

## Obstacles for women in special ops cited

BY DOUG G. WARE  
AND MATTHEW ADAMS  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A culture of opposition and reluctance by some male soldiers to accept women in Army special forces units still exists despite all combat jobs being opened several years ago to female troops, a study released Monday has concluded.

"This is a change-driving study. But we have got a long way to go to change the culture," Lt. Gen. Jonathan Braga, commander of U.S. Army Special Operations Command, told reporters during a conference call.

In the 106-page report, he stated he is disappointed by some of the findings, and he is "committed to addressing these issues with candor and transparency."

The report came after Army leaders ordered a study to find any remaining obstacles to women serving in traditionally male-dominated, special operations-oriented roles. It found significant barriers remain, such as wide-ranging gender biases and "overtly sexist" atti-

tudes and behavior.

"Gender bias and sexism are manifesting in a variety of ways as 40% of women service members reported gender bias in the workplace as a challenge," the study reads. "The research team captured a significant number of overtly sexist comments from male service members primarily focused on an aversion to females entering the ... career field."

The report includes several remarks from male soldiers that the Army contends contribute to the challenging environments that women are still facing in combat roles.

"Females have no place on a team," the study reports a male soldier said. "It's an unnecessary wrench in a perfectly functional system in the name of 'political correctness.' This trend is another factor that has systematically blunted the tip of the spear."

Former Defense Secretary Ash Carter formally opened all military combat roles to women almost 10 years ago. Since then thousands of women have ascended to roles previously

open only to men, including units such as the Green Berets, Rangers and psychological and civil affairs teams.

The study also noted continuing beliefs among some male soldiers that women aren't as capable in special operations roles, and many of them are there for the wrong reasons.

"Do you think they are pursuing career opportunities? Please," said another male soldier whose remarks were included in the study. "They are looking for a husband, boyfriend or attention. And they get it. Because the men who choose to lay down their lives and do missions that only great men can do are warriors."

"I have decided to retire so I don't have to lead a team containing a female," said another male soldier.

Women have been allowed to have full-time military careers for 75 years. But it wasn't until 2013 that the Pentagon ordered all direct combat roles to be opened to women. After a study and implementation period, Carter signed off on the final order to open all military jobs to women in 2015.

Command Sgt. Maj. JoAnn Naumann, who in May became the first female senior enlisted leader in the Army, told reporters Monday that some of the negative remarks about women are reflective of a generational gap.

The Army report explicitly states a "mentality change" is needed to "modify the archaic attitude that supplying tools to female service members is an act of accommodation versus simply providing our warfighters with the right tools for the job."

The study also identified sexual harassment as a significant problem. In a recent survey among women in Army special operations, 30% of them identified sexual harassment as a challenge — a figure that women in later focus-group discussions felt was far too low.

The study also found the challenges faced by women in Army special operations were not limited to male behaviors. Many women said there continues to be difficulties with uniforms and protective equipment — such as body armor — fitting properly.

## Pentagon set to end calculator ban for entrance exam

BY BRIAN ERICKSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

With recruiting numbers not adding up across the armed forces, the Pentagon is planning to allow applicants to use calculators on the military entrance exam.

No date has been set for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery policy change to take effect. The idea comes as the Army, Navy and Air Force are expected to miss their recruiting goals for the second straight year.

"We are developing a way forward for calculator inclusion," said one of the three defense officials who spoke about the plan recently with Military.com.

The timed exam is used to gauge applicants' academic ability and qualifications for various jobs in the military.

According to the official ASVAB page, the test is designed to assess not what individuals have learned, but whether they can apply principles to solve problems.

The ASVAB has 10 subtests, but only the scores from word knowledge, paragraph comprehension, arithmetic reasoning and mathematics knowledge are used by the military.

These combined scores make up the Armed Forces Qualification Test.

The plan to allow ASVAB test takers to use a calculator comes on the heels of other measures the military has resorted to in hopes of attracting recruits.

In 2022, the Army created the Future Soldier Preparatory Course, a program designed to help young people overcome academic and physical fitness barriers that cause them to fall short of the service's standards.

Since the introduction of the prep course, more than 9,000 students have graduated into basic training, and ASVAB scores have risen an average of 18.5 points, Military.com reported, citing a defense official.

# Media: Kyiv saboteurs behind Russia hits

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian saboteurs coordinated by Kyiv's military intelligence services carried out a pair of recent drone attacks that hit parked bomber aircraft at air bases deep inside Russia, Ukraine media claimed Tuesday.

The attacks on Russian airfields on Saturday and Monday destroyed two Russian bombers and damaged two other aircraft, according to *Ukrainska Pravda*, as the war approaches its 18-month milestone.

That newspaper and Ukraine's NV news outlet said groups of saboteurs were behind the audacious strikes, which suggest that Ukraine's scope of action is broadening. It

was not possible to verify the claims on the ground.

Ukrainian media attributed two attacks to the saboteurs: a strike Saturday on the Soltsy air base in the Novgorod region in northwestern Russia, about 360 miles north of the Ukrainian border, and Monday's strike against the Shaikovka air base in the southwestern Kaluga region that is about 180 miles northeast of the Ukrainian border.

The Russian Defense Ministry acknowledged that the attack on Soltsy damaged one aircraft. It didn't comment on the reported attack on Shaikovka, but Russian media did.

Ukraine has since early this year sought to take the war into the heart of Russia. It has in-

creasingly targeted Moscow's military assets behind the front lines in eastern and southern Ukraine and at the same time has launched drones against Moscow, most recently early Tuesday.

Kyiv is also trying to keep up the pressure on the Kremlin along multiple fronts, pursuing a counteroffensive at various points along the 900-mile front line, as well as diplomatically by obtaining pledges of more weaponry from its Western allies, including F-16 warplanes.

Ukrainian military intelligence spokesman Andriy Yushov told the Ukrainian LIGA.net news outlet Monday that at least one Russian warplane was damaged in the attack on Shaikovka. He said it was carried

out by people who worked in close coordination with Ukrainian military intelligence but gave no further details.

Satellite images from Planet Labs PBC analyzed by The Associated Press showed what appeared to be 10 Tupolev Tu-22M long-range bombers parked on the apron of the Soltsy air base on Aug. 16.

By Monday, two days after the attack, all those bombers had left the air base. A large black spot was visible on one of the aprons where one of the Tupolevs had been parked.

Photos purporting to be from the Soltsy air base and published by Russian and Ukrainian media showed a Russian Tu-22M bomber ablaze there after the attack.

## Amid US drills, North Korea warns of thermonuclear war

**By DAVID CHOI**

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — North Korea on Tuesday condemned an ongoing, large-scale military exercise between the United States and South Korea and warned it could prompt "thermonuclear war" on the peninsula.

The two allies on Monday kicked off Ulchi Freedom Shield, 11 days of training designed to test their combined capabilities against North Korea's military with more than 30 separate drills.

Other U.N. Command nations participating in the exercise include: Australia, Canada, Greece, Italy, New Zealand, the Philippines and Thailand.

Pyeongyang refused to accept the training as defensive in nature and characterized it as

"exercises for an actual war to invade the North," the state-run Korean Central News Agency said Tuesday.

The drills' aggressive nature could prompt an "unprecedented large-scale thermonuclear war" on the Korean Peninsula, KCNA reported.

"The prevailing situation requires the Korean People's Army to take the initiative ...," the report said.

North Korea frequently describes U.S.-South Korean military exercises as a rehearsal for an invasion and vows to respond with war. It made a similar threat about nuclear war in July.

North Korea's report Tuesday also took aim at a trilateral summit between President Joe Biden, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Friday at Camp David, Md.

## Putin stays away from South Africa summit

*Associated Press*

JOHANNESBURG — Russian President Vladimir Putin will be notably absent when Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders from the BRICS group of emerging economies start a three-day summit in South Africa on Tuesday.

The bloc, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, is holding its first in-person meeting since before the COVID-19 pandemic, but Putin will participate via video call after his travel to South Africa was complicated by an International Criminal Court arrest warrant issued for him in March over the abduction of children from Ukraine.

Xi, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will attend in per-

son as the bloc — home to 40% of the world's population and responsible for more than 30% of global economic output — mulls a possible expansion.

That will top the agenda at Wednesday's main summit meeting in Johannesburg's financial district of Sandton.

More than 20 nations have applied to join the bloc, according to South African officials, including Saudi Arabia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

The five BRICS countries will have to agree on the criteria for new members before any countries are admitted, but a bigger BRICS is seen as a policy favored by China and Russia as a kind of coalition amid their deteriorating relations with the West.

The BRICS group was formed in 2009 by Brazil, Russia, India and China. South Africa was added in 2010.

# Over 800 listed as missing after Maui fires

Associated Press

LAHAINA, Hawaii — Two weeks after wildfire swept through the Maui community of Lahaina, authorities said more than 800 people remain unaccounted for—a staggering number that presents huge challenges for officials who are trying to determine how many of those perished and how many may have made it to safety but haven't checked in.

Something similar happened after a wildfire in 2018 that killed 85 people and destroyed the town of Paradise, Calif. Authorities in Butte County, home to Paradise, ultimately published a list of the missing in the local newspaper, a decision that helped identify scores of people who had made it out alive but were listed as missing. Within a month, the list dropped from 1,300 names to only a dozen.

"I probably had, at any given time, 10 to 15 detectives who were assigned to nothing but trying to account for people who were unaccounted for," Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea said in a phone interview. "At one point the local editor of our

newspaper ... said, 'Hey, if you give me the names, I will print them.' And at that point it was like, 'Absolutely. Anything that we can do to help out.'"

But Maui authorities have opted not to publicize their list because it's unclear whether privacy rules would prevent them from doing so, said Adam Weintraub, spokesman for the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. There are also concerns about further traumatizing families of those who are now listed as missing but may turn out to be dead, he added.

As of Monday, there were 115 people confirmed dead, according to Maui police. All single-story, residential properties in the disaster area had been searched and teams were transitioning to searching multi-story residential and commercial properties, Maui County officials said in an update late Monday.

"The names of, and any information related to the missing individuals, will not be published or be made publicly available at this time," a Maui County spokesperson said via text message.

There are also widely varying accounts of the tally of the missing. Hawaii Gov. Josh Green said Sunday on the CBS News show "Face the Nation" that more than 1,000 remained unaccounted for. Maui Mayor Richard Bissen said in a pre-recorded video on Instagram that the number was 850. And during President Joe Biden's tour of the devastation on Monday, White House homeland security adviser Liz Sherwood-Randall put it between 500 and 800.

The American Red Cross said it generates its own list—separate from law enforcement—of people who are unaccounted for through requests made to its call center and information gathered by its field teams, spokesperson Daniel Parra said. The organization has also entered into a data-sharing agreement with federal, state and local government agencies to help with reunifications.

So far the American Red Cross has successfully completed roughly 2,400 requests seeking reunification or welfare updates, out of over 3,000 it has received, Parra said. A completed

request means the organization was able to locate a missing person or verify someone's status in a medical facility, for example, among other things.

Social outreach like this will be crucial as identifying human remains after wildfires—and confirming whether those who are unaccounted for are deceased—can be an arduous, lengthy process. Fire experts have said it's possible some bodies were cremated in the Lahaina fire, meaning there may be no bones left to identify through DNA tests.

"Those are easy when destruction is modest," said Vyto Babrauskas, president of fire safety research consulting firm Fire Science and Technology Inc. "If you go to the extreme of things—if turned to ash—you're not going to be able to identify anything."

Babrauskas added that damage from debris removal and excavation can also make recovery efforts difficult.

"This is such an extreme disaster," he said. "It is so rare to need this kind of tallying and identification."

# As Hilary fades, towns dig themselves out of mud

Associated Press

CATHEDRAL CITY, Calif. — Crews worked to dig roads, buildings and care home residents out of the mud across a wide swath of Southwestern U.S. desert Monday, as the first tropical storm to hit Southern California in 84 years headed north, prompting flood watches and warnings in half a dozen states.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami said Tropical Storm Hilary had lost much of its force as it headed to the Rocky Mountains, but warned that "continued life-threatening and locally catastrophic flooding" was expected in parts of the region.

Forecasters said the threat for flooding in states farther north on Monday was highest across much of southeastern Oregon into the west-central mountains of Idaho, with potential thunderstorms and localized torrential rains on Tuesday.

As Hilary moved east into the neighboring state of Nevada, flooding was reported, power was out and a boil-water order was issued for about 400 households in the Mount Charleston area, where the only road in and out was washed out. The area is about 40 miles west of Las Vegas.

Hilary first slammed into Mexico's arid Baja California Peninsula as a hurricane, causing one death and widespread flooding before becoming a tropical storm. So far, no deaths, serious injuries or extreme damages have been reported in California, though officials warned that risks remain, especially in the mountainous regions where the wet hillsides could unleash mudslides.

In one dramatic scene, rescue officials in the desert community of Cathedral City, near Palm Springs, drove a bulldozer through mud to a swamped care home and rescued 14 residents by scooping them up

and carrying them to safety, Fire Chief Michael Contreras said.

"We were able to put the patients into the scoop. It's not something that I've ever done in my 34 years as a firefighter, but disasters like this really cause us to have to look at those means of rescue that aren't in the book and that we don't do everyday," he said at a news conference.

Hot water and hot air were both crucial factors that enabled Hilary's rapid growth—steering it on an unusual but not quite unprecedented path that dumped rain in some normally bone-dry places.

The wet weather might stave off wildfires for a few weeks in Southern California and in parts of the Sierra Nevadas, but widespread rain is not expected in the most fire-prone areas, University of California, Los Angeles, climate scientist Daniel Swain said in an online briefing Monday.



# Trump says he will surrender Thursday on election charges

Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump says he will surrender to authorities in Georgia on Thursday to face charges in the case accusing him of illegally scheming to overturn his 2020 election loss in the state.

"Can you believe it? I'll be going to Atlanta, Georgia, on Thursday to be ARRESTED," Trump wrote on his social media network Monday night, hours after his bond was set at \$200,000.

It will be Trump's fourth arrest since April, when he became the first former president in U.S. history to face indictment. Since then, Trump, who remains the leading candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, has had what has seemed like an endless procession of bookings and arraignments in jurisdictions across the country. His appearances in New York, Florida and Washington, D.C., have drawn enormous media attention, with news helicopters tracking his every move.

Trump's announcement

came hours after his attorneys met with prosecutors in Atlanta to discuss the details of his release on bond. The former president is barred from intimidating co-defendants, witnesses or victims in the case — including on social media — according to the bond agreement signed by Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, Trump's defense attorneys and the judge. It explicitly includes "posts on social media or reposts of posts" made by others.

Trump has repeatedly used social media to attack people involved in the criminal cases against him as he campaigns to reclaim the White House in 2024. He has been railing against Willis since before he was indicted, and singled out Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp — a Republican who rebuffed his efforts to overturn the election — by name in a social media post Monday morning.

The agreement also prohibits the former president from making any "direct or indirect threat of any nature" against witnesses or co-defendants, and

from communicating in any way about the facts of the case with them, except through attorneys.

The order sets Trump's bond for the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations — or RICO — charge at \$80,000, and adds \$10,000 for each of the 12 other counts he is facing. Bond is the amount defendants must pay as a form of collateral to ensure they show up for required court appearances.

Willis set a deadline of noon Friday for Trump and his 18 co-defendants to turn themselves in to be booked.

The prosecutor has proposed that arraignments for the defendants follow during the week of Sept. 5. She has said she wants to try the defendants collectively and bring the case to trial in March of next year, which would put it in the heat of the presidential nominating season.

A Trump spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the filing. A phone message seeking comment was also left for an attorney for the former president.

## GOP group unveils list of demands for spending bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House conservatives in a group known as the Freedom Caucus have unveiled a list of demands that they want included in a stopgap spending measure to keep the federal government running after the end of September.

It's a smorgasbord of non-starters for the Democratic-controlled Senate and the White House, signaling the challenges House Speaker Kevin McCarthy will face next month to get a bill passed in the House without alienating a sizable share of his conference.

Historically, members of the Freedom Caucus rarely support short-term spending bills to keep the government open, but with Republicans holding just a five-seat majority in the House, they have significant leverage over the agenda.

Among the demands from the House Freedom Caucus:

- Spending levels below the top-line numbers that McCarthy had agreed to with President Joe Biden as part of a bill to increase the nation's debt ceiling.

- Inclusion of a bill that aims to build more wall at the southern border and restrict asylum for those seeking to remain in the U.S. for fear of persecution or harm.

- Addressing what they call the "unprecedented weaponization of the Justice Department and FBI" to conduct political "witch hunts."

- And opposing any "blank check for Ukraine." The White House has asked Congress to provide more than \$13 billion in emergency defense aid and an additional \$8 billion for humanitarian support as Ukraine defends itself from Russia's invasion.

## Court: Alabama can enforce hormone ban

Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A federal appeals court ruled Monday that Alabama can enforce a ban outlawing the use of puberty blockers and hormones to treat transgender children, the second such appellate victory for gender-affirming care restrictions that have been adopted by a growing number of Republican-led states.

A three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals vacated a judge's temporary injunction against enforcing the law. The judge has sched-

uled trial for April 2 on whether to permanently block the law.

Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall called the ruling a "victory for our country, children, and common sense."

"The Eleventh Circuit reinforced that the State has the authority to safeguard the physical and psychological wellbeing of minors," Marshall said.

In lifting the injunction, the judges wrote that states have "a compelling interest in protecting children from drugs, particularly those for which there is uncertainty regarding benefits,

recent surges in use, and irreversible effects."

The decision leaves families of transgender children, who had been receiving treatment, scrambling for care. The injunction will remain in place until the court issues the mandate, which could take several days. But once it is lifted, the attorney general's office will be able to enforce the ban, which threatens doctors with prison time.

Advocacy groups representing families who challenged the Alabama law vowed to continue the fight.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

**Dentist gets life in jail for killing wife on safari**

**CO** DENVER — As a wealthy dentist convicted of killing his wife at the end of an African safari listened in court, her brother vowed to move her remains to a place that Larry Rudolph would never discover.

Shortly before a judge sentenced Rudolph to life in prison in the 2016 death of Bianca Rudolph, Vincent Finizio also predicted Larry Rudolph would “die alone and unmourned” and that his future grandchildren will never know he existed.

U.S. District Judge William Martinez also imposed an estimated \$15 million in financial penalties against Rudolph, who was also convicted of mail fraud for cashing in nearly \$5 million in insurance policies for his wife as he began a new life with his longtime girlfriend.

Rudolph has claimed throughout the case that his wife's death in the southern African nation of Zambia was an accident.

**2 jump overboard when yacht goes up in flames**

**ME** GEORGETOWN — Two boaters jumped overboard to save themselves after a fire engulfed a 48-foot yacht off the Maine coast, the Coast Guard said. Several lobster boats came to the rescue, and one plucked the men out of the water.

The two unharmed men watched along with the lobstermen as the vessel burned and sank in 200 feet of water off the coast of Seguin Island, near Georgetown.

The Coast Guard emphasized the importance of fellow boaters who came to the rescue, averting tragedy.

“The moral of the story: Without the good Samaritans responding to calls and helping the Coast Guard, some lives could’ve been lost on this incident. We credit the good Samaritans,” said Lt. j.g. David Letarte in South Portland.

**Teacher fired, read book on gender identity**

**GA** ATLANTA — A Georgia school board voted along party lines to fire a teacher after officials said she improperly read a book on gender fluidity to her fifth grade class.

The Cobb County School Board in suburban Atlanta voted 4-3 to fire Katie Rinderle, overriding the recommendation of a panel of three retired educators. The panel found after a two-day hearing Rinderle had violated district policies, but said she should not be fired.

She had been a teacher for 10 years when she got into trouble for reading the picture book “My Shadow Is Purple” by Scott Stuart at Due West Elementary School, after which some parents complained.

“The district is sending a harmful message that not all students are worthy of affirmation in being their unapologetic and authentic selves,” Rinderle said in a statement.

**Judge OKs law banning Chinese property buys**

**FL** TALLAHASSEE — A new law that bans citizens of China and some other

countries from purchasing property in large swaths of Florida can be enforced while being challenged in court, a federal judge ruled.

Judge Allen Winsor denied the American Civil Liberties Union's request to block the state law as it seeks to overturn it. The group is representing Chinese citizens living in Florida.

The law applies to properties within 10 miles of military installations and other “critical infrastructure” and also affects citizens of Cuba, Venezuela, Syria, Iran, Russia and North Korea.

The ACLU argued the law discriminates against potential homebuyers by nationality. The state argued that the law isn't discriminatory because it addresses security issues posed by those nations.

**City bans use of TikTok on city-owned phones**

**NY** NEW YORK — New York City has directed its employees to delete TikTok from their city-issued phones, joining the federal government and more than half of U.S. states in banning the use of the Chinese-owned social media app on government-owned devices.

“While social media is great at connecting New Yorkers with one another and the city, we have to ensure we are always using these platforms in a secure manner,” Jonah Allon, a spokesperson for Mayor Eric Adams, said in a statement.

Allon said the city's top information security officials determined that TikTok posed a security threat to the city's techni-

cal networks and directed the app's removal from city-owned devices within 30 days.

**Navy shipbuilders' union OKs 3-year labor deal**

**ME** BATH — The largest union at Navy shipbuilder Bath Iron Works in Maine overwhelmingly approved a new three-year contract, the union said, averting another strike like the one three years ago that contributed to delays in delivering ships.

The contract raises pay a range of 2.6% to 9.6% in the first year with differences due to a mid-contract wage adjustment that already took effect for some workers, and will be followed by a 5% increase in the second year and 4% increase in the third. Workers are receiving an increase in contributions to their national pension plan while health insurance costs will grow.

**Study finds fracking and lymphoma in kids linked**

**PA** HARRISBURG — Children who lived closer to natural gas wells in heavily drilled western Pennsylvania were more likely to develop a relatively rare form of cancer, and nearby residents of all ages had an increased chance of severe asthma reactions, researchers said in reports.

The taxpayer-funded research by the University of Pittsburgh found what they called significant associations between gas industry activity and two ailments: asthma, and lymphoma in children.

From Associated Press

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# Wallace clinging to NASCAR playoff spot

Associated Press

Bubba Wallace is in a tough spot.

And it has nothing to do with three-wide racing at 200 mph.

Wallace holds the 16th and final spot in the NASCAR Cup Series playoff standings heading to Daytona International Speedway this weekend.

It's a tenuous grip at best.

More than a dozen others will be trying to pry that postseason berth from Wallace when the green flag drops in the Coke Zero Sugar 400 on Saturday night. Wallace can't get greedy and won't have the luxury of staying out of the fray.

"Still stressful as hell," Wallace quipped following a 12th-place finish at Watkins Glen on Sunday.

Winning at Daytona would be the easiest path for Wallace to make the playoffs for the first time. And he should feel confident considering he has four top-five finishes in 12 Cup races at the famed superspeedway.

But Daytona is one of NASCAR's most unpredictable tracks, a high-banked, high-heart-rate venue at which Justin Haley, Erik Jones and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. have more wins than former series champions Chase Elliott, Kyle Larson and Martin Truex Jr.

"Daytona is a race where you just kind of budget for someone new winning, and if they don't, then you're ahead of budget,"

said three-time Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin, who is a co-owner of Wallace's No. 23 Toyota at 23XI Racing. "I think you still have to race smart, and if you get unlucky, then you get unlucky."

Fifteen drivers have already clinched playoff spots: Truex, Hamlin, William Byron, Christopher Bell, Larson, Kevin Harvick, Ross Chastain, Brad Keselowski, Ryan Blaney, Chris Buescher, Kyle Busch, Tyler Reddick, Joey Logano, Michael McDowell and Stenhouse. Even though none of them needs a win, all are vying for all-important bonus points heading into the opening round of the postseason.

If Wallace doesn't find himself in victory lane at Daytona, he'd love to see one of those already-locked-in guys win the regular-season finale. That would give Wallace the best chance of securing the final playoff spot based on points.

He has a 32-point lead over Ty Gibbs of Joe Gibbs Racing. Daniel Suárez of Trackhouse Racing is also within striking distance of clinching the last spot via points.

Still, roughly 20 others — with little, if anything, to lose — will be trying to sneak in at Daytona. The list includes 2020 series champion and fan favorite Elliott, who has made the playoffs each of the last seven years, as well as former Daytona winners Haley, Jones, Austin Dillon, Austin Cindric and Aric Almirola.

It's exactly the scenario NASCAR want-

ed when it tweaked the schedule and put the regular-season finale at Daytona in late August. Anyone can win and often does.

In the last four Cup races at Daytona, Riley Herbst, Landon Cassill, Cody Ware, B.J. McLeod, David Ragan, Ryan Preece, Haley and Josh Bilicki have enjoyed top-10 finishes. It's not exactly a who's who in the series.

But it's the kind of recent results that should give everyone hope, including Wallace. He seemed to find extra confidence at the Glen with one of his best road-course finishes.

"I'm proud of myself. That's the first time I've felt proud of myself after a road-course race," Wallace said. "I just executed and didn't lose focus, maybe one time, and that's a difference-maker. You've got to stay on it, especially at these places."

"We wanted to maintain our gap (over 17th) and not lose too many, but we gained. Hats off to everybody."

Wallace chatted with six-time IndyCar Series champion Scott Dixon "about the mental piece" before the race, welcoming tips that could carry into Daytona.

"It's hard when you climb in at a road-course race and tell yourself that you're going to crash and you're going to suck," Wallace said. "He basically told me to shut the hell up and I'm here for a reason and to trust in myself and believe in myself."

## Source: Colts agree to allow Taylor to seek out trade

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts have given disgruntled running back Jonathan Taylor permission to find a trade partner, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Monday.

The person requested anonymity because it has not been released publicly.

Just two days earlier, Shane Steichen told reporters Taylor would rejoin the team Sunday following an excused absence to tend to a personal matter. Then on Sunday, Steichen said Taylor would travel with the Colts to Philadelphia, where the teams will hold a joint practice Tues-

day before playing their preseason finales Thursday.

Taylor has not practiced since the end of last season because of offseason ankle surgery.

The 2021 NFL rushing champion went on the physically unable to perform list when the Colts reported to training camp July 25 and is still on it as he continues to rehab. Steichen did not say whether Taylor might practice in Philadelphia.

"I do not know," he said. "Once he is cleared to play, like I said, he'll be back."

Taylor's injury is just one complication in an ugly contract dispute that has played out on X, formerly known as Twitter, in

the media and even included a one-hour meeting between Taylor and Jim Irsay on the team owner's motorhome, which was parked in full view of a capacity crowd at the team's training camp complex.

Taylor also wants an extension as he enters the final year of his rookie contract. He is slated to earn \$4.3 million this season and has been one of the more vocal running backs in recent months who has complained about the low value placed on the position by teams.

Many running backs don't get second contracts and teams are generally unwilling to pay premium money for players whose careers tend to be shorter with

younger, quicker, cheaper options almost always available. As a result, only kickers and punters have lower franchise tags than the \$10.1 million for rushers.

Indy has not yet started negotiating a new deal for three reasons — it wants to make sure Taylor is healthy, to see how Taylor fits in Steichen's new offense and it could use the franchise tag to keep Taylor in the locker room for two more seasons.

Following the motorhome meeting, Irsay said he was hopeful Taylor would have a good season. Later that same night, word leaked that Taylor had requested a trade.



# Richardson caps comeback, wins 100

Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Track, and fame, can be brutal games. Nobody felt that more over the past two years than American sprinter Sha'Carri Richardson.

On a sultry Monday night a half-world away from where her problems began, the 23-year-old earned a gold medal at the world championships in the biggest 100-meter race this side of the Olympics.

Her victory, in 10.65 seconds over Jamaicans Shericka Jackson and five-time world champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, capped a comeback two years in the making and made good on the mantra she's been reciting all year — and repeated yet again after her latest victory: "I'm not back. I'm better."

Two summers ago after the Olympic trials in Eugene, Ore., Richardson's road to the Tokyo Games was roadblocked by a positive test for marijuana. Her name turned into a litmus test in a wide-ranging debate about race, fairness, the often-impenetrable anti-doping rulebook and, ultimately, about the sometimes razor-thin line between right and wrong.

Richardson said she soaked it all in, surrounded herself with supporters, tried to drown out

the rest.

"I would say 'never give up,'" she said when asked what message this victory sent. "Never allow media, never allow outsiders, never allow anything but yourself and your faith define who you are. I would say 'Always fight. No matter what, fight.'"

For this victory, in a field featuring four of the eight fastest sprinters in history, she fought.

She fought when the vagaries of the track rulebook placed her in the so-called "Semifinal of Death," paired against Jackson and Marie-Josée Ta Lou, who came in ranked fifth and eighth all-time, in a race where only the top two finishers were guaranteed spots in the final.

In that semifinal, Richardson got off to a wretched start and had to rally from seventh to finish third in 10.84. Her time was the fastest among all non-qualifiers, so she made it to the final.

A mere 70 minutes later, she was lining up on the edge of the track in Lane 9 for the gold-medal sprint, as tough a spot as there is because there's no way to feel how the top contenders — or anyone, really — is doing.

It made no difference. Even though she had the third-slowest start in the field, nobody got too far ahead. In the end, it was a race between her and Jackson.

Jackson crossed and, unable to track what Richardson was doing on the outside, looked up to the scoreboard as though she might have won.

But Richardson beat her by .07 seconds, Fraser-Pryce by .12 and Ta Lou by .16. The 10.65 was a world-championships record and matched Jackson for the best time in the world this year.

Though Richardson came in 2-0 against Jackson in head-to-head matchups this year, she was still a 5-1 underdog in the race — in part because she was a rookie at worlds going against a field that had amassed 38 Olympic and world-championship medals between them.

The new champion looked stunned after she crossed the finish line. She blew a kiss toward the sky, cast her eyes on that beautiful scoreboard and walked toward the stands in a daze to accept the American flag and congratulations from Fraser-Pryce, Dina Asher-Smith of Britain and others.

"All the heavy hitters were going to bring their 'A' game, so it helped me pull out my best 'A' game, as well," Richardson said. "I'm next to living legends. It feels remarkable."

Richardson appeared ready to become America's next sprint star when, with her orange hair

flowing behind her, she cruised to a win at the trials two years ago. But that victory quickly came off the books after she tested positive for marijuana — a doping violation she readily admitted, saying she was in a bad place after the recent death of her mom.

A raucous debate — a lot of it hashed out on social media — ensued over whether marijuana, not a performance enhancer, really belonged on the banned list (it's still there).

Richardson spiraled downward for a while.

Late last summer, Richardson bared her soul in a live chat on social media, urging people to find their true selves, much the way she had done.

When asked after her biggest victory what, exactly, she fixed, either on the track or off, she didn't speak about technique, speed or tactics.

"You bring who you are onto the track. You bring your athlete into your life," she said. "Just knowing that people know me not just as an athlete, but as a person. There is no separate, honestly."

"So I'm glad I can display who I really am. Not my pain. Not my sadness. I'm happy I can sit here and be happy with home, and just knowing that it all paid off."

## Holloway breezes to 3rd straight title in 110 hurdles

Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Posing for the cameras, Grant Holloway counted out his back-to-back-to-back 110-meter hurdles world titles, raising one finger, then another, then another.

It was as easy as "1, 2, 3." Holloway made his race look almost that simple, too.

The American bolted to a fast start and never looked back Monday night at the world championships, breezing to a victory in 12.96 seconds that elevated him into elite company.

Holloway joined Greg Foster as the only 110 hurdler to win three straight world titles.

"Remarkable," Holloway exclaimed.

Before Holloway entered the scene, the mighty American hurdlers were in a little bit of a hurdling funk (a funk for them anyway). They'd gone two straight worlds without a gold in the 110.

That just wasn't like them.

"We were in a drought," said Holloway, who won his first world title in Doha in 2019 and

again last summer in Oregon. "It was my goal is to get us out of the drought and I called it a restoration phase. Now that we're out of the restoration phase, it's making sure I'm there."

He insisted his celebration shortly after the race while standing in the middle of the track was spontaneous. This wasn't a pre-planned sort of thing, because nothing can be planned with 10 hurdles standing in the way.

With the camera still zoomed in, Holloway held up all three

fingers one final time before bouncing off to celebrate. He edged out reigning Olympic champion Hansle Parchment of Jamaica by .11 seconds. Holloway's U.S. teammate, Daniel Roberts, finished third.

"When Hansle and Daniel and the rest of that field is in that race, you can never count anybody out," the 25-year-old Holloway said. "The main thing is really just to continue to build off this consistency, build off this success and continue to take the sport to high hopes."

# Harbaugh suspended for recruiting violations

Associated Press

Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh will serve a three-game suspension to start this season as part of self-imposed penalties for NCAA recruiting infractions.

The suspension announced Monday will take Harbaugh off the sideline for the second-ranked Wolverines' home games against East Carolina, UNLV and Bowling Green. He will be permitted to coach the team during the week, as per NCAA rules.

"While the ongoing NCAA matter continues through the NCAA process, today's announcement is our way of addressing mistakes that our department has agreed to in an attempt to further that process," Michigan athletic director

Warde Manuel said. "We will continue to support coach Harbaugh, his staff and our outstanding student-athletes. Per the NCAA's guidelines, we cannot comment further until the matter is resolved."

Michigan said interim coaching appointments would be announced at a later date.

"I will continue to do what I always do and what I always tell our players and my kids at home, 'Don't get bitter, get better,'" Harbaugh said in a statement.

The Wolverines are coming off their second straight Big Ten championship and College Football Playoff appearance under Harbaugh, who is 74-25 in eight seasons at his alma mater.

Michigan had proposed a four-game suspension as part of

a negotiated resolution to the case with NCAA enforcement staff, but the association's committee on infractions reportedly declined to accept that proposal. Without confirming the status of the negotiated resolution, which was submitted by Michigan to the NCAA last month, the NCAA put out a terse statement in response to reports that the settlement was in danger of not being accepted.

"The Michigan infractions case is related to impermissible on and off-campus recruiting during the COVID-19 dead period and impermissible coaching activities — not a cheeseburger," Derrick Crawford, NCAA vice president of hearing operations, said in a statement. "It is not uncommon for the COI to seek clarification on key facts

prior to accepting. The COI may also reject an NR if it determines that the agreement is not in the best interests of the Association or the penalties are not reasonable."

The cheeseburger mention is in reference to speculation by Michigan fans which gained traction online that the alleged infractions were related to Michigan coaches paying for a recruit's lunch during a dead-period visit.

Michigan self-imposing a penalty does not end the case. It is unclear whether Michigan has even received an official notice of allegations from the NCAA. Without a negotiated resolution, the case would need to go before the committee on infractions before a ruling is handed down.

# Mets hit 3 home runs to top MLB-leading Braves

Associated Press

ATLANTA — While it's too late to make much of a difference this season, the New York Mets are finally having a bit of fun.

DJ Stewart, Rafael Ortega and Francisco Lindor homered as the Mets won for the seventh time in nine games, beating the MLB-leading Braves 10-4 on Monday night despite two homers by Atlanta's Marcell Ozuna.

Going ahead to stay with a four-run fifth inning, the Mets bounced back from an embarrassing series at Citi Field just over a week ago.

Atlanta won the first three games of that meeting by a combined score of 34-3 before the Mets salvaged the finale 7-6.

This time, New York got off to a winning start in a three-game set at Truist Park, winning for the first time in Atlanta and just the third time in eight meetings against their NL East rival in 2023.

"The guys are getting comfortable with each other," Stewart said. "The clubhouse is upbeat. You're seeing the results on the field."

**Phillies 10, Giants 4:** Bryce Harper hit an inside-the-park home run, three teammates went deep and Aaron Nola pitched seven strong innings to lead host Philadelphia past San Francisco in a matchup of teams leading the National League wild-card race.

Kyle Schwarber, Alec Bohm and Edmundo

do Sosa also homered for the Phillies, who moved three games ahead of the Giants in the wild-card standings.

San Francisco began play 1½ games ahead of three fourth-place teams in the race for wild-card spots. Arizona, Cincinnati and Miami entered Tuesday all within two games of the Giants.

**Mariners 14, White Sox 2:** Cal Raleigh homered twice and drove in six runs, and visiting Seattle beat Chicago for its seventh straight victory.

Luis Castillo (10-7) pitched seven innings of one-run ball in his third consecutive win.

Raleigh and Teoscar Hernández opened the fifth with back-to-back homers off Touki Toussaint (1-6), increasing Seattle's lead to 7-1. Raleigh added a three-run shot in the eighth against Brent Honeywell, and Dominic Canzone also went deep.

**Astros 9, Red Sox 4:** Chas McCormick homered twice and had four RBIs to lead host Houston past Boston.

Yordan Alvarez drove in a run in the bottom of the first and the Astros scored three in the second to go on top 4-3. Yainer Diaz also homered for Houston.

**Cubs 7, Tigers 6:** Yan Gomes and Nick Madrigal hit doubles in the ninth inning and visiting Chicago held on to beat Detroit for its third straight win.

Seiya Suzuki hit a homer for the second straight day, and a three-run second inning helped the Cubs take an early lead.

**Diamondbacks 4, Rangers 3 (11):** Tommy Pham lined a two-run double in the 11th inning after Ketel Marte hit a tying homer in the ninth, lifting host Arizona over AL West-leading Texas.

The Rangers went into the bottom of the 11th up 3-1 and sent out Will Smith (1-5) to close out the game. Geraldo Perdomo hit a run-scoring double and, after Marte was held at third, Pham dropped a two-run double in right-center to extend the Rangers' losing streak to a season-high five games.

**Padres 6, Marlins 2:** Ha-Seong Kim hit a grand slam and a double, stole third and scored twice to lead host San Diego to a critical win against Miami in a battle between two NL wild-card hopefuls.

**Athletics 6, Royals 4:** Brent Rooker hit a two-run home run off Dylan Coleman (0-2) in the bottom of the ninth inning to give host Oakland a win over Kansas City in a matchup of teams with the worst records in the major leagues.

**Pirates 11, Cardinals 1:** Joshua Palacios hit a three-run home run and had a career-high five RBIs to help host Pittsburgh send last-place St. Louis to its fifth loss in six games.