Reichardt’s films. They tend to unfold with such textured naturalism that you don’t notice their subtly accrued power until the last moments. In “Meek’s Cutoff,” a pioneer tale, she famously depicted the slow, real-time reloading of a musket, in a moment of dramatic urgency. Reichardt says she’s “drawn to the things that are often cut out of movies.”

“Sometimes I watch things to look at an actor, and you can’t even find three seconds of a performance to look at before there’s a cut,” Reichardt says. I want to resist the push to cut faster and not be able to live in a moment just because that’s what the advertising world wants from all of us.”

But in “The Mastermind,” a real-life pace allows O’Connor to sink into a role that has more in common with a kind of unmoored character from a 1970s film than anything contemporary. J.B. is an out-of-work carpenter living with his wife (Alana Haim) and two young boys. His father is a judge, which gives him a sometimes-comical sense of entitlement. When J.B.’s haphazard plan unravels, he seems to be wantonly sabotaging his suburban middle-class life.

Meanwhile, the Vietnam War is raging. News reports filter in, though J.B. takes little notice. Reichardt’s film is firmly rooted in its time and place, but there are characteristics of J.B. that make him a not-unfamiliar male type today.



SCOTT A GARFITT, INVISION/AP

Director Kelly Reichardt, left, and Josh O’Connor pose Oct. 13 in London to promote the film “The Mastermind,” a 1970-set heist movie now in stateside theaters.

“It’s a time where things are changing. You could argue it’s the first moments of the post-truth era, and marriage role dynamics are shifting,” O’Connor says. “At the time, I thought Mooney is confused because he’s not the breadwinner. ... Those issues of ego in the male psyche still exist.”

O’Connor’s career might be skyrocketing, but it’s not the skyrocketing that usually happens in Hollywood. His rise has been humble and a little reluctant, and it’s possible that what makes him such a good actor is that he’s happy outside of it, too.

“In recent years, I don’t know that there’s been an organized thought-through plan other than I’ve been incredibly lucky that filmmakers like Kelly want to work with me,” O’Connor says. “I keep pinching myself to be like: How has this happened?

“I’ve been really fortunate that I’ve got to work with people I wouldn’t be able to say no to.”

Ace Frehley, original lead guitarist for Kiss, dies at 74



RICHARD DREW/AP

Ace Frehley, lead guitarist for the band Kiss, performs in 1977. Frehley died Oct. 16 at age 74.

Associated Press

Ace Frehley, the original lead guitarist and founding member of the glam rock band Kiss, who captivated audiences with his elaborate galactic makeup and smoking guitar, died Oct. 16. He was 74.

Frehley died peacefully surrounded by family in Morristown, N.J., following a recent fall, according to his agent.

Kiss, whose hits included “Rock and Roll All Nite” and “I Was Made for Lovin’ You,” was known for its theatrical stage shows, with fire shooting and fake blood spewing from the mouths of band members dressed in body armor, platform boots, wigs and signature black-and-white face paint.

Kiss’ original lineup included Frehley, singer-guitarist Paul Stanley, tongue-wagging bassist Gene Simmons and drummer Peter Criss. Frehley’s is the first death among the four founding members.

Band members took on the personas of comic book-style characters — Frehley was known as “Space Ace” and “The Spaceman.” The New York-born entertainer and Rock & Roll Hall of Famer often experimented with pyrotechnics, making his guitars glow, emit smoke and shoot rockets from the headstock.

“We are devastated by the passing of Ace Frehley,” Simmons and Stanley said in a joint statement. “He was an essential and irreplaceable rock soldier during some of the most formative foundational chapters of the band and its history. He is and will always be a part of KISS’s legacy.”

Born Paul Daniel Frehley, he grew up in a musical family and began playing guitar at age 13. Before joining Kiss, he played in local bands around New York City and was a roadie for Jimi Hendrix at age 18.

Kiss was especially popular in the mid-1970s, selling tens of millions of albums and licensing its iconic look. “Beth” was its biggest commercial hit in the U.S., peaking at No. 7 on the Billboard Top 100 in 1976.

In 2024, the band sold their catalog, brand name and intellectual property to Swedish company Pophouse Entertainment Group in a deal estimated to be more than $300 million.

Frehley frequently feuded with Stanley and Simmons through the years. He left the band in 1982, missing the years when they took off the makeup and had mixed success.

Frehley then performed both as a solo artist and with his band, Frehley’s Comet. But he rejoined Kiss in the mid-1990s for a triumphant reunion and restoration of their original style.

He would leave again in 2002. When the original four entered the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2014, a dispute scrapped plans for them to perform. Simmons and Stanley objected to Criss and Frehley being inducted instead of then-guitarist Tommy Thayer and then-drummer Eric Singer.

Frehley and Kiss also had a huge influence on the glammy style of 1980s so-called hair metal bands including Mötley Crüe and Poison.

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Laura Law, Chief Operating Officer
Lt. Col. Daniel "DQ" Quinlan, Europe commander
John Rodriguez, Europe chief of staff
Lt. Col. Lucas Crouch, Pacific commander
John Albaugh, Pacific chief of staff

EDITORIAL

Erik Slavin, Editor in Chief
slavin.erik@stripes.com

Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com

Ann Pinson, Digital Managing Editor
pinson.ann@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

+49(0)631.3615.9324; DSN (314)583.9324

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

Washington

Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief
cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com
(+1)(202)886-0033

Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast

David Schultz, District Manager
schultz.david@stripes.com
xsscirculation@stripes.com
+49(0)152.5672.5036; DSN (314)583-9111

Europe

Carlo Aquino, Circulation Manager
aquino.carlo@stripes.com
memberservices@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9136; DSN (314)583.9136

Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com
+81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

Washington

tel: (+1)202.886.0003
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

OMBUDSMAN

Jacqueline Smith

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) published daily (except Saturday, Sunday, 25 December and 1 January) for 50 cents (Monday through Thursday) and one dollar on Friday by Stars and Stripes Pacific, OPC 706 BOX 7, APO AP 96301-9001. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, OPC 706 BOX 7, AP 96301-9001.

The Stars and Stripes newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense (DoD) for the overseas U.S. military community. As an authorized newspaper, Stars and Stripes publications may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DoD personnel are located. The content printed in this newspaper is not classified as command information and is neither endorsed by nor represents the official views of the U.S. government.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, Stars and Stripes, and or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2025

stripes.com

OPINION

Ensure drug ads are more than 'dancing patients'

By Steven Woloshin and Baruch Fischhoff
Special to The Washington Post

After years of passivity, the Food and Drug Administration announced in September that it is "no longer asleep at the wheel" — yes, that's a real quote from the announcement — on drug ads. In an extraordinary burst of regulatory activity, the agency issued dozens of warning letters to companies about ads "filled with dancing patients, glowing smiles and catchy jingles" implying that "a drug will instantly transform you into singing and dancing endlessly."

That's a good start. But misleading images are just the tip of the drug-promotion iceberg. The FDA needs to address the basic problem, too: Direct-to-consumer ads, as pharmaceutical ads aimed at the general public are known, almost always fail to communicate what consumers most need to know — how well a drug actually works.

Imagine a medication to reduce heart-attack risk. Here, the relevant information is the chance of a heart attack occurring with or without the drug. Say the probability of heart attack in the next year is 1% for people taking the drug and 2% for those not taking it, all other things being equal. A 1 percentage point difference may be enough to convince some people to use the drug but not others.

That is a value judgment, and people need to understand the size of the benefit to make it. They also need to know about possible harms — not via those long, rapid-fire lists at the end of TV ads that consumers ignore and comedians mock, but through clearly presented facts about the most important and common ones.

How serious are these downsides, and how often do they occur? Does the drug cause bothersome problems such as indigestion for a few patients or persistent diarrhea for 10% of them? What if it causes dangerous liver problems for 1% of patients?

This presents an enormous opportunity for the FDA to help. Unless consumers learn how big the risks and benefits are, a drug ad has simply not informed them. And the only way to know if an ad has succeeded is to show it to people and see what they take away from it. If the FDA is serious about improving drug ads, it should require those tests before ads can be released.

The test would be simple: Show the ad to consumers in the target audience and then ask them about the risks and benefits of using a medication. Such a test would also cost little. Drug companies already do market research. The FDA would be giving them clear targets to meet.

Improving drug ads by requiring them to present benefit and harm data can be a powerful tool for adding needed transparency to an inefficient market. It is hard for patients, and even doctors, to get trustworthy estimates of risks and benefits.

Years ago, one of us (Woloshin), helped to demonstrate a straightforward way to solve this problem: Create a "drug facts box" analogous to the familiar nutrition facts box. Instead of amounts of calories, fiber, fats and vitamins, drug facts boxes would show expected rates of beneficial health effects (e.g., fewer heart attacks) and harms (e.g., side effects such as severe headaches) with and without the drug.

The FDA already has all the information needed to fill drug facts boxes; this is the same evidence that companies provide when they apply for drug approval.

The FDA's warning letters on drug ads could mark the beginning of a new era in consumer protection. To earn patients' trust, the FDA will have to tell them how good the evidence is supporting drug claims. If the evidence is weak or circumstantial, patients need to know that, without having to read between the lines of glossy ads. And once they know, patients can be expected to apply pressure for better evidence, thereby helping the FDA do its job of providing Americans safe, effective drugs.

The detailed reviews of FDA's dedicated staff routinely extract this vital information from the raw data from clinical trials. What's needed is an effective way to share it with the patients and physicians who need it. We urge the FDA to maintain the momentum of its warning letters and ensure that Americans get the information that they need to make wise health decisions for themselves and their loved ones.

Steven Woloshin is a professor at the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice and founder of the Lisa Schwartz Institute for Truth in Medicine. Baruch Fischhoff is a professor in the Department of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University.

Racial redistricting might go the way of affirmative action

By Jason Willick
Special to The Washington Post

In 2023, the Supreme Court issued two opinions in the same month that were hard to square. One, joined by all the Republican-appointed justices, said race-based affirmative action was unconstitutional (Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard). The other, joined by all the Democratic-appointed justices, approved of race-based redistricting to prop up Black voting strength (Allen v. Milligan).

How can racial preferences be unconstitutional in college admissions but mandatory when it comes to drawing political boundaries? Justice Sonia Sotomayor's dissent in the Harvard case observed that affirmative action is "just like" race-based redistricting. In both cases, a benefit is intentionally redistributed from one racial group to another.

On Wednesday, the conservative justices sounded poised to bring the two holdings closer into line by strengthening the Constitution's color blindness principle. Most Americans think of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as protecting the right of minorities to vote. But a 1982 amendment and judicial decisions have stretched its purpose. Now the law can be invoked to force states to draw majority-minority congressional districts. The case before the court last week, Louisiana v. Callais, involved how many such districts Louisiana had to draw.

Progressive racial gerrymandering seems likely to go the way of progressive affirmative action for three reasons. First, the conservative justices like clear rules, and it's almost impossible to articulate one (either in college admissions or redistricting) for how much use of race is not too much and not too little, but just right. Janai Nelson, the lawyer arguing for compelled majority-minority districts, told the court that "the line between the appropriate use of race" and inappropriate use "is the dividing line between motivation and general awareness."

In other words, map makers must show a "general awareness" of race, but it can't "motivate" them. That sounds a lot like Harvard's claim that race was merely a "plus factor" in its admissions program rather than determinative. It's easier for the Supreme Court to decree racial preferences impermissible than to tinker with their exact scope.

The second problem for proponents of race-based congressional districts is the march of history since the civil rights legislation of the 1960s. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor famously suggested in 2003 that affirmative action in college admissions might legally survive only another 25 years (it got 20). Justice Brett Kavanaugh took up that line in Wednesday's argument. "Race-based remedies are permissible for a period of time — sometimes for a long period of time, decades in some cases," he said, but added that "they should not be indefinite and should have a end point."

Nelson, the voting rights lawyer, argued that the banning of affirmative action didn't call into question the use of race to draw political lines. After all, a majority of the Supreme Court ruled against racial preferences in college admissions and in favor of race-based redistricting in the same 2023 term. "Both decisions were issued within three weeks of one another," she observed.

They were indeed. In fact, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote both opinions. But that might have been a reflection of his political calculation as much as a judgment on the legal merits. Better for the court to move incrementally against racial preferences than all at once — especially when Democrats had political power and were putting the Supreme Court on blast. Today's court is under political pressure from a Republican-controlled executive branch.

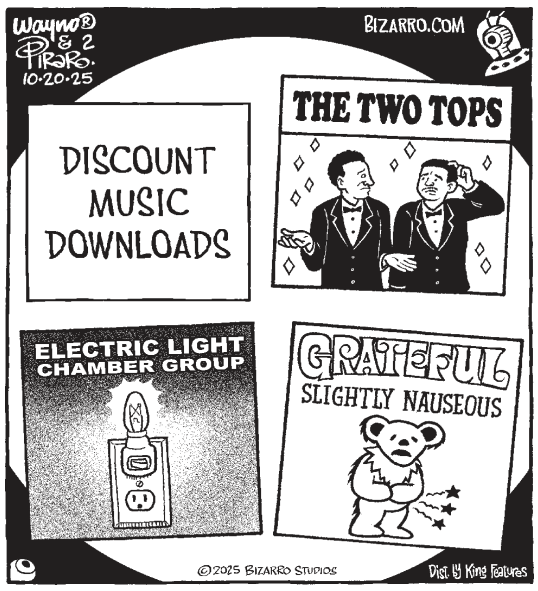
Third, a majority of justices might discount apocalyptic rhetoric on the Voting Rights Act. In Shelby County v. Holder (2013), the Supreme Court ended the requirement that certain states obtain "preclearance" from the federal government before they change their voting rules. That prompted a huge Democratic uproar. Yet the catastrophic effects did not materialize; a study published this year by researchers at the University of Rochester and MIT found that the post-Shelby County changes "do not appear to have translated into a degradation of minority voter participation or power."

The real impact of a conservative decision in the Louisiana case would be partisan more than racial. The requirement to carve out majority-minority districts prevents some deep-red states in the South from drawing maps as tilted toward the GOP as they might otherwise. But partisan gerrymandering is as old as the republic, and the Supreme Court said in 2019 that it's up to the political branches to deal with it.

Predictions of entrenched partisan majorities these days usually turn out to be wrong, often very quickly. Consider that 2020 and 2021 were the most progressive years in recent memory, as race-consciousness exploded across society; 2025 and 2026 might be the most right-wing, as race-conscious programs are dismantled. It's anyone's guess how the pendulum will swing five years from now.

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

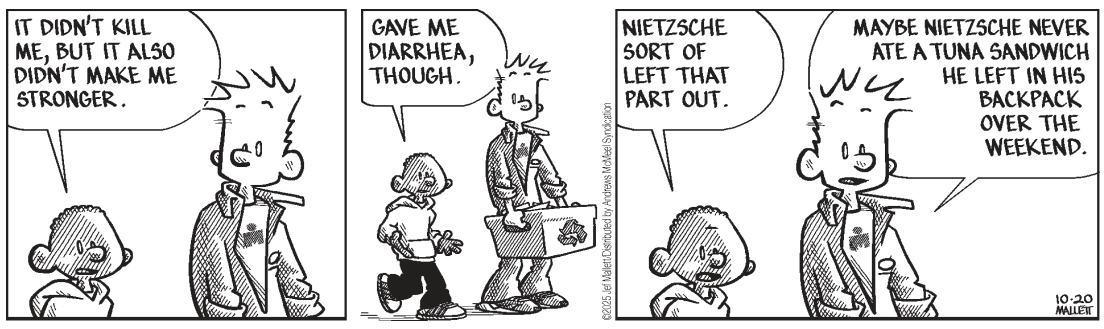
Bizarro



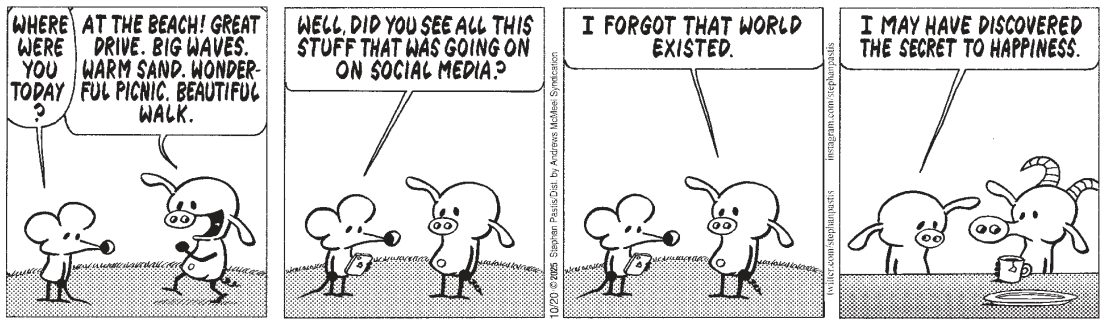
Loose Parts



Frazz



Pearls Before Swine



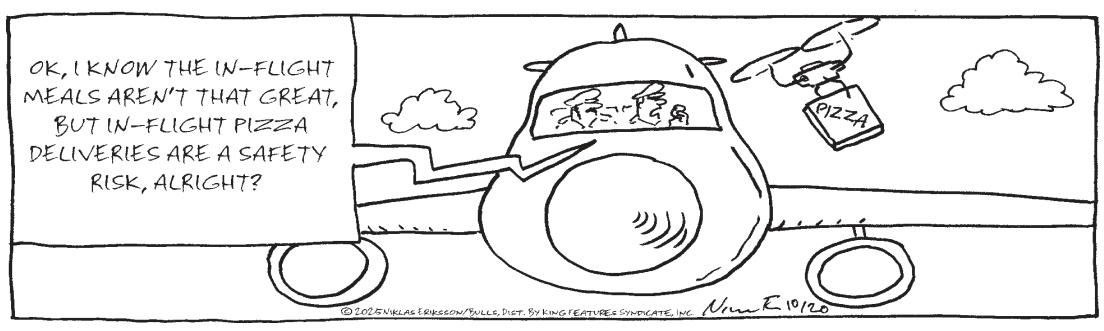
Non Sequitur



Wumo



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

ACROSS

1 Oscar winner Kingsley
4 Train alternative
7 Volcanic flow
11 Poet Khayyám
13 WWW access enabler
14 Throat clearer
15 Bart's sister
16 Opposite of paleo-
17 Morsels
18 Pulitzer category
20 Active person
22 Punk-rock subgenre
24 Brawl
28 Japanese island
32 Worship
33 Ivy League team
34 TV screen choice
36 Getting the job done
37 "Star Wars" planet
39 Extra helpings
41 Road Runner's foe
43 Bankroll
44 Transaction
46 Flashy jewelry, in slang
50 Gusto
53 Talk on and on
55 Squared
56 Wheel bar
57 Green prefix
58 Mystery writer Paretsky
59 Boston — Orchestra
60 "Toy Story" dinosaur
61 "Kidding!"

DOWN

1 Brazen
2 Mideast ruler
3 "Apollo 13" org.
4 Laundry holder
5 Secondhand
6 Parody
7 Cute hybrid dogs
8 Sushi fish
9 Cat doc
10 Early hrs.
12 Inexpensive meal in a bowl
19 Docs' bloc
21 Time line period
23 Barn bird
25 Didi of "Grease"
26 Saharan
27 Hardens
28 Oil cartel
29 Vegas game
30 Race place
31 Apt. coolers
35 Morning moisture
38 Numbered rd.
40 Uber alternative
42 Avid
45 Lingerie trim
47 Nobelist Pavlov
48 Infamous emperor
49 Bitty biter
50 Hit with a ray gun
51 Outer (Pref.)
52 Swiss peak
54 Present location?

Answer to Previous Puzzle

■	Q	U	E	S	O	■	S	C	A	D	S	■
C	U	P	F	U	L	■	U	R	B	A	N	A
H	I	S	S	E	S	■	R	E	S	C	A	N
U	N	E	■	R	O	L	F	E	■	A	P	O
R	O	T	C	■	N	E	A	■	E	P	O	S
N	A	S	A	L	■	A	C	E	T	O	N	E
■	■	■	N	I	A	■	E	L	O	■	■	■
C	A	N	D	A	C	E	■	K	N	O	T	S
I	T	O	O	■	E	T	D	■	S	O	A	P
N	O	N	■	D	R	E	A	M	■	P	T	A
D	N	A	L	A	B	■	I	A	M	S	A	M
Y	E	M	E	N	I	■	S	T	A	I	R	S
■	D	E	S	A	C	■	Y	E	S	E	S	■

10-20

CRYPTOQUIP

J X H S M W X K L S E Z S K M W S Z V C R - X Q H S N H X Q Z J S H M U U D K T K R C X R U Z T S R M K J D V V U S D L R M V S R C S Q: E D N N U S W Z K C.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: SCI-FI MOVIE IN WHICH COMPUTER PROGRAMS ARE USED TO GOVERN THE WORLD: "PLANET OF THE APPS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals K

SCOREBOARD/NBA

DEALS

Saturday's transactions

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES — Waived Gs Jules Bernard, Tristen Newton and Zyon Pullin and F Alize Johnson. Converted G Johnny Juzang to a two-way contract. Exercised team options on Gs Rob Dillingham and Terrence Shannon Jr.

FOOTBALL
National Football League

ATLANTA FALCONS — Activated DL Ta-Quon Graham from injured reserved. Placed CB Clark Phillips III on injured reserve.
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Activated WR Jalen Coker and C Austin Corbett from injured reserve. Placed LB Patrick Jones II on injured reserve.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed RB Malik Davis to the active roster. Activated CB Caelen Carson from injured reserve.
DENVER BRONCOS — Signed QB Sam Ehlinger to the practice squad. Released WR Thayer Thomas and DB A.J. Woods from the practice squad.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Activated C/G Jacob Monk from injured reserve.
INDIANAPLOIS COLTS — Placed CB Charvarius Ward on injured reserve. Signed RB Ameer Abdullah to the active roster.
LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Activated OLB Khalil Mack and LB Denzel Perryman from injured reserve. Waived OLB Caleb Murphy. Signed LS Rick Lovato to the practice squad.
LOS ANGELES RAMS — Elevated RB Ronnie Rivers.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Elevated CB Kendall Sheffield and LB Quinton Bell.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Activated LB Blake Cashman and OLB Tyler Batty from injured reserve.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Elevated WR Lil-'Jordan Humphrey and LB Zaire Barnes to the active roster. Activated OLB Victor Dinukeje from injured reserve. Waived DL Elijah Garcia.
NEW YORK JETS — Signed WR Isaiah Williams to the active roster. Activated LB Ja-'Markis Weston from injured reserve. Waived LB Mark Robinson.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Activated TE George Kittle and DT Kevin Givens off injured reserve. Signed DE Trevis Gipson to the active roster. Placed LB Fred Warner on injured reserve. Waived TE Brayden Willis.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Activated NT T'Vondre Sweat from injured reserve.
WASHINGTON COMMANDERS — Activated G Sam Cosmi and CB Jonathan Jones from injured reserve. Released DE Jalyn Holes. Elevated WR Robbie Chosen and DT Sheldon Day.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League

BUFFALO SABRES — Placed RW/C Justin Danforth on injured reserve.
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Placed RW/LW Joey Anderson on waivers.
COLORADO AVALANCHE — Reassigned D Jack Ahcan to Colorado (AHL).
MINNESOTA WILD — Recalled D David Jiricek and F Tyler Pitlick from Iowa (AHL). Assigned F Liam Ohgren to Iowa.
MONTREAL CANADIENS — Recalled C Owen Beck from Laval (AHL).
WINNIPEG JETS — Recalled C/RW Brad Lambert from Manitoba (AHL).

TENNIS

Ningbo Open

Sunday
At Ningbo, China
Purse: $1,064,510
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Seedings in parentheses
Women's Singles
Championship

Elena Rybakina (3), Kazakhstan, def. Ekaterina Alexandrova (4), Russia, 3-6, 6-0, 6-2.

Women's Doubles
Championship

Nicole Melichar-Martinez, United States, and Liudmila Samsonova, Russia, def. Timea Babos, Hungary, and Luisa Stefani (4), Brazil, 5-7, 6-4, 10-8.

Japan Open

Sunday
At Osaka
Purse: $275,094
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Seedings in parentheses
Women's Singles
Championship

Leylah Annie Fernandez (4), Canada, def. Tereza Valentova, Czechia, 6-0, 5-7, 6-3.

Nordic Open

Saturday
At Stockholm
Purse: Euro706,850
Surface: Hardcourt indoor
Seedings in parentheses
Men's Singles
Semifinals

Ugo Humbert (4), France, def. Holger Rune (1), Denmark, 4-6, 2-2, ret.
Casper Ruud (2), Norway, def. Denis Shapovalov (3), Canada, 6-3, 6-4.

AUTO RACING

United Rentals 250

NASCAR Xfinity Series
Saturday
At Talladega Superspeedway
Talladega, Ala.
Lap length: 2.66 miles
Start position in parentheses

1. (5) Austin Hill, Chevrolet, 100 laps, 60 points.
2. (4) Carson Kvapil, Chevrolet, 100, 45.
3. (8) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 100, 52.
4. (3) Christian Eckes, Chevrolet, 100, 40.
5. (25) Caesar Bacarella, Chevrolet, 100, 32.
6. (14) Blaine Perkins, Chevrolet, 100, 35.
7. (24) Parker Retzlaff, Chevrolet, 100, 30.
8. (29) Leland Honeyman, Chevrolet, 100, 29.
9. (11) Sammy Smith, Chevrolet, 100, 36.
10. (1) Jesse Love, Chevrolet, 100, 40.
11. (28) Nick Leitz, Chevrolet, 100, 26.
12. (33) Garrett Smithley, Chevrolet, 100, 25.
13. (30) Harrison Burton, Ford, 100, 24.
14. (31) Josh Williams, Chevrolet, 100, 24.
15. (35) Kyle Sieg, Ford, 100, 22.
16. (36) Joey Gase, Toyota, 100, 21.
17. (6) Jeb Burton, Chevrolet, 100, 21.
18. (32) David Starr, Chevrolet, 100, 19.
19. (34) Brennan Poole, Chevrolet, 100, 18.
20. (20) Nicholas Sanchez, Chevrolet, 100, 23.
21. (37) Carson Ware, Chevrolet, 100, 16.
22. (19) Mason Maggio, Chevrolet, 99, 15.
23. (7) Connor Zilisch, Chevrolet, 97, 21.
24. (9) Aric Almirola, Toyota, accident, 92, 23.
25. (15) Daniel Dye, Chevrolet, accident, 92, 14.
26. (10) Brandon Jones, Toyota, 84, 11.
27. (22) Ryan Ellis, Chevrolet, garage, 49, 10.
28. (18) Connor Mosack, Chevrolet, accident, 44, 0.
29. (17) Dean Thompson, Toyota, accident, 44, 11.
30. (2) William Sawalich, Toyota, accident, 44, 8.
31. (38) Taylor Gray, Toyota, reargear, 41, 6.
32. (26) Jordan Anderson, Chevrolet, accident, 19, 5.
33. (27) Anthony Alfredo, Chevrolet, accident, 17, 4.
34. (16) Sheldon Creed, Ford, accident, 15, 3.
35. (23) Ryan Sieg, Ford, accident, 15, 2.
36. (12) Brenden Queen, Chevrolet, accident, 15, 1.
37. (21) Jeremy Clements, Chevrolet, accident, 15, 1.
38. (13) Sam Mayer, Ford, dvp, 15, 1.

Race Statistics

Average Speed of Race Winner: 131.326 mph.
Time of Race: 2 hours, 1 minute, 32 seconds.
Margin of Victory: 0.105 seconds.
Caution Flags: 5 for 22 laps.
Lead Changes: 17 among 10 drivers.
Lap Leaders: J.Love 0; W.Sawalich 1; J.Love 2-5; W.Sawalich 6; J.Love 7-14; N.Sanchez 15-20; A.Hill 21-27; D.Thompson 28-31; J.Love 32; C.Zilisch 33; J.Love 34-39; J.Allgaier 40-49; A.Hill 50-52; D.Dye 53-56; A.Almirola 57-60; H.Burton 61; J.Allgaier 62; A.Hill 63-100
Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led): A.Hill, 3 times for 48 laps; J.Love, 4 times for 19 laps; J.Allgaier, 2 times for 11 laps; N.Sanchez, 1 time for 6 laps; A.Almirola, 1 time for 4 laps; D.Dye, 1 time for 4 laps; D.Thompson, 1 time for 4 laps; W.Sawalich, 2 times for 2 laps; H.Burton, 1 time for 1 lap; C.Zilisch, 1 time for 1 lap.
Wins: C.Zilisch, 10; A.Hill, 4; J.Allgaier, 3; A.Almirola, 3; B.Jones, 2; J.Love, 1; S.Smith, 1; S.Mayer, 1; N.Sanchez, 1.
Top 16 in Points: 1. C.Zilisch, 3145; 2. J.Allgaier, 3138; 3. J.Love, 3102; 4. C.Kvapil, 3073; 5. S.Smith, 3062; 6. B.Jones, 3053; 7. S.Mayer, 3051; 8. S.Creed, 3032; 9. A.Hill, 2177; 10. N.Sanchez, 2148; 11. T.Gray, 2137; 12. H.Burton, 2107; 13. C.Eckes, 742; 14. J.Burton, 687; 15. R.Sieg, 667; 16. D.Thompson, 641.

AP SPORTLIGHT

Oct. 20

1944 — Michigan State and Maryland attempt one pass, the fewest in college football history. The Terrapins threw the pass, while the Spartans did not attempt a pass and Michigan State wins the game 8-0 in College Park, Md.
1963 — Jim Brown sets NFL single-season rushing record with 1,863 yds.
1968 — American Dick Fosbury using his unconventional technique wins the men's high jump gold medal at the Mexico City Olympics; "Fosbury Flop" becomes accepted as the most efficient technique.
1976 — The Philadelphia 76ers acquire Julius Erving from the New York Nets for $3 million.
2004 — Just three outs from getting swept in the AL championship series three nights earlier, the Boston Red Sox beat the New York Yankees, winning Game 7to become the first major league team to overcome a 3-0 postseason series deficit.
2013 — Tim Cahill scores the fastest goal in MLS history, and New York beat Houston 3-0. Cahill puts New York ahead 8 seconds into the game. The previous fastest goal was Dwayne De Rosario's score 11 seconds into a 2003 game.
2016 — Nneka Ogwumike's short jumper with 3.1 seconds left gives the Los Angeles Sparks a 77-76 victory over the defending champion Minnesota Lynx for their first title in 14 years in the deciding game of the WNBA Finals.

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA

Tuesday's games

Houston at Oklahoma City
Golden State at L.A. Lakers

Wednesday's games

Cleveland at N.Y Knicks
Brooklyn at Charlotte
Miami at Orlando
Toronto at Atlanta
Philadelphia at Boston
Detroit at Chicago
New Orleans at Memphis
Washington at Milwaukee
L.A. Clippers at Utah
San Antonio at Dallas
Sacramento at Phoenix
Minnesota at Portland

Thursday's games

Oklahoma City at Indiana
Denver at Golden State

PRO SOCCER

MLS

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego FC	19	9	6	63	64	41
Vancouver	18	7	9	63	66	38
LAFC	17	8	9	60	65	40
Minn. United	16	8	10	58	56	39
Seattle	15	9	10	55	58	48
Austin FC	13	13	8	47	37	45
FC Dallas	11	12	11	44	52	55
Portland	11	12	11	44	41	48
Real Salt Lake	12	17	5	41	38	49
San Jose	11	15	8	41	60	63
Colorado	11	15	8	41	44	56
Houston	9	15	10	37	43	56
St Louis City	8	18	8	32	44	58
LA Galaxy	7	18	9	30	46	66
Sporting KC	7	20	7	28	46	70

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	20	8	6	66	57	35
Cincinnati	20	9	5	65	52	40
Inter Miami CF	19	7	8	65	81	55
Charlotte FC	19	13	2	59	55	46
NYC FC	17	12	5	56	50	44
Nashville	16	12	6	54	58	45
Columbus	14	8	12	54	55	51
Chicago	15	11	8	53	68	60
Orlando City	14	9	11	53	63	51
New York	12	15	7	43	48	47
New England	9	16	9	36	44	51
Toronto FC	6	14	14	32	37	44
CF Montréal	6	18	10	28	34	60
Atlanta	5	16	13	28	38	63
D.C. United	5	18	11	26	30	66

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

Saturday's games

D.C. United 1, Atlanta 1, tie
Charlotte FC 2, Philadelphia 0
Cincinnati 3, CF Montréal 0
Columbus 3, New York 1
Miami 5, Nashville 2
Chicago 2, New England 2, tie
Seattle 2, New York City FC 1
Toronto FC 4, Orlando City 2
Los Angeles FC 2, Colorado 2, tie
Houston 0, Sporting Kansas City 0, tie
LA Galaxy 2, Minnesota 1
San Diego FC 4, Portland 0
San Jose 2, Austin FC 1
Real Salt Lake 2, St Louis City 2, tie
FC Dallas 2, Vancouver 1

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	20	3	2	62	47	12
Washington	12	5	8	44	42	32
Orlando	11	8	6	39	32	26
Seattle	10	7	8	38	31	28
San Diego	10	8	7	37	40	32
Gotham FC	9	7	8	35	31	20
Portland	9	8	7	34	32	29
Louisville	9	9	6	33	32	36
North Carolina	8	9	8	32	34	37
Houston	8	11	6	30	27	37
Angel City	7	11	6	27	30	37
Utah Royals FC	5	13	7	22	27	42
Bay FC	4	13	8	20	26	40
Chicago	2	12	11	17	30	53

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

Friday's games

North Carolina 4, Bay FC 1
Seattle 2, Utah Royals FC 1

Saturday's games

Orlando 3, Washington 2
Houston 1, Kansas City 0
San Diego 6, Chicago 1

Sunday's games

Louisville at Gotham FC
Portland at Angel City



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid, left, goes up for a shot past Minnesota Timberwolves' Joan Beringer during the first half of a preseason game on Friday in Philadelphia.

76ers' Embiid plays in preseason finale

Two-time league scoring champ gets first game action in nearly 8 months, close to triple-double

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Joel Embiid started for the Philadelphia 76ers in their preseason finale on Friday night, his first game action in nearly eight months.

And he flirted with a triple-double.

Embiid — who was limited to 19 games last season because of injuries — finished with 14 points, seven rebounds and eight assists in 19 minutes in Philadelphia's 126-110 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves. He also had three steals, and the 76ers outscored the Wolves by 12 points when Embiid was on the floor.

Philadelphia coach Nick Nurse said before the game that Embiid would have "fairly short" stints of action and held true to that plan. Embiid didn't play in the fourth quarter.

The 76ers open the regular season at Boston on Wednesday night.

Embiid didn't take long to get going Friday — he tried a 3-pointer, which missed, on Philadelphia's first possession just seven seconds into the contest. He played about six minutes in his first stint to open the game, then played the first three minutes of the second quarter for his second stint.

It was Embiid's first game since Feb. 22. He missed the first nine games of Philadelphia's 2024-25 season, never played more than four consecutive games and wound up being shut down for the final 26 games of the year as the 76ers sputtered to a 24-58 finish.

Embiid has been engaged in light practices since the 76ers opened camp and the perennially injured All-Star center has said in recent weeks that there was a "plan in place" to play following knee surgery in April.

A two-time NBA scoring champion, Embiid had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee in April following an injury-plagued season that also included a sprained left foot and a sinus fracture. He was ruled out for the season in late February after averaging 23.8 points, 8.2 rebounds and 4.5 assists.

"I've had so many injuries," Embiid said last month. "The only thing I've always told myself is you can't give up."

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	5	4	1	0	8	16	12
Montreal	6	4	2	0	8	21	18
Toronto	6	3	2	1	7	22	20
Boston	6	3	3	0	6	19	19
Florida	7	3	4	0	6	15	20
Buffalo	5	2	3	0	4	13	14
Tampa Bay	6	1	3	2	4	16	21
Ottawa	6	2	4	0	4	20	30

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	5	5	0	0	10	23	11
New Jersey	5	4	1	0	8	19	15
Washington	5	4	1	0	8	14	8
Pittsburgh	6	4	2	0	8	18	15
N.Y. Rangers	7	3	3	1	7	15	12
Philadelphia	5	2	2	1	5	13	14
Columbus	5	2	3	0	4	14	15
N.Y. Islanders	5	2	3	0	4	16	19

Western Conference

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	6	5	0	1	11	21	10
Winnipeg	5	4	1	0	8	21	12
St. Louis	5	3	2	0	6	15	18
Utah	5	3	2	0	6	14	11
Dallas	5	3	2	0	6	19	18
Chicago	6	2	2	2	6	20	17
Nashville	6	2	2	2	6	15	19
Minnesota	6	2	3	1	5	17	22

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	5	3	0	2	8	20	18
Seattle	5	3	0	2	8	16	14
Vancouver	5	3	2	0	6	16	14
Edmonton	5	2	2	1	5	13	14
Anaheim	4	2	2	0	4	13	16
Los Angeles	6	1	3	2	4	17	24
Calgary	5	1	4	0	2	10	19
San Jose	5	0	3	2	2	13	25

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

Friday's games

Washington 5, Minnesota 1
Detroit 2, Tampa Bay 1, OT
Utah 6, San Jose 3
Vancouver 3, Chicago 2, SO

Saturday's games

Buffalo 3, Florida 0
N.Y. Islanders 5, Ottawa 4
New Jersey 5, Edmonton 3
St. Louis 3, Dallas 1
Philadelphia 2, Minnesota 1, OT
Winnipeg 4, Nashville 1
N.Y. Rangers 4, Montreal 3
Columbus 3, Tampa Bay 2
Seattle 4, Toronto 3, SO
Colorado 4, Boston 1
Carolina 4, Los Angeles 3, OT
Pittsburgh 3, San Jose 0
Calgary at Vegas

Sunday's games

Vancouver at Washington
Edmonton at Detroit
Anaheim at Chicago
Boston at Utah

Monday's games

Minnesota at N.Y. Rangers
Seattle at Philadelphia
Buffalo at Montreal
Winnipeg at Calgary
Carolina at Vegas

Tuesday's games

Edmonton at Ottawa
New Jersey at Toronto
San Jose at N.Y. Islanders
Seattle at Washington
Vancouver at Pittsburgh
Florida at Boston
Anaheim at Nashville
Columbus at Dallas
Los Angeles at St. Louis
Colorado at Utah

Scoring leaders

Through Saturday

	GP	G	A	PTS
Jack Eichel, LV	5	5	6	11
Mark Stone, LV	5	0	9	9
W. Nylander, TOR	5	2	7	9
Martin Necas, COL	5	3	6	9
Kirill Kaprizov, MIN	5	4	5	9
Matt Boldy, MIN	5	4	5	9
N. MacKinnon, COL	5	4	4	8
M. Scheifele, WIN	4	5	3	8
Nick Suzuki, MON	5	0	7	7
Evgeni Malkin, PITT	5	1	6	7
S. Gstsbhere, CAR	4	1	6	7
Cale Makar, COL	5	2	5	7

ROUNDUP

Lee's tiebreaker lifts Islanders

Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario — Anders Lee and Kyle Palmieri scored in the third period to help the New York Islanders top the Ottawa Senators 5-4 on Saturday.

Bo Horvat, Max Shabanov and Emil Heineman also scored for New York in its second consecutive win. Lee added two assists, and Ilya Sorokin stopped 29 shots.

Tim Stutzle had a goal and an assist for Ottawa, which dropped to 1-1 on a four-game homestand. Shane Pinto scored his seventh goal this season, and Linus Ullmark made 18 saves.

David Perron put Ottawa in front with a power-play goal with 2:59 left in the opening period, and Dylan Cozens gave the Senators a 4-3 lead with his third goal with 1:13 to go in the second.

But Mathew Barzal set up Palmieri for the tying goal 6:00 into the third. Lee made it 5-4 with 1:03 remaining, beating Ullmark for his first goal of the season.

Islanders defenseman Matthew Schaefer, the No. 1 overall pick in this year's NHL draft, picked up an assist on Shabanov's goal in the second. He has one goal and four assists during a five-game point streak.

Sabres 3, Panthers 0: Josh Doan scored two power-play goals, Alex Lyon made 32 saves as host Buffalo beat Florida.

Owen Power also scored for Buffalo, which earned its second straight win since losing its first three games of the season. It was Lyon's first shutout since Oct. 22, 2024, for Detroit against the New York Islanders.

Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 28 shots for Florida in its fourth consecutive loss since the two-time defending Stanley Cup champions began the season with three straight wins. Defenseman Niko Mikkola departed in the second period with an upper-body injury.

Devils 5, Oilers 3: Jack Hughes scored twice, Jake Allen stopped 27 of the 30 shots he faced and host New Jersey won its fourth game in a row by beating Edmonton.

It's the Devils' first four-game winning streak since a stretch of five victories in a row from Jan. 7-16, 2023. That was two coaching changes ago when Lindy Ruff was behind the bench.

Blues 3, Stars 2: Jordan Kyrou and Jimmy Snuggerud scored second-period goals, Jordan Binnington made 18 saves and host St. Louis beat Dallas.

Pius Suter also scored to help the Blues win for for the first time in three home games this season. St. Louis was outscored 13-3 in its previous two games at the Enterprise Center.



ADRIAN WYLD, The Canadian Press/AP

New York Islanders left wing Anders Lee celebrates scoring the winning goal past Ottawa Senators goaltender Linus Ullmark late in the third period of in Ottawa, Ontario, Saturday.

Flyers 2, Wild 1, OT: Noah Cates scored 2:36 into overtime to lift host Philadelphia to its second win of the season, over Minnesota.

Dan Vladar stopped 15 shots and has the only two wins for the Flyers in net through five games this season as he tries to distance himself from Samuel Ersson in the fight for the No. 1 goaltender spot.

Blue Jackets 3, Lightning 2: Kirill Marchenko scored early in the third period to rally host Columbus over Tampa Bay, snapping a three-game skid and giving the Blue Jackets their first home victory of the season.

Marchenko has five goals in as many games — the most to start a Blue Jackets season — and is riding a five-game point streak.

Jets 4, Predators 1: Mark Scheifele scored a first-period power-play goal in the Winnipeg's home win over Nashville to become the franchise's career points leader.

Scheifele scored his sixth goal of the season 2:39 into the game for his 813th career point (342 goals, 471 assists), surpassing Blake Wheeler (812) for the most points in Jets/Atlanta Thrashers history.

Rangers 4, Canadiens 3: Artemi Panarin had a goal and three assists as visiting New York rallied to beat Montreal.

Mika Zibanejad had a goal and an assist, J.T. Miller also scored and Matthew Robertson got his first NHL goal for the Rangers. Adam Fox had two assists and Jonathan Quick finished with 21 saves to help New York improve to 3-0-1 on the road this season.

Kraken 4, Maple Leafs 3, OT: Josh Mahura scored his first goal of the season at 3:06 of overtime to give Seattle a road victory over Toronto.

Mahura beat Anthony Stolarz with a high shot after Seattle opened a six-game trip with consecutive extra-time losses in Montreal and Ottawa.

Avalanche 4, Bruins 1: Nathan MacKinnon scored twice and Colorado continued its strong start with a home win over Boston.

The Avalanche (5-0-1) have at least a point in all six games this season. It's one of their longest point streaks to begin a season in franchise history. The team record is 11 (9-0-2) in 2000-01 when they went on to win a Stanley Cup title.

Hurricanes 4, Kings 3, OT: Seth Jarvis scored 1:45 into overtime and visiting Carolina extended their undefeated start to the season to five games despite giving up a three-goal lead in a win over Los Angeles.

Jarvis netted his sixth goal of the season, capitalizing on a fortunate bounce after Kings defenseman Brandt Clarke blocked Sebastian Aho's shot, scoring into an open net with goalie Anton Forsberg unable to get back in position.

Golden Knights 6, Flames 1: Marquee offseason acquisition Mitch Marner scored his first goals as a Golden Knight, and Mark Stone and Jack Eichel each had a four-point night to lead Vegas to a home victory over Calgary.

The Golden Knights (4-0-2) have recorded at least a point in every game, their second-longest streak to open a season. Vegas won its first seven games in the 2023-24 season.

Calgary has lost five consecutive games after opening the season with a 4-3 victory over Edmonton.

Stone had two goals and two assists, Marner scored two goals and Eichel finished with four assists for an NHL-leading 14 points and five multipoint games. Also for Vegas, Ivan Barbashev and Tomas Hertl each recorded a goal and an assist. It was Hertl's 300th career assist. Adin Hill made 25 saves.

Penguins 3, Sharks 0: Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin each had a goal and an assist, Tristan Jarry stopped 31 shots for his 22nd career shutout, and visiting Pittsburgh beat San Jose.

Anthony Mantha also scored for the Penguins, who improved to 4-2-0 on the season.

Alex Nedeljkovic made 24 saves for the Sharks, and San Jose outshot an opponent for the first time this season but was unable to score. The Sharks, an NHL-worst 20-50-12 last season, remained the league's only winless team at 0-3-2.

NFL/MLB PLAYOFFS



IAN WALTON/AP

Rams wide receiver Davante Adams, left, celebrates with quarterback Matthew Stafford after connecting for a touchdown on Sunday.

Stafford, Adams key Rams win over Jags

BY KEN MAGUIRE
Associated Press

LONDON — Matthew Stafford threw three of his five touchdown passes to Davante Adams and the Los Angeles Rams beat the Jacksonville Jaguars 35-7 on a rainy Sunday at Wembley Stadium.

Stafford, who has thrown 12 touchdowns with no interceptions in his past four games, also connected with rookie receiver Konata Mumpfield and rookie tight end Terrance Ferguson in the London rout.

The Rams (5-2) are off to their best start since their Super Bowl-winning season in 2021. Star receiver Puka Nacua missed the game with an ankle injury.

The only highlight for the Jaguars (4-3) was rookie two-way star Travis Hunter getting his first NFL touchdown. It made the score 28-7 in the fourth quarter.

Adams caught two touchdown passes in the first half, then added a third on a 1-yard jump ball that sent Jags fans to the exits.

Hunter had his best day as a pro, catching eight passes for 101 yards and the score.

Stafford completed 21 of 33 passes for 182 yards. Jags quarterback Trevor Lawrence finished 23-for-48 for 296 yards and the touchdown pass to Hunter.

The Jaguars allowed seven sacks and committed 13 penalties for 119 yards.

Siu party at Wembley

Despite arriving in London on Saturday morning, the Rams looked plenty fresh by scoring three first-half touchdowns.

Mumpfield scored the first and Adams the next two. Both hit the "Siu" celebration made famous by Portugal soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo.

Mumpfield's celebration came after the rookie receiver scored his first NFL touchdown on just his second career catch, a 5-yard reception at the back of the end zone to cap a 13-play, 60-yard opening drive.

Five different players caught passes on the Rams' opening drive, as Stafford spread the ball around without Nacua.

On the second drive, Stafford hit Adams on a quick fade for a 2-yard touchdown pass and a 14-0 lead before the end of the first quarter. The star receiver then gave his version of the siu.

Jags CB Jourdan Lewis was in coverage on both TDs.

Adams then caught a 1-yard touchdown pass before the end of the half to make it 21-0. No siu that time, though.

But Adams got most of the offense to do one after his third touchdown.

Ferguson's 31-yard touchdown reception made the score 28-0 early in the fourth.

Rams linebacker Byron Young extended his sack streak to nine regular-season games.

Key injuries

Rams: Kamren Kinchens was questionable to return in the third quarter. ... Nacua (ankle) had been ruled out earlier this week. RT Rob Havenstein (ankle) missed his third straight game.

Jaguars: WR Dyami Brown was slow to get up after his 39-yard reception in the third quarter. ... CB Jourdan Lewis was checked after a tackle late in the first half ... S Eric Murray and WR Tim Patrick were ruled out of the game early in the fourth quarter... NFL interception leader Devin Lloyd (calf) didn't make the trip.

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	4	2	0	.667	167	137
New England	4	2	0	.667	150	120
Miami	1	5	0	.167	134	174
N.Y. Jets	0	6	0	.000	123	170

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	5	1	0	.833	194	116
Jacksonville	4	3	0	.571	146	155
Houston	2	3	0	.400	108	61
Tennessee	1	5	0	.167	83	161

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	4	2	0	.667	150	140
Cincinnati	3	4	0	.429	136	214
Baltimore	1	5	0	.167	144	194
Cleveland	1	5	0	.167	82	146

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	4	2	0	.667	130	95
L.A. Chargers	4	2	0	.667	127	125
Kansas City	3	3	0	.500	155	124
Las Vegas	2	4	0	.333	103	149

National Conference

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	4	2	0	.667	142	143
Washington	3	3	0	.500	158	126
Dallas	2	3	1	.417	178	184
N.Y. Giants	2	4	0	.333	121	144

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	5	1	0	.833	165	151
Atlanta	3	2	0	.600	100	100
Carolina	3	3	0	.500	132	146
New Orleans	1	5	0	.167	111	160

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	3	1	1	.700	131	102
Detroit	4	2	0	.667	191	142
Chicago	3	2	0	.600	126	141
Minnesota	3	2	0	.600	123	97

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
L.A. Rams	5	2	0	.714	175	117
San Francisco	4	2	0	.667	125	128
Seattle	4	2	0	.667	166	117
Arizona	2	4	0	.333	130	127

Thursday's game

Cincinnati 33, Pittsburgh 31

Sunday's games

L.A. Rams 35, Jacksonville 7
Carolina at N.Y. Jets
Las Vegas at Kansas City
Miami at Cleveland
New England at Tennessee
New Orleans at Chicago
Philadelphia at Minnesota
Indianapolis at L.A. Chargers
N.Y. Giants at Denver
Green Bay at Arizona
Washington at Dallas
Atlanta at San Francisco
Open: Baltimore, Buffalo

Monday's games

Tampa Bay at Detroit
Houston at Seattle

Thursday, Oct. 23

Minnesota at L.A. Chargers

Sunday, Oct. 26

Buffalo at Carolina
Chicago at Baltimore
Cleveland at New England
Miami at Atlanta
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia
N.Y. Jets at Cincinnati
San Francisco at Houston
Tampa Bay at New Orleans
Dallas at Denver
Tennessee at Indianapolis
Green Bay at Pittsburgh
Open: Jacksonville, Las Vegas, Arizona, Detroit, L.A. Rams, Seattle

Monday, Oct. 27

Washington at Kansas City

Thursday, Oct. 30

Baltimore at Miami

Sunday, Nov. 2

Carolina at Green Bay
Atlanta at New England
Chicago at Cincinnati
Denver at Houston
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh
L.A. Chargers at Tennessee
Minnesota at Detroit
San Francisco at N.Y. Giants
Jacksonville at Las Vegas
New Orleans at L.A. Rams
Kansas City at Buffalo
Seattle at Washington
Open: Cleveland, N.Y. Jets, Philadelphia, Tampa Bay

More: Wild Card round helps Dodgers find form

FROM PAGE 24

million payroll plus $168 million in projected luxury tax. That dwarfs the expenditures of their prospective World Series opponents from Seattle (a $167.2 million payroll) and Toronto (a $252.7 million payroll and a projected $13.4 million in tax).

But why are the Dodgers enjoying this success instead of the Mets, the Yankees, the Phillies and other teams that can spend roughly on the Dodgers' level?

At this point, it's clearly because Los Angeles has a strong top-to-bottom organization, starting with player development and scouting. Baseball boss Andrew Friedman makes the sport's most judicious choices among the free-agent prizes and veteran trade targets — and when he gets it wrong, his mistakes don't sting as much because of his roster's overall depth.

"It's just a very talented group, but it's (also) a very focused and very hungry group," said Roberts, the first manager in several decades to win five pennants in his first 10 seasons with a club. "So I think that when you get those components, it's tough to beat. And we mind the little things. We're hungry. We don't really care what happened before."

Ohtani, Mookie Betts, Freddie Freeman, Teoscar Hernández, Tommy Edman, Max Muncy, Blake Snell and Tyler Glasnow all started their major-league careers elsewhere, but the Dodgers identified them and gave them what their previous clubs wouldn't or couldn't.

Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Roki Sasaki chose the Dodgers out of Japan over the past two winters precisely because of the culture and the opportunity created by the club's previous successes.

Snell faced the Dodgers with Tampa Bay in the 2020 World Series, and he emerged from the loss with admiration for the club. He seized the chance to join LA as a free agent last winter.

"This is why I came here," said Snell, who has thrown 21 innings of two-run ball with 28 strikeouts in three majestic playoff starts. "Now we're in the World Series, so I can't wait to prove myself what I can do there."

Not even a profoundly leaky bullpen — stocked with high-priced additions like Blake Treinen and Tanner Scott, who simply have not performed — has stopped the Dodgers from romping through the postseason, outscoring their opponents by a combined 46-28.

And it doesn't fit the naysaying narrative to remember that Los Angeles only rounded into dominant form quite late in a tumultuous regular season.

Scoreboard

League Championship Series

Best-of-seven
x-if necessary
American League
Seattle 3, Toronto 2

Seattle 3, Toronto 1
Seattle 10, Toronto 3
Toronto 13, Seattle 4
Toronto 8, Seattle 2
Friday: Seattle 6, Toronto 2
Sunday: Seattle (Gilbert 6-6) at Toronto (Yesavage 1-0)
x-Monday: Seattle at Toronto

National League
Los Angeles 4, Milwaukee 0

Los Angeles 2, Milwaukee 1
Los Angeles 5, Milwaukee 1
Los Angeles 3, Milwaukee 1
Friday: Los Angeles 5, Milwaukee 1

The Dodgers won 93 games and the NL West title, but they finished with only the ninth-best winning percentage during their 13 straight playoff seasons — tied for the second-longest streak of postseason appearances in MLB history.

Los Angeles didn't run away with its division, trailing San Diego as late as Aug. 23 and beating the Padres by only three games. Thanks to a prolonged midseason stretch of mediocre play, the Dodgers finished third overall in the NL and had to play a Wild Card series for the first time since 2021.

But that might have been a good thing: The Dodgers struggled with rust in recent October division series after sitting out for a week, but they've been locked in since their postseason opener Sept. 30, a mere 48 hours after the regular season ended.

After Los Angeles thumped Cincinnati with 18 runs in two Wild Card games, the Dodgers handled NL East champ Philadelphia with impressive ease in four games, winning twice on the road and rebounding from a tough Game 3 loss to survive a crazy 11-inning finale.

The Dodgers then overwhelmed the Brewers, who had the NL's best record in the regular season and made the postseason for the seventh time in eight seasons with fans clamoring for their franchise's first World Series title. The Dodgers' playoff savvy and top-end talent were too much, even before Ohtani turned in a superhuman in Game 4.

The star-studded Dodgers are not a jaded bunch, however. They jumped and cheered wildly in the dugout along with their fans when each of Ohtani's three homers soared over the outfield fence.

The Dodgers might be an industry-altering juggernaut, but that industry is still a kids' game.

"That was special," said Freeman, last year's World Series MVP.

"We've just been playing really good baseball for a while now, and the inevitable kind of happened today."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Scoreboard

Saturday's scores

EAST

Anna Maria 35, Plymouth St. 28
Assumption 63, Post 27
Bowdoin 25, Wesleyan (Conn.) 17
Bowie St. 42, Bluefield State 37
Bridgewater (Mass.) 47, Dean 25
Brockport 48, Alfred St. 14
Buffalo 28, Umass 21
CCSU 24, Wagner 17, OT
California (Pa.) 31, Clarion 28
Carnegie Mellon 44, Gettysburg 20
Catholic 26, Moravian 20, OT
Christopher Newport 49, Kean 0
Coast Guard 24, MIT 14
Colby 13, Amherst 9
College of NJ 48, Castleton 7
Cornell 30, Bucknell 20
Cortland 65, Alfred 12
Curry 71, Nichols 27
Dartmouth 30, Fordham 13
Delaware Valley 41, FDU-Florham 14
Duquesne 37, Mercyhurst 0
East Stroudsburg 24, Shippensburg 7
Eastern 17, Albright 10
Endicott 45, W. New England 24
Fairmont St. 35, Edinboro 30
Framingham St. 35, Westfield St. 24
Franklin & Marshall 23, Dickinson 20
Frostburg St. 32, Charleston 30, 3OT
Geneva 62, Waynesburg 20
Georgetown 21, Colgate 17
Glenville St. 42, Concord 30
Grove City 42, Allegheny 6
Harvard 31, Merrimack 7
Hiram 42, Bethany (WV) 21
Husson 48, New England College 0
Johns Hopkins 52, Ursinus 21
Kings (Pa.) 52, Alvernia 0
Kutztown 43, Millersville 14
LIU Brooklyn 17, Robert Morris 7
Lebanon Valley 34, Widener 14
Lock Haven 28, West Chester 21
Lycoming 42, W. Connecticut 24
Marshall 40, Texas State 37, 2OT
Mass. Maritime 10, Fitchburg St. 0
Mass.-Dartmouth 32, Worcester St. 7
Merchant Marine 38, Salve Regina 34
Misericordia 29, Stevenson 28
Monmouth (NJ) 49, Stony Brook 21
Muhlenberg 56, McDaniel 7
Oregon 56, Rutgers 10
Penn 35, Columbia 21
Pittsburgh 30, Syracuse 13
Princeton 40, Brown 21
Rhode Island 58, Albany (NY) 17
Rowan 45, William Paterson 16
S. Connecticut 35, Pace 34
SUNY Maritime 42, Norwich 0
Salisbury 56, Montclair St. 21
Seton Hill 28, Gannon 14
Shepherd 37, Bloomsburg 13
Slippery Rock 30, Indiana (Pa.) 27
St. Anselm 27, American International 14
Susquehanna 56, Juniata 7
Trinity (Conn.) 28, Middlebury 26
Tufts 38, Hamilton 28
Uconn 38, Boston College 23
Villanova 56, Hampton 14
Wash. & Jefferson 56, St. Vincent 10
West Liberty 35, WV Wesleyan 11
Westminster (Pa.) 48, Thiel 6
Wheeling Jesuit 24, W. Virginia St. 20
Williams 37, Bates 30
Yale 47, Stonehill 7

SOUTH

Alabama 37, Tennessee 20
Albany St. (Ga.) 7, Tuskegee 3
Barton 28, Chowan 21
Belhaven 41, Greensboro 26
Benedict 31, Edward Waters 27
Berry 44, Sewanee 7
Bridgewater (Va.) 73, Gallaudet 13
Carson-Newman 28, Anderson SC 6
Centre 19, Southwestern (Texas) 16
Chattanooga 42, ETSU 38
Coastal Carolina 45, Appalachian St. 37
Delta St. 51, Ferrum 10
Erskine 23, Shorter 19
Florida 23, Mississippi St. 21
Florida A&M 33, Alcorn St. 28
Fort Valley St. 7, Savannah St. 0
Georgia 43, Mississippi 35
Georgia Southern 41, Georgia St. 24
Georgia Tech 27, Duke 18
Hampden-Sydney 67, Averett 7
Holy Cross 28, Richmond 22
James Madison 63, Old Dominion 27
Johnson C. Smith 52, Shaw 0
Lagrange 17, Brevard 10
Lenoir-Rhyne 23, Virginia-Wise 10
McNeese St. 27, Houston Christian 0
Miles 27, Clark Atlanta 20
Millsaps 31, Maryville (Tenn.) 21
Missouri 23, Auburn 17, 2OT
Morehead St. 23, Marist 21
Morehouse 31, Lane 7
NC Wesleyan 21, Huntingdon 20
New Hampshire 24, Campbell 10
Newberry 38, Mars Hill 24
North Alabama 35, E. Kentucky 14
North Greenville 20, UNC-Pembroke 7
Oklahoma 26, South Carolina 7
Prairie View 24, Southern U. 3
Presbyterian 42, Stetson 7
Randolph Macon 47, Guilford 0
S. Dakota St. 35, Murray St. 14
S. Virginia 30, Methodist 13
SE Louisiana 49, Northwestern St. 0
SMU 35, Clemson 24
Samford 24, VMI 22
Shenandoah 33, Roanoke Maroons 20
South Florida 48, FAU 13
Southern Miss. 22, Louisiana 10
Temple 49, Charlotte 14
Tennessee St. 24, Howard 7
Texas 16, Kentucky 13, OT
Tiffin 45, Thomas More 10
Troy 37, Louisiana-Monroe 14
Tulane 24, Army 17
UAB 31, Memphis 24
UCF 45, West Virginia 13
UT Martin 37, Gardner-Webb 7
Vanderbilt 31, LSU 24
Virginia 22, Washington St. 20
Virginia St. 24, Elizabeth City St. 20
Virginia Union 66, Lincoln (Pa.) 21
W. Carolina 45, The Citadel 38
West Florida 23, West Alabama 16
William & Mary 26, Elon 21
Wingate 27, Emory & Henry 20
Winston-Salem 42, Livingstone 10
Wofford 31, Furman 13

MIDWEST

Adrian 48, Calvin Knights 17
Alma 48, Albion 27
Ashland 31, Ohio Dominican 14
Augsburg 32, Macalester 21
Augustana (Ill.) 31, Carroll (Wis.) 24
Ball St. 42, Akron 28
Beloit 34, Lawrence 0
Bethel (Minn.) 64, St. Olaf 10
Butler 23, Dayton 17
Carleton 63, Hamline 14
Cent. Michigan 27, Bowling Green 6
Cent. Oklahoma 56, Emporia St. 22
Central 34, Nebraska Wesleyan 13
Charleston Southern 29, W. Illinois 24
Chicago 37, Ripon 12
Concordia (Ill.) 37, Rockford 26
Concordia (Wis.) 54, Aurora 45
Crown (Minn.) 19, Westminster (Mo.) 6
Davenport 49, Wayne St. (Mich.) 14
Denison 43, Wittenberg 40
Drake 45, Davidson 0
Dubuque 47, Buena Vista 20
Ferris St. 38, Michigan Tech 10
Findlay 28, Kentucky Wesleyan 0
Franklin 48, Manchester 21
Gustavus Adolphus 45, St. Scholastica 6
Hanover 58, Anderson (Ind.) 0
Hope 56, Kalamazoo 21
Illinois College 64, Knox 14
Illinois Wesleyan 49, Millikin 27
Indiana 38, Michigan St. 13
Indianapolis 62, Lincoln (Mo.) 7
Iowa 25, Penn St. 24
John Carroll 31, DePauw 27
Kent. Christian 35, Central St. (Ohio) 27
Lake Forest 70, Grinnell 0
Martin Luther 41, Greenville 39
Miami (Ohio) 44, E. Michigan 30
Michigan 24, Washington 7
Missouri Southern 24, Neb.-Kearney 16
Monmouth (Ill.) 45, Cornell (Iowa) 3
Mount St. Joseph 35, Bluffton 7
Mount Union 38, Heidelberg 6
Muskingum 35, Marietta 31
N. Dakota St. 38, Indiana St. 7
N. Michigan 42, Chicago 21
NW Missouri St. 52, Fort Hays St. 3
North Central 75, North Park 0
North Dakota 38, S. Illinois 19
Northeastern St. 35, William Jewell 7
Northern St. 55, SW Minnesota 23
Northwestern (Minn.) 21, Minn.-Morris 3
Northwestern 19, Purdue 0
Northwood (Mich.) 48, Hillsdale 19
Notre Dame 34, Southern Cal 24
Ohio 48, N. Illinois 21
Ohio Northern 56, Capital 0
Ohio St. 34, Wisconsin 0
Pittsburg St. 44, Missouri Western 20
SE Missouri 42, E. Illinois 13
Saginaw Valley St. 20, Grand Valley St. 19
Simpson 36, Luther 3
South Dakota 17, N. Iowa 14
St. John's (Minn.) 41, Concordia (Moor.) 6
St. Norbert 44, Eureka 0
St. Thomas (Minn.) 55, Valparaiso 17
Tenn. Tech 52, Lindenwood (Mo.) 28
Toledo 45, Kent St. 10
Truman St. 44, Quincy 21
Upper Iowa 39, SW Baptist 2
W. Colorado 34, S.D. Mines 13
Wabash 46, Kenyon 12
Walsh 20, Lake Erie 13
Wartburg 40, Loras 20
Washburn 37, Cent. Missouri 17
Washington (Mo.) 17, Elmhurst 0
Wheaton (Ill.) 47, Carthage 21
Wilmington (Ohio) 54, Otterbein 41
Wis. Lutheran 34, Lakeland 31
Wis.-Oshkosh 28, Wis.-Eau Claire 21
Wis.-Platteville 38, Wis.-La Crosse 21
Wis.-River Falls 52, Wis.-Stevens Pt 7
Wooster 24, Ohio Wesleyan 20
Youngstown St. 40, Illinois St. 35

SOUTHWEST

Angelo St. 48, Midwestern St. 24
Centenary (LA) Gents 23, Lyon 20, OT
Cincinnati 49, Oklahoma St. 17
East Central 37, Oklahoma Baptist 31, OT
East Texas A&M 52, Incarnate Word 45
Grambling St. 20, Ark.-Pine Bluff 16
Hardin Simmons 34, E. Texas Baptist 16
Harding 35, Henderson St. 10
Houston 31, Arizona 28
Lamar 23, UT Rio Grande Valley 21
Mary Hardin-Baylor 28, Texas Wesleyan 19
McMurry 31, Austin 13
North Texas 55, UTSA 17
Ouachita Baptist 45, Ark.-Monticello 10
S. Arkansas 42, Arkansas Tech 7
SE Oklahoma 56, NW Oklahoma 14
Stephen F. Austin 34, Nicholls 7
TCU 42, Baylor 36
Tarleton St. 45, West Georgia 10
Texas A&M 45, Arkansas 42
Texas Lutheran 50, Hendrix 48
Texas Southern 61, Va. Lynchburg 10
Trinity (Texas) 63, Rhodes 0

FAR WEST

Air Force 24, Wyoming 21
Arizona St. 26, Texas Tech 22
BYU 24, Utah 21
Baldwin Wallace 52, Rose Hulman 20
Boise St. 56, UNLV 31
CSU-Pueblo 40, Black Hills St. 14
Cent. Wash. 24, Texas A&M Kingsville 21
Chadron St. 41, Fort Lewis 0
Chapman 35, California Lutheran 25
Claremont Mudd 22, La Verne 19
Colorado Mines 72, Adams St. 14
E. Washington 21, Idaho 14
George Fox 42, Lewis & Clark 28
Hawaii 31, Colorado St. 19
Montana 43, Sacred Heart 21
N.M. Highlands 28, Colorado Mesa 22
New Mexico 24, Nevada 22
Oregon St. 45, Lafayette 13
Pacific Lutheran 47, Pacific (Ore.) 29
Puget Sound 45, Willamette 28
Redlands 16, Pomona Pitzer 14
S. Utah 31, Abilene Christian 24
Sacramento St. 40, N. Colorado 35
Stanford 20, Florida St. 13
UCLA 20, Maryland 17
W. Oregon 31, Texas-Permian Basin 28
Weber St. 43, Portland St. 27
West Texas A&M 43, E. New Mexico 14
Whitworth 30, Linfield 20

ROUNDUP

Sayin throws 4 TD passes as No. 1 Buckeyes blank Badgers

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — If Julian Sayin hadn't already established himself as a Heisman Trophy contender, the Ohio State quarterback certainly strengthened his case on Saturday.

Sayin connected with Carnell Tate for two of his four touchdown passes, and the Buckeyes rolled to a 34-0 victory over Wisconsin.

Ohio State (7-0, 4-0 Big Ten) has an average margin of 25.8 points during an 11-game win streak, which started with its four College Football Playoff victories during its run to the national title last season. The Buckeyes have won their first seven games this season by an average margin of 30.6 points.

Wisconsin (2-5, 0-4) has suffered back-to-back shutout losses for the first time since 1977.

Sayin passed to Tate for a 33-yard touchdown on Ohio State's first drive and a 10-yard score with four seconds left in the opening period. Both touchdowns came in third-down situations.

Sayin also threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to Will Kacmarek late in the third quarter and a 13-yarder to Brandon Inniss in the fourth.

No. 3 Indiana 38, Michigan State 13: Fernando Mendoza completed 24 of 28 passes for 332 yards and four touchdowns and host Indiana celebrated its highest ranking in program history with a rout of Michigan State.

The Hoosiers (7-0, 4-0 Big Ten), who have won all but one game by double digits, kept pace with No. 1 Ohio State atop the conference standings with touchdowns on their first five possessions.

No. 4 Texas A&M 45, Arkansas 42: Marcel Reed threw for 280 yards and three touchdowns, and ran for 55 yards and another score as visiting Texas A&M held on to beat Arkansas.

The Aggies continued their dominance in the series with the Razorbacks (2-5, 0-3), winning for the 13th time in the last 14 meetings. Texas A&M scored on seven of nine completed rives and totaled 497 yards of offense.

Leading 38-35 with less than 10 minutes remaining and facing serious game pressure after Taylen Green's four-yard touchdown pass to Jaden Platt, Texas A&M's EJ Smith had a two-yard conversion on fourth-and-1 from the Aggies' 34 to extend a critical drive.

Reed then found Ashton Bethel-Roman for 37 yards to the Arkansas 27, and Reuben Owens II scored on a 12-yard run four plays later to extend the lead to 10.



MORRY GASH/AP

Ohio State's Julian Sayin throws a touchdown pass during the first half Saturday in a 34-0 shutout of Wisconsin. Sayin threw for four scores.

Arizona State 26, No. 7 Texas Tech 22: Raleek Brown bulled in for a 1-yard touchdown with 34 seconds left and host Arizona State rallied after blowing a 12-point, fourth-quarter lead to hand Texas Tech its first loss of the season.

The reigning Big 12 champion Sun Devils (5-2, 3-1) started the final drive from their 25 with two minutes left. Sam Leavitt completed 5 of 7 passes for 61 yards on the drive and benefited from a pass interference call on Texas Tech's Brice Pollack to set up Brown's TD run.

No. 12 Georgia Tech 27, Duke 18: Safety Omar Daniels returned a fumble a school-record 95 yards for a touchdown and visiting Georgia Tech pieced together enough late-game offense to beat Duke and continue its best start in more than a half-century.

Haynes King threw for 205 yards and rushed for a game-high 120 yards, including a 28-yard touchdown run with 2:10 left.

Georgia Tech (7-0, 4-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) has won its first seven games for the first time since 1966. The last time the Yellow Jackets were 4-0 in ACC play came 27 years ago.

No. 15 BYU 24, No. 23 Utah 21: Bear Bachmeier had 229 yards of offense while throwing for a touchdown and running for another score to rally host BYU to a victory over Utah.

LJ Martin added 122 yards on the ground to help the Cougars (7-0, 4-0 Big 12) remain unbeaten and beat their Holy War rivals for a third straight time.

No. 18 Virginia 22, Washington State 20: Virginia's Kam Robinson and Hunter Osborne stuffed Kirby Vorhees in the end zone for a game-winning safety as the host Cavaliers clinched a wild victory.

Virginia trailed 20-10 going into the fourth quarter. Harrison Waylee had a 2-yard touchdown run with 9:45 left, and Will Bettridge made a game-tying 34-yard field goal with 2:55 to go.

Tulane 24, Army 17: Jake Retzlaff threw two touchdown passes in the final two minutes, the second to Shazz Preston from 26 yards out with 27 seconds left, to give host Tulane a victory over Army.

Tulane tied it at 17-all with 1:54 remaining after an 11-play, 75-yard drive ended in Bryce Bohanon 12-yard touchdown catch on fourth-and-8. After Army went three-and-out, Retzlaff threw four completions and added a 10-yard run during the game-winning drive.

Army got in position to throw it to the end zone as time ran out but Tulane batted it down.

Air Force 24, Wyoming 21: Liam Szarka rushed for 141 yards and a touchdown, Owen Allen added 105 rushing yards, and both Roger Jones and Max Mustell had interceptions to help the host Falcons snap a five-game losing streak.

No. 19 South Florida 48, Florida Atlantic 48: Byrum Brown threw three touchdown passes and rushed for a score as host South Florida racked up 522 yards in a victory over Florida Atlantic.

South Florida (6-1, 3-0 AAC) got touchdown receptions from Jeremiah Koger, Jonathan Echols and Wyatt Sullivan. The Bulls scored the final 27 points.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Tide roll past Vols, win 4th straight over ranked team

By Kennington Smith III
Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Zabien Brown returned an interception 99 yards for a touchdown as time expired in the first half and No. 6 Alabama rolled to a 37-20 victory over No. 11 Tennessee in the rivalry known as the "Third Saturday in October."

Brown's pick gave the Tide a 23-7 lead and was all Alabama's defense needed while turning in its best performance of the season. The Tide (6-1, 4-0 Southeastern Conference) held the nation's highest-scoring offense to 410 yards, well below its 529-yard average.

"I saw open field and just started running," Brown said. "Looked at the time. If I get tackled, then the time goes out. I had to find a way to get into the end zone. It feels great to go out there and perform."

Ty Simpson completed 19 of 29 passes for 253 yards and two touchdowns without an interception. He led two TD drives of 90-plus yards as the Crimson Tide won their sixth consecutive game, including four in a row against ranked opponents.

Alabama became the only team in SEC history to beat four straight ranked opponents with no open dates.

Joey Aguilar completed 28 of 44 passes for 268 yards, with a touchdown and an interception for Tennessee (5-2, 2-2). DeSean Bishop ran for 123 yards and two touchdowns.

"We just got to be us," Bishop said.

"You look at our two losses, a lot of chances, a lot of self-inflicted wounds. We're hurting ourselves. We're making these games a lot harder than they should be. In this league, the margins are very small."

Tennessee had a chance to seize momentum in the third quarter following a touchdown and then forcing Simpson to fumble near midfield. But Alabama's defense forced a three-and-out, and a 99-yard touchdown drive iced the game.

Alabama's final touchdown, a 4-yard run by Daniel Hill with 5:49 remaining, ignited cigar smoke from every direction inside Bryant-Denny Stadium — a tradition for the victors in this rivalry. Simpson also lit one up as he left the field.

Alabama prevented back Tennessee from winning consecutive games in the series for the first time since 2003-04. Alabama has won 17 of 19 in the rivalry.

"The biggest thing for our guys is how committed to the process they are," DeBoer said.

"You can see it. You can hear it. Pads are popping every day in practice. They have an edge to them still and haven't lost it."

Poll implications

Alabama's win, coupled with No. 5 Ole Miss' loss to No. 9 Georgia, should propel the Tide into the top five in the next AP Poll. Tennessee will surely fall, along with No. 7 Texas Tech and No. 10 LSU.

The takeaway

Tennessee: The Volunteers' loss featured a number of uncharacteristic statistics. They failed to score 30 points for the first time this season, and a defense that led the SEC in sacks didn't record one.

Alabama: The Crimson Tide have arguably the best collection of wins in college football with four wins over ranked teams. Led by Simpson, Alabama has established itself as a legitimate championship contender midway through the season.



Vasha Hunt/AP

Alabama DB Zabien Brown, right, intercepts a pass intended for Tennessee TE Miles Kitselman and returns it 99 yards for a touchdown on the final play of the first half on Saturday in Tuscaloosa, Ala.



Paul Beaty/AP

Notre Dame quarterback CJ Carr, left, hands off to running back Jeremiyah Love, who ran for a touchdown during the first quarter against Southern California on Saturday in South Bend, Ind.

Price, Love spark No. 13 Notre Dame past No. 20 USC

By Curt Rallo
Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Jadarian Price scored on a tackle-breaking 100-yard kickoff return in the third quarter, Jeremiyah Love rushed for a career-high 228 yards and a score, and No. 13 Notre Dame beat No. 20 Southern California 34-24 on Saturday night.

Love's previous rushing best was 157 yards in a 56-30 win over Purdue earlier this season.

"I love being physical, going out there and trying to run somebody over and making them bloody," Love said. "We got bloody too, every week, so it's really not nothing to us. We pride ourselves on being strong and dominating our opponents."

Trailing 24-21 in the third quarter, Notre Dame (5-2) scored 13 unanswered points for its seventh consecutive victory against USC at home.

USC (5-2) took a 24-21 lead on a 59-yard TD pass from Jordan Maiava to Ja'Kobi Lane. Maiava also connected with Lane for the 2-point conversion.

"We had a ton of momentum, I thought, after the touchdown and 2-point conversion," USC coach Lincoln Riley said. "The kickoff return was probably the biggest singular play of the game, not just for the points ... the momentum switch for anybody in the stadium was real."

Price broke two tackles and broke USC's momentum with his return. He had a 99-yard kickoff return against USC two years ago in the fourth quarter that put the game out of reach in Notre Dame's 48-20 victory.

"I didn't do the right thing," Price said of the way he started the return. "I kind of went outside of the block, but it worked out. After I broke the first tackle, I knew I was going to the house. It was deja vu. It was like two years ago."

Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman loves the unselfishness of the one-two punch of Love and Price, who helped the Fighting Irish roll up 306 yards rushing.

"Great players that make great plays when they have the ball in their hands, but continue to put team before me, that's hard to do," Freeman said. "That might be one of the hardest things we ask our players to do, put team before me. Everything outside of here says no, you come before team."

Notre Dame quarterback C.J. Carr was 16 of 26 for 136 yards and one TD. He rushed 1 yard for Notre Dame's final score.

Notre Dame's defense came up big in the second half. Christian Gray picked off a pass at the Notre Dame 45-yard line after Price's return, after getting beat for a touchdown, a 2-point conversion and getting flagged twice for pass interference.

After USC reached the Notre Dame 37 with 11:11 left in the fourth quarter, Adon Shuler knocked the ball away from Makai Lemon on a run and Kyngstonn Viliamu-Asa recovered to end the threat.

Notre Dame also stopped USC on a fourth-and-1 with 6:02 left in the game, and Luke Talich intercepted Maiava with 1:06 to play.

USC played without running backs Eli Sanders and Waymond Jordan, who were injured in last week's 31-13 victory against Michigan. The Trojans were limited to 68 yards rushing against Notre Dame.

Maiava picked up the slack with 22-for-42 passing for 328 yards and two touchdowns.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

No. 17 Vanderbilt tops No. 10 LSU, sustains hot start

By Teresa M. Walker
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Diego Pavia threw for 160 yards and a score and ran for 86 yards and two more touchdowns as No. 17 Vanderbilt beat 10th-ranked LSU 31-24 on Saturday to improve to 6-1 for the first time in 75 years.

Vanderbilt, which matched its best start since opening 6-1 in 1950, beat LSU for the first time since 1990. This was only the fourth meeting since 1947 with both schools ranked in the AP poll. The Commodores also snapped a 10-game skid to LSU.

Even better, Vanderbilt (2-1 Southeastern Conference) is bowl eligible in what used to be the top goal for this program.

"Ultimately we have a lot of season left, and we're going to celebrate this win," Vanderbilt coach Clark Lea said. "I think we've earned the right to celebrate it. But this game won't define our season. And there's a lot more for this team to accomplish."

The Tigers (5-2, 2-2) had some big plays with Garrett Nussmeier throwing for 225 yards and two TDs, including a 62-yarder to Zavion Thomas. Caden Durham also had a 51-yard run down to the Vandy 2 before the Commodores forced LSU to settle for one of four field-goal attempts.

"We had opportunities; we didn't cash in on them," LSU coach Brian Kelly said.

That wasn't enough against a Vanderbilt offense that came in seventh in the nation averaging 43.2 points a game. The Commodores scored the most points LSU has given up this season with a defense ranked fifth in the country allowing 11.8 points a game.

Vanderbilt punted only twice, both times in the fourth quarter.

LSU's best chance came after the first Vandy punt trailing 31-24 with 8:55 left. Zaylin Wood sacked Nussmeier on the first play. LSU had to punt the ball back three plays later and never threatened after that.

The takeaways

LSU: The Tigers struggled to run against a Vandy defense that came in ranked 16th nationally. LSU settled for too many field goals by Damian Ramos, who made kicks of 48, 42 and 23 yards. He missed a 52-yarder.



George Walker IV/AP

Vanderbilt quarterback Diego Pavia, right, celebrates a touchdown Saturday during the second half of the Commodores' 31-24 victory over LSU in Nashville, Tenn.

Vanderbilt: The Commodores not only are assured of extending the longest run in program history in the AP Top 25 to a sixth straight week, they will move up at least a spot. This is their second win over a ranked program this season.

Strike a Heisman pose

Pavia celebrated his third TD, a 21-yard run, by sticking his left arm out in the Heisman pose. Lea didn't see that, but said he sees Pavia as the best player in college football.

"You can't watch him play and not realize what a game-changer he is," Lea said. "There are a lot of good players. There's only a handful to me that can take a game over, and he's one of those."

Stockton's 4 TD passes rally No. 9 Georgia past No. 5 Ole Miss

By Charles Odum
Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — No. 9 Georgia has made second-half comebacks so normal that coach Kirby Smart characterized the latest example as "another day in the SEC."

This comeback preserved the Bulldogs' championship hopes.

Gunner Stockton passed for 289 yards and four touchdowns, including three to tight end Lawson Luckie, and Georgia overcame Trinidad Chambliss and No. 5 Mississippi's powerful offense to rally for a 43-35 win over the Rebels on Saturday.

Georgia (6-1, 4-1 Southeastern Conference) charged back after trailing 35-26 at the start of the fourth quarter. Stockton's 7-yard touchdown pass to Luckie with 7:29 remaining gave Georgia a 40-35 lead.

The Bulldogs have trailed at halftime in four of their five SEC games. They now are 3-1 in those games. Georgia trailed Tennessee 21-17 before winning 44-41 in overtime on Sept. 13. They trailed Auburn 10-3 before winning 20-10 on Oct. 11. The latest comeback may have been the most dramatic.

"I feel like we played hard," Stockton said. "We are never out of it."

Added Smart: "The one thing we are, we're hard to kill. We won't go away."



Colin Hubbard/AP

Georgia's Gunner Stockton (14) threw four touchdowns and ran for one Saturday as the Bulldogs beat Mississippi 43-35 in Athens, Ga.

Ole Miss (6-1, 3-1) was denied its first road win over a top 10 team under coach Lane Kiffin even though the Rebels scored touchdowns on their first five possessions.

Stockton completed 26 of 31 passes and added a 22-yard scoring run in the crucial SEC showdown. He was 12-for-12 passing for 135 yards with three touchdowns in the second half.

"You always want to pick the defense apart," Stockton said. "We were executing well today. It was a great game. ... We just played for each other and that's the best part of our team."

Stockton and the Bulldogs had no turnovers.

Stockton delivered perhaps his best performance and added to his reputation for toughness despite missing most of practice last week with a sore oblique from the Auburn game.

"He was beat up," Smart said, adding "I was concerned he couldn't go. I said 'OK, we won't use you in the quarterback run game' and he said 'No coach, I want to run it.'"

Stockton had 10 carries for 59 yards.

One step back

Before the game, Kiffin said winning at Georgia would mean the Rebels have taken "another step" in their move up the SEC. That looked likely when they scored touchdowns on their first five possessions, taking a nine-point lead in the third quarter.

Suddenly, the Ole Miss offense lost its magic as Georgia did not give up another first down.

Following the first punt of the game by either team with 12:44 remaining, Stockton led a nine-play, 67-yard drive capped by the 7-yard scoring pass to Luckie that gave the Bulldogs their first lead of the second half.

Fourth-quarter meltdown

Georgia outscored Ole Miss 17-0 in the fourth quarter as the Rebels couldn't hold a 35-26 lead.

"In the fourth quarter, they made a lot of plays, both sides of the ball," Kiffin said. "I told my guys this is exactly what you want. Going into the fourth quarter you are up two scores at Georgia. ... You have to keep scoring. We did not do that in the fourth quarter."

Trusting the defense

Following another stop by Georgia's defense, Stockton led a 10-play drive to set up Peyton Woodring's third field goal of the game, a 42-yarder, to stretch the lead to eight points with 2:06 remining. Smart said he sent Woodring onto the field instead of going for the first down on a fourth-and-2 play because of the suddenly inspired play by his defense.

The takeaway

Ole Miss: When Georgia's defense found a way to deliver stops on back-to-back possessions in the fourth quarter, the Rebels defense couldn't make a similar stand with the game on the line. The Rebels' first loss likely won't cause a significant drop in the AP Top 25.

Georgia: The Bulldogs can be expected to move up in the Top 25 ... Georgia lost receiver Colbie Young to an ankle injury after his 36-yard catch on a flea-flicker on the opening drive.

SPORTS

Pavia strikes a pose

QB has Vanderbilt off to best start in 75 years after beating LSU ›› Page 23

MLB PLAYOFFS



More than money

ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

Los Angeles' Shohei Ohtani celebrates one of his three home runs against the Milwaukee Brewers during the seventh inning of Friday's decisive 5-1 NLCS victory in Los Angeles.

Scouting, focus and hunger also contribute to defending champion Dodgers' October domination

BY GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES

During the Los Angeles Dodgers' October rampage to the NL pennant, the defending World Series champions have actually been the dark eminence that many baseball people have long feared they would become.

The Dodgers are 9-1 in the postseason — and they've looked like a juggernaut while doing it, with near-flawless starting pitching and a deep, resilient lineup producing key hits and electrifying highlights. They swept the Milwaukee Brewers out of the NL Championship Series with a 5-1 victory Friday night featuring an iconic three-homer, 10-strikeout performance by Shohei Ohtani, their $700 million superstar.

The Dodgers beat the Yankees to win it all last year, and they're headed back to the World Series on Friday with a chance to become MLB's first repeat champions in a quarter-century. They're in the Fall Classic for the fifth time in nine seasons during a streak of 13 consecutive postseason appearances.

But naysayers have claimed for years that it's bad for baseball if one team ever becomes this successful. The fear is that the Dodgers' ravenous spending of their extensive resources could irretrievably fracture the majors' competitive balance, and this could even hurt the Dodgers by providing fuel for some owners' desire for a salary cap in the next labor negotiations.

The players and coaches in Dodger Blue — and the more than 4 million fans who have packed Dodger Stadium all season long — had absolutely no interest on Friday in worrying about what their success means to other people while they celebrated another unforgettable night.

> **"Before this season started, they said the Dodgers are ruining baseball. Let's get four more wins and really ruin baseball!"**
>
> **Dave Roberts**
> Dodgers manager

Manager Dave Roberts said it best when he took the microphone on the field stage after his team steamrolled the 97-win Brewers.

"I'll tell you, before this season started, they said the Dodgers are ruining baseball," Roberts shouted. "Let's get four more wins and really ruin baseball!"

The Chavez Ravine crowd roared in appreciation of a team that repeatedly has made the most of its advantages — for the past two years in particular.

The Dodgers will spend about $509.5 million on players this season, with their $341.5

SEE MORE ON PAGE 20

Stafford throws for 5 TDs as Rams rout Jags ›› Page 20

027664 463149